



**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Eastern States  
7450 Boston Boulevard  
Springfield, Virginia 22153**



***Press Release***

**For Release Immediately**

**Contact: Terry Lewis (703) 440-1712**

**Federal Government Leases Land Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana,  
Mississippi, and West Virginia for Oil and Gas Exploration**

Forty-eight parcels of Federal land brought in \$438,010.00 through a competitive auction of oil and gas leases conducted by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on Thursday, March 20, 2003, in Springfield, Virginia. Bonus bids, filing fees, and rental revenue amounting to \$324,492.00 will go to the U.S. Treasury and \$113,518.00 will be shared with the affected States.

The BLM has responsibility for leasing the federally-owned minerals located in the 31 states east of and adjoining the Mississippi River and offers selected parcels at quarterly competitive auctions. Regulations require the bidding to open at \$2 per acre. John Scott Hornafius of Englewood, Colorado paid \$110,000.00 for an 1,375-acre parcel in Tucker County, West Virginia. His bid of \$80.00 per acre was the highest per-acre bid of the auction.

Leases are awarded for a term of 10 years and as long thereafter as there is production of oil and gas in paying quantities. The Federal Government receives a royalty of 12½ percent of the value of production. Also, each State Government receives a 25 percent minimum share of the bonus bid and the royalty revenue from each lease issued in that state.

The next competitive oil and gas lease sale is scheduled for June 19, 2003. Visit our web site at [www.es.blm.gov](http://www.es.blm.gov) for more information about oil and gas lease sales and other BLM programs.

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