STAGES IN MANAGEMENT OF OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES ON NFS LANDS

LEASING STAGE

PROPOSED ACTION
FS: Make lands available for leasing [36 CFR 228.102(d)]

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS *
Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement

DECISION
FS: Identify lands available for leasing
BLM: Adopt FS decision

IMPLEMENTATION
FS authorizes BLM to lease specific lands [36 CFR 228.102(e)]
Industry nominates lease parcels
FS performs NEPA validation & verification & packages lease parcels with stipulations
BLM advertises, sells, & issues leases

EXPLORATION STAGE

PROPOSED ACTION
FS: Approve surface use for drilling & completion of exploratory well(s)
BLM: Approve drilling & completion of exploratory well(s)

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS *
Categorical Exclusion or Environmental Assessment

DECISION
FS: Approve surface use with specific conditions
BLM: Adopt FS surface use decision & approve drilling & completion of well(s)

IMPLEMENTATION
FS approves SUPO(s)
BLM approves APDs
Operator drills well(s)
Operator completes well(s) OR plugs well(s) & reclaims sites(s)

DEVELOPMENT STAGE

PROPOSED ACTION
FS: Approve surface use for field development (wells & infrastructure)
BLM: Approve drilling & completion for field development (wells & infrastructure)

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS *
Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement

DECISION
FS: Approve surface use with specific conditions
BLM: Adopt FS surface use decision & approve drilling & completion of well(s) for field development

IMPLEMENTATION
FS approves SUPOs covered in field development plan
BLM approves APDs
Operator drills wells
Operator completes well(s) & builds infrastructure

* Environmental analysis includes biological assessment & evaluation & consultation with USFWS if necessary