

Bureau of Land Management, Interior

§ 3101.3-1

§ 3101.2-1 of this title, applies to acquired lands. Where the United States owns only a fractional interest in the mineral resources of the lands involved in a lease, only that part owned by the United States shall be charged as acreage holdings. The acreage embraced in a future interest lease shall not be charged as acreage holdings until the lease for the future interest becomes effective.

§ 3101.2-3 Excepted acreage.

(a) The following acreage shall not be included in computing accountable acreage:

(1) Acreage under any lease any portion of which is committed to any Federally approved unit or cooperative plan or communitization agreement;

(2) Acreage under any lease for which royalty (including compensatory royalty or royalty in-kind) was paid in the preceding calendar year; and

(3) Acreage under leases subject to an operating, drilling or development contract approved by the Secretary.

(b) Acreage subject to offers to lease, overriding royalties and payments out of production shall not be included in computing accountable acreage.

[48 FR 33662, July 22, 1983, as amended at 53 FR 17352, May 16, 1988; 71 FR 14823, Mar. 24, 2006]

§ 3101.2-4 Excess acreage.

(a) Where, as the result of the termination or contraction of a unit or cooperative plan, the elimination of a lease from an operating, drilling or development contract a party holds or controls excess accountable acreage, said party shall have 90 days from that date to reduce the holdings to the prescribed limitation and to file proof of the reduction in the proper BLM office. Where as a result of a merger or the purchase of the controlling interest in a corporation, acreage in excess of the amount permitted is acquired, the party holding the excess acreage shall have 180 days from the date of the merger or purchase to divest the excess acreage. If additional time is required to complete the divestiture of the excess acreage, a petition requesting additional time, along with a full justification for the additional time, may be filed with the authorized officer

prior to the termination of the 180-day period provided herein.

(b) If any person or entity is found to hold accountable acreage in violation of the provisions of these regulations, lease(s) or interests therein shall be subject to cancellation or forfeiture in their entirety, until sufficient acreage has been eliminated to comply with the acreage limitation. Excess acreage or interest shall be cancelled in the inverse order of acquisition.

[48 FR 33662, July 22, 1983, as amended at 53 FR 17353, May 16, 1988]

§ 3101.2-5 Computation.

The accountable acreage of a party owning an undivided interest in a lease shall be the party's proportionate part of the total lease acreage. The accountable acreage of a party who is the beneficial owner of more than 10 percent of the stock of a corporation which holds Federal oil and gas leases shall be the party's proportionate part of the corporation's accountable acreage. Parties to a contract for development of leased lands and co-parties, except those operating, drilling or development contracts subject to § 3101.2-3 of this title, shall be charged with their proportionate interests in the lease. No holding of acreage in common by the same persons in excess of the maximum acreage specified in the laws for any one party shall be permitted.

[48 FR 33662, July 22, 1983, as amended at 49 FR 2113, Jan. 18, 1984; 53 FR 17353, May 16, 1988]

§ 3101.2-6 Showing required.

At any time the authorized officer may require any lessee or operator to file with the Bureau of Land Management a statement showing as of specified date the serial number and the date of each lease in which he/she has any interest, in the particular State, setting forth the acreage covered thereby.

§ 3101.3 Leases within unit areas.

§ 3101.3-1 Joinder evidence required.

Before issuance of a lease for lands within an approved unit, the lease offeror shall file evidence with the proper BLM office of having joined in the unit

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agreement and unit operating agreement or a statement giving satisfactory reasons for the failure to enter into such agreement. If such statement is acceptable to the authorized officer the operator shall be permitted to operate independently but shall be required to conform to the terms and provisions of the unit agreement with respect to such operations.

[48 FR 33662, July 22, 1983, as amended at 53 FR 17353, May 16, 1988]

§3101.3-2 Separate leases to issue.

A lease offer for lands partly within and partly outside the boundary of a unit shall result in separate leases, one for the lands within the unit, and one for the lands outside the unit.

[48 FR 33662, July 22, 1983, as amended at 53 FR 17353, May 16, 1988]

§3101.4 Lands covered by application to close lands to mineral leasing.

Offers filed on lands within a pending application to close lands to mineral leasing shall be suspended until the segregative effect of the application is final.

§3101.5 National Wildlife Refuge System lands.

§3101.5-1 Wildlife refuge lands.

(a) Wildlife refuge lands are those lands embraced in a withdrawal of public domain and acquired lands of the United States for the protection of all species of wildlife within a particular area. Sole and complete jurisdiction over such lands for wildlife conservation purposes is vested in the Fish and Wildlife Service even though such lands may be subject to prior rights for other public purposes or, by the terms of the withdrawal order, may be subject to mineral leasing.

(b) No offers for oil and gas leases covering wildlife refuge lands shall be accepted and no leases covering such lands shall be issued except as provided in §3100.2 of this title. There shall be no drilling or prospecting under any lease heretofore or hereafter issued on lands within a wildlife refuge except with the consent and approval of the Secretary with the concurrence of the Fish and Wildlife Service as to the time, place and nature of such oper-

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ations in order to give complete protection to wildlife populations and wildlife habitat on the areas leased, and all such operations shall be conducted in accordance with the stipulations of the Bureau on a form approved by the Director.

§3101.5-2 Coordination lands.

(a) Coordination lands are those lands withdrawn or acquired by the United States and made available to the States by cooperative agreements entered into between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the game commissions of the various States, in accordance with the Act of March 10, 1934 (48 Stat. 401), as amended by the Act of August 14, 1946 (60 Stat. 1080), or by long-term leases or agreements between the Department of Agriculture and the game commissions of the various States pursuant to the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (50 Stat. 525), as amended, where such lands were subsequently transferred to the Department of the Interior, with the Fish and Wildlife Service as the custodial agency of the United States.

(b) Representatives of the Bureau and the Fish and Wildlife Service shall, in cooperation with the authorized members of the various State game commissions, confer for the purpose of determining by agreement those coordination lands which shall not be subject to oil and gas leasing. Coordination lands not closed to oil and gas leasing shall be subject to leasing on the imposition of such stipulations as are agreed upon by the State Game Commission, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau.

§3101.5-3 Alaska wildlife areas.

No lands within a refuge in Alaska open to leasing shall be available until the Fish and Wildlife Service has first completed compatibility determinations.

§3101.5-4 Stipulations.

Leases shall be issued subject to stipulations prescribed by the Fish and Wildlife Service as to the time, place, nature and condition of such operations in order to minimize impacts to fish and wildlife populations and habitat and other refuge resources on the