

DRAFT EIS FOR 1984 COAL LEASE SALE
POWDER RIVER REGION

Lead Agency: Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior

Cooperating Agency: Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Type of Action: Administrative

Abstract:

This statement assesses the environmental consequences of five alternatives for new leasing of coal. The new leasing alternatives range from leasing 9 tracts (0.997 billion tons) to leasing 22 tracts (4.515 billion tons). A sixth alternative, the "no action" alternative, also is included. The "no action" alternative includes seven coal exchanges: I-90 exchanges for Big Horn Coal, Gulf, Belco, and Kerr-McGee; an alluvial valley floor exchange for Whitney Benefits/Peter Kiewit Sons; and exchanges from Northern Cheyenne legislation for Peabody Coal Company and Consolidation Coal Company. The "no action" alternative also includes 67 preference right lease applications totaling 15 mine units and the existing mining operations listed in appendix B.

The statement assesses impacts that would result from additional federal coal leasing and development and cumulative impacts from the exchanges and preference right lease applications. The counties for which impacts are assessed are Campbell, Converse, Crook, Johnson, Natrona, Sheridan, and Weston in Wyoming and Big Horn, Powder River, and Rosebud in Montana.

Further information regarding this statement or the alternatives may be obtained from the address below. Comments, which will be accepted until April 30, 1984, should be addressed to:

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This draft environmental impact statement will be available to the EPA and the public February 29, 1984.