

Wayne National Forest Oil and Gas Resource Management Process

Table 1

The decision process on the management of federally owned oil and gas resources on the Wayne National Forest, as stated in the ROD for the Wayne O&G FSEIS:

Process Step	Objective of Step	Documentation
Step 1 Administrative Availability	Determine the administrative availability of lands for oil and gas leasing which are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1) Open to development with the standard oil and gas lease form; • 2) Open to development subject to special constraints such as a No Surface Occupancy stipulation; and • 3) Closed to leasing by law or management action. 	Completed with signing of the ROD on the Wayne Oil and Gas FSEIS for Forest Plan Amendment # 8.
Step 2 Consent to Leasing	For specific tracts of land: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1) Verify compliance with Forest Plan; • 2) Develop a Reasonable Future Development Scenario (RFDS) that best describes the types of surface disturbing activities that are likely to occur if approval is granted; and • 3) Determine which on-the-ground factors limit or restrict access to and development of the mineral resources. 	A NEPA analysis that evaluates alternative management approaches to addressing future oil and gas activities on the Wayne National Forest. The result would outline the process and the procedures by which oil and gas activities on certain tracts would be addressed at future site-specific level proposals.
Step 3 Surface operation/application	Respond to a site-specific Application for Permit to Drill (APD) on a specific tract of land that might be filed sometime in the future after a lease has been issued. (This will authorize BLM to approve the APD, allowing ground and/or vegetative disturbing activities.)	Site-specific analysis of proposals to access, explore and drill for oil and gas resources. FS approves Surface Use Plan of Operations (SUPO) and BLM approves APD. Analysis includes review of proposal for conformance with the existing Step 2 NEPA analysis.