

**United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
South Dakota Field Office  
310 Roundup Street  
Belle Fourche, SD 57717-1698**

**NEPA Compliance Record  
For  
October 23, 2012 Oil and Gas Lease Sale  
Parcels Within:  
USFS — Region 2 Buffalo Gap National Grassland**

Project Location: Fall River County, South Dakota

Parcel Numbers: SDM-97300-HA; SDM-97300-HB; SDM-97300-HC; SDM-97300-HF;  
SDM-97300-HK; SDM-97300-HL; SDM-97300-HN

Purpose of the NEPA Compliance Record: To adopt and document National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) leasing decisions and recommendations (leasing determinations). The basis for these leasing determinations, including identification of applicable NEPA analysis, is documented in two authorization letters dated April 18, 2012 and May 14, 2012.

NEPA Review: The USFS decision verification and consent to lease approximately 2,698.30 acres of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland is based on the Nebraska & Samuel R. McKelvie National Forests, Oglala, Buffalo Gap, & Fort Pierre National Grasslands Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) 2002; the FEIS for the Northern Great Plains Management Plans Revision (2001), and the Land and Resource Management Plan for Nebraska National Forest & Associated Units (2001). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was a cooperating agency for the FEIS and LRMP and issued Oil and Gas Leasing Decisions as part of the June 2002 ROD.

The USFS authorization letter, USFS NEPA Validation/Verification forms, and maps identify specific lease stipulations to protect surface resources. Standard terms and conditions for oil and gas leasing and development of the lease also apply. This action conforms with and is within the scope of the land use decisions identified above. The existing FEIS and ROD comply with BLM review criteria identified in the BLM NEPA Handbook, section 5.1.

Decision Record and Rationale: It is my decision to offer the parcels approved and recommended by the USFS in their decision verifications and authorization letters dated April 18, 2012 and May 14, 2012 for lease at the October 23, 2012 Competitive Lease Sale and issue leases in accordance with the lease sale notice where there are successful bidders.

The parcels will be offered with standard lease terms and the special stipulations identified in the subject consent letters and supporting decision verification documents submitted by the USFS.

The action is consistent with the BLM policy of making mineral resources available for leasing and development while protecting both surface and subsurface resources, and complies with coordination requirements and responsibilities of the of the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987 (FOOGLRA), 30 U.S.C §181 et seq.

Recommended by:

Handwritten signature of Marian M. Atkins in black ink.

Marian M. Atkins, Field Manager  
Date: October 11, 2012

Concurrence by:

Handwritten signature of Diane M. Friez in black ink.

Diane M. Friez, District Manager  
Date October 19, 2012

Approved by:

Handwritten signature of Theresa M. Hanley in black ink.

Theresa M. Hanley, Deputy State Director, Division of Resources  
Date October 19, 2012