



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

# News Release

[BLM Eastern States State Office](#)

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## **BLM seeks input on additional environmental analysis for oil and gas leasing in Ohio**

**FALLS CHURCH, Va.** – In response to a 2020 court ruling, the Bureau of Land Management has prepared a draft supplemental environmental assessment evaluating possible impacts from potential oil and gas leasing within the [Wayne National Forest](#) in southeastern Ohio, and is seeking public input on the draft. BLM will accept public comments on the draft analysis until May 6, 2024.

This evaluation builds on an environmental assessment of potential leasing impacts completed in 2016. In 2020, a federal district court found the 2016 analysis needed to further consider the specific impacts of using hydraulic fracturing techniques on federally protected species, water resources, air quality, and surface resources. BLM, in cooperation with the [U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service](#), has prepared the draft supplemental environmental assessment incorporating the direction of the court, previous public input, relevant new information, and best available science.

This environmental review analyzes impacts from potential oil and gas leasing on approximately 40,000 acres beneath National Forest System lands in Monroe, Noble, and Washington counties. The subsurface parcels have either been leased for oil and gas development or have the potential for future leasing and development.

BLM and Forest Service will use this evaluation when making future decisions on whether to allow additional oil and gas leasing in the area. Any oil and gas development on previously leased parcels will require additional consideration and analysis by BLM and Forest Service.

BLM will hold two virtual informational sessions where the public will have an opportunity to learn more about the draft supplemental environmental assessment and ask questions. The sessions will occur Apr. 8 and Apr. 9, 2024, at 6-8 p.m. ET. Each session will start with a brief presentation by BLM staff. To participate, register for a session at the links below:

**Apr. 8:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_x10\\_Z-CsTE6VjKOe50MDig](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_x10_Z-CsTE6VjKOe50MDig)

**Apr. 9:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_H74jueerRDyT\\_H5juhaxYg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_H74jueerRDyT_H5juhaxYg)

BLM is committed to providing access to the information meeting for all participants. Individuals who need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact BLM in advance at [kpeters@blm.gov](mailto:kpeters@blm.gov). People who use a telecommunications device for the deaf may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to leave a message. You will receive a reply during normal business hours from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET.

To view the draft supplemental environmental assessment and learn how to provide comments, visit the [BLM National NEPA Register](#).

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*The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 western states, including Alaska, on behalf of the American people. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. Our mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.*