



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Cody Field Office
P.O. Box 518
Cody, Wyoming 82414-0518



SCOPING STATEMENT

Oil and Gas Development In The Heart Mountain War Relocation Center Area

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Cody Field Office is initiating an environmental assessment of potential oil and gas development in the area of the Heart Mountain War Relocation Center (HMWRC), which has been nominated as a National Historic Landmark. HMWRC is located between the cities of Powell and Cody, in Park County, Wyoming. Approximate surface ownership of the study area is 20,698 acres of private and 824 acres Bureau of Reclamation. Approximate subsurface (mineral) ownership is 13,445 acres federal, and 8,077 acres non-federal. (Note: a BLM decision will affect only federal mineral estate; it has no jurisdiction over development of non-federal mineral estate.)

The surrounding area is primarily agricultural with limited residential development. Issues identified by the interdisciplinary team to date include visual impacts to the HMWRC and the potential for change to the setting and "sense of place", effects to the pending National Historic Landmark designation, and impacts to site visitors as well as local residents, tourists, and travelers on the adjacent U.S. Highway 14A.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The BLM conducts environmental assessments in compliance with NEPA and regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality. Environmental analyses serve several purposes: they provide information about potential environmental consequences of a project; identify means to minimize or avoid environmental harm resulting from a project; and provide authorities information to make an informed decision regarding the project.

Public scoping is an element of the NEPA process. Scoping activities are initiated early in the process to:

- identify reasonable alternatives to be evaluated in the analysis;
- identify environmental issues of concern related to the proposed project;
- and
- determine the depth of analysis for issues addressed in the environmental assessment.

This scoping statement has been prepared to enable governmental agencies, the general public, and other interested parties to participate in the analysis. Public input is important in establishing the scope of analysis for any NEPA document, and the BLM encourages public participation.

Request for Comments

The BLM Cody Field Office would appreciate your comments, concerns, and suggestions.

Written comments should be submitted by January 12, 2007 to:

BLM – Cody Field Office
Attn: David Seward
PO Box 518
Cody, WY 82414

E-mail: cody_wymail@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mary D'Aversa

Mary D'Aversa for
Michael Blymyer
Field Manager, Cody