

Decision to Lease and Finding of No Significant Impact

DECISION

Approximately 542,093 acres of public lands (343 parcels) generally available for oil and gas leasing under Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land use plans were nominated for the oil and gas lease sale scheduled to be held on May 16, 2006.

Based on findings, determinations, and recommendations from the BLM, Utah Field Office Managers and the U.S. Forest Service, I have decided to offer approximately 440,846.89 acres on 296 parcels of BLM-administered lands with appropriate conditions and stipulations.

RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION

The lands to be offered are identified by parcel number on the attached list which identifies the specific conditions, terms, stipulations and notices applicable to each parcel.

All of the parcels have been reviewed to determine if existing planning and NEPA documents adequately address the issues and environmental consequences of leasing at this time. My decision to offer parcels is based on the findings identified in the relevant field offices' Determinations of NEPA Adequacy (DNAs) recommendations. It has been determined that leasing the offered parcels, with application of the terms, conditions, stipulations and notices identified, would not result in unacceptable environmental consequences.

Lands not recommended for lease sale at this time require further NEPA analysis, or assessment for conflicts with other resource values. Lease parcels have also been deferred because they could be affected by land use planning decisions identified as a preferred alternative in a Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, or could impair values under consideration in potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern or segments of rivers determined suitable for designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on a site-specific review of the parcels to be offered for oil and gas lease sale, I have determined that with implementation of the identified specific conditions, terms, stipulations and notices, leasing of the identified parcels would not result in significant impacts on the human environment other than already analyzed in existing NEPA documents.

Approved: _____



Kent Hoffman
Deputy State Director
Division of Lands and Minerals

Date: _____

3/31/06