



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Wyoming State Office  
P.O. Box 1828  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828



In Reply Refer To:

3425 (LBA)  
WY922 (Love)  
WYW172657 (Caballo West LBA)  
WYW161248 (Belle Ayr North LBA)  
WYW173360 (Maysdorf II LBA)  
WYW172585 (West Coal Creek LBA)  
South Gillette Area Coal EIS

AUG 05 2009

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared this final environmental impact statement (FEIS) to document and disclose the results of environmental analyses of four applications received by the BLM to lease tracts of Federal coal. The tracts are located in the South Gillette Area of the Wyoming Powder River Basin at the Caballo, Belle Ayr, Cordero Rojo, and Coal Creek mines. A copy of this document is provided for your review and comments. The FEIS may also be reviewed at the following website:

[http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/cfodocs/south\\_gillette.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/cfodocs/south_gillette.html)

Copies of the FEIS are also available for public inspection at the following BLM offices:

Bureau of Land Management  
Wyoming State Office  
5353 Yellowstone Road  
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Bureau of Land Management  
High Plains District Office  
2987 Prospector Drive  
Casper, Wyoming 82604

The draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) was published in October 2008 and the 60-day comment period on the DEIS ended on December 24, 2008. A formal public hearing on these applications to lease Federal coal was held at 7:00 p.m. on November 19, 2008, at the George Amos Memorial Building, 412 South Gillette Avenue, Gillette, Wyoming. The purpose of the hearing was to receive comments on the DEIS, on the fair market value, and on the maximum economic recovery of the Federal coal resources included in the tracts.

The BLM has prepared a separate document entitled *Supplementary Information on the Affected Environment in the General Analysis Area for the South Gillette Area Coal Lease Application EIS* in addition to this FEIS. This document, which is available on

request, includes more detailed site-specific information about the potentially affected resources included in the study areas for the South Gillette Area tracts.

The BLM will accept public comments on this FEIS for thirty (30) days commencing on the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. Comments received after the end of the 30-day comment period will be considered in preparation of the Record of Decision (ROD) as time permits. The BLM is also publishing a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register.

If you wish to comment on the FEIS, your comments should relate directly to the document. Comments should be as specific as possible and the location or locations in the document on which you are commenting should be cited. The agencies involved in preparing this FEIS are required to respond in the ROD to all substantive comments submitted. Substantive comments should: (1) give any new information that could alter conclusions; (2) show why or how analysis or assumptions in the FEIS are flawed; (3) show errors in data, sources, or methods; or, (4) request clarifications that bear on conclusions. Opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response, but they will be considered and included as part of the BLM decisionmaking process.

This FEIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and applicable regulations, and other applicable statutes, to address possible environmental and socioeconomic impacts that could result from this project. This FEIS is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public and the agency decisionmakers of the impacts of leasing some or all of the South Gillette Area tracts of Federal coal to the existing applicant mines in the Wyoming Powder River Basin and to evaluate alternatives to leasing the Federal coal included in the tracts as applied for.

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the address listed below during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and will be published as part of the ROD. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Please send written comments to: Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming High Plains District Office, Attn: Teresa Johnson, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. Written comments may also be e-mailed to the attention of Teresa Johnson at "casper\_wymail@blm.gov". E-mail comments must include the name and mailing address of the commentor to receive consideration. Written comments may also be faxed to (307)-261-7587.

If you have any questions or would like to obtain a copy of the supplementary information document or additional copies of this FEIS in either hard copy or PDF, please contact Teresa Johnson at (307) 261-7510, or at the above address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donald A. Simpson".

Donald A. Simpson  
State Director