

**United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
North Dakota Field Office  
99 23th Avenue W, Ste A  
Dickinson, ND 58601**

**NEPA Compliance Record  
For  
January 27, 2015 Oil and Gas Lease Sale  
Parcels Within:  
USFS — Region 1 Dakota Prairie Grasslands**

Project Location: McKenzie County, North Dakota

Parcel Numbers: NDM 97300-NM, NDM 97300-NN

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 authorization letter dated May 28, 2014.

NEPA Review: The USFS decision verification and consent to lease approximately 1280 acres of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands is based on the Northern Great Plains Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and is consistent with the Dakota Prairie Grassland Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), July 2002. New information reviews, per Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Sec. 18.1, which validated the existing Dakota Prairie Grasslands/Montana State Office Oil and Gas Leasing Record of Decision (ROD) (June 2003), were completed on May 15, 2008, and October 2, 2008. 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 2003 ROD.

The USFS authorization letter, USFS NEPA Validation/Verification forms, and maps identify specific lease stipulations to protect surface resources. This correspondence also included recommendations from the USFS for parcels within the boundaries of the Grassland where the Federal minerals were not under their direct jurisdiction. 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 letter dated May 28, 2014, for lease at the January 27, 2015, 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 sub-surface 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.O §181 et seq.

Recommended by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Loren Wickstrom".

Loren Wickstrom, Acting Field Manager

Date: January 20, 2015

Concurrence by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane M. Friez".

Diane M. Friez, District Manager

Date: January 20, 2015

Approved by:

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Donato Judice, Deputy State Director, Division of Energy, Minerals and Realty

Date: January 21, 2015