Title 50: Wildlife and Fisheries
PART 27—PROHIBITED ACTS
Subpart F—Disturbing Violations: Against Nonwildlife Property

§27.64  Prospecting and mining.

Prospecting, locating, or filing mining claims on national wildlife refuges is prohibited unless otherwise provided by law. See §29.31 for provisions concerning mineral leasing.

[41 FR 9168, Mar. 3, 1976, as amended at 44 FR 42976, July 23, 1979]

Title 43: Public Lands: Interior
PART 3100—OIL AND GAS LEASING
Subpart 3100—Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing: General

§3100.0-3  Authority.

(a) Public domain. (1) Oil and gas in public domain lands and lands returned to the public domain under section 2370 of this title are subject to lease under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended and supplemented (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), by acts, including, but not limited to, section 1009 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3148).

(2) Exceptions. (i) Units of the National Park System, including lands withdrawn by section 206 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, except as provided in paragraph (g)(4) of this section;

(ii) Indian reservations;

(iii) Incorporated cities, towns and villages;

(iv) Naval petroleum and oil shale reserves and the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska.

(v) Lands north of 68 degrees north latitude and east of the western boundary of the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska;

(vi) Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.
(vii) Lands recommended for wilderness allocation by the surface managing agency:

(viii) Lands within Bureau of Land Management wilderness study areas;

(ix) Lands designated by Congress as wilderness study areas, except where oil and gas leasing is specifically allowed to continue by the statute designating the study area;

(x) Lands within areas allocated for wilderness or further planning in Executive Communication 1504, Ninety-Sixth Congress (House Document numbered 96-119), unless such lands are allocated to uses other than wilderness by a land and resource management plan or have been released to uses other than wilderness by an Act of Congress; and

(xi) Lands within the National Wilderness Preservation System, subject to valid existing rights under section 4(d)(3) of the Wilderness Act established before midnight, December 31, 1983, unless otherwise provided by law.

(b) **Acquired lands.** (1) Oil and gas in acquired lands are subject to lease under the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of August 7, 1947, as amended (30 U.S.C. 351-359).

(2) **Exceptions.** (i) Units of the National Park System, except as provided in paragraph (g)(4) of this section;

(ii) Incorporated cities, towns and villages;

(iii) Naval petroleum and oil shale reserves and the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska;

(iv) Tidelands or submerged coastal lands within the continental shelf adjacent or littoral to lands within the jurisdiction of the United States;

(v) Lands acquired by the United States for development of helium, fissionable material deposits or other minerals essential to the defense of the country, except oil, gas and other minerals subject to leasing under the Act;

(vi) Lands reported as excess under the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949;

(vii) Lands acquired by the United States by foreclosure or otherwise for resale.

(viii) Lands recommended for wilderness allocation by the surface managing agency;

(ix) Lands within Bureau of Land Management wilderness study areas;

(x) Lands designated by Congress as wilderness study areas, except where oil and gas leasing is specifically allowed to continue by the statute designating the study area;

(xi) Lands within areas allocated for wilderness or further planning in Executive Communication 1504, Ninety-Sixth Congress (House Document numbered 96-119), unless such lands are allocated to uses
other than wilderness by a land and resource management plan or have been released to uses other than wilderness by an Act of Congress; and

(xii) Lands within the National Wilderness Preservation System, subject to valid existing rights under section 4(d)(3) of the Wilderness Act established before midnight, December 31, 1983, unless otherwise provided by law.

(c) National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska is subject to lease under the Department of the Interior Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 1981 (42 U.S.C. 6508).

(d) Where oil or gas is being drained from lands otherwise unavailable for leasing, there is implied authority in the agency having jurisdiction of those lands to grant authority to the Bureau of Land Management to lease such lands (see 43 U.S.C. 1457; also Attorney General's Opinion of April 2, 1941 (Vol. 40 Op. Atty. Gen. 41)).

(e) Where lands previously withdrawn or reserved from the public domain are no longer needed by the agency for which the lands were withdrawn or reserved and such lands are retained by the General Services Administration, or where acquired lands are declared as excess to or surplus by the General Services Administration, authority to lease such lands may be transferred to the Department in accordance with the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 and the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands, as amended.

(f) The Act of May 21, 1930 (30 U.S.C. 301-306), authorizes the leasing of oil and gas deposits under certain rights-of-way to the owner of the right-of-way or any assignee.


(4) Units of the National Park System. The Secretary is authorized to permit mineral leasing in the following units of the National Park System if he/she finds that such disposition would not have significant adverse effects on the administration of the area and if lease operations can be conducted in a manner that will preserve the scenic, scientific and historic features contributing to public enjoyment of the area, pursuant to the following authorities:

(i) Lake Mead National Recreation Area—The Act of October 8, 1964 (16 U.S.C. 460n et seq.).


(5) **Shasta and Trinity Units of the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area.** Section 6 of the Act of November 8, 1965 (Pub. L. 89-336; 79 Stat. 1295), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to permit the removal of leasable minerals from lands (or interest in lands) within the recreation area under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), or the Acquired Lands Mineral Leasing Act of August 7, 1947 (30 U.S.C. 351-359), if he finds that such disposition would not have significant adverse effects on the purpose of the Central Valley project or the administration of the recreation area.


Title 50: Wildlife and Fisheries

PART 29—LAND USE MANAGEMENT

Subpart C—Mineral Operations

§29.32 Mineral rights reserved and excepted.

Persons holding mineral rights in wildlife refuge lands by reservation in the conveyance to the United States and persons holding mineral rights in such lands which rights vested prior to the acquisition of the lands by the United States shall, to the greatest extent practicable, conduct all exploration, development, and production operations in such a manner as to prevent damage, erosion, pollution, or contamination to the lands, waters, facilities and vegetation of the area. So far as is practicable, such operations must also be conducted without interference with the operation of the refuge or disturbance to the wildlife thereon. Physical occupancy of the area must be kept to the minimum space compatible with the conduct of efficient mineral operations. Persons conducting mineral operations on refuge areas must comply with all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations for the protection of wildlife and the administration of the area. Oil field brine, slag, and all other waste and contaminating substances must be kept in the smallest practicable area, must be confined so as to prevent escape as a result of rains and high water or otherwise, and must be removed from the area as quickly as practicable in such a manner as to prevent contamination, pollution, damage, or injury to the lands, waters, facilities, or vegetation of the refuge or to wildlife. Structures and equipment must be removed from the area when the need for them has ended. Upon the cessation of operations the area shall be restored as nearly as possible to its condition prior to the commencement of operations. Nothing in this section shall be applied so as to contravene or nullify rights vested in holders of mineral interests on refuge lands.