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**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Kremmling Field Office  
P.O. Box 68  
Kremmling, CO 80459**

**cancelled**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-LLCON02000-2011-0008-EA

PROJECT NAME: May 2011 Competitive O&G Lease Sale

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T2N, R79W, Sec 5, 6, 7, 8  
T2N, R81W, Sec 5, 6, 7, 15, 17, 18  
(See Attachment A for Parcel Descriptions)

APPLICANT: Bureau of Land Management, Kremmling Field Office

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION: The proposal is to offer for lease 3 parcels, totaling approximately 3,813 acres of private owned surface with federal minerals, for potential oil and gas exploration and production, located in Grand County, Colorado.

Attachment A includes legal descriptions of Pre-DNA parcels proposed for lease, totaling x parcels with approximately x acres, Attachment B contains all or portions of x deferred parcels with approximately x acres, and Attachment C contains all or portions of x parcels with approximately x acres available for lease with applied stipulations.

Background/Introduction/Issues and Concerns:

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Proposed Action:

Design Features of the Proposed Action:



No Action Alternative:

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

Decision Number/Page:

Decision Language:

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES: (NOTE: NEPA requires that we predict 7 types of potential impacts. The following are tips for discussing impacts:

*Direct impacts mean “here and now.” These are usually short term impacts or impacts that would occur while you are implementing the project.*

*Indirect impacts occur at a later date or time. These are usually long term impacts that would continue after the project is implemented.*

*Cumulative impacts result from the incremental (added together) impact of the project when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions (regardless of what agency or private individual undertakes these actions) in a specified geographic area. When trying to describe cumulative impacts, you need to develop an appropriate boundary (i.e. watershed or critical winter range) and appropriate time frame (i.e. for forestry, how far do you have to go back to have an understanding of the forest’s present condition.) The boundaries for cumulative impact analysis will vary for different resources and activities, thus use your best judgment. Your ability to determine appropriate past actions will be limited by what kind of data you have. Your ability to determine appropriate present actions will be determined by what you know is currently going on in the determined geographic area, and what you can find out from other agencies and the public. Your ability to determine reasonably foreseeable future actions will depend upon what you find out during scoping or what you’re pretty sure will happen in the near future (i.e. a project that is funded, but has yet to be implemented.) Thus, in your write up, if you state what your geographic boundary is for your analysis, and state what past, present, and reasonable foreseeable actions have, are and will occur, you should be able to predict whether the Proposed Action, No Action or other alternative would cause any cumulative impacts.*

*Irreversible impacts are those impacts caused by the action that cannot be reversed, they are gone (i.e. if the proposal to develop an oil field on a portion of a fragile, wildlife refuge, the changes to the refuge would probably be irreversible.)*

*Irretrievable impacts are those impacts caused by an action that changes outputs or commodities (i.e. trees, cattle or fishing) of the public land’s use. Thus, they would be temporarily lost, but if you stop implementing the action, they would come back.*

*In describing these different types of impacts, you must explain how the impacts would beneficially or adversely affect your resource.*

## AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

## FLOODPLAINS

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

## INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

## MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

## THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species:

**WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND** (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality:

**WETLANDS & RIPARIAN ZONES** (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems:

**SOILS** (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils:

**VEGETATION** (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial):

**WILDLIFE, AQUATIC** (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial):

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment:

Environmental Consequences:

Mitigation:

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic):

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: *All resource values have been evaluated for cumulative impacts. It has been determined that there would be no cumulative impacts.*

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: See Appendix 2 for Tribal List.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

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## DOI-LLCON02000-2011-000 -EA

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

### DECISION RECORD

DECISION: It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached EA.

*(NOTE: if mitigation measures or monitoring requirements are to be carried forward in the decision, the following sentence needs to be added.)*

“This decision is contingent on meeting all mitigation measures and monitoring requirements listed below.”

RATIONALE: *(NOTE: The rationale for the decision should explain why the decision was made and the factors considered by the decision maker.)*

MITIGATION MEASURES:

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: *(No monitoring needs have been identified for this action.)*

NAME OF PREPARER:

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:

DATE:

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

DATE SIGNED:

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist  
Appendix 2 – Native American Tribal List

ATTACHMENTS:

A). Pre-DNA/EA Parcels Proposed for Lease  
B). Parcels Available for Lease with Deferred Portions

C). Parcels Available for Lease with Applied Stipulations

Appendix 1

**INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS REVIEW RECORD AND CHECKLIST:**

**Project Title:**

**Project Leader:**

**Date Proposal Received: (Only for external proposals)**

**Date Submitted for Comment:**

**Due Date for Comments:**

**Need for a field Exam: (If so, schedule a date/time)**

**Scoping Needs/Interested or Affected Publics: (Identify public scoping needs)**

**Consultation/Permit Requirements:**

Consultation	Date Initiated	Date Completed	Responsible Specialist/ Contractor	Comments
Cultural/Archeological Clearance/SHPO	12/6/2010	12/6/2010	BBW	The proposed lease parcels may be found to contain historic properties and/or resources protected under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, E. O. 13007, or other statutes and executive orders. The BLM will not approve any ground disturbing activities that may affect any such properties or resources until it completes its obligation under applicable requirements of the NHPA and other authorities. The BLM may require modification to exploration or development proposals to protect such properties, or disapprove any activity that is likely to result in adverse effects that cannot be successfully avoided, minimized or mitigated.
Native American	11/5/2010	12/19/2010	BBW	Tribal consultation was initiated on November 5, 2010, on the Proposed Action. Additional tribal consultation would occur for site specific consultation prior to the issuance of

				any permit action.
T&E Species/FWS				
Permits Needed (i.e. Air or Water)				

(NP) = Not Present

(NI) = Resource/Use Present but Not Impacted

(PI) = Potentially Impacted and Brought Forward for Analysis.

NP NI PI	Discipline/Name	Date Review Comp.	Initials	Review Comments (required for Critical Element NIs, and for elements that require a finding but are not carried forward for analysis.)
<b>CRITICAL ELEMENTS</b>				
	Air Quality <b>Belcher</b>			
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern <b>McGuire</b>			There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NI	Cultural Resources <b>Wyatt</b>	12/19/10	BBW	The proposed lease parcels may be found to contain historic properties and/or resources protected under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, E. O. 13007, or other statutes and executive orders. The BLM will not approve any ground disturbing activities that may affect any such properties or resources until it completes its obligation under applicable requirements of the NHPA and other authorities. The BLM may require modification to exploration or development proposals to protect such properties, or disapprove any activity that is likely to result in adverse effects that cannot be successfully avoided, minimized or mitigated.
NP	Environmental Justice <b>Cassel</b>			According to the most recent Census Bureau statistics (2000), there are no minority or low income communities within the Kremmling Planning Area.
NP	Farmlands, Prime and Unique <b>Belcher</b>			There are no farmlands, prime or unique, in the proximity of the proposed project area.
	Floodplains <b>Belcher</b>			
	Invasive, Non-native Species <b>Johnson Torma Hughes</b>			
	Migratory Birds <b>McGuire</b>			
NI	Native American Religious Concerns <b>Wyatt</b>	12/19/10	BBW	Tribal consultation was initiated on November 5, 2010, along with continued consultation on the Proposed

					Action. Additional tribal consultation would occur for site specific consultation on government-to-government, prior to the issuance of any permit action.
	T/E, and Sensitive Species (Finding on Standard 4)	<b>McGuire</b>			
NP	Wastes, Hazardous and Solid	<b>Hodgson</b>			There are no quantities of wastes, hazardous or solid, located on BLM-administered lands in the proposed project area, and there would be no wastes generated as a result of the Proposed Action or No Action alternative.
	Water Quality, Surface and Ground (Finding on Standard 5)	<b>Belcher</b>			
	Wetlands & Riparian Zones (Finding on Standard 2)	<b>Belcher</b>			
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	<b>Windsor</b>			There are no eligible Wild and Scenic River segments in the proposed project area.
NP	Wilderness	<b>Monkouski</b>			There is no designated Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas in the proximity of the proposed project area.
<b>NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS</b> (A finding must be made for these elements)					
	Soils (Finding on Standard 1)	<b>Belcher</b>			
	Vegetation (Finding on Standard 3)	<b>Johnson</b> <b>Torma</b>			
	Wildlife, Aquatic (Finding on Standard 3)	<b>McGuire</b>			
	Wildlife, Terrestrial (Finding on Standard 3)	<b>McGuire</b>			
<b>OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS</b>					
	Access/Transportation	<b>Monkouski</b>			
	Forest Management	<b>K. Belcher</b>			
	Geology and Minerals	<b>Hodgson</b>			
NI	Fire	<b>Wyatt</b>	12/6/2010	BBW	All fires that are related directly with the well and drilling operations would handled by those emergency operators that are capable of oil and gas fire. Fires that escape the drilling pad area are subject to wildland fire suppression by the federal agency on federal lands.
	Hydrology/Water Rights	<b>Belcher</b>			
NI	Paleontology	<b>Wyatt</b>	2/16/2011	BBW	A Paleontological survey would be completed at the time of the filing of the APE for each individual action taken. The lease area may contain important fossil resources. An inventory of fossil resources in paleontological areas having a Potential Fossil Yield Category ranking of 4 and 5 would be performed by an accredited paleontologist prior to the issuance of permit.
	Noise	<b>Monkouski</b>			
	Range Management	<b>Johnson</b> <b>Torma</b>			
	Lands/ Realty Authorizations				

		<b>Sperandio</b>			
	Recreation	<b>Monkouski</b>			
		<b>Windsor</b>			
NI	Socio-Economics	<b>Cassel</b>			
	Visual Resources	<b>Windsor</b>			
	Cumulative Impact Summary				
<b>FINAL REVIEW</b>					
	P&E Coordinator	<b>McFadden</b>			

Appendix 2

**NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES CONTACTED:**

Ivan Posey, Chairman  
Shoshone Business Council  
Shoshone Tribe  
P O Box 538  
Ft. Washakie, WY 82514

Arlen Shoyo, THPO  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Shoshone Tribe, Cultural Center  
P.O. Box 538  
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Ernest House, Sr., Chairman  
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe  
P O Box JJ  
Towaoc, CO 81334

Mr. Terry Knight, Sr., NAGPRA Representative  
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe  
P O Box 468  
Towaoc, CO 81334

Darlene Conrad, THPO Director  
Northern Arapaho Tribe  
P O Box 396  
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Ernest House, Jr., Executive Secretary  
Colorado Commissioner of Indian Affairs  
130 State Capitol  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Robert Goggles, NAGPRA Representative  
Northern Arapaho Tribe  
328 Seventeen Mile Road  
Arapaho, WY 82510

Mathew Box, Chairman  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
P O Box 737  
Ignacio, CO 81137

Neil Cloud, NAGPRA Representative  
Southern Ute Tribe  
Mail Stop #73  
Ignacio, CO 81137

Curtis Cesspooch, Chairman  
Uintah & Ouray Tribal Business Committee  
P O Box 190  
Ft. Duchesne, UT 84026

Betsy Chapoose, Director  
Cultural Rights & Protection Specialist  
Uintah & Ouray Tribe  
P O Box 190  
Fort Duchesne, UT 84026

**Attachment A** – List all pre-DNA, the **original Sale Notice** parcels that are pertinent to each Field Office as an Attachment A at the end of the DNA/EA document (copy and paste directly from the draft sale notice)

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**Pre-DNA/EA Parcels Proposed for Lease**  
**May 2011 – Colorado Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale**

**PARCEL ID: 5872 SERIAL #:**

T. 0020N., R 0790W., 6TH PM  
Sec. 5: Lot 1,5-8;  
Sec. 5: S2NE,W2SW,S2SE;  
Sec. 6: SENE,E2SE;  
Sec. 7: SENE,E2SE;  
Sec. 8: SENE,W2,E2SE;

Grand County  
Colorado 1093.660 Acres  
All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-09 to protect big game winter habitat.

The following lands are subject to Exhibit CO-15 to protect grouse winter habitat:

T. 0020N., R 0790W., 6TH PM  
Sec. 8: S2SW;

The following lands are subject to Exhibit CO-29 to alert lessee of Class I and II paleontological area inventory requirement:

T. 0020N., R 0790W., 6TH PM  
Sec. 5: Lot 1;  
Sec. 6: SENE,E2SE;  
Sec. 8: SW,E2SE;

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-34 to alert lessee of potential habitat for a threatened, endangered, candidate, or other special status plant or animal.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-39 to protect cultural resources.

PVT/BLM; CDO: KRA

**PARCEL ID: 5873 SERIAL #:**

T. 0020N., R 0810W., 6TH PM  
Sec. 5: Lot 5-8,10,13,14;  
Sec. 6: Lot 8-19;  
Sec. 7: Lot 1-4;  
Sec. 7: NE,E2W2,N2SE,SWSE;

Grand County  
Colorado 1192.920 Acres

The following lands are subject to Exhibit CO-08 to protect special status plant species:

T. 0020N., R 0810W., 6TH PM  
Sec. 5: Lot 5;

The following lands are subject to Exhibit CO-09 to protect big game winter habitat:

T. 0020N., R 0810W., 6TH PM  
Sec. 5: Lot 5-8,10,13,14;  
Sec. 6: Lot 8-19;  
Sec. 7: Lot 1-3;  
Sec. 7: NE,E2W2,N2SE,SWSE;  
Sec. 7: NE,E2NW;

The following lands are subject to Exhibit CO-18 to protect raptor nesting and fledgling habitat:

T. 0020N., R 0810W., 6TH PM  
Sec. 5: Lot 7,8,10;  
Sec. 6: Lot 8,9,14,15;

The following lands are subject to Exhibit CO-28 to protect riparian/wetland vegetation:

T. 0020N., R 0810W., 6TH PM  
Sec. 7: Lot 2,3;

The following lands are subject to Exhibit CO-29 to alert lessee of Class I and II paleontological area inventory requirement:

T. 0020N., R 0810W., 6TH PM  
Sec. 7: Lot 2,4;  
Sec. 7: NENW;

The following lands are subject to Exhibit CO-30 to alert lessee of closure period for nesting grouse species:

T. 0020N., R 0810W., 6TH PM  
Sec. 5: Lot 5;

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-34 to alert lessee of potential habitat for a threatened, endangered, candidate, or other special status plant or animal.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-39 to protect cultural resources.

PVT/BLM; CDO: KRA

**PARCEL ID: 5874 SERIAL #:**

T. 0020N., R 0810W., 6TH PM  
Sec. 15: E2NE,S2;  
Sec. 17: ALL;  
Sec. 18: Lot 1,2;  
Sec. 18: E2,E2NW;

Grand County  
Colorado 1526.320 Acres

The following lands are subject to Exhibit CO-09 to protect big game winter habitat:

T. 0020N., R 0810W., 6TH PM  
Sec. 15: E2NE,S2;

Sec. 17: ALL;  
Sec. 18: E2,E2NW;

The following lands are subject to Exhibit CO-28 to protect riparian/wetland vegetation:

T. 0020N., R 0810W., 6TH PM  
Sec. 15: E2NE;

The following lands are subject to Exhibit CO-29 to alert lessee of Class I and II paleontological area inventory requirement:

T. 0020N., R 0810W., 6TH PM  
Sec. 18: Lot 1;

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-34 to alert lessee of potential habitat for a threatened, endangered, candidate, or other special status plant or animal.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-35 to alert lessee of Wolf Creek Gas Storage Agreement.

PVT/BLM; CDO: KRA

**Note: Attachment B** - List both the "Available Portion" and "Deferred Portion" of the legal descriptions in Attachment B at the end of the DNA document.

- a. Copy and paste the DNA parcel description from the Attachment A and edit it on Attachment B.
- b. **Don't defer part of a description** on a line – List both the "Available Portion" and "Deferred Portion" separately
- c. **Don't include stipulations** in this attachment.
- d. **Note reason(s) for deferral** next to the "Deferred Portion" of the legal descriptions.

**Attachment B**  
**Parcels Available for Lease with Deferred Portions**  
**May 2011 - Colorado Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale**

EXAMPLE Deferred ALL

**Available Portion of Parcel ID: 5872**

None

**Deferred All of Parcel ID: 0001**

T. 0320N., R 0010W., NMPM                      Parcel deferred to protect Sage Grouse dancing ground  
Sec. 4: Lot 5;  
Sec. 4: NESW,S2SW;

Archuleta County  
Colorado            160.060 Acres

.....  
**EXAMPLE Deferred Portion**

**Available Portions of Parcel ID: 0002**

T. 0350N., R 0140W., NMPM  
Sec. 2: S2NW;

Montezuma County  
Colorado            xx.xxx Acres

**Deferred Portions of Parcel ID: 0002**

T. 0350N., R 0140W., NMPM                      Defer Anasazi ACEC/Mesa Verde  
Sec. 6: Lot 1-7;                                      Defer to protect raptor nesting site  
Sec. 6: S2NE,SENE,E2SW,SE;                      Defer Anasazi ACEC/Mesa Verde  
Sec. 16: NE: S2NW;                                      Defer to protect peregrine falcon nesting complex  
Sec. 23: W2SW;

Montezuma County  
Colorado            xxx.xxx Acres

**Note: Attachment C – List all available lands for lease with Applied Stipulations on this attachment.**

- a. **List stipulations with each parcel description.** Do not try to blanket over several parcel descriptions with one stipulation (i.e. Stipulation CO-28 should be used for Parcels 3929, 3940 and 3956.)
- b. Show the **complete list** of legal descriptions with stipulations pertinent to each Field Office **as it will be published in the Sale Notice.** Attach a copy of the stipulation at the end of Attachment C.

**Attachment C**  
**Parcels Available for Lease with Applied Stipulations**  
**May 2011 - Colorado Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale**

**PARCEL ID: 0002**

T. 0350N., R 0140W., NMPM  
Sec. 2: S2NW;

Montezuma County  
Colorado 80.000 Acres

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-09 to protect big game winter habitat.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-28 to protect riparian/wetland vegetation.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-34 to alert lessee of potential habitat for a threatened, endangered, candidate, or other special status plant or animal.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-39 to protect cultural resources.

All lands are subject to Exhibit SJ-03 to protect recreational and visual values of the Dolores River Canyon, and Menefee and Weber Mountains.

BLM; MDO: SJRA

**PARCEL ID: 0003**

T. 0400N., R 0130W., NMPM  
Sec. 4: S2SW;  
Sec. 5: Lot 3-12;  
Sec. 8: NW,E2SW;

Dolores County  
Colorado 688.620 Acres

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-34 to alert lessee of potential habitat for a threatened, endangered, candidate, or other special status plant or animal.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-39 to protect cultural resources.

PVT/BLM; MDO: SJRA