



In Reply Refer To:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Billings Field Office
5001 Southgate Drive
Billings, Montana 59101
www.blm.gov/mt



February 18, 2013

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Billings Field Office prepared an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze the potential effects from offering two nominated lease parcels for competitive oil and gas leasing in a sale tentatively scheduled to occur on October 22, 2013. The EA was available for a 30-day public comment period.

Based on our analysis and review of comments received, the EA has been updated (refer to Chapter 5 of the EA for a summary of public comments). A competitive oil and gas lease sale is tentatively scheduled to be held on October 22, 2013. It will be my recommendation to offer both lease parcels in whole, 147 federal mineral acres, along with stipulations identified in the BLM preferred alternative in the updated EA, see Appendix A. I will also recommend deferring 7 lease parcels in whole, 3,244.55 federal mineral acres pending additional study and analysis, see Appendix A.

We anticipate preparing and finalizing our Decision Record after the October oil and gas lease sale, but prior to lease issuance. Upon finalization, the Decision Record and accompanying finding of no significant impact (FONSI) will be posted on the website listed below.

Please refer to the Montana/Dakotas BLM website at <http://blm.gov/57jd>. Current and updated information about our EAs, Lease Sale Notices, and corresponding information pertaining to this sale can be found at the link referenced above. Once there, locate the October 22, 2013 lease sale to review the BiFO EA and the parcel list with recommended stipulations.

If you have any questions or would like more information about lease sale notices or the issuance of the EA, Decision Record and FONSI, please contact me at 406-896-5241.

Sincerely,

James M. Sparks
Field Office Manager