

FINAL

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE
POWDER RIVER COAL LEASE APPLICATION
(FEDERAL COAL LEASE APPLICATION WYW136142)
AND THE
THUNDERCLOUD COAL LEASE APPLICATION
(FEDERAL COAL LEASE APPLICATION 136458)**

Prepared by

**Western Water Consultants
Sheridan, Wyoming**

and

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Casper District Office**

Cooperating Agencies

U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

and

U.S. Forest Service

JANUARY 1998

**POWDER RIVER COAL LEASE APPLICATION (WYW136142) AND
THUNDERCLOUD COAL LEASE APPLICATION (WYW136458)
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
ABSTRACT**

[] Draft [X] Final

Lead Agency:

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

Cooperating Agencies:

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

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

Counties That Could Be Directly Affected:

Campbell County, Wyoming

Converse County, Wyoming

Abstract:

This Final Environment Impact Statement (FEIS) assesses the environmental consequences of a federal decision to offer two federal coal tracts in southeastern Campbell County, Wyoming for lease at separate, competitive, sealed bid sales, subject to standard and special lease stipulations. The Powder River Lease By Application (LBA) Tract as applied for by Powder River Coal Company includes approximately 4,020 acres containing approximately 515 million tons of federal coal. Powder River Coal Company operates the adjacent North Antelope and Rochelle Mines. The Thundercloud LBA Tract, which is located approximately 9 miles north of the Powder River LBA Tract, was applied for by Kerr-McGee Coal Company, the operator of the adjacent Jacobs Ranch Mine. It includes approximately 3,400 acres containing about 427 million tons of federal coal as applied for. This FEIS describes the physical, biological, cultural, historic, and socioeconomic resources in and surrounding the project area. The focus for impact analysis was based upon resource issues and concerns identified during public scoping. 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.

Other Environmental Review or Consultation Requirements:

This FEIS, 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:

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Date FEIS Made Available to EPA and Public: February 20, 1998

End of FEIS Availability Period: March 23, 1998