



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
5353 Yellowstone Road, Suite 308A
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
HIGH PLAINS DISTRICT
CASPER FIELD OFFICE
2011 SEP -2 P

AUG 31 2011

In Reply Refer To:
ES-61411/WY11CPA0218

Memorandum

To: District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, High Plains District Office,
Casper, Wyoming

From: *For* Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wyoming Field Office,
Cheyenne, Wyoming *[Signature]*

Subject: Comments on the Buckskin Mine Hay Creek II Coal Lease Application-Final
Environmental Impact Statement

Thank you for your letter dated July 19, 2011, received in our office on July 19, and the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Buckskin Mine Hay Creek II Coal Lease Application, received in our office on August 5, 2011. This tract is located northwest and immediately adjacent to the existing Buckskin Mine in northern Campbell County, Wyoming. The FEIS assesses the environmental consequences of the lease process through the competitive, sealed bid sale of the federal coal reserves included in the proposed tract to Kiewit Mining Properties, Inc. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) previously provided scoping comments to the Bureau of Land Management on September 24, 2008 (WY08FA0200), comments on the Draft EIS on May 3, 2010 (WY10CPA0111), and informal consultation on August 30, 2010 (WY10I0365) on the Hay Creek II Lease Application. With regard to the FEIS, the Service does not have additional comments.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Hay Creek II FEIS. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Pauline Schuette at (307) 684-1069.

cc: BLM, Threatened and Endangered Species Coordinator, Cheyenne, WY (C. Keefe)
BLM, Environmental Protection Specialist, Casper, WY (T. Johnson)
WGFD, Statewide Habitat Protection Coordinator, Cheyenne, WY (M. Flanderka)
WGFD, Non-Game Coordinator, Lander, WY (B. Oakleaf)

BLM Response

Thank you for reviewing the *Buckskin Mine Hay Creek II Coal Lease by Application Environmental Impact Statement*.