

CHAPTER 10

INTRODUCTION TO PENDING LEASE ANALYSIS

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SECTION 10

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10.1 BACKGROUND

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires that the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (see Appendix B) regarding coordination of leasing and permitting for geothermal development of public lands and National Forest System lands under their respective jurisdictions and further:

“that the Memorandum of Understanding shall establish a program reducing the backlog of geothermal lease applications pending on January 1, 2005, by 90 percent within the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, including, as necessary, by issuing leases, rejecting lease applications for failure to comply with the provisions of the regulations under which they were filed, or determining that an original applicant (or the applicant’s assigns, heirs, or estate) is no longer interested in pursuing the lease application.”

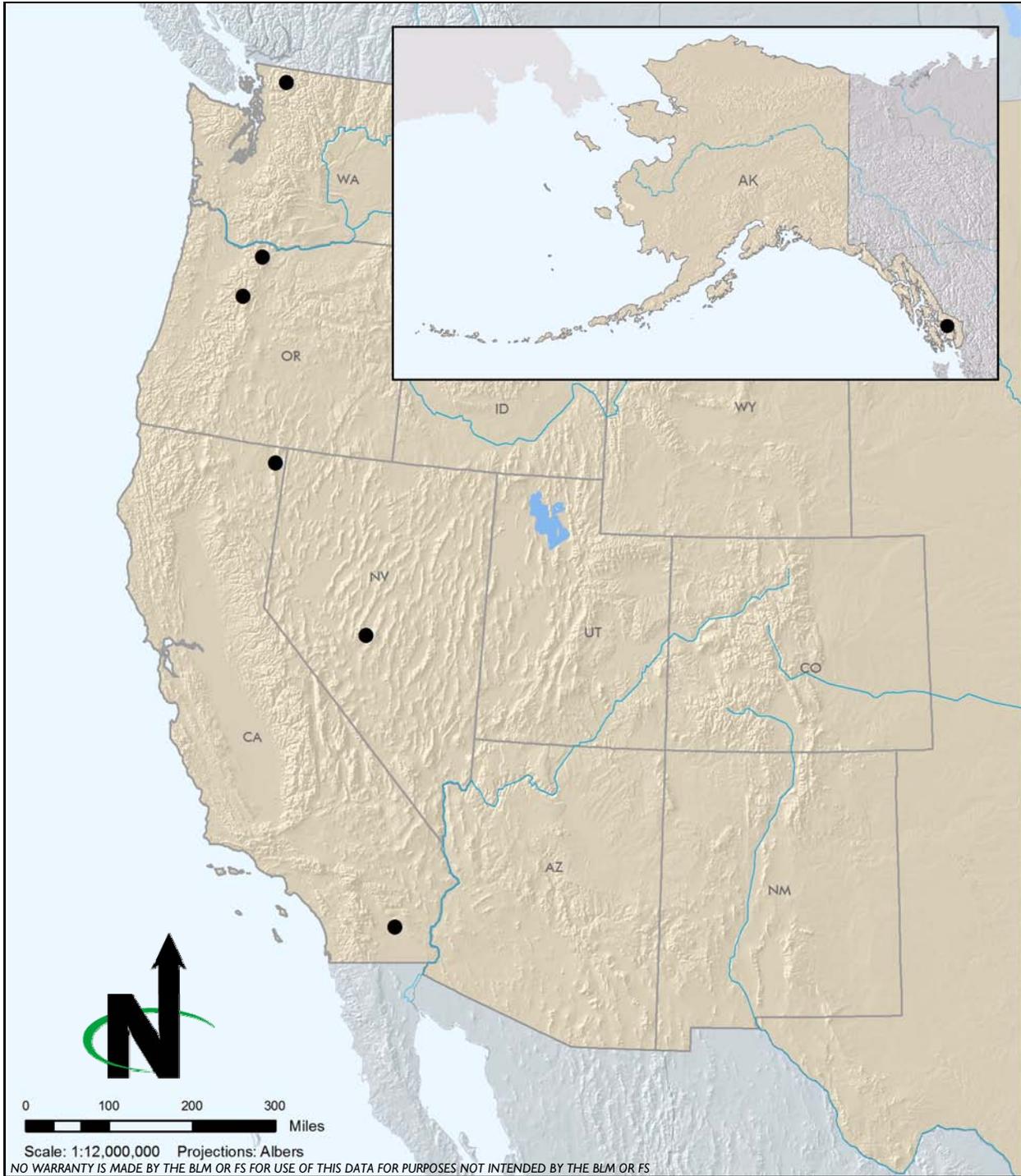
Volume II of the PEIS provides lease-specific analysis to decision-makers to aid them in making decisions on whether to issue or deny 19 geothermal lease applications that were pending as of January 1, 2005. The 19 pending lease applications are collocated in seven distinct geographic groups across the Western US and Alaska, as shown in Table 10-1 and Figure 10-1. Each of these locations is analyzed in its own section of this volume.

10.2 STATUS OF PENDING LEASE APPLICATIONS

As of January 1, 2005, there were 194 pending lease applications; 130 on BLM public lands and 64 on NFS lands. Since January 1, 2005 the BLM and FS have processed or resolved many of the lease applications. In June of 2007 there were 55 remaining pending leases. In order to identify pending lease applications that still require a decision, the following steps were taken:

**Table 10-1
Pending Lease Applications (Prior to January 1, 2005)**

Group	State	BLM or FS Office	Serial Number	Acres	Township	Range	Section(s)
1	AK	Tongass NF	AKAA 084543	2560	068S 068S	089E 090E	36 29-31
1	AK	Tongass NF	AKAA 084544	2560	068S	090E	15, 21, 22, 28
1	AK	Tongass NF	AKAA 084545	2560	068S 068S	090E 091E	12-14 7
2	CA	El Centro FO	CACA 046142	2161	090S	120E	02, 12, 14, 24
2	CA	El Centro FO	CACA 043965	1160	100S	140E	8, 22, 28
3	CA	Modoc NF	CACA 042989	480	440N	150E	14
3	CA	Modoc NF	CACA 043744	2560	440N	150E	10, 15, 22, 27
3	CA	Modoc NF	CACA 043745	2560	440N	150E	9, 16, 21, 28
4	NV	Battle Mtn FO and Toiyabe NF	NVN 074289	440	110N	430E	18
5	OR	Mount Hood NF	OROR 017049	1538	010S 020S	090E 090E	36 1, 2
5	OR	Mount Hood NF	OROR 017051	2480	010S	100E	25-28
5	OR	Mount Hood NF	OROR 017052	2480	010S	100E	32-35
5	OR	Mount Hood NF	OROR 017053	1376	010S 020S	100E 100E	36 6, 7
5	OR	Mount Hood NF	OROR 017327	1294	020S 020S	090E 100E	36 5, 8
6	OR	Willamette NF	OROR 054587	1115	0100S 0110S	070E 070E	29 2, 3
7	WA	Mt Baker NF	WAOR 056025	2403	0380N 0380N	080E 090E	36 19, 30-31
7	WA	Mt Baker NF	WAOR 056027	2560	0370N	80E	11, 13, 14, 24
7	WA	Mt Baker NF	WAOR 056028	2544	0370N	80E	10, 15, 22, 23
7	WA	Mt Baker NF	WAOR 056029	1941	0370N	80E	16, 17, 20, 21



There are 19 pending noncompetitive lease application sites in seven different geographic areas evaluated in Volume II of the PEIS.

LEGEND:

● Pending lease application site

Evaluated Pending Lease Site Areas in the 11 Western States and Alaska

Figure 10-1

- Pending lease applications were identified in BLM's database, LR2000, by BLM staff and a master list was generated.
- This list was sorted to eliminate lease applications submitted after January 1, 2005.
- Recently completed and ongoing NEPA documents that analyzed pending lease applications were identified. For those in which a decision was made or was actively being pursued, the leases were considered in process and eliminated.
- Contacted lease applicants to ensure they still were interested in pursuing the lease application.

The resulting list was circulated to BLM and FS staff for their review. A total of 34 lease applications were identified as still pending. Of these 15 are being actively addressed as shown in Table 10-2. The remaining 19 lease applications, grouped together in seven geographic clusters (Figure 10-1 and Table 10-1), were identified for supplemental environmental analysis. Those analyses are presented in this Volume.

Table 10-2
Status of Remaining Pending Lease Applications (prior to January 1, 2005)

Serial Number(s)	BLM Office	Status
CACA 042841, 042844	Bishop	Environmental review complete; decision pending.
CACA 046141	El Centro	Within habitat for the flat tail horned lizard (a sensitive species). Management plan limits development in the habitat. BLM reviewing cumulative effects of development in the habitat.
CACA 042993, 042994, 042995	El Centro	An EIS is being prepared. The US Navy is the lead agency and BLM is cooperating agency. Notice of Intent published on May 5, 2008.
CACA 042750, 042751, 042752	El Centro	Analyzed in the Truckhaven EIS; Record of Decision pending.
CACA 043993, 043998, 044082	Ridgecrest	Undergoing a separate environmental review process.
IDI 034353	Idaho Falls	Environmental review complete; decision pending.
NMNM 108801	Las Cruces	Environmental review is underway; decision pending.
NVN 075468	Winnemucca	At BLM State Office for adjunction. On land administered by Bureau of Reclamation and proposed for transfer to Pershing County. The Winnemucca Leasing EA (2002) covers the lease area.