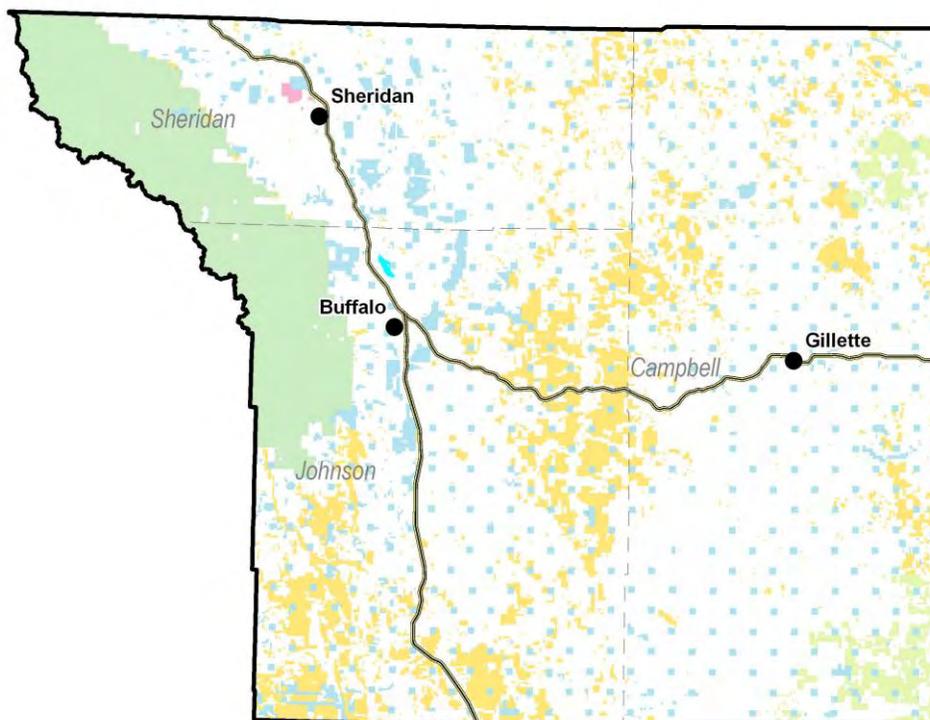


United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Buffalo Field Office, Wyoming
Environmental Assessment WY-070-EA12-186

Disposal of 212 Acres in 9 Tracts



The BLM Buffalo Field Office resource area is in north-central and northeastern Wyoming.

BLM Casefiles: WYW-168342 and WYW-168374

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Environmental Assessment WY-070-EA12-186

Map 1. General Orientation of the 9 Parcels in the Buffalo Resource Area, see Table 2.1.

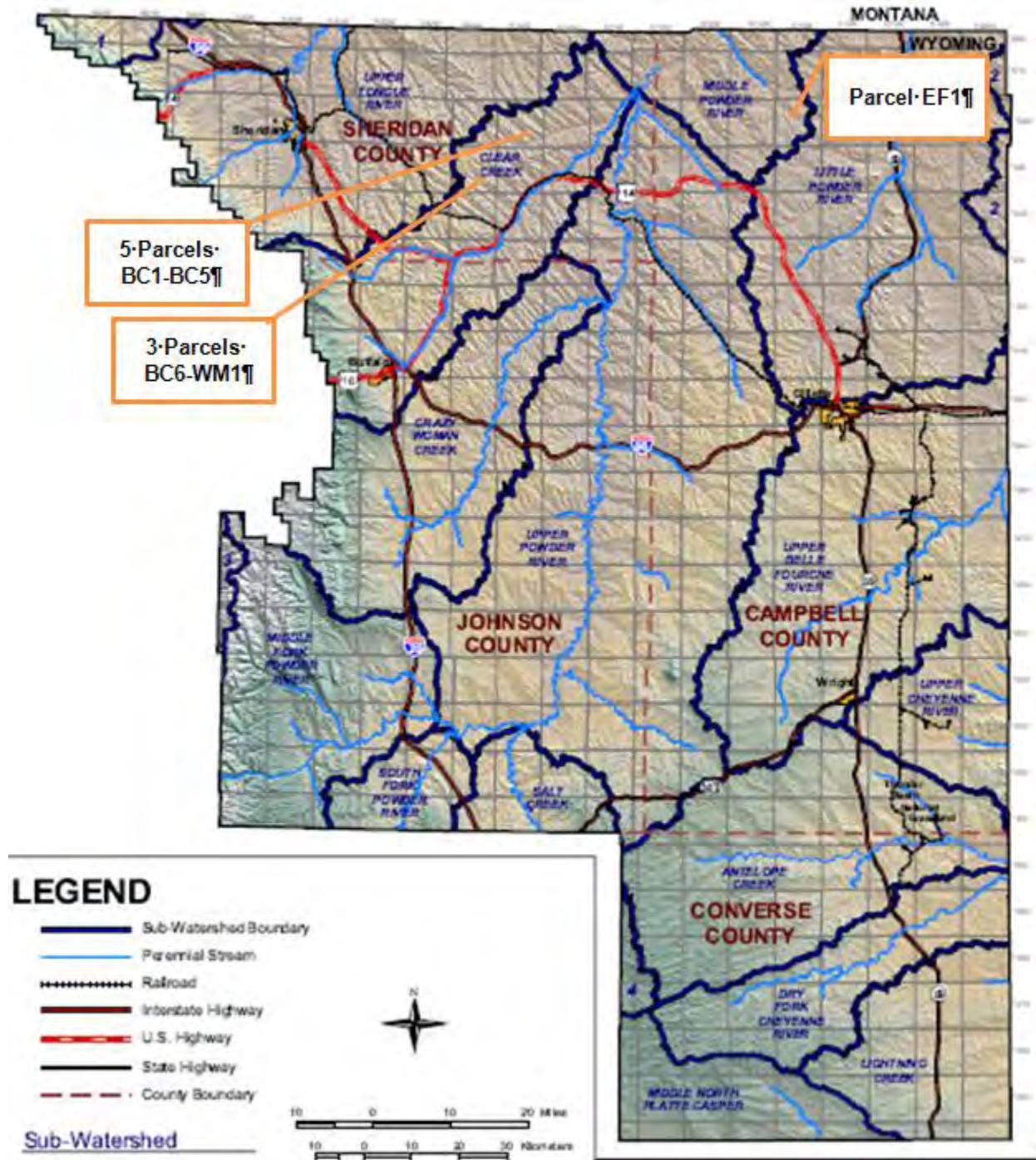


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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA), WY-070-EA12-186
Disposal of 212 Acres in 9 Tracts
Farmland Reserve, Inc., and Craig G. and Peggy S. Means Revocable Trust
Bureau of Land Management, Buffalo Field Office, Wyoming

1. INTRODUCTION

This EA analyzes the nominated and proposed direct sale of 212.27 acres, more or less, in 9 parcels or tracts, see Table 1. The public may indicate interest to have specific public land tracts offered for sale through the land use planning process or may make a nomination or request directly to the local BLM authorized officer (field manager). 43 CFR 2710.0-6 (b). Farmland Reserve, Inc., hereinafter, FRI, requested BLM consider a direct sale of 8 small, isolated, difficult to manage BLM-managed federal parcels lying in the ranch boundaries. The ranch is in the Buffalo Creek and Foster Buttes area of eastern Sheridan County, WY. BLM used this opportunity, while processing land disposal nominations, to resolve an unrelated inadvertent trespass in Campbell County. The trespass earlier led to BLM issuing Land Use Permit, WYW-168364 for agricultural use. The permit resulted in a nomination by the Craig G. and Peggy S. Means Revocable Trust, hereinafter MRT, and BLM to resolve the trespass and end the need for continued permitting - through a direct sale of the smallest divisible tract.

Table 1. Name and Abbreviation for Nominated and Proposed Parcels for Disposal by Direct Sale

Parcel #	Name / Abbreviation	Twn	Rng	Sec	Q/Q	Tract or Lot	Acres	Disposal Type	BLM Serial Case File #
1	Buffalo Creek 1 / BC1	56N	79W	13		TR 51-B	39.75	Sale	WYW-168342
2	Buffalo Creek 2 / BC2			17		1	12.00	Sale	
3	Buffalo Creek 3 / BC3			23		1	11.80	Sale	
4	Buffalo Creek 4 / BC4			26		1	10.06	Sale	
5	Buffalo Creek 5 / BC5			26		2	14.51	Sale	
6	Buffalo Creek 6 / BC 6	55N	80W	23	NESE		40.00	Sale	
7	Buffalo Creek 7 / BC7			24	SWSW		40.00	Sale	
8	Whitmeyer 1 / WM1			26	NESW		40.00	Sale	
Subtotal							208.12		
9	East Fork 1 / EF1	56N	73W	8		Lot 17	4.15	Sale	WYW-168374
Total							212.27		

Acreeage is approximate for all parcels. Parcel #s 1-8: 6th Principal Meridian, Sheridan County, WY.
Parcel #9: 6th Principal Meridian, Campbell County, WY. Acreeage is approximate for all tracts.

This analysis tiers to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Buffalo Resource Management Plan (RMP), its record of decision (ROD), 1985; Buffalo RMP Update FEIS, its ROD, 2001; Proposed Plan Amendment for the Powder River Basin Oil and Gas Project (PRB FEIS), its ROD, 2003; and incorporates by reference 178 Interior Board of Land Appeals 062, Ted Lapis (2009) (IBLA Lapis); Cow Creek Holding Company (Groeschel) Land Exchange EA, WY-070-EA07-198 (hereinafter, CCHC); South Stones Throw and Prong EA, WY-070-EA10-277; and the Summary of the Analysis of the Management Situation Buffalo RMP Revision (SAMS), 2009, pp. 3-23 to 3-24, Table 3-27, Lands and Realty: Current Decisions, p. C-12 of Appendix C, Map 12 Lands and Realty: Disposal Areas per 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21. Review these at websites for the BLM Buffalo Field Office (BFO): http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/field_offices/Buffalo.html or the IBLA.

1.1. Background

The BFO manages about 780,291 acres of federal public lands and 4,731,140 acres of mineral estate in Campbell, Johnson, and Sheridan counties in north-central Wyoming. These counties are in the Northwestern Great Plains Eco Region, http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/Landscape_Approach/reas/nwplains.html. The 1985 Buffalo RMP is a land use plan that received amendments to retain currency with federal land and mineral uses, see above. The BLM is presently drafting an updated RMP for the BFO planning area; see generally 43 CFR Part 1600. (The drafting for the updating of the RMP has no bearing on the analysis in this EA.)

The Wyoming BLM signed the current Buffalo RMP in 1985; (and see generally, Land Disposal discussions and analysis, Buffalo Resource Area Management Framework Plan, 1978, incorporated here by reference). The 1985 RMP identifies the management of public lands and federal mineral estate administered by the BLM's BFO. The 1985 RMP's ROD adopted Map 7A, Land Disposal, Alternatives A & C from the 1984 draft EIS, see ROD at pp. 13-14. The BLM updated the 1985 RMP, see p.17, Map 5, and Appendix F of the 2001 update, affirming and not changing the land management or disposal criteria for the parcels identified in the 1985 RMP. BLM's land use planning SAMS in 2009 (43 CFR 1610.4-4), re-acknowledged the management and disposal status of the parcels subject to this proposal, pp. 3-23 to 3-24, C-12. Subsequent BLM Washington DC policy recommended improved clarity on BLM field offices' map-listed parcels subject to disposal through a by parcel legal listing. BLM's BFO complied, achieving the improved clarity for these 9 parcels through a land use planning maintenance action in 2012 (43 CFR 1610.5-4). (BFO intends to clarify management, disposal status, and the legal descriptions for the hundreds of disposal tracts in the future RMP or its update. In the meantime BFO addresses disposal issues that arise on a case-by-case basis.)

The 1985 RMP and amendments identified areas to retain federal ownership and areas where BLM aspires to acquire privately-owned lands through purchase, exchange, or donation as opportunities arise to support federal land resource values. None of the areas identified with federal land resource values overlap or are adjacent to the 9 proposals nominated here for disposal. The 1985 RMP also identified public lands that are difficult and uneconomic to manage and are unsuitable for management by another federal agency. Characteristics of these lands include: isolation with no or difficult public access, possessing no outstanding resource values, or scattered lands. The BLM aspires having public land ownership from fewer scattered parcels to more manageable blocks of public land. The preferred method for the disposal of the scattered BLM parcels and the consolidation of land in the retention areas is the land exchange process.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), 1976 provided BLM the authority to classify land management status, acquire, or dispose of public land through exchange or sale. See also 43 CFR Parts 1600 (Planning); 2200 (Exchanges); 2400 (Classification); and 2710 (Sales). The 1985 RMP identified exchange or sale as the method used for land tenure adjustments in the planning area because this method allowed for BLM to acquire lands in retention areas, while receipts from land sales go to the general treasury and are unavailable for land acquisition. Situations appropriate for exchanges presume acceptable large parcels with high resource values and reasonable public access. Situations appropriate for direct sale include those where parcels lack high resource values, are isolated, and / or have no public surface access.

1.2. Purpose and Need

The BLM's purpose is "conducting a site-specific analysis" to identify "existing resource values and conflicts", and whether the parcels' "disposal would not conflict with regulations and would meet the sales criteria in section 203 of FLPMA"; 1985 RMP ROD, pp. 13-14. The BLM's need is supporting the 1985 RMP management goal LR-4, p. 13-14: "[p]ublic lands shown on map 7A are available for further consideration for sale or exchange. . . . The disposal of land identified on map 7A [and subsequent amendment and analysis] would provide for better management of public lands in the resource area. Small parcels that are uneconomical to manage can be sold."

1.3. Decision to be Made

The BLM will decide whether or not to recommend the nominated, proposed disposals for disposal, and if so, decide which specific disposal method to use, and if a sale, the form of the sale.

1.4. Scoping and Issues

Previously BFO conducted extensive external scoping for the 1985 Buffalo and 2003 PRB FEISes - discussed on p. 2-1 of the 2003 PRB FEIS and on p. 15 of the PRB ROD, and for the CCHC. This project's scope is smaller, about 1/3rd the size, of that in the CCHC. BFO received 1 substantive public comment resultant of publication of the segregation Notice of Realty Action. BLM addressed the substantive comment on land exchanges, below, in Section 2.3, 'the second alternative' paragraph, and see generally, IBLA Lapis. BLM received a total of 5 public EA, Disposal of 212 Acres in 9 Tracts, WY-070-EA12-186

comments. Interested persons may view these in the administrative record. BLM personnel, other agencies, and individuals identified issues for the proposed land disposals. Project analysis includes:

Water rights	Mineral resources: locatable; leasable-solid and fluid; salable	Vegetation/Soils
Wildlife: Greater Sage-Grouse (GSG) preliminary priority habitat, productivity, and population trend		
Cultural: National Register eligible sites, potential for alluvial deposits		
Lands and realty	Recreation and its access	Livestock grazing

These resource items are minimally present and received analysis in the FEISs tiered and incorporated EAs:

Geological resources	Forest Products	Wilderness characteristics
Cave & karst resources	Heritage & visual resources	Air quality
Invasive species	Paleontological resources	Transportation & access
Fire, fuels management, & rehabilitation	Tribal treaty rights	Socio-economic resources
Areas of critical environmental concern	Rights of way & corridors	Environmental justice

2. ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

2.1. Alternative A - No Action

The no action alternative retains federal ownership and BLM management of the 9 parcels. This alternative has the BLM continue with processing and managing the 3 grazing allotments covering the 9 parcels, 2 rights-of-way, and the Land Use Permit, WYW-168364 for the trespass (per 43 CFR 2920). The 1984 draft Buffalo EIS (pp. 19-31, Table 2-4, pp. 138-161, corrections in the 1985 Final EIS, pp.47-48) and 2003 PRB Final EISs analyzed a No Action Alternative; pp. 2-54 to 2-62, the pages referenced in Appendix A’s Table A.1, below. Also implementing the No Action Alternative would not preclude later disposal of lands identified as eligible for disposal in the 1985 RMP, its Map 7A, the 2001 RMP amendment, and the 2009 SAMS, and further identified through any future land use plan maintenance action, future RMP amendment, or future update.

2.2. Alternative B - Disposal of 212 Acres in 9 Tracts (Proposals)

Alternative B allows the BLM to dispose of the surface estate of any or all of the 9 public land parcels in Table 1, above, singularly or in any combination, in the most efficient, effective legal means (direct sale, modified competitive sale, or competitive sale). [This EA refers to parcels by their abbreviations for brevity; see Table 1.]

The nominator for parcels BC1, BC2, BC3, BC4, BC5, BC 6, BC7, and WM1 is Farmland Reserve, Inc. (WYW-168342) (FRI, aka Sheridan Ranch), a corporation governed by laws of the U.S. There is no development on these 8 parcels. Five of these 8 parcels are in GSG preliminary priority habitat (Wyoming’s term: connectivity habitat), see sections 3 and 4, below. The FRI ranchlands surround and isolate the 8 parcels from public access.

The nominator for parcel EF1 is the Craig G. and Peggy S. Means Revocable Trust, (WYW-168374) (hereinafter MRT¹) - a corporation governed by laws of the U.S. EF1 parcel development is nominator-funded. Parcel EF1 is not in preliminary priority GSG habitat. BLM severed parcel EF1’s acreage from the southeast corner of what was a 40-acre BLM-managed parcel (Lot 15, S8, T56N, R73W). (BLM’s land use planning earlier approved and reaffirmed the disposal status of the 40-acre parcel and it follows that disposal status remains attached to an incremental 4.15 acre parcel from the larger tract.) The creation and removal of this BLM 4.15 acre parcel (Lot 17) results the smallest reasonable parcel in order to resolve the inadvertent trespass. The 40-acre’s (Lot 15) southwest corner abuts the northeast corner of a 120-acre BLM parcel in S17, T56N, R73W; see Appendix A, Plat 3, below. Parcel EF1 has no direct public access. Another private party owns land abutting the west of Lot 15. The MRT property surrounds and isolates the parcel in other aspects.

¹ MRT’s affiliated operations are also known as Craig Means ET UX (also used on the right of way and land use permit), Means or Craig G. and Peggy S. Trustees (used on the allotment), and sometimes referred to as the Bar U Ranch, LLC.
EA, Disposal of 212 Acres in 9 Tracts, WY-070-EA12-186

These BLM public lands are in 9 isolated, non-contiguous parcels of less than 5,000 acres thus clearly lack wilderness characteristics. The nominating owners give BLM clear indications that the parcels would remain in standard ranching and wildlife management in the event of an ownership transfer. The proposed sales will comply with provisions of 43 CFR 2710, Sales. Each parcel will sell at or above fair market value. BLM is currently appraising those land values which it will report in forthcoming land sale NORA.

2.3. Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

One alternative considered but eliminated was updating the 1985 RMP with the land management, acquisitions, and disposal statuses changed since 1985. BLM did not want to wait for the on-going draft RMP revision which began in 2008; (recall the 2009 SAMS). Having BLM wait for an on-going land use plan update borders on making this alternative remote, speculative as to whether the draft plan would receive approval, would not respond to the BLM's purpose and need, and delay would be inconsistent with BLM and FLPMA-based policy goals.

A second alternative the BLM considered was a land exchange with all or any number of the parcels. BLM eliminated this alternative for several reasons. First, the 1985 RMP, while expressing a preference for disposals via the land exchange method, also directs conducting exchanges in areas where the BLM desires to add to larger, publically accessible land holdings. None of these areas with federal land values (Welch Ranch, wilderness study areas, Mosier Gulch, Weston Hills, etc.) are close to the parcels in these nominations. Neither nominator in these proposals has an access or acquirable interest in lands adjacent to areas where the BLM aspires to increase public land holdings – thus here this alternative is inconsistent with BLM policy goals. Second, BLM considered this alternative from a parcel-centric view. Parcel EF1 is the only parcel bordering other public land on the west and south, but is not accessible without crossing private land. Since EF1 is the recipient of an inadvertent trespass which results in an on-going land use permit – an exchange is inconsistent with the regulatory solution to resolve the trespass through the direct sale of the smallest reasonable tract, 43 CFR 2711.3-3(a)(5). BLM created the 4.15 acre tract, Lot 17, from the larger BLM parcel at this site in order to resolve the trespass. The public would gain little from exchanging a 4.15 acre parcel. Parcels BC1, BC2, BC3, BC4, and BC5 are in the same township but these total 88.12 acres spread over an area of over 4 by 2.5 miles – with no public access. Finally parcels BC6, BC7, and WM1 are in another township (about 8-9 miles from the preceding parcels); total about 120 acres spread over 1.5 miles or more; and have no public access.

A third alternative the BLM considered was a land use plan amendment. The BLM's preferred policy is deferring land disposals in GSG preliminary priority (core and connectivity) habitats where approvals could result in a net loss of GSG habitat until completing an RMP update or amendment. Also that evaluation of lands identified as suitable for disposal in current RMPs will occur through an RMP amendment or revision process; BLM Instruction Memorandum, 2012-044. However, here in one case the current surface disturbance is outside of GSG preliminary priority habitat - the trespass; and in the case of the other 8 parcels FRI will not change the private land ranching operation that is the management practice for over a century on those federal inholdings. BLM eliminated this alternative because it is inconsistent with the 1985 RMP and 43 CFR 1610.5-4; it is highly unlikely (or speculative) that it would result in the loss of GSG preliminary priority habitat – but would merely result in a transfer of ownership among parties supporting the goals of sage brush and GSG restoration; and the end result of any land use plan amendment would likely be substantially similar to this EA's Alternative B, above. BLM will further analyze and discuss GSG conservation measures in the alternatives' analysis, below.

2.4. Conformance to the Land Use Plan and Other Laws

These proposals conform to the goals and objectives in the Buffalo RMP, 1985, 2001, 2003, 2011 and conform to the broad terms and conditions of that land use plan, its amendments, and supporting FEISs, 1985, 2003, 2011. These proposals conform to the requirements in FLPMA, specifically Titles II and III, and 43 CFR regulations.

3. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This section briefly describes the physical and regulatory environment affected by the alternatives in section 2. BLM established the public land management status and its disposal criteria; see section 1. In sections 3 and 4, here and below, BLM describes and analyzes whether and how Alternative B meets or does not meet the BLM's purpose and need, section 1.2. Aspects of the affected environment here focus on the major issues. A screening of all resources and land uses potentially affected is found in the administrative record. Resources unaffected, or not affected beyond the level analyzed in the PRB FEIS, are outside this EA's scope.

Alternative A must also consider and aggregate the effects analyzed from the 1985 and 2003 FEISs with the subsequent analysis and development from adjacent and overlapping projects: South Stones Throw and Prong EA, WY-070-EA10-277 with CXs WY-070-CX12-149 and WY-070-CX12-150; SE of Buffalo Creek EA, WY-070-04-EA-131; and Whitmeyer Creek EA, WY-070-EA08-95 with WY-070-DNA11-366.

Proposal Area Description or What Comprises Alternative A

Parcels BC1, BC2, BC3, BC4, and BC5 are centered on a point 6 miles north northwest of Leiter, WY. Parcels BC6, BC7, and WM1 are roughly centered on a point 9 miles west of Leiter, WY. The area topography is 75% rough to moderately rough terrain with ridges and deep draws angling down to the southeast toward the Buffalo and Clear Creeks. The remaining 25% is rolling hills and flats cut by steep to moderately steep draws. The primary habitat is sagebrush grassland, dominated by big sagebrush. Silver sagebrush is the primary sagebrush species in creek and ravine bottoms. The elevation is 3,800 to 4,400 feet above sea level. CBNG development is present about 6 miles northwest and 14 miles east of these 8 parcels.

Parcel EF1 is 7 miles north of Recluse, WY. The elevation is about 3905 feet above sea level. The parcel is on the northeastern portion of the PRB along the East Fork of Bitter Creek, which drains northwest into the Powder River in Montana. While the use of this small parcel is only to support ranch and farm operations, near the parcel there are CBNG, conventional oil, and saleable mineral developments. A small ranch dump, approximately 30 x 20 x 10 feet in length, width, and depth, respectively was adjacent to the parcel on BLM surface. The dump contained old scrap metal, barrels, and dead livestock. Craig Means reclaimed the dump in November 2012 per BLM's request. BLM discloses the dump in the Initial Environmental Assessment Report for the remaining 35.85 acre parcel that is legally separated from but contiguous with the 4.15 acre Lot 17. (This disclosure is for the purpose of this EA and has no inference on the disposal status of more than Lot 17.)

The 9 parcels are in a Class II airshed. The land use is for livestock grazing and wildlife habitat (with the exception of livestock corrals and a barn on the EF1 parcel). To further describe and update the proposal area description (and Alternative A) BLM must also consider and aggregate the effects analyzed from the 1985 and 2003 FEISs with the subsequent analysis and development from adjacent and overlapping projects: South Stones Throw and Prong EA, WY-070-EA10-277 with CXs WY-070-CX12-149 and WY-070-CX12-150; SE of Buffalo Creek EA, WY-070-04-EA-131; and Whitmeyer Creek EA, WY-070-EA08-95 with WY-070-DNA11-366 – all incorporated here by reference. Consult the PRB FEIS, pp. 3-1 to 3-300, and pages noted in Appendix A, Table A-1, below, for more proposal area descriptions.

3.1. Water

The EF1 parcel has 3 well permits with the Wyoming State Engineer's office – P55881.0W, P55882.0W, and P55885.0W, for Brug Land and Livestock. Each was effective on February 26, 1981. (MRT purchased the Brug Ranch in 2010.) Each permit is for stock water use at depths of 210, 205, and 213 feet respectively. The BLM was not recorded as co-applicant on the permits; therefore, the recorded water rights would remain with the permittee who was MRT's predecessor in interest in the surface title of the adjacent area. Wyoming State law has water rights flow with the land or surface title unless the parties agree to a different disposition. Aside from the 3 wells there is no flowing water from springs on the 9 parcels. These public lands do not have any other water sources, riparian areas, ephemeral, or perennial streams.

3.2. Mineral Resources: locatable; leasable-solid and fluid; salable

There are no mining claims on any of the 9 parcels, see Mineral Potential Report (MPR), incorporated here by reference and included as Appendix B. BLM conducted site visits in the summer of 2012 to assist with preparing this EA. The mineral occurrence and development potential on all 9 parcels is low; except for coal, crude oil, and natural gas which have a high occurrence and development potential, see MPR.

Twelve conventional oil/gas and 19 CBNG wells that were drilled and abandoned are in a 1-mile radius of the 8 FRI parcels. None of the conventional wells recorded production. Only 1 of the CBNG wells recorded gas production. There are 20 conventional oil/gas wells and 8 CBNG wells within a 1-mile radius of the 1 EF1 parcel. Three of the conventional wells are reporting production of oil or gas. The other 17 are abandoned. Chan Oil Field is south of the EF1 parcel. Seven of the 8 CBNG wells are producing gas, but are shut-in. The other well is abandoned. Personal communication, Dean Stilwell (2012).

All but 1 of the 8 FRI parcels have expired or cancelled or no fluid mineral leases. BC3 has an active fluid mineral lease, WYW-155737, with no activity. There are no active oil/gas leases on the EF1 parcel. There are several expired or active oil/gas leases surrounding the 9 parcels (LR2000, 2012). Conventional oil/gas development potential for all 8 FRI parcels is negligible, and low for the EF1 parcel. BLM projects fewer than 2 wells per township to be drilled through 2028 for the FRI parcels, and 2-10 per township for the EF1 parcel. The CBNG development potential for all 9 parcels is moderate, with a likelihood of 2-10 wells drilled per township through 2028 (Dean Stilwell, 2012; MPR).

Given the low occurrence potential for salable minerals on all 9 parcels, the development potential is low. There is 1 BLM-authorized clinker (porcellanite) mine, WYW-169859, near the EF1 parcel. This indicates there is some development potential outside this parcel. The mine is authorized to Hettinger, LLC, in T56N, R73W, Section 8. The sales contract expired in 2012. The mine has federal minerals under a private surface estate (Oedekoven), and is approximately 0.6 miles WNW of the EF1 parcel (LR2000, 2012). The mine's reclamation is a non-federal action reliant upon the mine and surface owners with oversight from the state of Wyoming. Sheridan and Campbell Counties economies are partially reliant on energy production, in addition to agriculture. A large percentage of the workforce supports coal development and oil and gas field operations. Presently there is a large amount of coalbed natural gas development in the counties but not on the 9 parcels.

3.3. Vegetation and Soils

The vegetation on the nominated 9 parcels is stratified corresponding to the uplands, bottomlands, and buttes. The predominant vegetation types are sagebrush-grasslands and grasslands. Sagebrush-grassland is the predominate community found on the federal lands. Vegetation common to this type is dominated by big sagebrush. Common grasses include western wheatgrass, needle and thread, Indian ricegrass, junegrass, blue gramma, and Sandburg bluegrass. Common forbs are buckwheat, yarrow, and prickly pear cactus. The adjacent ridges have few pines with the ground cover made up mostly of prairie grasses and sagebrush. This vegetation is reflective of the area's high quality GSG habitat that supports 6 leks adjacent to some of the parcels, see below.

BLM found no indication of any proposed or threatened or endangered plant species on the 9 federal parcels or the adjacent private lands. There are no ephemeral or perennial streams on the 9 parcels; thus there is no habitat for Ute Ladies Tresses, a threatened plant. The 8 parcels in Sheridan County had little-to-no infestations of noxious weeds or invasive species. The EF1 parcel had a minor thistle infestation – likely the result of the parcel's surface disturbance.

The soils in this area are typical of semiarid grasslands. They range from clayey on the tops and sides of the steep drainages to silty and sandy in the lower more rolling hills areas. The uses of the federal land would not be anticipated to change, to any degree, after readjustment of ownership, so soils are not anticipated to be affected. Soil disturbance or loss, excluding natural catastrophic events, would most likely occur due to mineral development – which if a federal undertaking requires a separate analysis and such speculation is beyond the scope of this analysis. Since mineral estates remain in federal ownership, potential mineral development impacts

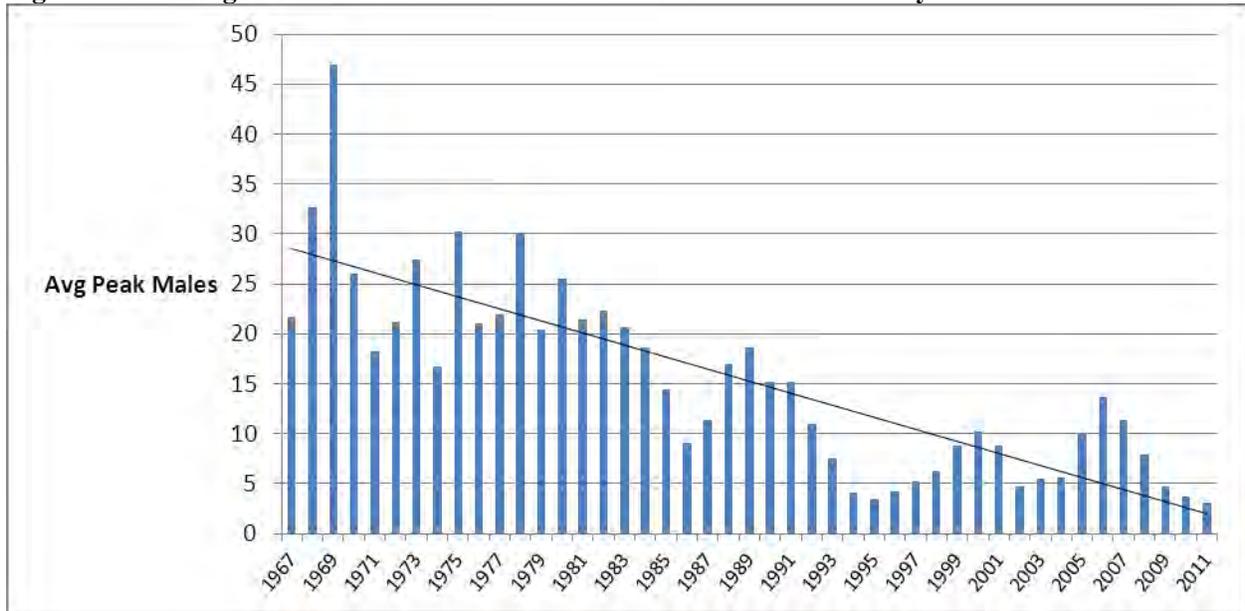
would be analyzed with appropriate mitigation applied to surface disturbing activities.

3.4. Wildlife

Wildlife common to the 9 parcels include mule deer and antelope, rabbits, and other small rodents, GSG, sharp-tailed grouse and a variety of predators, birds, and reptiles. Mule deer and antelope occur in the area yearlong. There are no crucial big game winter ranges in the area. No raptor nests were observed on any of the 9 parcels by the BLM during field surveys on July 26, 2012, nor does the BFO BLM raptor database indicate the presence of nests on the 9 parcels. None of the parcels have habitat conducive to mountain plover use.

All of the 9 parcels provide habitat to the GSG, a candidate for threatened status under the Endangered Species Act. In August, 2008 the WY BLM implemented management of identified GSG preliminary priority habitats in support of the population management objectives set by the State of Wyoming (Wyoming Governor's Executive Order (EO) 2011-5), supporting the BLM Wyoming Instruction Memorandum (IM), IM- WY-2012-019 and BLM IM 2012-044. Five parcels (Parcels BC1 through BC5 in T56N, R79W) are in GSG preliminary priority habitat. The size of the tracts and location in relationship to surrounding private land preclude potential for realistic federal management; see Appendix A, Plat 1 to view the spatial relationships with the 5 parcels to adjacent lands.

Figure 3.1. Average Peak Number of GSG Males at WGFD Count Leks by Year in the PRB



The GSG population in northeast Wyoming is exhibiting a steady long term downward trend, as measured by lek attendance (WGFD 2011b). Figure 3.1, above, illustrates a 10-year cycle of periodic highs and lows. Each subsequent population peak is lower than the previous peak. Research suggests that the declines since 2001 are a result, in part, of energy development (FWS 2010, Taylor et. al. 2012).

Table 3.1. Greater Sage-Grouse Leks within 4 miles of the Nominated Parcel Areas

Lek Name	Miles to Nearest Parcel	Core / Connectivity Area?	Lek Name	Miles to Nearest Parcel	Core/Connectivity Area?
PK	1.9	Yes	Three Bees	3.0	No
Jacobs	1.4	Yes	Lester	2.3	No
Sheridan Ranches	0.5	Yes	Elk Creek Road	4.0	No

WGFD documents that 6 GSG leks occur within 4 miles of the sale parcels. The 6 leks are classified as occupied. The 3 leks near the FRI (Sheridan Ranches) parcels; PK, Jacobs, and Sheridan Ranches are in preliminary priority habitat. The 3 leks in the MRT (EF1) sale are not in preliminary priority habitat. See Table 3.1.

3.5. Cultural: National Historic Register eligible sites, potential for alluvial deposits

BLM performed a Class III cultural resource inventory for the proposed direct land sale (BFO project no. 70120086). BLM completed a Class III cultural resource inventory following the Archeology and Historic Preservation, Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines (48CFR190) and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Format, Guidelines, and Standards for Class II and III Reports. The resources, below, are in or near the project area.

Site Number	Site Type	Eligibility
48CA7060	Historic Homestead & Prehistoric Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible
48SH1783	Historic Cairn	Not Eligible
48SH1784	Historic Cairn	Not Eligible

3.6. Lands and Realty

The Master Title Plats (MTP) for the 8 parcels nominated for sale by FRI show no rights-of-way or permits of record. The MTP for the EF1 parcel shows 2 rights-of-way (powerline, WYW-170235 and access road, WYW-168354) and 1 land use permit (WYW-168364). The patent to the MRT would not be subject to either rights-of-way or the land use permit noted below.

Right-of-Way/ Land Use Permit	Holder/Permittee	Authorized Use	Effective Date
WYW-170235	Powder River Energy Corp.	Single-phase Overhead Power Line	April 28, 2011
WYW-168354	Craig Means ET UX	Improved Access Road	June 28, 2012
WYW-168364	Craig Means ET UX	Agricultural/Livestock Holding Area	June 28, 2012

The following paragraphs outline the affects to these existing rights with the issuance of a patent of the EF1 parcel. None of the nominated serviant surface supports any dominate mineral estate development; see 43 CFR 2711.4-2, 2711.5-2, and Mineral Resources, above. BLM identified no hazardous environmental materials or conditions during the visits. BLM found no indications of the improper disposal of hazardous wastes at the 9 sites during their surveys. The 9 parcels received HAZMAT clearance by BLM during on-site inspections.

The rural real estate market reflected appreciating values. Increasing rural land values are associated with recreation use, investment potential, and the demand for rural home sites. Land-based tourism also supports Sheridan County's economy. The 2010 census for Sheridan and Campbell Counties were 29,116 and 46,133, respectively. The overall economic outlook is positive for the counties during the foreseeable future.

3.7. Recreation and the Visual Resource

Big game hunting is the largest recreational use on the 9 parcels. The private landowners control all recreational access. The highest concern expressed to the BLM during past public scoping meetings on land disposal management was the lack of access to many blocks of public land, as well as the demand for additional public recreational areas. The proposed public lands subject to these nominations are impossible for the public to access without permission from the surrounding landowner; therefore, the public preference is for the BLM to exchange these inaccessible public lands for other lands with access. The small, isolated natures of these 9 parcels limit their past and present recreational value in a northern Great Plains setting. The 9 parcels are in a Class IV visual resource area - where contrasts to the basic elements attract attention and would be a dominant feature of the landscape in terms of scale, but should repeat the form, line, color, and texture of the characteristic landscape.

3.8. Livestock Grazing

The present livestock grazing on these 9 parcels is minimal as reflected in the 3 grazing allotments found in Tables 3.2 and 3.3, below. Recall that the allotment boundaries are not contiguous with the boundaries of the nominated parcels so the numbers of the total BLM acres will not match the number of acres nominated for direct sale; nor will the total animal AUMs (animal unit months) match the AUMs from the nominated parcels' sale. These are all

category “C” allotments which receive the lowest level of federal management since the parcels are small, isolated, difficult and uneconomic to manage, lack public access, and are not fenced out. Yet the quality of the grazing in these parcels is good relative to the contiguous grazing lands and given the lack of rainfall in the summer and fall of 2012 as noted in the Vegetation section, above. Also see the Grazing Sections in the 1985 Buffalo FEIS, and ROD, pp. 10-12. Table 3.2, below, provides a summary of the nominated parcels in conjunction with each other and the approved grazing leases.

Table 3.2. Grazing Lease Summary Information

Lease #	Leasee	Allotment #	Allotment	Total BLM Acres	Acres from Sale	Total AUMs	AUMs from Sale
4907472	FRI	02276	SE of Buffalo Creek	899	168.12	124	35
4907518	FRI	02302	Whitmeyer Creek	40	40	6	6
4915126	MRT	17036	East Fork	400	4.15	100	1

*Note - only a portion of the total AUMs in the allotments will be impacted from the sale and thus removed from the grazing leasees grazing preference on their current lease. See Table 3.3 for further information.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

4.1. Alternative A – No Action: Analysis

The BLM aggregates the effects from the previous no action alternative analyses and the project level analyses referenced in sections 2.1 and 3, above. Aggregating the effects from the previous 1985 Buffalo and 2003 PRB FEISs also includes the analysis from the subsequent NEPA documents that provided site-specific analysis for grazing allotments, CBNG, or solid mineral development in the analysis area of the 9 parcels. See Table A.1, in Appendix A, below, for a guide to the No Action Alternative analysis in the 2003 PRB FEIS.

4.1.1. Direct and Indirect Effects

The direct effect of the no action alternative has the federal government retaining ownership of the 9 parcels. BLM’s management of the 9 parcels would remain unchanged to include the 5 parcels in GSG preliminary priority habitat. The public continues having no surface access to the 9 parcels. The BLM would continue the present and in-force grazing permits on the parcels. There will not be a requirement for cancelling, modifying, or waiving any existing grazing allotments, the rights-of-way, and the land use permit in parcel EF1 (per 43 CFR 2920). Livestock use would continue on the 9 parcels. Minerals underlying the parcels remain available for leasing, exploration, or mining. The no action alternative would also impinge upon the BLM from meeting its 1985 RMP management goal LR-4, p. 13-14, and would preclude Sheridan and Campbell Counties from adding these subject surface lands to their tax rolls. The indirect effect of the no action alternative will require the BLM to renew the land use permit for the unresolved inadvertent trespass. Another indirect effect is the BLM may renew, but may or may not modify the present grazing allotments when their present terms lapse. Under this alternative the public continues having no surface access to the 9 parcels. This alternative would continue denying Sheridan and Campbell Counties’ property tax revenues from assessments it could make of a non-government entity; yet the counties would continue their entitlement to federal payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILT) resultant of having these acres in federal ownership.

Table 3.3. The 9 Nominated and Proposed Parcels for Disposal as Related to Grazing Management

	Lease Number	Leasee Name	Allotment Number	Allotment	Parcel Name	Twn	Rng	Sec	Qtr	Lot	Acres	Acres/AUM	AUMs	Grazing EA	Disposal Type		
1	4907472	Faermland Reserve INC.	02276	SE of Buffalo Creek +	Buffalo Creek 1	56N	79W	13		TR 51-B	39.75	4	10	EA-WY-070-04-EA-131	Sale unchanged		
2	UNLEASED				Buffalo Creek 2					17		1	12	10	1	UNLEASED	Sale unchanged
3	4907472	Faermland Reserve INC.	02276		Buffalo Creek 3					23		1	11.8	10	1	EA-WY-070-04-EA-131	Sale unchanged
4					Buffalo Creek 4			26		1	10.06	9	3	Sale unchanged			
5					Buffalo Creek 5			26		2	14.51			Sale unchanged			
6					Buffalo Creek 6	55N	80W	23	NESE		40	6	7	Sale unchanged			
7	Buffalo Creek 7	24	SWSW					40	6	7	Sale unchanged						
8	4907518	Faermland Reserve INC.	02302	Whitmeyer Creek	Whitmeyer 1			26	NESW		40	6.667	6	WY-070-DNA11-366 To WY-070-EA08-95	Sale unchanged		
											Subtotal	208.12		35			
9	4915126	Means, Craig G. and Peggy S. Trustees	17036	East Fork	East Fork 1	56N	73W	8		Lot 17	4.153	4.21	1	Appropriations ACT	Resolve Trespass		
											Total	212.27		36			

Note – BLM rounded AUMs to make the AUMs removed from disposal a whole number.

4.1.2. Cumulative Effects

The cumulative effect of the no action alternative could further impede the already slow pace to consolidate federal land holdings, dispose of small, isolated parcels. The cumulative effect would also contribute to the BLM's, Sheridan, and Campbell Counties' administrative workload and paperwork accounting for, inventorying, and processing grazing and agricultural, and rights-of-way for these small, isolated, uneconomical to manage parcels.

4.1.3. Mitigation Measures

BLM foresees no measures mitigating the no action alternative.

4.1.4. Residual Effects

The residual effect of this alternative retains the 9 isolated, "difficult and uneconomical to manage" FLPMA Section 203(1) parcels under federal ownership, BLM management, and fails to resolve the inadvertent trespass with finality.

4.2. Alternative B - Disposal of 212 Acres in 9 Tracts (Proposals)

In foreshadowing the following Alternative B analysis, the BLM found small differences in its analysis of the 9 nominated parcels and their effects on the public in several resource areas. The relatively small differences between this and the no action alternative are the result that the present on-the-ground management of the 9 parcels will not foreseeably change. BLM recognizes the management aspiration of the nominators of the 9 parcels is unenforceable by the BLM and carries the certitude of verbal promise – yet the past management of the lands adjacent to the 9 parcels and their remote nature supports the likelihood that the 9 parcels will retain their livestock and wildlife management uses. The BLM points out discernible differences in the analysis where they appear. The most notable is the EF1 parcel which is by far the smallest, resolves an inadvertent trespass, has a modest agricultural development, and rights-of-ways. In other cases 5 parcels were in designated GSG preliminary priority habitats or in a standard analysis distance to a GSG lek.

4.2.1. Water

There is no anticipated effect on water resources, as there are no federally controlled water resources or federal water rights on the 9 parcels. Any unexercised or unexpressed water rights will flow with the land or, restated, will transfer to private ownership upon surface title conveyance. The HAZMAT survey found no downslope or adjacent ill effects on parcel EF1 from the small ranch dump which formerly was adjacent to EF1. BLM foresees no direct, indirect, cumulative, or residual effects, or need for mitigation measures.

4.2.2. Mineral Resources: locatable; leasable-solid, fluid; salable

BLM will recommend in all 9 of these surface conveyances to reserve to the United States of America all mineral resources, the entire mineral estate in the lands, together with the right to prospect for, mine, and remove the mineral resources under applicable law and such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe. All mineral resources, the entire mineral estate includes but is not limited to the minerals contained in federal law; see generally, 43 CFR Subchapter C, Minerals Management: leasables – crude oil, natural gas, coalbed natural gas (natural, and enhanced production through methanogenesis or similar process), geothermal energy, coal, sodium minerals, potassium minerals, etc.: salables – sand, gravel, clinker (porcellanite), common limestone, building stone, moss rock, petrified wood, etc.: locatables – gold, silver, platinum, lithium, precious gems, chemical or metallurgical grade limestone, chemical grade silica sand, nickel, copper, lead, zinc, iron, uranium vanadium, molybdenum, manganese, cobalt, beryllium, tungsten, zeolites, Wyoming-type bentonite, gypsum, barite, fluor spar, rare earth minerals, etc. The BLM's recommended reservation of all mineral rights is total – that is the BLM's analysis expressly recommends reserving for the US, elements presently used or identified as minerals, and future elements or combinations thereof that may be discovered to be useful as minerals. The BLM foresees no direct, indirect, cumulative, or residual effects as a result of this proposal, see MPR. The BLM requires no mitigation measures other than the absolute and total reservation by the federal government of any and all present and future minerals underlying the surface parcels proposed for these sales. Split estate is

a long-standing facet of land and mineral law so the minor creation of small amount of it is of no consequence.

4.2.3. Vegetation and Soils

4.2.3.1. Direct and Indirect Effects

The proposals, coupled with no foreseeable change in the use of these parcels or their resources, should result in vegetation that continues supporting GSG preliminary priority habitat. There is no reason to suspect any increase in noxious weeds or invasive species resultant from this proposal. Surface disturbances from trails, roads, and other development are primary causes and accelerants for weed and invasive species infestations. BLM has every indication from the FRI and MRT that the land use would remain the same, thus will have minimal surface disturbances, and therefore should also have no increase in weeds or invasive species, or development on highly erodible soils. The likely direct and indirect effects also include improved management efficiencies for vegetation management, fire suppression and management, sage brush habitat restoration, and grazing management – in addition to improved efficiencies gained by the public, the counties, and the land owners from administering larger, contiguous lands.

4.2.3.2. Cumulative Effects

BLM foresees small, positive cumulative effects from the increased efficiencies gained by the public, the counties, and land owners in the single-source management of these site-specific lands.

4.2.3.3. Mitigation Measures

BLM foresees no need for any mitigation measures.

4.2.3.4. Residual Effects

BLM foresees positive residual effects from having single point of contact management for these 9 nominated parcels as benefiting the public, the counties, and the land owners.

4.2.4. Wildlife

4.2.4.1. Direct and Indirect Effects

The 9 parcels' sizes and their juxtapositions to the surrounding private land preclude any potential for realistic federal wildlife management. BLM anticipates that the proposed land sales will result in the same or substantially similar land use on the 9 tracts. There likely will be no surface disturbance or increased human presence in the tracts. The proposal will take the parcels out of the control of federal policies, but it is anticipated that the proposed sales will have little effect on wildlife communities in or around the 9 tracts. The proposal will remove about 100 acres of GSG preliminary priority habitat from federal control – yet the parcels in practice receive little-to-no active federal management. Yet, as analyzed in Vegetation, above, having single point of contact management for the 9 small parcels should minimally positively contribute to the potential for restoration of GSG and its habitat.

4.2.4.2. Cumulative Effects

The proposals, because they are not expected to involve changes in the land uses of the sale parcels, should not contribute to impacts occurring to wildlife, particularly GSG. Oil and gas development including roads, powerlines, and pipelines in the PRB has profound impacts on GSG populations as well as on other wildlife such as raptors and mule deer; see generally the 2003 PRB FEIS.

4.2.4.3. Mitigation Measures

Possible mitigation would be to do a land exchange or use proceeds from the sale to improve or acquire like habitat in other portions of GSG core or connectivity habitat areas. This is discussed in the Alternatives Considered but Eliminated section, above.

4.2.4.4. Residual Effects

The residual effect is removing about 100 acres of GSG preliminary priority habitat from federal control.

4.2.5. Cultural: National Register eligible sites, potential for alluvial deposits

The proposed land sales will impact non eligible sites 48CA7060, 48SH1783, and 48SH1784 as they will leave federal ownership. The proposed land sales will not impact historic properties. Following the Wyoming State Protocol Section VI(A)(1) the BLM electronically notified the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on August 14, 2012 that no historic properties exist in the area of potential effects. BLM foresees no direct, indirect, cumulative, residual effects, and no need for mitigation measures.

4.2.6. Lands and Realty

4.2.6.1. Direct and Indirect Effects

BLM issued right-of-way WYW-170235 on April 28, 2011, to Powder River Energy Corp. (PRECorp) for an overhead single-phase power line. A portion of that power line is inside Lot 17. BLM gave PRECorp options, per 43 CFR 2807.15(b), in a letter of July 31, 2012, on how to protect their interests across the public land. PRECorp chose to negotiate an easement with the prospective patentee (MRT). Both parties notified the BLM in writing of their agreement. This easement would take effect at the time of the patent issuance. Additionally, the direct and indirect effect would require the BLM to modify the ROW to include only that land remaining on federal surface -- removing that portion of power line leaving federal jurisdiction.

BLM issued right-of-way WYW-168354 on June 28, 2012, to Craig Means ET UX for an improved access road to their private residence. BLM required this ROW pending issuance of the patent. The direct and indirect effect would require the BLM to modify the ROW to include only that land remaining on federal surface – removing that portion of the improved access road that leaves federal jurisdiction.

BLM issued land use permit WYW-168364 on June 28, 2012, to Craig Means ET UX for an agricultural use site encumbering 4.15 acres, known as Lot 17. BLM required this permit until trespass resolution or issuance of the patent. The direct effect is that this permit would terminate in its entirety.

In summary, the BLM would modify the length and acreage of right-of-way (ROW) WYW-168354 for the improved access road and for the ROW WYW-170235 for the overhead power line for those portions of each ROW that remain in federal ownership. The portion of land leaving federal ownership under ROW WYW-170235 would be protected by the easement negotiated between the MRT and PRECorp as it would become effective on the date of the patent. The land use permit (LUP) WYW-168364 would terminate in its entirety. The patents issued to each proponent would not be subject to either ROW or LUP. Another direct effect is that none of the land surface of the 9 parcels supports present mineral development; see sections 3.2 and 3.6, above. Lastly, a direct effect is the 9 parcels have a current HAZMAT clearance.

An indirect effect includes the impact to the counties. Sheridan County Assessor's Office verbally stated the county may gain annual property tax revenue from \$53 to \$72 for the addition of 208 acres of undeveloped agricultural land on its tax roll. Sheridan County will have an offset of federal revenue sharing payment-in-lieu of taxes (PILT) of about \$436.80; see generally, http://www.doi.gov/pilt/county-payments.cfm?term=county&state_code=WY&fiscal_yr=2012. (The Interior Department calculates PILT on a formula using federal acreage and county population so the approximations here suffice for an EA analysis because it reveals the minimal nature of the issues.) Sheridan County received \$932,624 for hosting 443,444 federally owned acres in fiscal year 2012. This PILT averages about \$2.10 per acre so for analysis here BLM applied this average to the number of acres transferred to the Sheridan County tax roll. In contrast Campbell County may have a minimal gain of property tax revenue when its taxable base increases 4.15 acres. Conversely, Campbell County will have a minimal decrement in its annual PILT. Campbell County received \$627,077 for hosting 367,114 federal acres in fiscal year 2012. This PILT averages about \$1.71 per acre.

4.2.6.2. Cumulative Effects

Sheridan and Campbell Counties will have cumulative effects of increased property tax base, and thus property tax revenue; contrast to a decrease in PILT computational acreages and revenues.

4.2.6.3. Mitigation Measures

BLM foresees no need for mitigation.

4.2.6.4. Residual Effects

The property tax and PILT issues become residual effects into perpetuity.

4.2.7. Recreation and Visual Resources

BLM foresees no direct and indirect effect to recreation or the visual resources area (see section 3.7), as a result of these nominations for direct sale because the parcels are land-locked precluding public access from them, and the potential new owners expressed they plan on maintaining the same management over the nominated and contiguous lands. BLM's analysis revealed a minor cumulative effect of reducing the field office's basis of isolated lands available for potential future land exchanges by 212 acres. BLM foresees no need for any mitigation measures. A possible residual effect is reducing the BLM's basis of surface lands that it could potentially exchange for parcels meeting federal surface management objectives by 212 acres, more or less.

4.2.8. Livestock Grazing

4.2.8.1. Direct and Indirect Effects

These nominations have no direct or indirect effects on livestock grazing because with or without the proposals livestock will continue grazing on the parcels. However the nominations will have a direct and indirect effect on the 3 grazing allotments covering 8 of the parcels. It is likely the BLM, with input from the land owners and other resource specialists, may consider modifying the present 3 grazing allotments. It is less likely the BLM would recommend or proceed with a modification of Allotment 17036 which covers, in part, the EF1 - parcel since this parcel is less than 5 acres – which is de minimis in livestock grazing in the northern Great Plains.

4.2.8.2. Cumulative Effects

A potential cumulative effect of adopting the nominations is a minor reduction in the BLM's paperwork in administering grazing allotments and a subsequent minor reduction in income from grazing allotments – should the BLM modify any of the 3 allotments for reductions in AUMs since the allotments may have a corresponding reduction in AUMs.

4.2.8.3. Mitigation Measures

BLM foresees no need for any mitigation measures.

4.2.8.4. Residual Effects

A minor residual effect, minor, due to the modest size of these nominations, is a reduction in the paperwork and management the BLM would require to administer grazing allotments and manage up to 9 isolated parcels.

4.2.9. Summary

The nominated sale proposals, if approved, may provide additional economic benefit to both the private surface owner and the BLM. The BLM would benefit by disposing of uneconomical, unmanageable, and inaccessible blocks of public land, see generally, IBLA Lapis. The private landowner would gain a more manageable unit with less trespass potential, which would lend more economical gain to their operation.

Positive benefits would be realized both short and long term by the general public and the private land owner. Benefits, such as the potential wildlife habitat improvement of lands under contiguous ownership while disposing of uneconomical and isolated parcels of public land, would be realized by the BLM and the general public. The private landowners would acquire a more manageable, potentially higher valued, agricultural unit. The private landowners would realize an economic gain by not having encumbrances from the federal government as a result of scattered inholdings. Counties would be able to add to tax bases. The appraisal reports for the nominated public lands will be available for review at the Buffalo Field Office. Please call ahead to ensure they are available and to schedule a visit: 307-684-1100.

There is nothing in this analysis supporting the nomination of a particular parcel over another. Restated, there is nothing in this analysis precluding a recommendation to the authorized officer to approve the nominations, either singly or collectively.

5. CONSULTATION COORDINATION

BLM consulted or coordinated with the following on this project:

Contact	Organization	Contact	Organization
Joe Liebhauser	Robcyn, LLC for FRI	Craig & Peggy Means	MRT
Bud Stewart	WGFD	Mary Hopkins	WSHPO
Peter Sokolosky	WY BLM Mining Engineer/Geologist	Ken Henke	WY BLM Resource Manage Grp
Mike Robinson	BLM District Resource Advisor	Janelle Wrigley	WY BLM Realty Officer
Rena Olberuhler	Sheridan County Assessor & Commissioners Offices	Lesley Elser	BLM District Public Affairs

List of Preparers (BFO unless otherwise noted)

Position/Organization	Name	Position/Organization	Name
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Asst. Field Manager	Chris Durham	Wildlife Biologist	Donald Brewer
Asst. Field Manager	Clark Bennett	Geologist	Kerry Aggen
Soils/Supervisory NRS	Casey Freise	Range Management	Dustin Kavitz
NEPA Coordinator	John Kelley		

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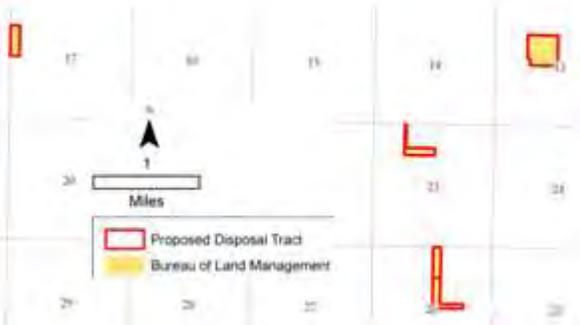
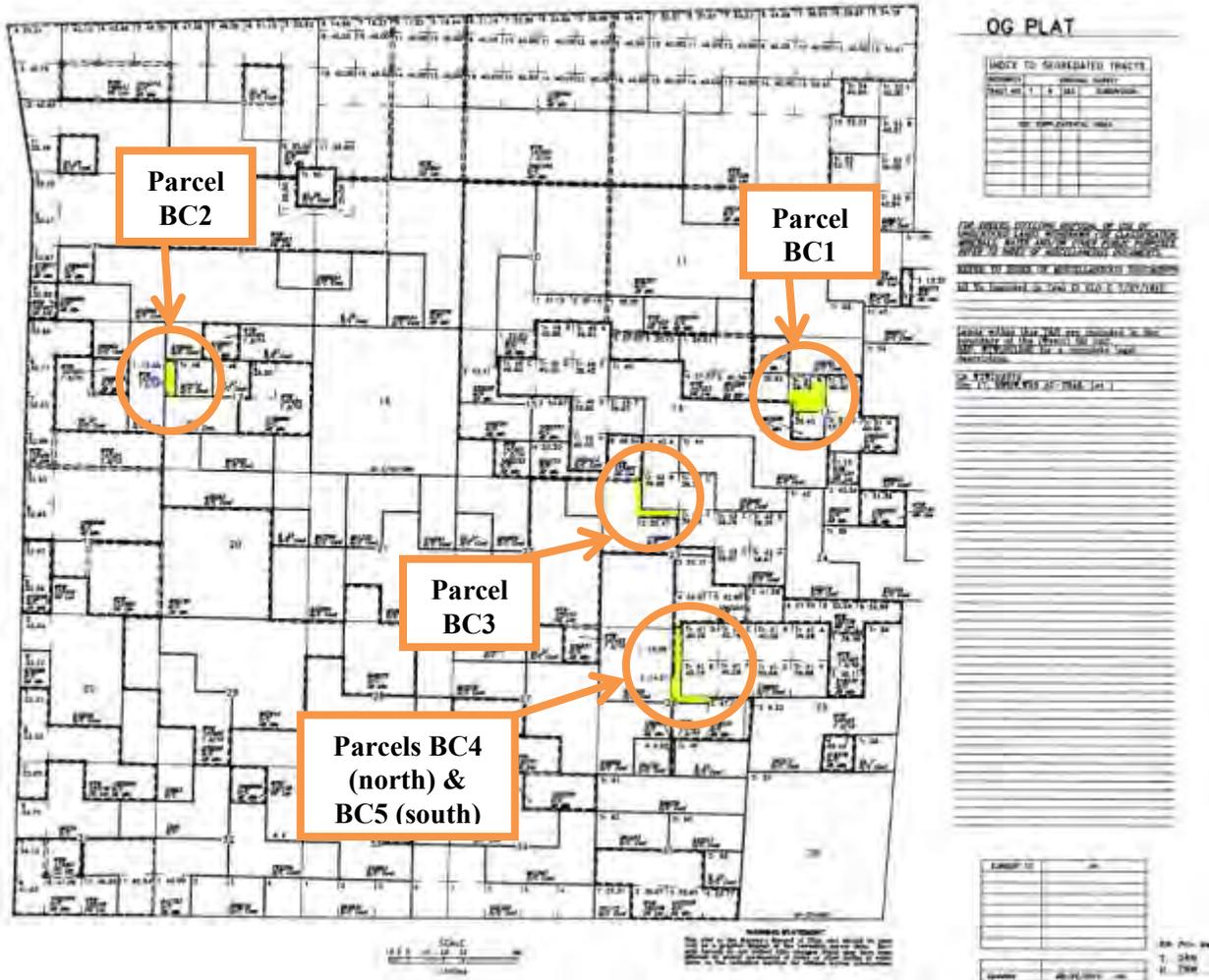
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**Appendix A. Plats in Summarized View and Tables: See the Administrative Record for More Detail
Plat 1, Township 56 North Range 79 West**

TOWNSHIP 56 NORTH RANGE 79 WEST OF THE 5th PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, WYOMING

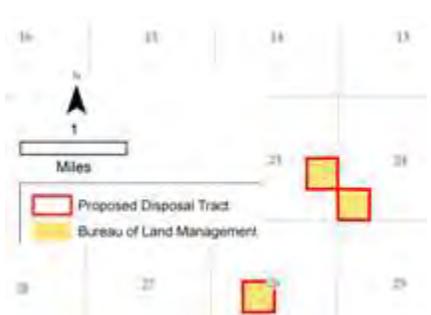
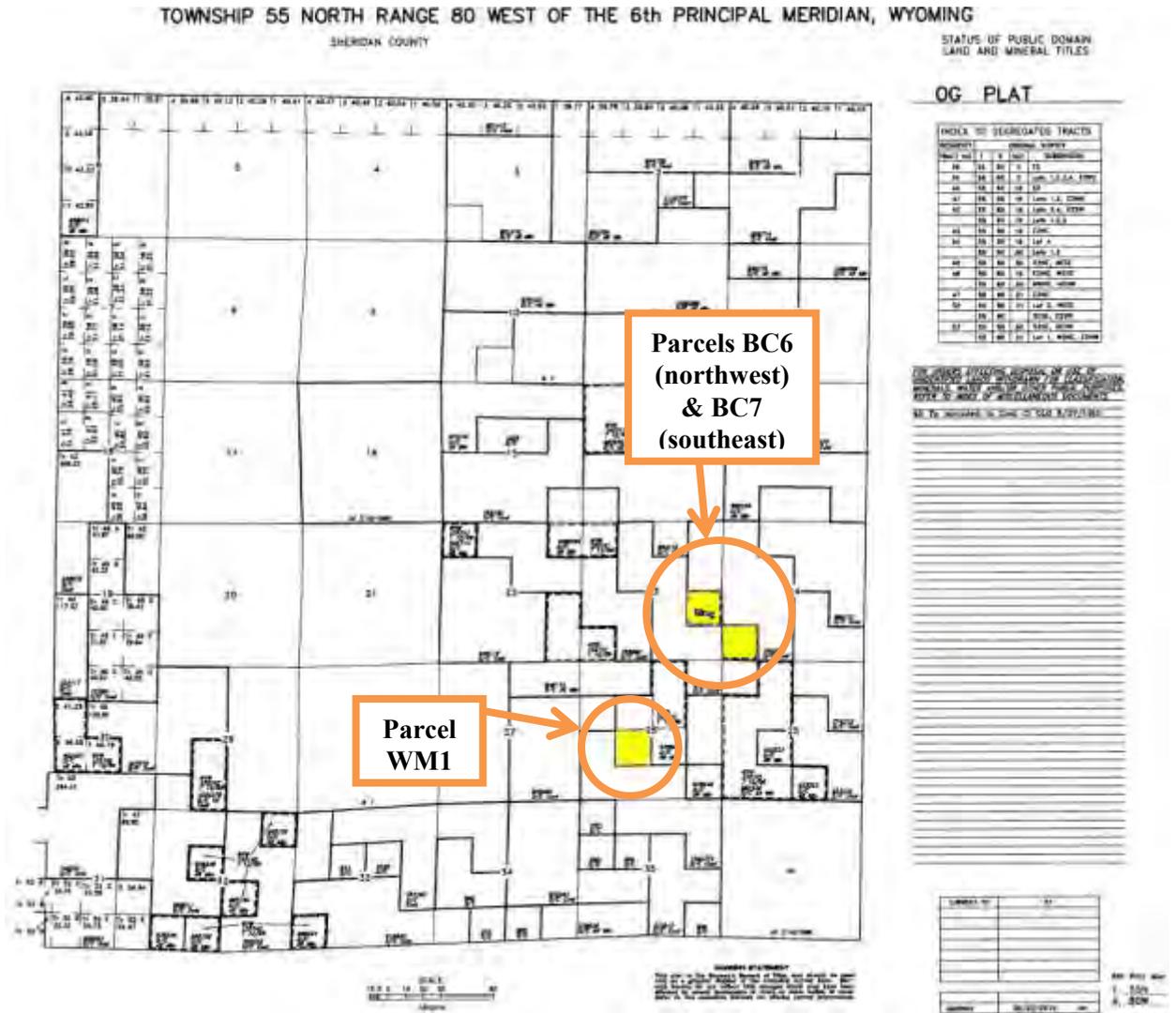
SHERIDAN COUNTY

STATUS OF PUBLIC DOMAIN
LAND AND MINERAL TITLES



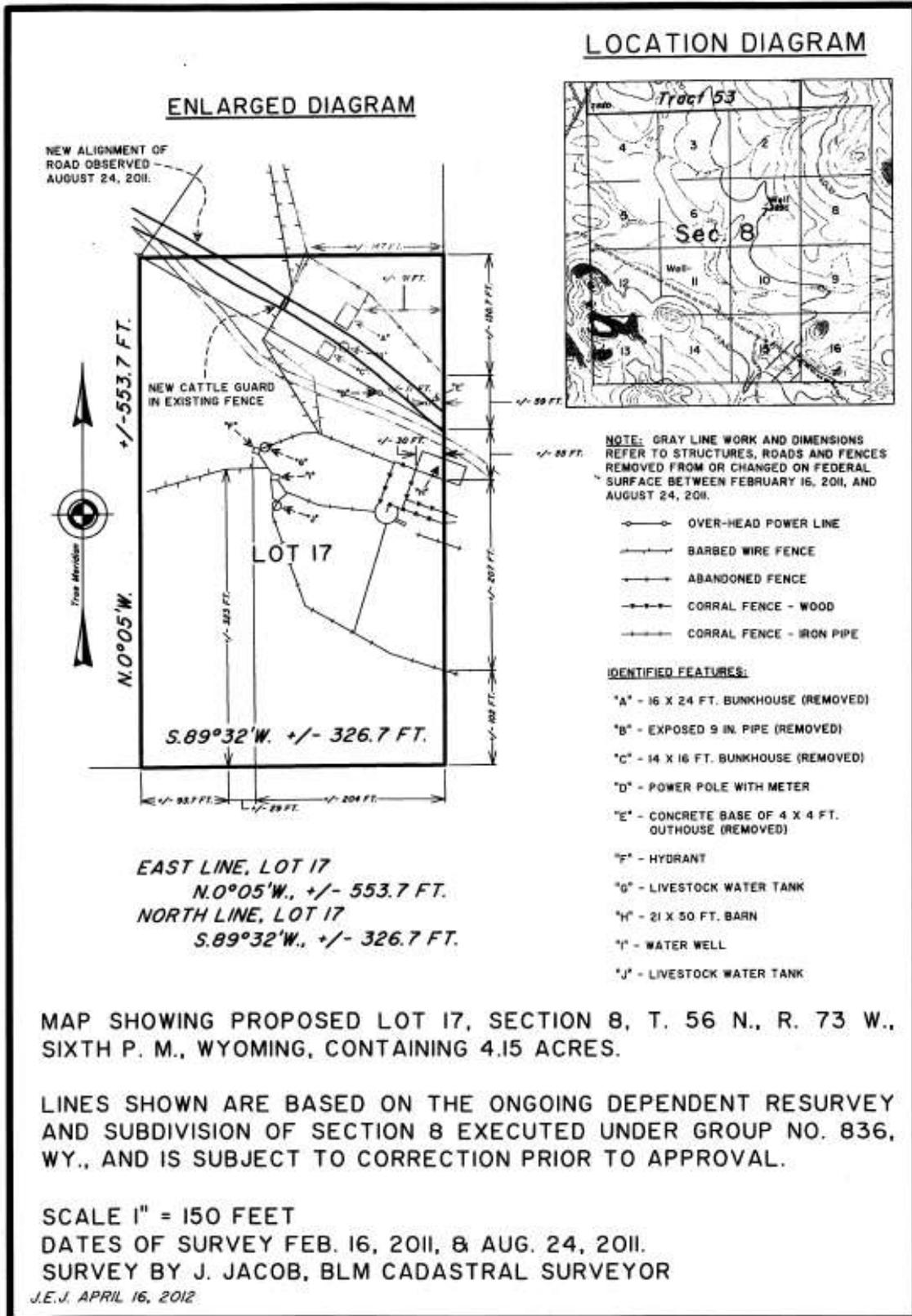
#	Name/Abbreviation	Twn	Rng	Sec	Q/Q	Tr/Lot	Acres	Disposal Type	Allotment
1	Buffalo Creek 1 / BC1	56N	79W	13		51-B	39.75	Sale	SE of Buffalo Creek
2	Buffalo Creek 2 / BC2			17		1	12.00		
3	Buffalo Creek 3 / BC3			23		1	11.80		
4	Buffalo Creek 4 / BC4			26		1	10.06		
5	Buffalo Creek 5 / BC5			26		2	14.51		

**Appendix A. Plats in Summarized View and Tables: See the Administrative Record for More Detail
Plat 2, Township 55 North Range 80 West**

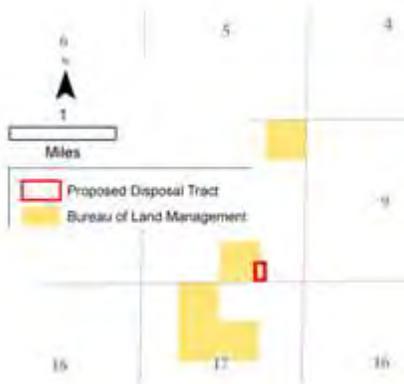
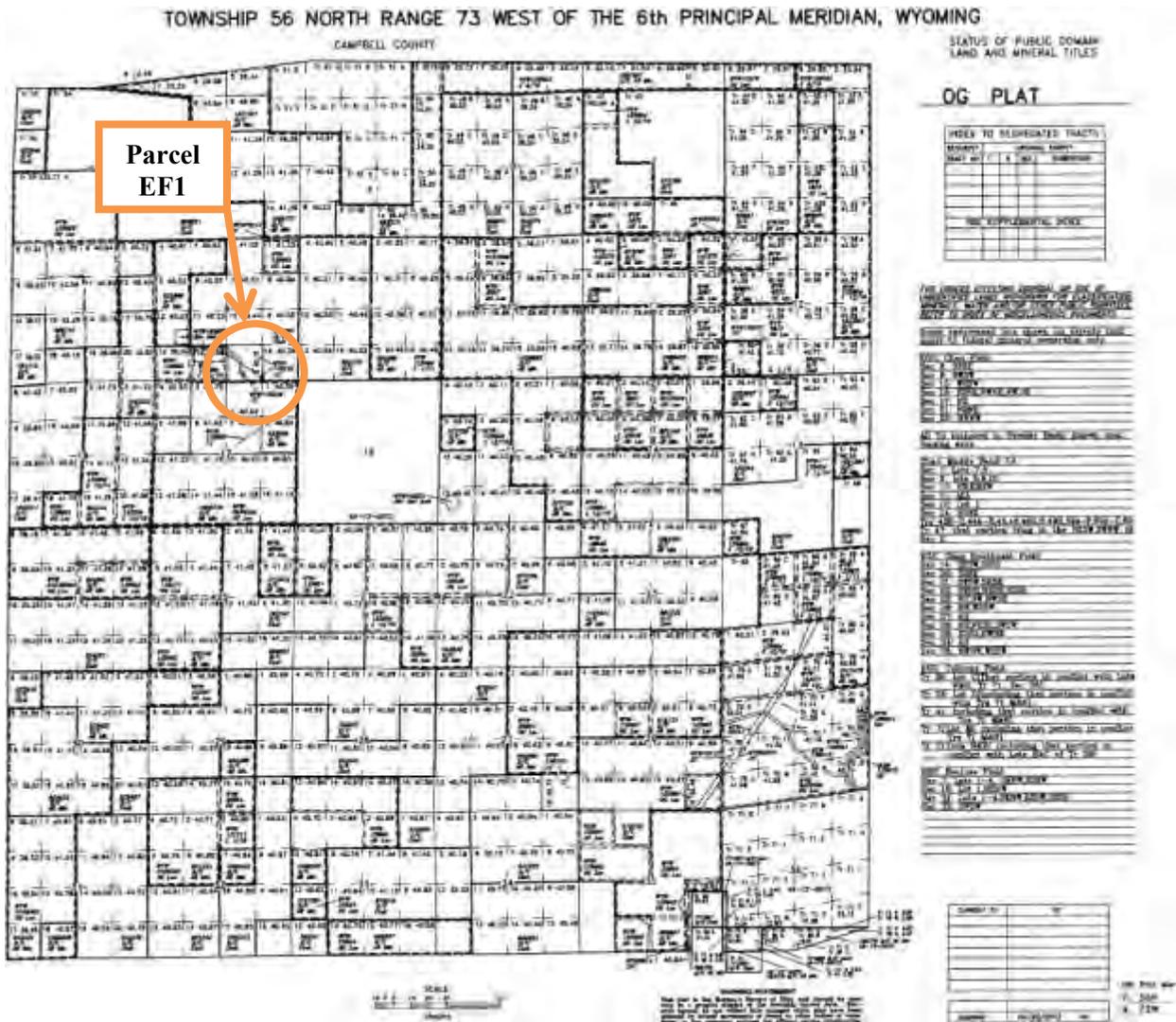


#	Name/Abbreviation	Twn	Rng	Sec	Q/Q	Tr/Lot	Acres	Disposal Type	Allotment
6	Buffalo Creek 6 / BC6	55N	80W	23	NESE		40.00	Sale	SE of Buffalo Creek
7	Buffalo Creek 7 / BC7			24	SWSW		40.00		
8	Whitmeyer 1 / WM1			26	NESW		40.00		

Appendix A. Plats in Summarized View and Tables: See the Administrative Record for More Detail
Proposed lot 17, Section 8 Township 56 North Range 73 West



**Appendix A. Plats in Summarized View and Tables: See the Administrative Record for More Detail
Plat 3, Proposed Lot 17, Section 8 Township 56 North Range 73 West**



#	Name/Abbreviation	Twn	Rng	Sec	Q/Q	Tr/Lot	Acres	Disposal Type	Allotment
9	East Fork 1 / EF1	56N	73W	8		17	4.15	Sale	East Fork

Table A.1. Location of Discussion of the No Action Alternative in the PRB FEIS

Resource		Type of Effect	Page(s) of PRB FEIS
Project Area Description	Geologic Features and Mineral Resources	Direct and Indirect Effects	4-164 and 4-134
		Cumulative Effects	4-164 and 4-134
Soils, Vegetation, and Ecological Sites	Soils	Direct and Indirect Effects	4-150
		Cumulative Effects	4-152
	Vegetation	Direct and Indirect Effects	4-163
		Cumulative Effects	4-164
	Wetlands/Riparian	Direct and Indirect Effects	4-178
		Cumulative Effects	4-178
Wildlife	Sensitive Species - Greater Sage-Grouse	Direct and Indirect Effects	4-271
		Cumulative Effects	4-271
	Aquatic Species	Direct and Indirect Effects	4-246
		Cumulative Effects	4-249
	Migratory Birds	Direct and Indirect Effects	4-234
		Cumulative Effects	4-235
	Waterfowl	Direct and Indirect Effects	4-230
		Cumulative Effects	4-230
	Big Game	Direct and Indirect Effects	4-186
		Cumulative Effects	4-211
	Raptors	Direct and Indirect Effects	4-224
		Cumulative Effects	4-225
Water	Ground Water	Direct and Indirect Effects	4-63
		Cumulative Effects	4-69
	Surface Water	Direct and Indirect Effects	4-77
		Cumulative Effects	4-69
Economics and Recovery of CBNG Resources		Direct and Indirect Effects	4-362
		Cumulative Effects	4-370
Cultural Resources		Direct and Indirect Effects	4-286
Air Quality		Direct and Indirect Effects	4-386
		Cumulative Effects	4-386
Visual Resources		Direct and Indirect Effects	4-313
		Cumulative Effects	4-314

Form 3060-1
(July 1984)
(formerly 3980-1)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Serial Numbers
WYW-168342,
WYW-168374

MINERAL POTENTIAL REPORT
FOR THE
FARMLAND RESERVE, INC., AND
CRAIG G. AND PEGGY S. MEANS REVOCABLE TRUST
LAND SALES
(Title)

LANDS INVOLVED:
CAMPBELL AND SHERIDAN COUNTIES, WY

SHERIDAN COUNTY:
Township 55 North, Range 80 West, 6th P.M.
Section 23, NE1/4SE1/4;
Section 24, SW1/4SW1/4;
Section 26, NE1/4SW1/4.
Township 56 North, Range 79 West, 6th P.M.
Section 13, Tract 51B;
Section 17, Lot 1;
Section 23, Lot 1;
Section 26, Lots 1 and 2.

CAMPBELL COUNTY:
Township 56 North, Range 73 West, 6th P.M.
Section 8, Lot 17

Prepared by:

Henry Hagen

(Signature)

Geologist

(Title)

Jan. 4, 2013

(Date)

Technical Approval:

[Signature]

(Signature)

Geologist

(Title)

JAN. 9, 2013

(Date)

Management Acknowledgement:

[Signature]

(Signature)

Field Office Manager

(Title)

1/18/13

(Date)

FARMLAND RESERVE, INC., AND CRAIG G.
AND PEGGY S. MEANS REVOCABLE TRUST
LAND SALES
MINERAL POTENTIAL REPORT

By

Kerry Aggen, Geologist

Bureau of Land Management

Buffalo Field Office

December, 2012

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I. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SUMMARY

Nine parcels of Federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are proposed for disposal in two separate sales: One to Farmland Reserve, Inc. (FRI), consisting of eight parcels; the other to Craig G. and Peggy S. Means Revocable Trust (MRT), consisting of a single parcel. Under these disposals, the surface estate only for these nine parcels would be transferred to FRI or MRT the Federal government retains all rights to the mineral estate ownership and all minerals. Figure 1 shows the general location of these parcels.

FRI is pursuing acquisition of the surface estate for the other eight parcels, all situated entirely within the boundaries of Sheridan Ranch, in order to fold these lands into the larger adjacent surface holdings and ensure they are reserved and used solely for ranching uses. MRT is pursuing acquisition of the surface estate for one parcel only, which is situated entirely within the boundaries of the Bar U Ranch, in order to enlarge their surface holdings.

As the result of this investigation, varying potentials for mineral occurrence and development was found to exist on the subject offered private lands for crude oil, natural gas, and coal; little to no potential for occurrence or development of other minerals was found, including all locatable minerals, all leasable minerals other than oil, gas, and coal, and all salable minerals.

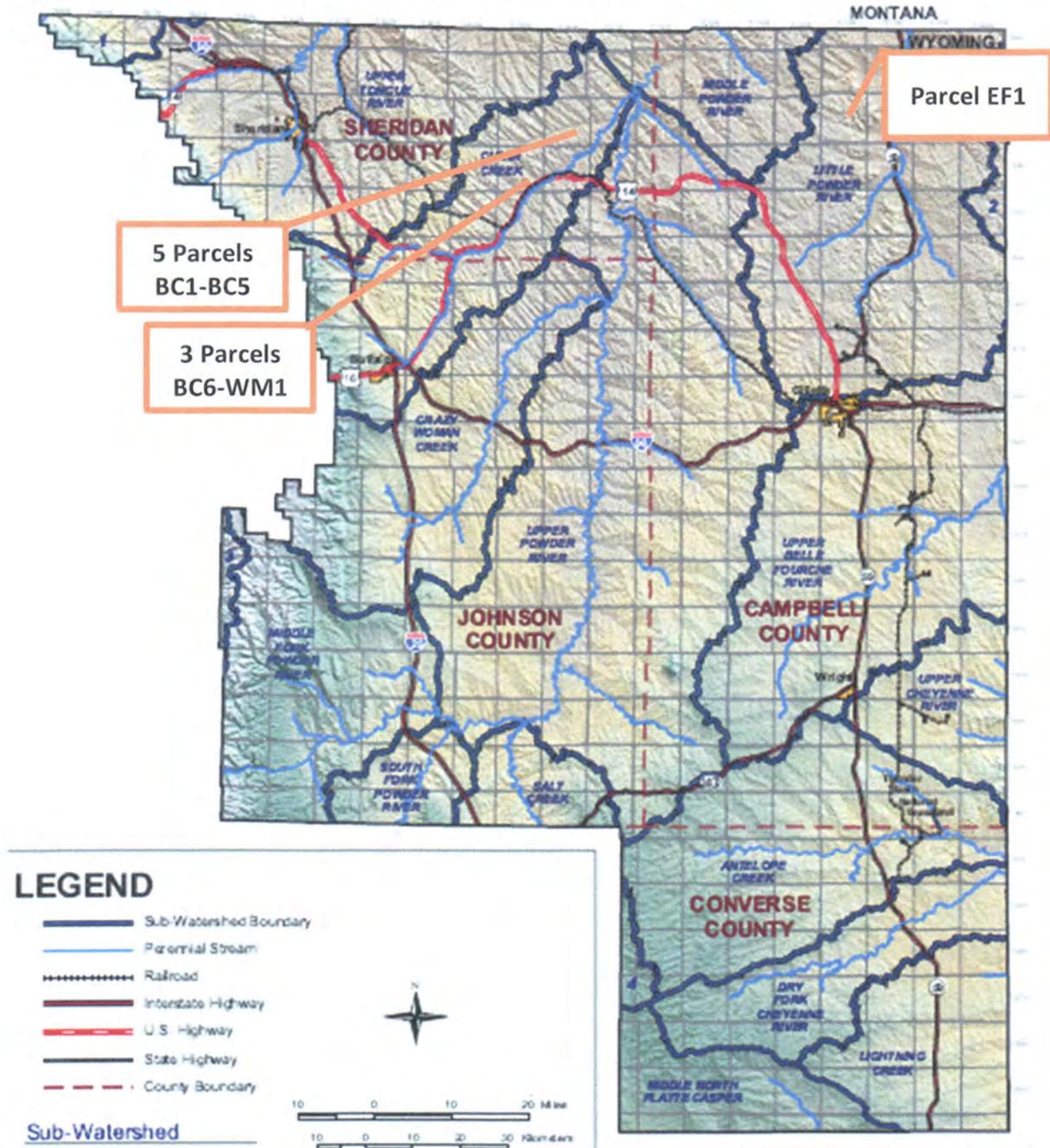
CONCLUSIONS

1. The mineral occurrence and development potential for locatable minerals (uranium, gold, Wyoming-type bentonite, rare earth elements, etc.) on all nine parcels is low. No mining claims exist on any of the nine parcels. No mine workings exist on these lands.
2. The mineral occurrence potential for leasable minerals on the nine parcels lands varies from low (geothermal energy, other leasables) to high (coal, crude oil, and natural gas). However, the mineral development potential for all leasable minerals for these parcels is low (moderate for coalbed natural gas). Except for Parcel 1 (BC1), which is situated within an authorized oil/gas lease, none of the other 9 parcels are currently leased for oil, gas, or coal. No oil or gas wells, and no coal mine workings exist on these lands.
3. The mineral occurrence and development potential for all salable minerals (sand/gravel, clinker (aka porcellanite), moss rock, petrified wood, etc.) on all nine parcels is low. No mineral materials authorizations exist on any of the nine parcels. No mine workings exist on these lands.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the overall low development potential for all locatable, leasable, and salable minerals, these disposals of surface lands are recommended to be carried out. In light of the directives of Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), under Title II, Section 209, no mineral rights will be conveyed in these sales for any of the 9 parcels.

Figure 1. Regional Location Map for the 9 Parcels.



II. INTRODUCTION

Farmland Reserve, Inc. (FRI) is the principal sale requester for parcels BC1 through BC7, and WM1 (see Table 1, below, and Appendices A-1 through A-3). This Land Sale was assigned BLM serial casefile number WYW-169342. FRI is a corporation that also goes by the name of Sheridan Ranch. FRI ranchlands completely surround and isolate all 8 parcels they intend to acquire in this conveyance; therefore, these parcels have no public access.

The Craig G. and Peggy S. Means Revocable Trust (MRT) is the principal sale requester for parcel EF1 (see Table 1, below). This Land Sale was assigned BLM serial casefile number WYW-168374. This parcel was created as a means to resolve an unauthorized occupancy; this land had been permitted for agricultural uses, and the Means undertook occupancy of this land without authorization. The surface estate of this parcel will be added to the adjacent Bar U Ranch, LLC, surface lands abutting this parcel on 2 sides and held by MRT. This parcel also abuts a 120-acre parcel of BLM surface on another side, and a parcel of surface lands held by another private party on the remaining side. This parcel has no direct public access.

These BLM surface/mineral lands are in 9 isolated, non-contiguous parcels of less than 5,000 acres, and clearly lack wilderness characteristics. Indications from the prospective owners of these surface estate parcels are that all 9 parcels would remain in standard ranching and wildlife operations, if the conveyances were to occur.

Site visits were made on June 27, 2012 (FRI parcels) and August 23, 2012 (MRT parcel). A review of geologic literature was performed by Kerry Aggen, Geologist, Buffalo Field Office, for the preparation of this report. This report was prepared following the general guidelines provided in BLM Manual 3060, Mineral Reports – Preparation and Review (USDOI 1994), and as required by BLM Manual 3031, Energy and Mineral Resource Assessment (USDOI 1985b).

III. LANDS INVOLVED

The FRI parcels (parcels BC1 through BC7, and WM1) range approximately 24 miles east-southeast to 33 miles east of Sheridan, Wyoming, and range approximately 23 miles east-southeast to 32 miles east of U.S. Interstate 90. The MRT parcel (parcel EF1) is located approximately 38 miles north-northwest of Gillette, Wyoming, and approximately 42 miles north of U.S. Interstate 90. The legal descriptions for the proposed disposals, located in 6th Principal Meridian, Wyoming, are found in Table 1, below.

BLM's management goals and objectives for the offered lands would be consistent with those actions identified in the Buffalo Planning Area Resource Management Plan (USDOI 1985a; Revised, 2001a and 2003). All parcels except the MRT parcel (EF1) have been identified for disposal in the RMP. All parcels are open to leasing and mineral materials disposal.

Table 1. Parcels Proposed for Disposal by Direct Sale.

Parcel #	Name/Abbreviation	Twn	Rng	Sec	Q/Q	Tract or Lot	Acres	Disposal Type	BLM Serial Casefile No.
1	Buffalo Creek 1 / BC1	56N	79W	13		51-B	39.75	Sale	WYW-168342
2	Buffalo Creek 2 / BC2			17		1	12.00	Sale	
3	Buffalo Creek 3 / BC3			23		1	11.80	Sale	
4	Buffalo Creek 4 / BC4			26		1	10.06	Sale	
5	Buffalo Creek 5 / BC5			26		2	14.51	Sale	
6	Buffalo Creek 6 / BC6	55N	80W	23	NESE		40.00	Sale	
7	Buffalo Creek 7 / BC7			24	SWSW		40.00	Sale	
8	Whitmeyer 1 / WM1			26	NESW		40.00	Sale	
Subtotal							208.12		
9	East Fork 1 / EF1	56N	73W	8		17	4.15	Sale	WYW-168374
Total							212.27		

Parcels 1-8: 6th Principal Meridian, Sheridan County, WY.

Parcel 9: 6th Principal Meridian, Campbell County, WY.

Acreage is approximate for all parcels.

IV. GEOLOGIC SETTING

The 9 parcels occur in the north central portion of the Wyoming portion of the Powder River Basin (PRB), and approximately central within the basin. Generalized stratigraphic columns for the areas encompassing all 9 parcels are shown under the columns entitled Powder River Basin on Appendix A-4. Occurring under these parcels at depth are formations containing numerous potentially valuable minerals including Wyoming-type bentonite, gypsum, limestone, crude oil, natural gas, and coal (Snook, 1993). Bentonite, gypsum, and limestone are currently being mined in several areas of the PRB, as well as the next basin westward, the Big Horn Basin; these minerals are mined close to these basin's edges, where the rocks containing these minerals occur at or near the surface. Numerous sandstones, shales, and other rocks underlying the 9 parcels are currently known to contain oil and gas, and many of these oil/gas deposits are being explored and/or developed. All 9 of these parcels are directly underlain by Tertiary-age rock, either the Wasatch or Fort Union formations (see Appendices A-5 and A-6; Love and Christiansen, 1985). These formations contain numerous coal seams, several of which are currently being mined for coal and/or developed for coalbed natural gas (CBNG).

The surface deposits on the 9 parcels consist mostly of slopewash and colluvium (see Appendices A-7 and A-8; WSGS, 2012a and b), containing poor quality sand/gravel (see Appendices A-9 and A-10; NRCS, 2012).

V. SITE GEOLOGY AND CONDITIONS

Site visits confirm the geologic settings of the subject lands. No evidence of mining or exploration for minerals was seen on any of the 9 parcels.

VI. MINERAL DEPOSITS

No mineral deposits or any types of workings, such as prospect pits or other excavations, were observed on the subject lands during this study. A seam of very dirty coal is exposed along the slopes of several of the FRI parcels. Several of the low-lying hills surrounding the MRT parcel and FRI parcels are capped with clinker (porcellanite, locally called scoria). The surficial deposits consist of mostly slopewash and colluvium, of too low quality to be used as sand/gravel.

VII. MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT WORK

There are no recorded mining claims on any of the 9 parcels, and no recorded exploration or development work for any locatable minerals on any of the 9 parcels (LR2000).

There are no known records of any exploration or development for coal for any of the 9 parcels. Personal communications, Al Elser (2012).

Within a 1-mile radius of the 8 FRI parcels, there are a total of 12 conventional oil/gas wells and 19 CBNG wells that were drilled and abandoned. None of the conventional wells had any recorded production, and only 1 of the CBNG wells had any recorded gas production. Within a 1-mile radius of the 1 MRT parcel, there are a total of 20 conventional oil/gas wells and 8 CBNG wells. 3 of the conventional wells are still reporting production of oil, and some gas; the other 17 are abandoned. The Chan Field (oil) lies just south of the MRT parcel. All but 1 of the 8 CBNG wells are still producing gas, but are currently shut-in; the other CBNG well is abandoned. Personal communications, Dean Stilwell (2012).

There is no known exploration for or development of geothermal energy, or any other leasable minerals on any of the 9 parcels (LR2000, 2012).

There is no record of any mineral material testing or development for sand and gravel, or any other types of salable minerals, on any of the 9 parcels (LR2000, 2012).

VIII. SAMPLING PROCEDURES AND ANALYTICAL METHODS

No samples were taken for this study.

IX. MINERAL OCCURRENCE AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

The mineral occurrence potential determined here for each of the three federal classifications of minerals (locatable, leasable, and salable minerals) in the 9 parcels is described below, and presented in Table 2. The mineral occurrence potential categories used here and listed in Table 2 are based on the “Mineral Potential Classification System” provided in BLM Manual 3031, Energy and Mineral Resource Assessment (see Appendix A-11; USDO, 1985b). These categories are based both on the “Level of Potential” and on the “Level of Certainty.” The mineral development potential categories

presented are used similarly, and were adapted from the same source. Although some information regarding the occurrence and/or development potential of particular minerals was briefly mentioned in Section VII, Mineral Exploration and Development Work, more complete descriptions for all three mineral classifications is presented below.

MINERAL OCCURRENCE POTENTIAL

The formations containing those minerals most likely to be subject to mining claims are deep below the surface on all 9 parcels (WSGS, 2012a; see Appendix A-4). Occurrence potential for locatable minerals is low for all 9 parcels (USDOJ, 2009a).

All nine parcels have a high potential for coal occurrence. Each is underlain by numerous coal seams in the Wasatch and/or Fort Union Formations underlying the parcels. The MRT parcel is located somewhat east of the center of the PRB, where the Tongue River Member of the Fort Union Formation outcrops. This member contains one of the most significant coal deposits in the world: the Wyodak coal zone. The FRI parcels likely also overlie the Wyodak coal zone. Personal communications, Al Elser (2012); Flores, et al. (2010); USDOJ (2011, 2009a).

All 9 parcels have high potential for occurrence of oil and/or gas. Each is underlain by numerous oil- and/or gas-bearing formations. Personal communication, Dean Stilwell (2012); Stilwell, et al. (2012); USDOJ (2009b, 2009a).

The occurrence potential for geothermal energy on all 9 parcels is low (USDOE, 1983; USDOJ and USDA, 2008). The PRB is a deep sedimentary basin with no history of volcanism (Snook, 1993; WSGS, 2012a; see Appendix A-4). In addition, the downhole temperatures are low for even relatively deep oil/gas wells, both across the basin and near its margins (WOGCC, 2012).

The occurrence potential for other leasable minerals, such as sodium and potassium minerals, on all 9 parcels is low. The formations containing these minerals occur at some depth below the surface (Snook, 1993; WSGS, 2012a; see Appendix A-4), making these relatively low-priced commodities of negligible importance as exploration/development targets for the foreseeable future (USDOJ, 2009a).

The occurrence potential for salable minerals is low. The surficial deposits of sand/gravel are not of the quality desired for mining, and the amount of clinker (porcellanite) is too low to make mining feasible (WSGS, 2012b; NRCS, 2012; Heffern, et al., 2011; USDOJ, 2009a; see Appendices A-7 through A-10).

MINERAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

The development potential for all 9 parcels is summarized in Table 2, below.

Given that the occurrence potential for all locatable minerals is low for all 9 parcels, and that no mining claims exist on any of the parcels (LR2000, 2012), the development potential is

Table 2. Mineral Occurrence and Development Potential for the 9 Parcels.

<u>FRI parcels (Sheridan County).</u>	Level of Occurrence Potential	Level of Development Certainty	Development Potential
Locatable Minerals			
Hardrock Minerals (copper, lead, uranium, etc.)	L	B	L
Placer Minerals (gold, bentonite, etc.)	L	B	L
Other (rare earth elements, etc.)	L	B	L
Leasable Minerals			
Coal	H	C	L
Oil/Gas	H	C	M / L
Geothermal	L	B	L
Other (sodium, phosphate, etc.)	L	B	L
Salable Minerals (also called Mineral Materials)			
Sand/Gravel	L	B	L
Porcellanite (also called clinker or "scoria")	L	B	L
Other (stone, moss rock, petrified wood, etc.)	L	B	L
<u>MRT parcel (Campbell County).</u>			
Locatable Minerals			
Hardrock Minerals (copper, lead, uranium, etc.)	L	B	L
Placer Minerals (gold, bentonite, etc.)	L	B	L
Other (rare earth elements, etc.)	L	B	L
Leasable Minerals			
Coal	H	C	L
Oil/Gas	H	C	M / L
Geothermal	L	B	L
Other (sodium, phosphate, etc.)	L	B	L
Salable Minerals (also called Mineral Materials)			
Sand/Gravel	L	B	L
Porcellanite (also called clinker or "scoria")	L	B	L
Other (stone, moss rock, petrified wood, etc.)	L	B	L
O = No Potential.	M = Moderate Potential.		
L = Low Potential.	H = High Potential.		

A = The available data are insufficient and/or cannot be considered as direct or indirect evidence to support or refute the possible existence of energy and/or mineral resources
 B = The available data provide indirect evidence to support or refute the possible existence of energy and/or mineral resources
 C = The available data provide direct evidence to support or refute the possible existence of energy and/or mineral resources
 D = The available data provide abundant direct and indirect evidence to support or refute the possible existence of energy and/or mineral resources

also low (USDOJ, 2009a).

None of the 9 parcels have current coal leases, nor have they seen historic exploration, leasing nor development for coal (Al Elser, 2012). All 9 parcels are located outside the Coal Development Potential (CDP) areas identified in the BFO RMP Coal Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario (USDOJ, 2011). The FRI parcels are all located a

significant distance from existing coal mines (parcel BC1 is closest, approximately 30 miles east-southeast of the Youngs Creek and Big Horn Mines). Given their distance to the nearest coal mines, and being outside the CDP, their coal development potential is low. Due to the distance from the MRT parcel to the nearest coal mine (approximately 27 miles S, the Buckskin Mine), and given its' location outside the CDP areas and the degraded condition of the coal outcrops in the area, its' coal development potential is low (Al Elser, 2012; USDO, 2011 and 2009a).

Parcel 1, as listed on Table 1, is within oil and gas lease WYW-155737. The remaining the 8 FRI parcels had been leased for oil and gas in the past but those leases have expired, or were terminated or cancelled. There are no active oil/gas leases on the MRT parcel. There are numerous terminated or active oil/gas leases surrounding all 9 parcels (LR2000, 2012). Conventional oil/gas development potential for all 8 FRI parcels is negligible, and low for the MRT parcel: fewer than 2 wells per township are projected to be drilled from now through 2028 for the FRI parcels, and 2-10 per township for the MRT parcel for the same time period. The CBNG development potential for all 9 parcels is moderate, with a likelihood of 2-10 wells drilled per township from now through 2028 (Dean Stilwell, 2012; Stilwell, et al., 2012; USDO, 2009b and 2009a).

Given that the occurrence potential for geothermal energy is low, the development potential is also low (USDOE, 1893; USDO and USDA, 2008).

Given that the occurrence potential for other leasable minerals is low, their development potential is also low (USDO, 2009a).

Given the low occurrence potential for salable minerals on all 9 parcels, the development potential is also low (USDO, 2009a). There is one BLM-authorized clinker (porcellanite) mine near the MRT parcel, however, indicating that there is some potential for this mineral to be developed outside these parcels. This mine is currently authorized to Hettinger, LLC, under BLM serial casefile WYW-169859, in T56N, R73W, Section 8, and is due to expire in December 2012. This mine is situated on Federally-owned mineral estate under privately-owned surface estate, and occurs approximately 0.6 miles west-northwest of the MRT parcel (LR2000, 2012).

X. SURFACE INTERFERENCE

Any use of the surface for mineral development would greatly interfere with the stated intent of both private parties for desiring to purchase these lands.

XI. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The direct sale of these 9 parcels of Federal lands would involve surface ownership only; the Federal government would retain ownership of all minerals.

The development potential for locatable minerals, coal, oil, geothermal energy, other leasable minerals, and salable minerals is likely to be low the foreseeable future on all 9 parcels. Development of CBNG is moderately likely, however, for all 9 parcels.

If the sales are approved, the surface would be managed in a manner consistent with surrounding adjacent lands: ranching and wildlife. The Federally-owned minerals would be managed in a manner consistent with the general management goals and objectives set out in the RMP (1985, Revised 2001 and 2003):

- Management Action LR-4: Public lands are available for further consideration for sale or exchange. The possible sale or exchange of lands in producing oil and gas fields (known geologic structures – KGSSs), high interest coal areas, and designated mineral material sites will be considered case by case.
- Management Action MM-3: Federal coal land available to be considered for lease modifications, emergency leases, and exchanges includes the uncommitted coal land determined to be acceptable for coal development and leasing consideration both within the priority areas for competitive leasing and outside the priority areas for leasing.
- Management Action MM-7: Continue to lease and allow development of federal oil and gas in the Buffalo Resource Area.
- Management Action MM-8: The entire resource area is available for mineral material sales initiated either by the BLM or by application. This does not include sites designated by the BLM for free use by city, county, and state entities.
- Management Action MM-9: BLM-administered locatable minerals will remain subject to the provisions of the 1872 Mining Law [General Mining Law of 1872] except in areas that are now withdrawn from mineral location.

XII. REFERENCES

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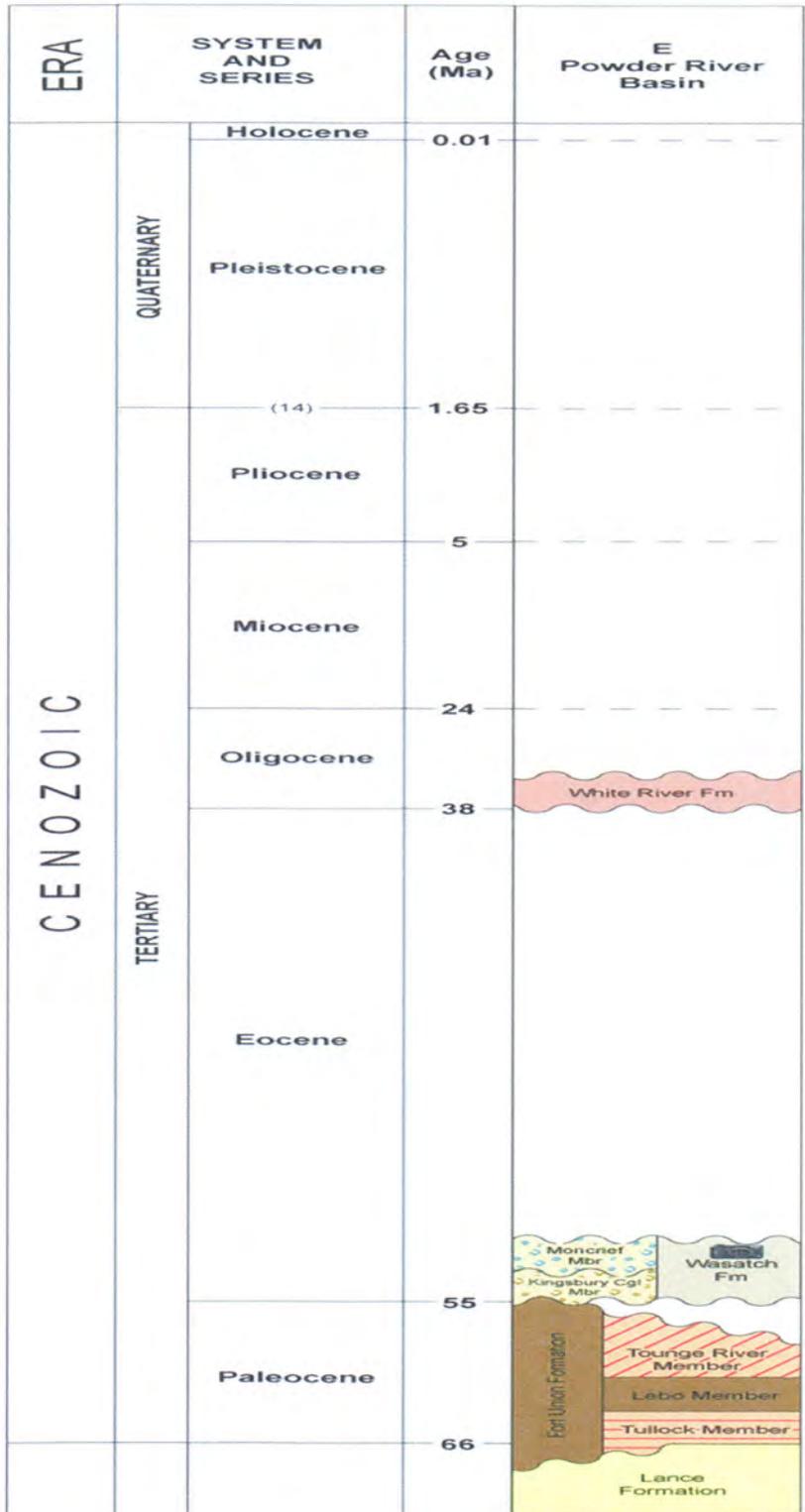
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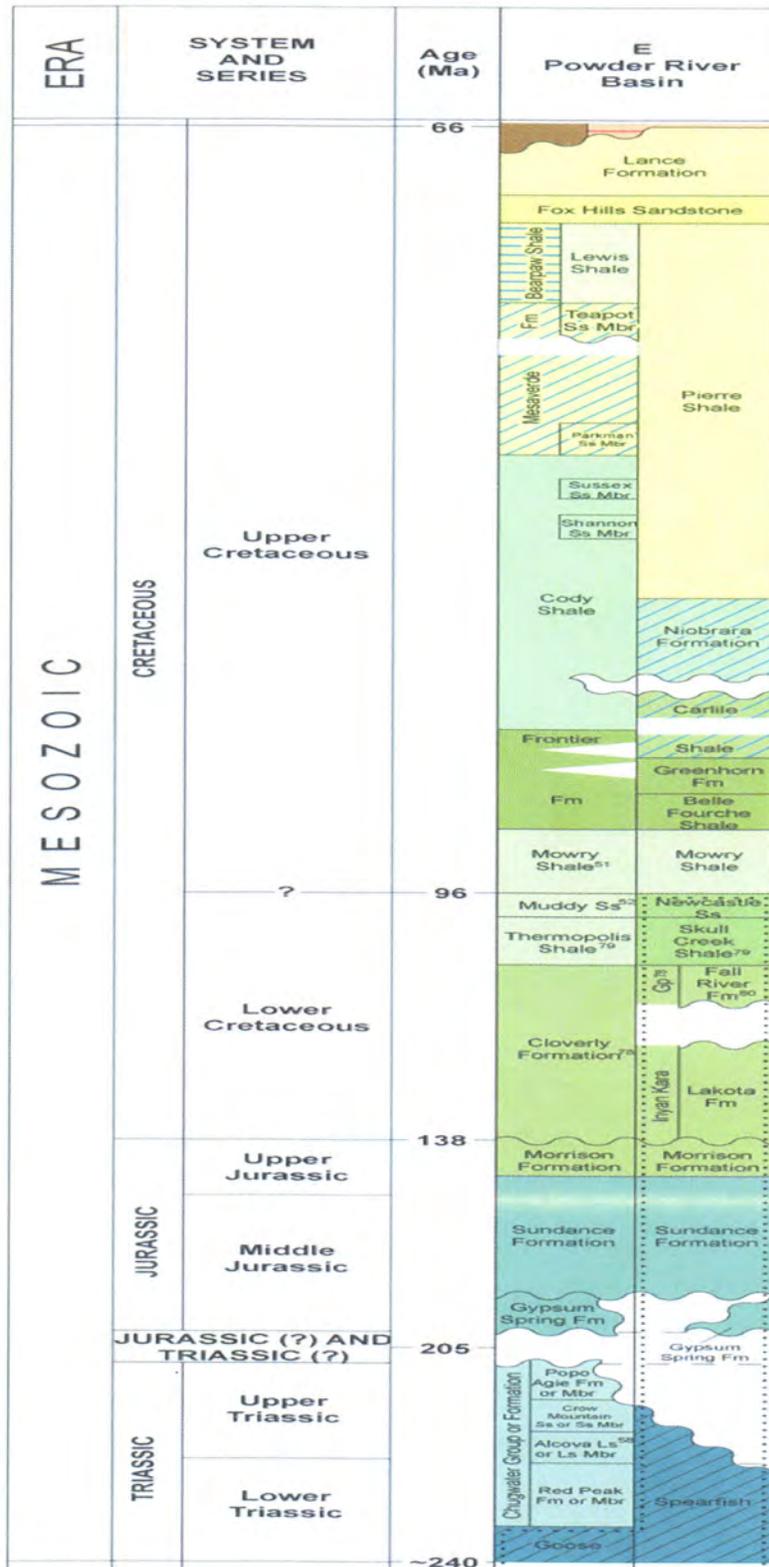
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XIII. APPENDICES

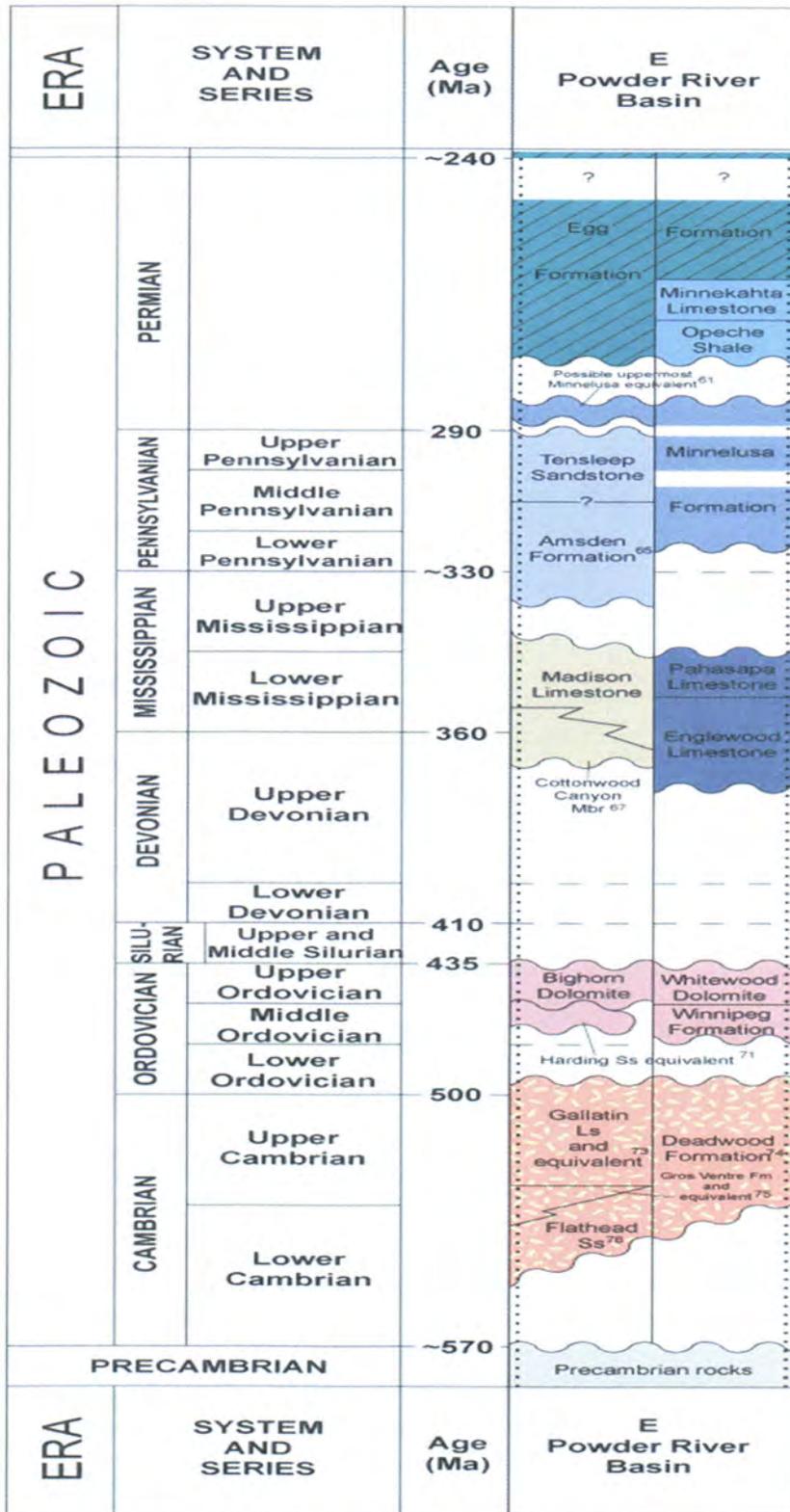
Appendix A-4. Generalized Stratigraphic Column for all 9 Parcels.



Appendix A-4, continued.

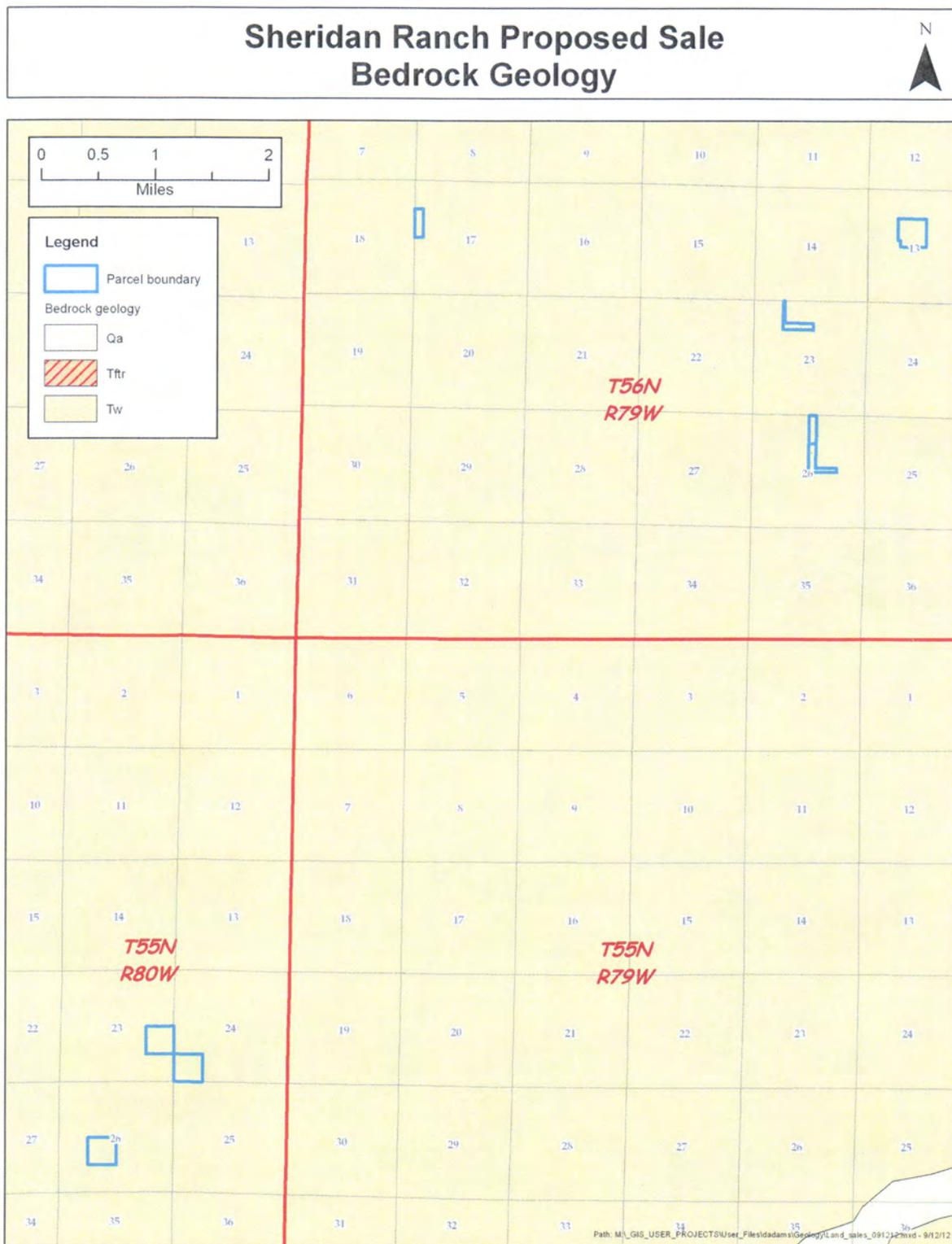


Appendix A-4, continued.



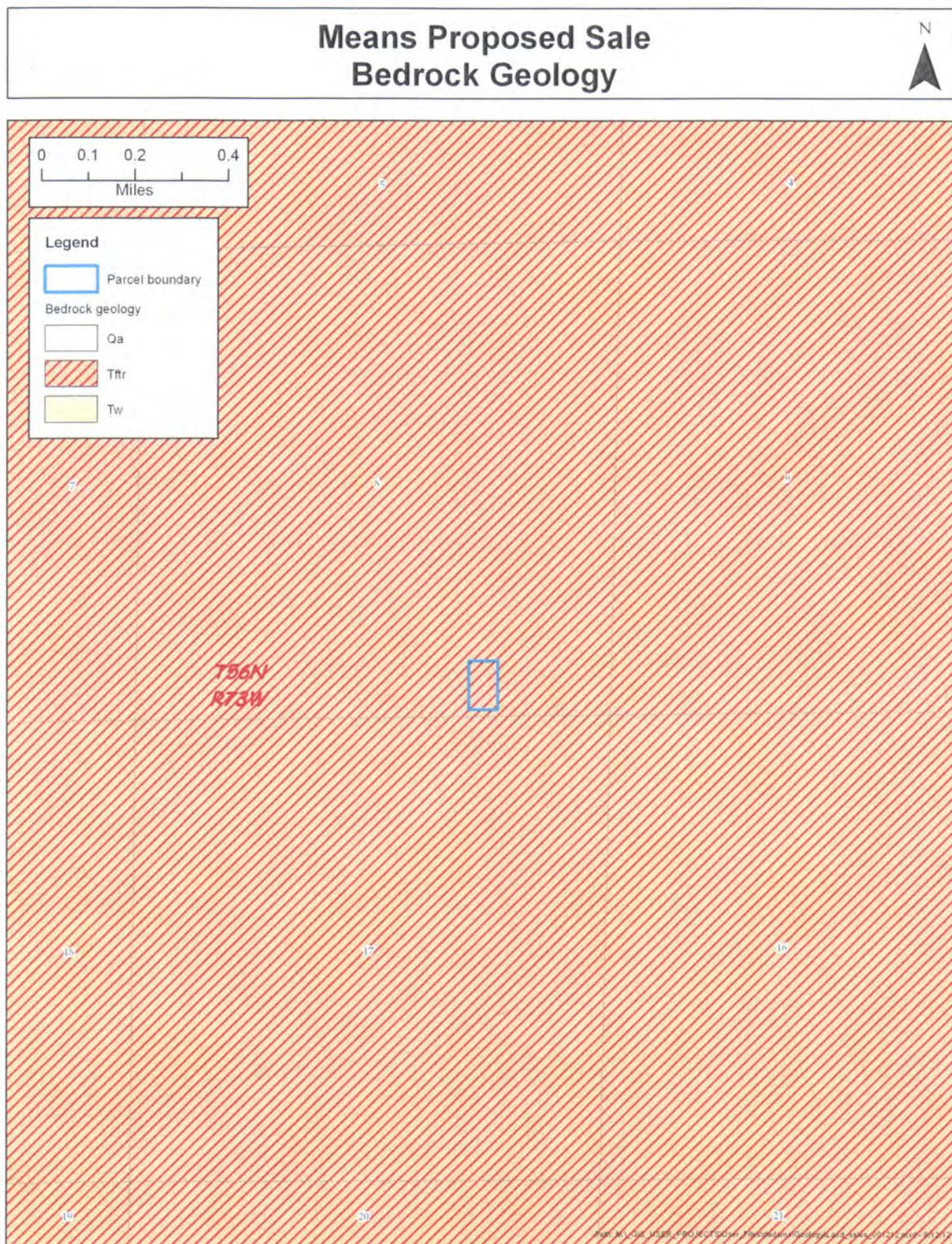
Source: WSGS (2012a).

Appendix A-5. Subsurface Formation Underlying FRI's 8 Parcels.



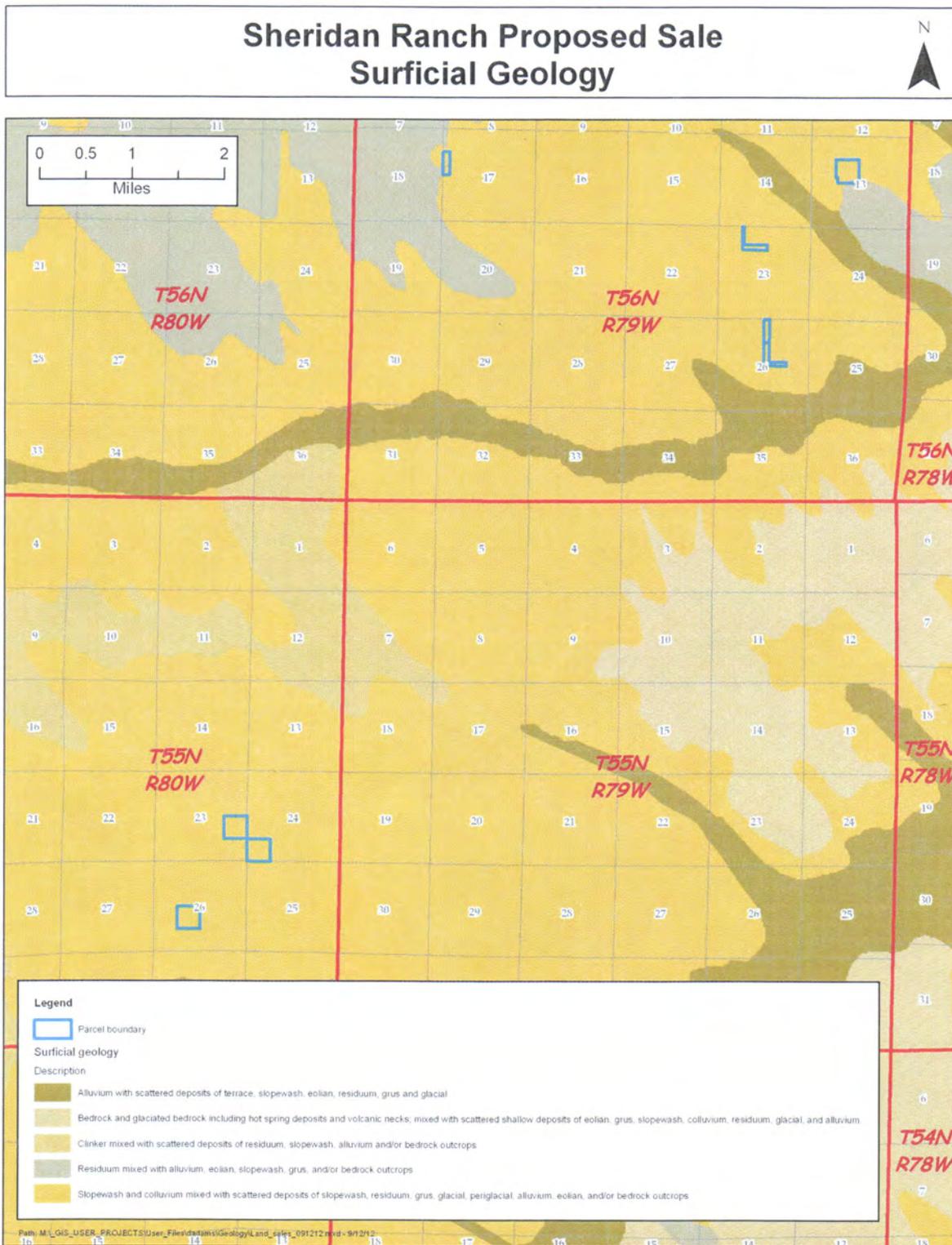
Source: Love and Christensen (1985).

Appendix A-6. Subsurface Formation Underlying MRT's 1 Parcel.



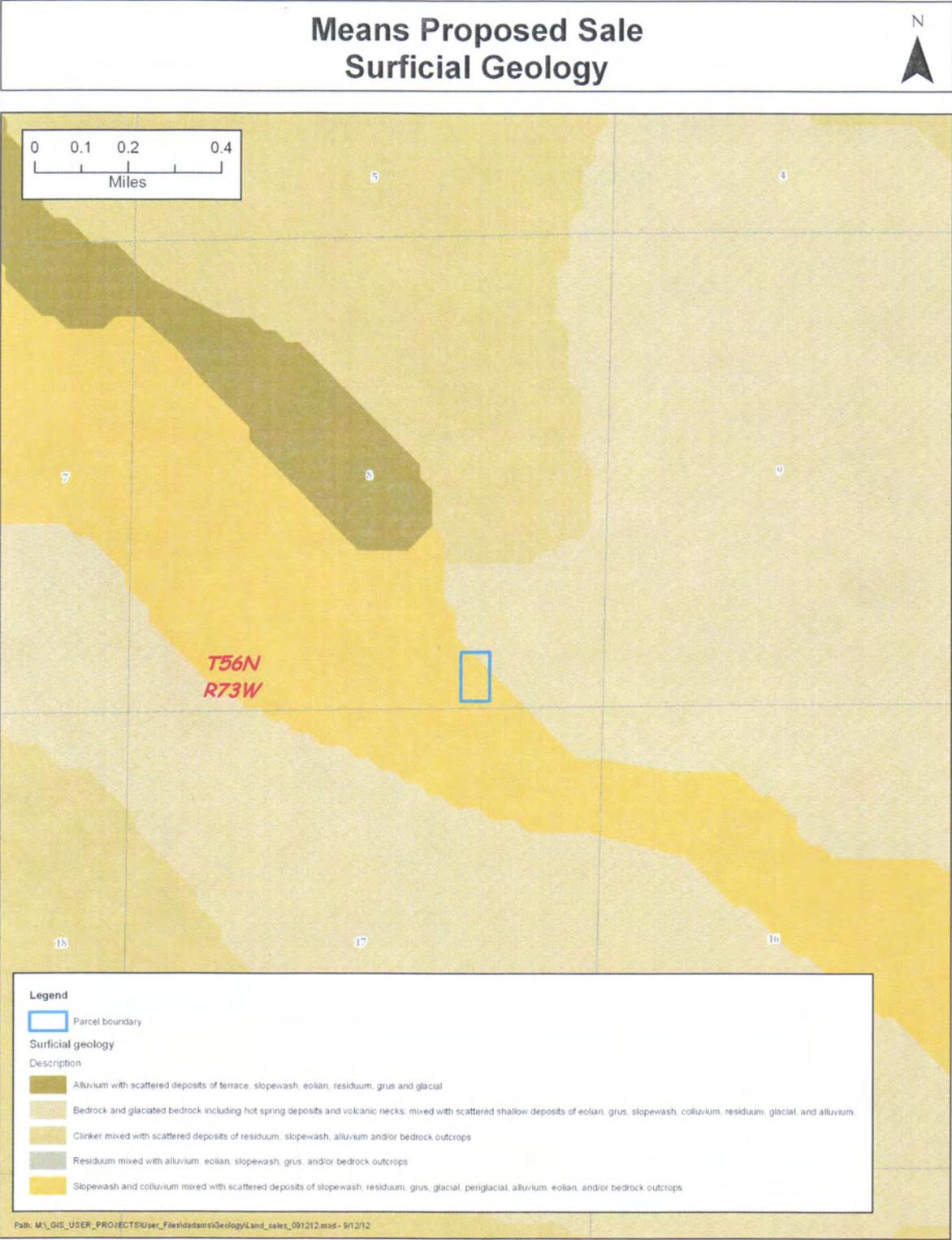
Source: Love and Christensen (1985).

Appendix A-7. Surficial Geology for FRI's 8 Parcels.



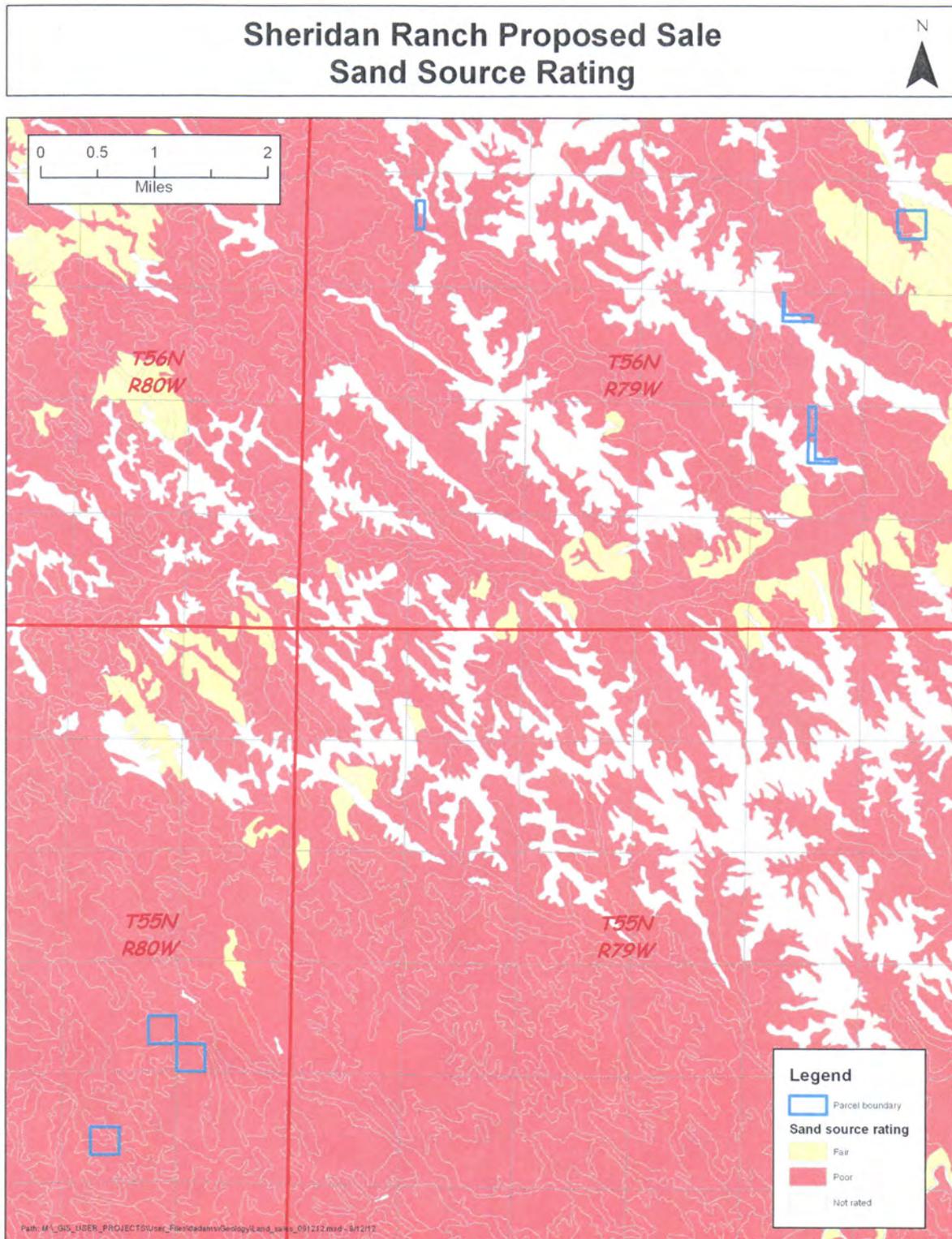
Source: WSGS (2012b).

Appendix A-8. Surficial Geology for MRT's 1 Parcel.



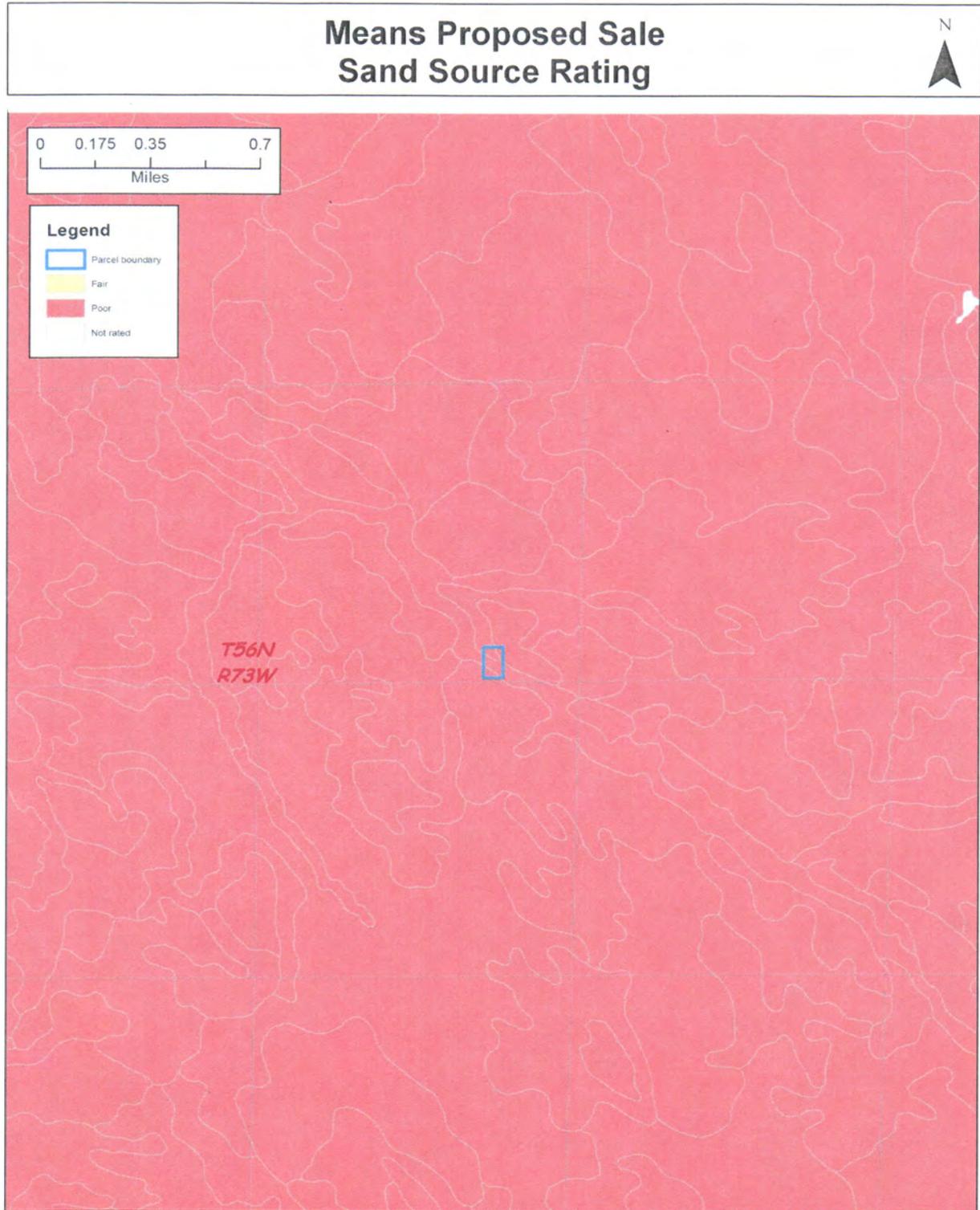
Source: WSGS (2012b).

Appendix A-9. Potential for Sand/Gravel for FRI's 8 Parcels.



Source: NRCS (2012).

Appendix A-10. Potential for Sand/Gravel for MRT's 1 Parcel.



Source: NRCS (2012).

Appendix A-11. BLM Mineral Potential Classification System.

LEVEL OF POTENTIAL:

- O. The geologic environment, the inferred geologic processes, and the lack of mineral occurrences do not indicate potential for accumulation of mineral resources.
- L. The geologic environment and the inferred geologic processes indicate low potential for accumulation of mineral resources.
- M. The geologic environment, the inferred geologic processes, and the reported mineral occurrences or valid geochemical/geophysical anomaly indicate moderate potential for accumulation of mineral resources.
- H. The geologic environment, the inferred geologic processes, the reported mineral occurrences, or valid geochemical/geophysical anomaly, and the known mines or deposits, indicate high potential for accumulation of mineral resources. The “known mines and deposits” do not have to be within the area that is being classified but have to be within the same type of geologic environment.
- ND. Minerals potential not determined due to lack of useful data. This does not require a level-of-certainty qualifier.

LEVEL OF CERTAINTY:

- A. The available data are insufficient or cannot be considered as direct or indirect evidence to support or refute the possible existence of mineral resources within the respective area.
- B. The available data provide indirect evidence to support or refute the possible existence of mineral resources.
- C. The available data provide direct but quantitatively minimal evidence to support or refute the possible existence of mineral resources.
- D. The available data provide abundant direct and indirect evidence to support or refute this possible existence of mineral resources.
- O/D. For determination of No Potential. This class shall be seldom used, and when used it should be for a specific commodity only.

As used in this report, the term potential refers to “. . . potential for the presence (occurrence) of a concentration of one or more energy and/or mineral resources. It does not refer to or imply potential for development and/or extraction of the mineral resource(s). It does not imply that the potential concentration is or may be economic, that is, could be extracted profitably.”

Source: USDO (1985b).

Appendix A-12. LR2000 Database Serial Register Page for BLM Casefile WYW-168342, FRI.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CASE RECORDATION
(LIVE) SERIAL REGISTER PAGE

Run Date/Time: 10/12/12 10:28 AM

Page 1 of 1

01 10-21-1976;090STAT2750;43USC1713

Total Acres

Serial Number

Case Type 271000: SALE-PUBLIC LANDS-FLPMA

208.120

WYW--- - 168342

Commodity 999: TO BE DEFINED

Case Disposition: PENDING

Case File Juris: BUFFALO FIELD OFFICE

Serial Number: WYW--- - 168342

Name & Address

Int Rel

%Interest

BLM-WYOMING SO PO BOX 1828 CHEYENNE WY 820031828 PARTY-IN-INTEREST 100.000000000

Serial Number: WYW--- - 168342

Mer Twp Rng	Sec	SType	Nr Suff	Subdivision	District/Resource Area	County	Mgmt Agency
06 0560N 0790W 013		TRAC		51B;	BUFFALO FIELD OFFICE	SHERIDAN	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
06 0560N 0790W 017		LOTS		1;	BUFFALO FIELD OFFICE	SHERIDAN	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
06 0560N 0790W 023		LOTS		1;	BUFFALO FIELD OFFICE	SHERIDAN	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
06 0560N 0790W 026		LOTS		1,2;	BUFFALO FIELD OFFICE	SHERIDAN	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
06 0550N 0800W 023		ALIQ		NESE;	BUFFALO FIELD OFFICE	SHERIDAN	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
06 0550N 0800W 024		ALIQ		SWSW;	BUFFALO FIELD OFFICE	SHERIDAN	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT
06 0550N 0800W 026		ALIQ		NESW;	BUFFALO FIELD OFFICE	SHERIDAN	BUREAU OF LAND MGMT

Serial Number: WYW--- - 168342

Act Date	Code	Action	Action Remarks	Pending Office
10/31/2011	387	CASE ESTABLISHED		

Serial Number: WYW--- - 168342

Line Nr	Remarks
0001	FARMLAND RESERVE INC DIRECT SALE PROPOSAL;

NO WARRANTY IS MADE BY BLM
FOR USE OF THE DATA FOR
PURPOSES NOT INTENDED BY BLM

Source: LR2000 (2012).

Appendix A-13. LR2000 Database Serial Register Page for BLM Casefile WYW-168374, MRT.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CASE RECORDATION
(LIVE) SERIAL REGISTER PAGE

Run Date/Time: 10/12/12 10:36 AM

Page 1 of 1

01 10-21-1976;090STAT2750;43USC1713

Total Acres
4.153

Serial Number
WYW--- - 168374

Case Type 271000: SALE-PUBLIC LANDS-FLPMA

Commodity 999: TO BE DEFINED

Case Disposition: PENDING

Case File Juris: BUFFALO FIELD OFFICE

Serial Number: WYW--- - 168374

Name & Address

Int Rel

%Interest

BLM-WYOMING SO

PO BOX 1828

CHEYENNE WY 820031828

PARTY-IN-INTEREST

100.000000000

Serial Number: WYW--- - 168374

Mer Twp Rng Sec SType Nr SUFF Subdivision

District/Resource Area

County

Mgmt Agency

06 0560N 0730W 008 LOTS

17,

BUFFALO FIELD OFFICE

CAMPBELL

BUREAU OF LAND MGMT

Serial Number: WYW--- - 168374

Act Date Code Action

Action Remarks

Pending Office

06/28/2012

387

CASE ESTABLISHED

Line Nr Remarks

Serial Number: WYW--- - 168374

0001 CRAIG G AND PEGGY S MEANS REV TRUST;

NO WARRANTY IS MADE BY BLM
FOR USE OF THE DATA FOR
PURPOSES NOT INTENDED BY BLM

Source: LR2000 (2012).