
1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of Report

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – Pinedale Field Office is currently managing BLM-administered land within the Pinedale Field Office area according to the management prescriptions provided in the existing Pinedale Resource Management Plan (RMP) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which was completed in 1988. The BLM – Pinedale Field Office will be preparing an amended RMP since the management prescriptions described in the existing RMP are outdated and are not appropriate given the increase in resource development within the Resource Management Plan Planning Area (RMPPA) (i.e., Pinedale Field Office Area) in the last 14 years and the associated environmental impacts. As part of the RMP process, the BLM is required to prepare a Mineral Occurrence and Development Potential Report, which provides specific information regarding mineral occurrences and development potential within the RMPPA. This report provides an intermediate level of detail for mineral assessment as prescribed in BLM Manual 3031. Information provided in this report will be incorporated into the Management Situation Analysis as part of the RMP and EIS, which will be completed for the RMPPA.

Since the completion of the existing RMP and EIS, oil and gas development has substantially increased within the RMPPA, which has affected the management of other resources in the RMPPA. Oil and gas development is likely to continue to increase in the RMPPA throughout the 20-year planning period (2001 to 2020), based on information provided in the Reasonably Foreseeable Development (RFD) Report for oil and gas written by the Wyoming State Office Reservoir Management Group (RMG) in the BLM Casper Office. Demand for other mineral materials also will likely increase as a result of oil and gas development and population growth within the RMPPA.

The RFD and discussion of hydrocarbon resource development potential in Chapter 4.0 (Sections 4.1.1 through 4.1.4) were provided by the RMG. All maps, graphs, and discussion are the product of the RMG and it is solely responsible for the content and the conclusions contained therein. In addition, portions of text and graphs in Chapter 3.0 (description of hydrocarbon resources) and the entire text of Section A6.0 (New Technologies) of Appendix A were also provided by the RMG.

A summary of the following chapters in this report is provided below:

- Chapter 2.0, Description of Geology, provides a description of the geologic resources as they relate to historical and future development or use of leaseable, locatable, and saleable

minerals within the RMPPA. Information provided in this chapter includes physiography, stratigraphy, structural geology and tectonics, and historical geology.

- Chapter 3.0, Description of Mineral Resources, describes the leaseable, locatable, and saleable minerals that have historically occurred or currently occur within the RMPPA.
- Chapter 4.0, Mineral Resource Potential, describes the potential development of the leaseable, locatable, and saleable minerals within the 20-year planning period.
- Chapter 5.0, Recommendations, provides a description of recommendations and prescriptions developed by BLM staff based on the future development of leaseable, locatable, and saleable minerals for the proper management of natural, human, and other physical resources for the 20-year planning period.
- Chapter 6.0, References, lists the references that were utilized to develop this report.
- Appendix A, Oil and Gas Operations, provides a detailed report describing how oil and gas exploration and development are conducted in the RMPPA.

1.2 Lands Involved and Record Data

The RMPPA is located in western Wyoming and includes approximately 931,000 acres of public surface and 1,185,000 acres of federal mineral estate (approximately 919,000 acres encompass both federal surface and mineral estate) (**Figure 1-1**). The RMPPA boundary includes portions of Sublette and Lincoln Counties. Other land categories present within the general RMPPA boundary include land managed by the state of Wyoming and private land. In addition to the federal estate in the RMPPA, the Pinedale Field Office manages leaseable minerals in parts of the Bridger-Teton National Forest as shown in **Figure 1-1**.

Information provided in this report was obtained from published geologic reports and maps, various technical files and maps, the RFD report, computer databases, field review of current mineral development operations within the RMPPA, and personal communications with technical experts.

Figure 1-1 General Location Map of the RMPPA