

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, CO 81625**

**DOCUMENTATION OF LAND USE PLAN
CONFORMANCE AND NEPA ADEQUACY**

NUMBER: CO-100-2006-004 DNA

PROJECT NAME: February 2006 Oil & Gas Lease Sale, Little Snake Field Office

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: See Exhibit A

A. Describe the Proposed Action

The proposal is to lease, for potential oil and gas exploration and production, Federal mineral estate within the Little Snake Field Office area. The US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and private landowners manage the surface estate. The mineral estate is administered by the BLM. Nine parcels of varying sizes are recommended to be leased. (See Exhibit A) All of the acreage is in Moffat County. The legal descriptions and applicable land use stipulations are identified in Exhibit A. The parcels identified in Exhibit A are proposed to be included in the upcoming February 2006 competitive lease sale.

As part of the Little Snake Field Office (LSFO) review, parcels are reviewed to make sure the appropriate stipulations will be attached at the time of the lease sale. Parcels 3075, 3094, 3095, 3096, 3097, 3098, 3217, 3218, and 3219 recommended for leasing have the correct stipulations identified.

1. **PARCEL 3075:** T12N, R91W; Section 7: Lot 5, 6; Section 8: Lot 1-4; contains approximately 28.770 acres of land.
2. **PARCEL 3094:** T4N, R97W; Section 12: Lot 5-8, SE; Section 13, N2NE, NENW, SESE; Sec. 24: ALL; contains approximately 1084.120 acres of land.
3. **PARCEL 3095:** T40N, R 97W; Section 10: Lot 5,6, SE, S2SW; Section 11: Lot 5-8, SW; Sec. 14: S2NW,SWNE,W2SE,N2SW,SWSW; Sec. 15: N2NE,W2; contains approximately 1306.570 acres of land.
4. **PARCEL 3096:** T4N, R97W; Section 7: Lot 5-10, N2SW; Section 8: Lot 5-8; SW; Section 9: Lot 8, N2SW; contains approximately 670.820 acres of land.
5. **PARCEL 3097:** T4N, R97W; Section 17: N2, N2SE, SW; Section 18: Lot 5-8; E2W2, E2; Section 19: Lot 5-8, E2W2, E2; Section 20: W2, SE; contains approximately 2295.600 acres of land.
6. **PARCEL 3098:** T4N, R97W; Section 21: E2, E2NW; Section 22: SWNE, W2; Section 23: W2NW, S2NE, S2; Section 27: SENE, NW, E2SE; Section 28: NE, SWSE; contains approximately 1720.000 acres of land.

7. **PARCEL 3217:** T5N, R97W, Section 24: N2, N2SW, SWSW; Section 25: W2W2, SENW, E2SW, S2SE; contains approximately 800.000 acres of land.
8. **PARCEL 3218:** T5N, R97W, Section 11: Lot 1, SWSE, NESE; Section 12: Lot 7,8,13; Section 13: Lot 1,5-8,11,12, NE; Section 14: Lot 8,9,17,26, NW; Section 15: W2, W2E2, E2NE, NESE; contains approximately 1286.420 acres of land.
9. **PARCEL 3219:** T5N, R 97W, Section 1: Lot 8, SWNW; Section 2: Lot 5-8; S2N2,W2SW; Section 3: Lot 5-8; S2N2,W2SW; Section 4: Lot 5, SENE, E2SE, NESW, SWNW; contains approximately 1101.060 acres of land.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: Little Snake Resource Area, Resource Management Plan (RMP)/EIS and Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: April 26, 1989

Final RMP/EIS, September 1986

Draft RMP/EIS, February 1986

The proposed action implements the LUPs Planned Action objective on Page 8 of the ROD to allow oil and gas leasing with required stipulations.

C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

Colorado Oil and Gas Leasing & Development Final EIS Plan Amendment

Date Approved: October 1991

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?

Yes, the proposed lease parcels are within the area analyzed by the RMP and this action is the same as proposed there in. That action was to make Federal oil and gas resources available for leasing with standard stipulations or, where necessary add special stipulations including no surface occupancy, avoidance, or timing restrictions.

According to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, site-specific NEPA analysis is not possible absent concrete proposals. Filing of an Application for Permit to Drill is the first useful point at which a site-specific environmental appraisal can be undertaken. (Park County Resource Council, Inc. v. U.S. Department of Agriculture, 10th Cir., April 17, 1987). In addition, the Interior Board of Land Appeals has decided that, BLM is not required to undertake a site-specific environmental review before issuing an oil and gas lease when it previously analyzed the

environmental consequences of leasing the land. (Colorado Environmental Coalition Et AL., IBLA 96-243, decided June 10, 1999).

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes, the alternatives analyzed in the RMP included Continuation of Present Management, Standard Terms and Conditions, and the Proposed Action. They provided a broad range of alternatives, which in our judgment adequately address current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances?

Yes, the existing RMP/EIS is valid. We are not aware of any new information or circumstances that would require modification of the analysis. The impacts analyzed in the RMP/EIS are greatly in excess of those that have actually occurred to date.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?

The methodology and analytical approach used in the 1991 leasing EIS is appropriate for this proposed action. The use of new methodologies or approaches would result in the same impact conclusion and leasing decisions.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?

The direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action are substantially unchanged from those identified in the 1991 leasing EIS. (See also D.1. above.)

6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Yes, the actual cumulative impacts are well within the parameters addressed in the 1991 Oil & Gas Leasing Plan Amendment on pages 2-27 thru 4-29. To date, the amount of surface disturbance on public land has been less than predicted and added to past present and reasonably foreseeable actions of BLM and others, the impact prediction remains accurate. Implementing the proposed action will not substantially change the cumulative impact analysis.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes. Full public review occurred during the RMP/EIS process. The current proposed lease sale would fall under the RMP/EIS. In addition, a notice of competitive lease sale is posted in all BLM and USFS offices approximately 45 days prior to the sale or on the BLM web site, www.co.blm.gov/oilandgas/leasinfo.htm. It is also available through the mail for a fee to those that request it and make arrangements to pay the fee.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the NEPA analysis and preparation of this document.

Name	Title	Resource	Initials	Date
Duane Johnson	Environmental Coordinator	NEPA	DJ	11/10/05
Barb Blackstun	Natural Resource Specialist	Soil, Air, and Water	BB	11/08/05
Tim Novotny	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, Wetlands/Riparian Zones	TN	10/24/05
Jim McBrayer	Recreation Planner	WSA, W&S Rivers	JM	10/24/05

Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM’s compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Signature of Lead Specialist _____ Date _____

Signature of NEPA Coordinator _____ Date _____

Signature of the Authorizing Official _____ Date _____

Note: The signed Conclusion on this document is part of an interim step in the BLM’s internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision.

EXHIBIT A

Legal descriptions & associated stipulations Little Snake Field Office Month Year Oil & Gas Lease Sale

THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC DOMAIN LANDS ARE SUBJECT TO FILINGS IN THE MANNER SPECIFIED IN THE APPLICABLE PORTIONS OF THE REGULATIONS IN 43 CFR, SUBPART 3120.

1. PARCEL ID: 3075 SERIAL #:

T. 0120N., R 0910W., 6TH PM
Sec. 7: Lot 5,6;
Sec. 8: Lot 1-4;

Moffat County
Colorado 28.770 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. 0120N., R 0910W., 6TH PM
Sec. 8: Lot 1-4;

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: LSRA

2. PARCEL ID: 3094 SERIAL #: NCO COC69253 & COC69254

T. 0040N., R 0970W., 6TH PM
Sec. 12: Lot 5-8;
Sec. 12: SE;
Sec. 13: N2NE,NENW,SESE;
Sec. 24: ALL;

Moffat County
Colorado 1084.120 Acres

The following lands are subject to Exhibit CO-03 to protect raptor nests:

T. 0040N., R 0970W., 6TH PM
Sec. 24: SENE

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

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

T. 0040N., R 0970W., 6TH PM
Sec. 24: NE, SE;

The following lands are subject to Exhibit CO-26 to protect fragile soils:

T. 0040N., R 0970W., 6TH PM
Sec. 12: Lot 5
Sec. 13: NENE,SESE
Sec. 24: E2E2

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;BLM; CDO: LSRA

3. PARCEL ID: 3095 SERIAL #: NCO COC69253 & COC69254

T. 0040N., R 0970W., 6TH PM
Sec. 10: Lot 5,6;
Sec. 10: SE,S2SW;
Sec. 11: Lot 5-8;
Sec. 11: SW;
Sec. 14: S2NW,SWNE,W2SE,N2SW,SWSW;
Sec. 15: N2NE,W2;

Moffat County
Colorado 1306.570 Acres

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

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: LSRA

4. PARCEL ID: 3096 SERIAL #: NCO COC69249 & COC69250

T. 0040N., R 0970W., 6TH PM

Sec. 7: Lot 5-10;
Sec. 7: N2SW;
Sec. 8: Lot 5-8;
Sec. 8: SW;
Sec. 9: Lot 8;
Sec. 9: N2SW;

Moffat County

Colorado 670.280 Acres

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

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: LSRA

5. PARCEL ID: 3097 SERIAL #: NCO COC69249 & COC69250

T. 0040N., R 0970W., 6TH PM

Sec. 17: N2,N2SE,SW;
Sec. 18: Lot 5-8;
Sec. 18: E2W2,E2;
Sec. 19: Lot 5-8;
Sec. 19: E2W2,E2;
Sec. 20: W2,SE;

Moffat County

Colorado 2295.600 Acres

The following lands are subject to Exhibit CO-03 to protect raptor nests:

T. 0040N., R 0970W., 6TH PM

Sec. 19: SE
Sec. 20: SWSW

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

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

T. 0040N., R 0970W., 6TH PM

Sec. 19: SE
Sec. 20: SW

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;BLM; CDO: LSRA

6. PARCEL ID: 3098 SERIAL #: NCO COC69251, COC69252 & COC69255

T. 0040N., R 0970W., 6TH PM
Sec. 21: E2,E2NW;
Sec. 22: SWNE,W2;
Sec. 23: W2NW,S2NE,S2;
Sec. 27: SENE,NW,E2SE;
Sec. 28: NE,SWSE;

Moffat County
Colorado 1720.000 Acres

The following lands are subject to Exhibit CO-03 to protect raptor nests:

T. 0040N., R 0970W., 6TH PM
Sec. 21: SENE,NESE

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

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

T. 0040N., R 0970W., 6TH PM
Sec. 21: SENE,E2SE
Sec. 22: SWNW,NWSW

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;BLM; CDO: LSRA

7. PARCEL ID: 3217 SERIAL #: NCO COC69221

T. 0050N., R 0970W., 6TH PM
Sec. 24: N2,N2SW,SWSW;

Sec. 25: W2W2,SENW,E2SW,S2SE;

Moffat County

Colorado 800.000 Acres

The following lands are subject to Exhibit CO-03 to protect raptor nests:

T. 0050N., R 0970W., 6TH PM

Sec. 25: SESE;

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

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

T. 0050N., R 0970W., 6TH PM

Sec. 25: S2SE;

The following lands are subject to Exhibit CO-26 to protect fragile soils:

T. 0050N., R 0970W., 6TH PM

Sec. 24: N2

Sec. 25: SESW,W2W2,S2SE

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.

BLM; CDO: LSRA

8. PARCEL ID: 3218 SERIAL #: NCO COC69219

T. 0050N., R 0970W., 6TH PM

Sec. 11: Lot 1;

Sec. 11: SWSE,NESE;

Sec. 12: Lot 7,8,13;

Sec. 13: Lot 1,5-8,11,12;

Sec. 13: NE;

Sec. 14: Lot 8,9,17,26;

Sec. 14: NW;

Sec. 15: W2,W2E2,E2NE,NESE;

Moffat County

Colorado 1286.420 Acres

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

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.

The following lands are subject to Exhibit LS-12 to alert lessee of potential closure for sheep lambing grounds:

T. 0050N., R 0970W., 6TH PM

Sec. 11: Lot 1

Sec. 11: NESE,SWSE

Sec. 12: Lot 7

Sec. 13: NENE,W2NE

Sec. 14: E2NW

PVT/BLM; CDO: LSRA

9. PARCEL ID: 3219 SERIAL #: NCO COC69217

T. 0050N., R 0970W., 6TH PM

Sec. 1: Lot 8;

Sec. 1: SWNW;

Sec. 2: Lot 5-8;

Sec. 2: S2N2,W2SW;

Sec. 3: Lot 5-8;

Sec. 3: S2N2,W2SW;

Sec. 4: Lot 5;

Sec. 4: SENE,E2SE,NESW,SWNW;

Moffat County

Colorado 1101.060 Acres

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

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.

The following lands are subject to Exhibit LS-12 to alert lessee of potential closure for sheep lambing grounds:

T. 0050N., R 0970W., 6TH PM

Sec. 1: Lot 8

Sec. 1: SWNW

Sec. 2: Lot 5,6,7,8

Sec. 2: S2N2,W2SW

Sec. 3: Lot 5,6,7,8

Sec. 3: S2N2,W2SW

Sec. 4: Lot 5

Sec. 4: SENE,SWNW,E2SE,NESW

PVT/BLM; CDO: LSRA