

**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
July 15, 2014 Oil and Gas Lease Sale
Parcels Within:
USFS — Region 2 Buffalo Gap National Grassland**

Project Location: Fall River County, South Dakota

Parcel Numbers: 07-14-29 through 07-14-52

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 an authorization letter dated February 12, 2014.

NEPA Review: The USFS decision verification and consent to lease approximately 10,257.70 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 Record of Decision (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.

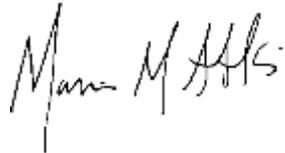
In addition to conformance with existing NEPA documents, a Climate Change Supplementary Information Report (Climate Change SIR, updated October 2010) is incorporated by reference. The Climate Change SIR discusses in detail climate change and climate science for Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. The report includes an analysis of anticipated greenhouse gas emissions estimates based on inventories from the South Dakota Reasonably Foreseeable Development (RFD) Scenario (refer to Section 4.8 of the report). The Climate Change SIR (at section 5.4.8) presents the South Dakota Planning Area Estimated GHG Emissions. The source year selected to disclose the estimated GHG emissions was the year with the highest expected combined construction and production emissions for oil and gas sources in the RFD planning area.

The total estimated GHG emissions for all ownerships are approximately 855,085 metric tons/yr. This information as well as a comparison of inventories at other scales, provides a context for the potential contributions of GHGs associated with the RFD during highest/peak year of anticipated emissions. While it is not possible to predict effects on climate change from potential GHG emissions, the act of leasing does not produce any GHG emissions. Releases of GHGs would occur at the exploration and development stage. Section 6.0 of the report presents potential emissions reduction technologies that may be identified as mitigation measures that could be imposed during development.

Decision Record and Rationale: It is my decision to offer the parcels approved and recommended by the USFS in their decision verifications and authorization letter dated February 12, 2014 for lease at the July 15, 2014 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:



Marian M. Atkins, Field Manager
Date June 26, 2014

Concurrence by:



Diane M. Friez, District Manager
Date June 26, 2014

Approved by:



James A. Albano, Acting Deputy State Director, Division of Energy, Minerals and Realty
Date June 26, 2014