

FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE
NORTH JACOBS RANCH COAL LEASE APPLICATION WYW146744

NOTICE

On August 8, 2001, the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the North Jacobs Ranch Coal Lease Application, Serial Number WYW146744, was provided to the public for review.

On August 24, 2001, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will publish its 30-day notice of availability in the Federal Register. The Bureau of Land Management will accept comments on this FEIS thru September 24, 2001. Comments received during the EPA notice of availability period will be considered in preparing the Record of Decision.

Please send written comments to Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, Attn: Nancy Doelger, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. Written comments may also be e-mailed to the attention of Nancy Doelger at "casper_wymail@blm.gov." E-mail comments must include the name and mailing address of the commentor to receive consideration. Written comments may also be faxed to 307-261-7587.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, Wyoming, during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

If you have any questions or would like to obtain additional copies of this FEIS, please contact Nancy Doelger at 307-261-7627, or at the above address.

Alan L. Kesterke
Associate State Director

**NORTH JACOBS RANCH COAL LEASE APPLICATION (WYW141435)
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
ABSTRACT**

Draft Final

Lead Agency:

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Cooperating Agency:

U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Counties That Could Be Directly Affected:

Campbell County, Wyoming

Abstract:

This Final Environment Impact Statement (EIS) assesses the environmental consequences of a federal decision to hold a competitive, sealed-bid sale and issue a lease for a federal coal tract located in southeastern Campbell County, Wyoming, subject to standard and special lease stipulations. The North Jacobs Ranch Lease By Application (LBA) Tract as applied for by Jacobs Ranch Coal Company includes approximately 4,821 acres containing approximately 533 million tons of in-place federal coal. Jacobs Ranch Coal Company operates the adjacent Jacobs Ranch Mine and proposes to mine the North Jacobs Ranch LBA Tract as a maintenance tract for the existing mine, if a lease sale is held and they acquire the lease. This Final EIS describes the physical, biological, cultural, historic, and socioeconomic resources in and surrounding the project area. The focus for the impact analysis was based upon resource issues and concerns identified during previous coal leasing analyses and public scoping conducted for this lease application. Potential concerns related to development include impacts to groundwater, air quality, and wildlife and cumulative impacts related to ongoing surface coal mining and other proposed development in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming. Comments received on the Draft EIS are included as Appendix I in the Final EIS.

Other Environmental Review or Consultation Requirements:

This Final EIS, in compliance with Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (as amended), identifies any endangered or threatened species which are likely to be affected by the Proposed Action.

Lead Agency Contact:

For further information contact Nancy Doelger at:
Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, WY 82604
(307) 261-7627
E-mail comments may be sent to the attention of Nancy Doelger at
casper_wymail@blm.gov