

Minerals Management



The Minerals Management Bureau, (MMB), is responsible for leasing, permitting, and managing approximately 1,414 oil and gas, metalliferous and non-metalliferous, coal, and sand and gravel agreements on 557 thousand acres of the available 6.2 million acres of school trust lands and approximately 5,632 acres of other state-owned land throughout Montana.

Mineral Leasing Program

The mineral leasing program is responsible for:

- Reviewing and processing all mineral lease and permit applications,
- Advertising, competitively bidding, and issuing new leases,
- Reviewing and approving lease assignments, and
- Collecting, verifying, and posting lease rentals and production royalties.

Oil and Gas Leasing

Mineral Lease Search

[Oil and Gas Vacant/Leased Tract Search](#)

[Mineral Lease Search](#)

[O&G Lease Status Instructions](#)

MMB Annual Reports

[Fiscal Year 2019](#)

[Fiscal Year 2018](#)

[Fiscal Year 2017](#)

[Fiscal Year 2016](#)





The program is responsible for the leasing and monitoring of 1,298 oil and gas leases, 611 of which are currently productive. The number of oil and gas leases managed is down 12.7 percent, compared to FY 2018, and the number of currently producing leases decreased by 7.6 percent. Activities related to existing leases include:

- Collecting, verifying, and posting rental, royalty, delay drilling, and shut-in payments,
- Reviewing and approving assignments and tracking working interest ownership,
- Reviewing and preparing for approval of communitization agreements and unit operating agreements, and
- Coordinating with field offices the review and approval of all proposed physical operations on state leases.

Four oral auctions of new oil and gas leases are prepared and conducted each year.

In FY 2019, over 1.2 million barrels of oil and 2.4 million MCF (thousand cubic feet) of natural gas were produced.

Other Mineral Leasing



The program also administers a wide variety of leases, including metalliferous and non-metalliferous leases, coal leases, gravel permits, and land use licenses for non-mechanized prospecting. In FY 2019, 6 million tons of coal was mined, which is a 31.6 percent increase in production over FY 2018. The volume mined can vary significantly from year to year, as mining activity moves onto or off state trust land within the normal sequence of mining operations. Royalties and rentals are also collected for minerals such as bentonite, clay, gold and associated minerals, peat, and shale.

Royalty Auditing and Accounting

[Fiscal Year 2015](#)

[Fiscal Year 2014](#)

[Fiscal Year 2013](#)

[Fiscal Year 2012](#)

[Fiscal Year 2011](#)

[Fiscal Year 2010](#)

[Fiscal Year 2009](#)

[Fiscal Year 2008](#)

[Fiscal Year 2007](#)

[Fiscal Year 2006](#)

[Fiscal Year 2005](#)

[Fiscal Year 2004](#)

The royalty audit program provides additional revenues as a result of programmatic audits. The program identifies royalty under- and over-reporting, rectifies discrepancies, and raising the level of voluntary compliance. Most audits have a single payor and involve multiple leases.

Riverbed Leasing

Minerals Management Bureau continues its efforts to clarify title to the beds and islands of navigable rivers. The state owns, pursuant to statute, those lands below the low-water mark, islands and their accretions formed in the riverbeds after statehood, and abandoned channels formed by avulsion. Because two navigable rivers (Missouri and Yellowstone) in Montana flow through areas with major oil and gas resources, the department has conducted numerous riverbed studies to determine and document state ownership of land. This process allows the state to take a progressive position in issues involving substantial royalty dollars.

In FY 2019, the program managed 9,611 acres of leased riverbed and island tracts. These tracts provided the state with \$879,379 in oil and gas revenues. This same ownership review process is increasingly important in areas where surface development and/or use involve riverbeds, islands, and abandoned channels of navigable rivers. The department works with state, Federal, and private entities whenever ownership issues arise.
