

**APPENDIX B**

**UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA  
FOR THE EAGLE BUTTE WEST LBA TRACT**

## APPENDIX B. UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA FOR THE EAGLE BUTTE WEST LBA TRACT

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985, 2001a)	FINDINGS FOR EAGLE BUTTE WEST LBA TRACT
<p><b>1. Federal Land Systems.</b> With certain exceptions that do not apply to this tract, all federal lands included in the following systems are unsuitable for mining: National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National System of Trails, National Wilderness Preservation System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Recreation Areas, Lands acquired through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, National Forests and Federal lands in incorporated cities, towns and villages.</p>	<p>There are Federal lands located around Gillette, Sheridan, and Wright that were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion.</p>	<p>None of the federal lands determined to be unsuitable under Criterion 1 are present on the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract. Therefore, there are no unsuitable findings under this criterion.</p>
<p><b>2. Rights-Of-Way and Easements.</b> Federal lands that are within ROWs or easements or within surface leases for residential, commercial, industrial or other public purposes, on federally owned surface, are unsuitable for mining.</p>	<p>Portions of the BNSF &amp; UP railroad ROWs, the Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line ROW, the Wyoming State Highway 450 ROW, and the I-90 ROW on federal surface were found to be unsuitable under this criterion within the general review area.</p>	<p>The portions of the BNSF &amp; UP railroad ROWs, Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line ROW, the Wyoming State Highway 450 ROW, and the I-90 ROW that were determined to be unsuitable are not located on the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract. Therefore, there are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 2 for the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract.</p>
<p><b>3. Buffer Zones for Rights-Of-Way, Communities, and Buildings.</b> Federal lands within 100 ft of a ROW of a public road or a cemetery; or within 300 ft of any public building, school, church, community or institutional building or public park; or within 300 ft of an occupied dwelling are unsuitable for mining.</p>	<p>Portions of Wyoming State Highway 450, Interstate Highway I-90, and one cemetery were found to be unsuitable under this criterion. Decisions were deferred on other highways/roads, occupied dwellings, and one school until an application to lease is filed.</p>	<p>The portions of Highway 450, I-90, and the cemetery that were determined to be unsuitable are not located on the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract. A portion of U.S. Highway 14-16, a public road, is located on the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract. Therefore, the portion of the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract within the highway ROW and the associated 100-ft buffer zone are designated unsuitable for mining and the lease will be stipulated to exclude mining within these areas unless a permit to move the highway is approved by WYDOT. In addition, a public school, the public road to the school, and a number of occupied dwellings are located within the northern portion of the additional area evaluated under Alternative 1. Therefore, the lands included within the northern portion of the additional area evaluated under Alternative 1 that lie within 300 ft of the Rawhide Elementary School building, within 300 ft of occupied dwellings, or within 100 ft of the ROW of the public road are designated unsuitable for mining.</p>
<p><b>4. Wilderness Study Areas.</b> Federal lands designated as wilderness study areas are unsuitable for mining while under review for possible wilderness designation.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area are within a wilderness study area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 4 for the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract.</p>
<p><b>5. Scenic Areas.</b> Scenic federal lands designated by visual resource management analysis as Class I (outstanding visual quality or high visual sensitivity) but not currently on National Register of Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area meet the scenic criteria as outlined.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 5 for the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract.</p>

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<p><b>6. Land Used for Scientific Study.</b> Federal lands under permit by the surface management agency and being used for scientific studies involving food or fiber production, natural resources, or technology demonstrations and experiments are unsuitable for the duration of the study except where mining would not jeopardize the purpose of the study.</p>	<p>Two vegetation monitoring study sites on the TBNG (NE¼ of Sec. 1, T.41N., R.71W. and NW¼ NW¼ of Sec. 30, T.41N., R.69W.), and the Hoe Creek Site (Sec. 7, T.47N., R.72W.) were found to be unsuitable under this criterion.</p>	<p>The vegetation monitoring sites and the Hoe Creek site are not located on the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 6 for the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract.</p>
<p><b>7. Cultural Resources.</b> All publicly or privately owned places which are included in or are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and an appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable.</p>	<p>On the basis of the consultation with SHPO, there were no unsuitable findings under this criterion in the general review area. Continue using the "Standard Archeological Stipulation" to new leases.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 7 for the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract. The "Standard Archeological Stipulation" should be applied if this tract is leased.</p>
<p><b>8. Natural Areas.</b> Federal lands designated as natural areas or National Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area are designated as natural areas or as National Natural Landmarks.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 8 for the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract.</p>
<p><b>9. Critical Habitat for Threatened or Endangered Plant and Animal Species.</b> Federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant and animal species, and scientifically documented essential habitat for threatened or endangered species are unsuitable.</p>	<p>There is no federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant or animal species within the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 9 for the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract.</p>
<p><b>10. State Listed Threatened or Endangered Species.</b> Federal lands containing habitat determined to be critical or essential for plant or animal species listed by a state pursuant to state law as threatened or endangered shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>Wyoming does not maintain a state list of threatened or endangered species of plants or animals. Therefore, this criterion does not apply.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 10 for the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract.</p>
<p><b>11. Bald or Golden Eagle Nests.</b> An active bald or golden eagle nest and appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable unless the lease can be conditioned so that eagles will not be disturbed during breeding season or unless golden eagle nests will be moved.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle nests on a case by case basis at the time of leasing. Establish buffer zones around nests during mining and reclamation planning after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>There are currently no bald or golden eagle nests (active or inactive) on the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract. Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.</p>
<p><b>12. Bald and Golden Eagle Roost and Concentration Areas.</b> Bald and golden eagle roost and concentration areas on federal lands used during migration and wintering are unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that eagles shall not be adversely disturbed.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle roost areas on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>There are no identified roost sites on the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract. Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.</p>
<p><b>13. Falcon Nesting Sites and Buffer Zones.</b> Federal lands containing active falcon (excluding kestrel) cliff nesting sites and a suitable buffer zone shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure the falcons will not be adversely affected.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions on falcon nesting sites and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones around nesting sites after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>No falcon nesting sites have been identified on the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 13 for the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract.</p>

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<p><b>14. Habitat for Migratory Bird Species.</b> Federal lands which are high priority habitat for migratory bird species of management concern in Wyoming shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that migratory bird habitat will not be adversely affected during the period it is in use.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions on high priority habitat for migratory bird species of management concern in Wyoming and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones for nesting areas during mining and reclamation planning after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>Evaluate suitability during consultation with USFWS.</p>
<p><b>15. Fish and Wildlife Habitat for Resident Species.</b> Federal lands which the surface management agency and state jointly agree are fish, wildlife and plant habitat of resident species of high interest to the state, and which are essential for maintaining these priority wildlife species, shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure no long-term impact on the species being provided will occur.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions on grouse leks and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with WGFD.</p>	<p>There currently are no active sage grouse leks and one inactive sage grouse lek on the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract. There are currently three sage grouse leks, which have been active within the last five years, identified on lands adjacent to the LBA tract: one within ¼ mile and two just over two miles from the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract. Evaluate this criterion prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones during mining and reclamation planning after consultation with WGFD.</p>
<p><b>16. Floodplains.</b> Federal lands in riverine, coastal, and special floodplains shall be considered unsuitable where it is determined that mining could not be undertaken without substantial threat of loss of life or property.</p>	<p>The BLM and USDA-FS have determined that the identified floodplains in the general review area could potentially be mined. Therefore, all lands within the general review area are considered suitable.</p>	<p>Site-specific stipulations and resource protection safeguards will be applied if necessary during mining and reclamation planning. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 16 for the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract.</p>
<p><b>17. Municipal Watersheds.</b> Federal lands which have been committed by the surface management agency to use as municipal watersheds shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no designated municipal watersheds in the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 17 for the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract.</p>
<p><b>18. National Resource Waters.</b> Federal lands with national resource waters, as identified by states in their water quality management plans, and 1/4-mile buffer zones shall be unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no designated national resource waters within the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 18 for the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract.</p>
<p><b>19. Alluvial Valley Floors.</b> Federal lands identified by the surface management agency, in consultation with the state, as AVFs where mining would interrupt, discontinue or preclude farming, are unsuitable. Additionally, when mining federal lands outside an AVF would materially damage the quality or quantity of water in surface or underground water systems that would supply AVFs, the land shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>Consider areas determined to contain AVFs significant to farming as unsuitable. Defer decisions on other AVFs and analyze on a case-by-case basis prior to lease issuance.</p>	<p>No AVFs or potential AVFs have been identified on the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract with characteristics indicating potential significance to farming. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 19 for the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract.</p>
<p><b>20. State or Indian Tribe Criteria.</b> Federal lands to which is applicable a criterion proposed by the state or Indian tribe located in the planning area and adopted by rulemaking by the Secretary are unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no criterion proposed by state or Indian tribes that have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior. No tribal lands are located in or near the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitability findings for this criterion on the Eagle Butte West LBA Tract.</p>