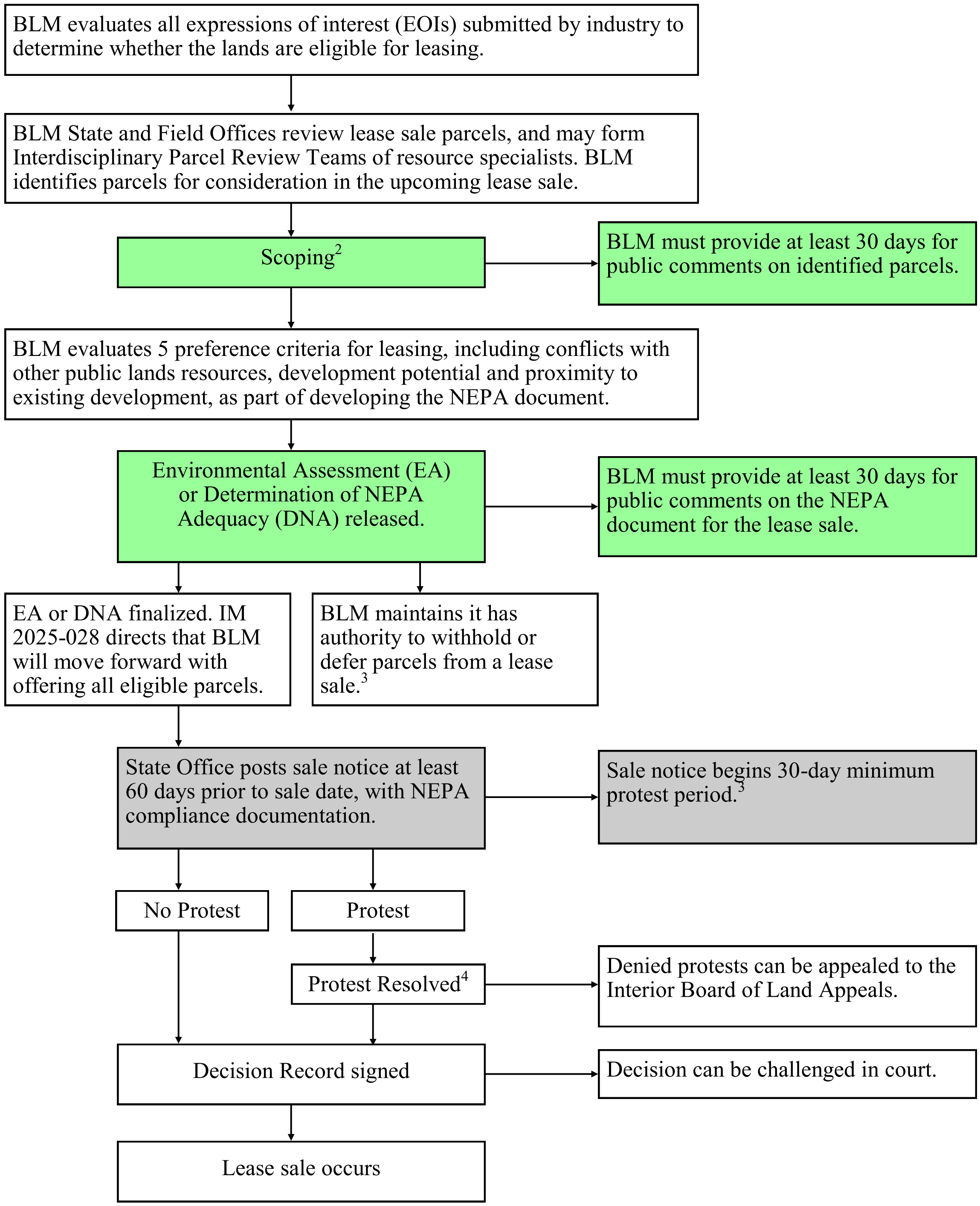
Oil and Gas Leasing Process[1]

The left side of the figure shows the progression of leasing stages. The boxes on the right highlight the public participation opportunities at each stage.



1. BLM's oil and gas leasing process is currently set forth in its oil and gas leasing regulations (updated in the 2024 Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Rule and modified by Section 50101 of the July 2025 budget reconciliation bill). Instruction Memorandum 2025-028 (issued May 9, 2025) provides additional guidance on the leasing process.
2. IM 2025-028 establishes the goal to complete parcel review and offer parcels in an oil and gas lease sale within a 6-month timeframe from the start of scoping until the lease sale.
3. While IM 2025-028 and language in the budget reconciliation bill state that DOI/BLM shall offer nominated parcels in lease sales, there are arguably a number of bases for the BLM to exercise its discretion to ultimately determine what parcels to offer for oil and gas leasing in a given sale.
4. IM 2025-028 states that BLM should attempt to resolve protests prior to the lease sale, but protests that are not resolved do not prevent bidding on protested parcels at the auction.