

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, CO 81625-1129**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2014-0017 CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC0126480

PROJECT NAME: Sage Creek Holdings, LLC, COC 0126480 Lease Readjustment

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

T.5N., R.91W., 6TH P.M.
SEC. 6 LOTS 9-13;

T.6N., R.91W., 6TH P.M.
SEC. 29 LOTS 3, 4;
SEC. 30 LOTS 7, 9;

366.51 Acres in all

APPLICANT: Sage Creek Holdings, LLC

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: This action is for a ten year lease readjustment of the lease terms. This is an opportunity to readjust the terms and conditions of the Sage Creek Holdings, LLC, Williams Fork Mine coal lease. The lease was issued on January 1, 1966 and was last readjusted January 1, 2006.

LAND USE PLAN (LUP) CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The proposed action was reviewed for conformance (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) with the following plan:

Name of Plan: Little Snake Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: October 2011

Results: The Proposed Action is in conformance with the LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP goals, objectives, and management decisions:

Allow for the availability of the federal coal and oil shale estate for exploration and development. Objectives for achieving these goals include:

- Identify and make available the federal coal and oil shale estate for exploration and development, consistent with appropriate suitability studies, to increase energy supplies.
- Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of the federal coal and oil shale estate.

- Promote the use of BMPs, including implementation of sound reclamation standards.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 2.3A(3) and 516 DM 11.9, Number: F. (2). None of the following extraordinary circumstances in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Extraordinary Circumstances	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.	___	X
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	___	X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	___	X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	___	X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	___	X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	___	X
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	___	X
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	___	X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	___	X
10. Have the potential for a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	___	X
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	___	X
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	___	X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource</u>	<u>Date</u>
Archaeologist	Cultural Resources	8/21/2014
Rangeland Mgmt Spec	T&E Plants	4/14/2014
Wildlife Biologist	T&E Animals	4/10/14

NAME OF PREPARER: Jennifer Maiolo

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:

DATE:

COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

This action is listed in the Department Manual (516 DM 2, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 11) as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Amy Carmichael for,
Wendy Reynolds, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 09/03/14

