



# 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:

1610 (930)

Casper Resource Management Plan

November 21, 2007

Thomas F. Stroock  
Alpha Development Corporation  
P.O. Box 2875  
Casper, WY 82602

Dear Mr. Stroock:

Thank you for providing comments on the Proposed Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Your letter provided three comments. Attached is a summary of your comments along with the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) response to each comment.

We appreciate your interest and involvement in the development of the Casper RMP. If you have any questions, or wish to discuss any issues or concerns regarding the plan, please call Jim Murkin, Casper Field Manager, at 307-261-7600, or Jane Darnell, Deputy State Director for Resources Policy and Management, at 307-775-6113.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Bennett  
State Director

Attachment

## Casper Resource Management Plan

**Comment 1: “This corporation owns an undivided 40% net working interest in several thousand acres of oil and gas leases in Townships 35 and 36 North, Range 77 West, Natrona County, Wyoming. Our acreage in Section 34 of 36 North, 77 West, and in Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 in 35 North, Range 77 West, is directly affected by the outline of your proposed North Sand Dunes Area for land management.”**

*Response: Please note that under the Proposed Plan, unleased Federal minerals within the Sand Hills Management Area (MA) are administratively unavailable to oil and gas leasing but development of existing oil and gas leases is allowed as discussed on Page 4-2 of the PRMP/FEIS. Surface-disturbing activities, however, are subject to intensive management to meet the objectives for the area (PRMP/FEIS, Page 4-256).*

**Comment 2: “We feel most strongly, that the previous oil exploration work that we have done in these areas left no possible reason to be so stringent in your requirements for the future. In fact, if you will check your records, you will see that the extensive seismic program that we, JK Minerals and Slawson Exploration conducted over a year ago was properly permitted and your field inspection should show that there is no footprint whatsoever of our activity.”**

*Response: See the response to Comment 1 above concerning development on existing oil and gas leases. Also, please note those geophysical explorations authorized by Sundry Approval on existing leases (PRMP/FEIS, Page 3-21) are not limited by the prescriptions for the Sand Hills MA.*

**Comment 3: “We feel that if the federal government wants to prohibit the extension of the Cole Creek Field to the north, that the restrictions you propose will accomplish this purpose. We believe that, instead, you should agree to furnish oil and gas leases with provisions similar to the ones imposed on our recent seismic Permits. We do not believe that the surface of these lands is valuable for any kind of intensive agricultural activity, and is home only to scattered groups of antelope and deer.**

**Since the only really possible economic use of these lands is for oil and gas development and production, we believe this consideration should trump and others. We respectfully request that your final report allow oil and gas leasing in the area subject to stipulations suggested above and also that oil and gas operations in the area be specifically permitted as long as requirements of the Casper BLM Office and its associated agencies are properly followed. We have a record of doing this and that is the reason for this request.”**

*Response: A reasonable range of alternatives were developed for management of the Sand Hills MA. An alternative for continued oil and gas leasing was considered and analyzed (PRMP/FEIS, Page 2-93, Alternative D). The BLM’s Proposed Resource Management Plan balances resource conservation and resource uses and reflects the best combination of decisions to achieve BLM goals and policies, meet the purpose and need, and meet the needs of present and future generations.*