

APPENDIX B

**UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA FOR THE
NORTH HIGHLIGHT FIELD, SOUTH HIGHLIGHT FIELD,
WEST HIGHLIGHT FIELD, WEST JACOBS RANCH,
NORTH PORCUPINE, AND SOUTH PORCUPINE
LBA STUDY AREAS**

**APPENDIX B. UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA FOR THE NORTH HIGHLIGHT
FIELD LBA STUDY AREA**

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985, 2001a)	FINDINGS FOR THE NORTH HIGHLIGHT FIELD LBA STUDY AREA
<p>1. Federal Land Systems. With certain exceptions that do not apply to this tract, all federal lands included in the following systems are unsuitable for mining: National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National System of Trails, National Wilderness Preservation System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Recreation Areas, Lands acquired through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, National Forests and Federal lands in incorporated cities, towns and villages.</p>	<p>There are Federal lands located around Gillette, Sheridan, and Wright that were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion. TBNG lands are included in the North Hilight Field LBA study area. The TBNG is not a proclaimed National Forest.</p>	<p>None of the federal lands determined to be unsuitable under Criterion 1 are present on the North Hilight Field LBA study area. Therefore, there are no unsuitable findings under this criterion.</p>
<p>2. Rights-Of-Way and Easements. Federal lands that are within ROWs or easements or within surface leases for residential, commercial, industrial or other public purposes, on federally owned surface, are unsuitable for mining.</p>	<p>Portions of the BNSF & UP railroad ROW, the Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line ROW, the Wyoming State Highway 450 ROW, and the I-90 ROW were found to be unsuitable under this criterion within the general review area.</p>	<p>The portions of the Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line ROW, the Wyoming State Highway 450 ROW, the I-90 ROW, and the BNSF & UP railroad ROW that were determined to be unsuitable are not located on the North Hilight Field LBA study area. Therefore, there are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 2 for the North Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>3. Buffer Zones for Rights-Of-Way, Communities, and Buildings. Federal lands within 100 ft of a ROW of a public road or a cemetery; or within 300 ft of any public building, school, church, community or institutional building or public park; or within 300 ft of an occupied dwelling are unsuitable for mining.</p>	<p>Portions of Wyoming State Highway 450, Interstate Highway I-90, and one cemetery were found to be unsuitable under this criterion. Decisions were deferred on other highways/roads, occupied dwellings, and one school until an application to lease is filed.</p>	<p>Highway 450, I-90, and the cemetery are not located on the North Hilight Field LBA study area. No occupied dwellings or schools are located on the study area. Portions of the ROWs of the Shroyer, Hilight, Small, and Jacobs roads, all county roads, are located on the tract as applied for and/or under Alternative 2. The Small and Jacobs roads have been vacated by the Campbell County Commissioners. Therefore, the portions of the North Hilight Field LBA study area within the ROWs of the Shroyer and Hilight roads and the associated 100-ft buffer zones are designated unsuitable and the lease will be stipulated to exclude mining within these areas unless a permit to move the road is approved by Campbell County Board of Commissioners.</p>
<p>4. Wilderness Study Areas. Federal lands designated as wilderness study areas are unsuitable for mining while under review for possible wilderness designation.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area are within a wilderness study area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 4 for the North Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>5. Scenic Areas. Scenic federal lands designated by visual resource management analysis as Class I (outstanding visual quality or high visual sensitivity) but not currently on National Register of Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area meet the scenic criteria as outlined.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 5 for the North Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>6. Land Used for Scientific Study. Federal lands under permit by the surface management agency and being used for scientific studies involving food or fiber production, natural resources, or technology demonstrations and experiments are unsuitable for the duration of the study except where mining would not jeopardize the purpose of the study.</p>	<p>Two vegetation monitoring study sites on the TBNG (NE¼ of Sec. 1, T.41N., R.71W. and NW¼ NW¼ of Sec. 30, T.41N., R.69W.), and the Hoe Creek Site (Sec. 7, T.47N., R.72W.) were found to be unsuitable under this criterion.</p>	<p>The vegetation monitoring sites and the Hoe Creek site are not located on the North Hilight Field LBA study area. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 6 for the North Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>

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UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985, 2001a)	FINDINGS FOR THE NORTH HILIGHT FIELD LBA STUDY AREA
<p>7. Cultural Resources. All publicly or privately owned places which are included in or are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and an appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable.</p>	<p>On the basis of the consultation with SHPO, there were no unsuitable findings under this criterion in the general review area. Continue using the "Standard Archeological Stipulation" to new leases.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 7 for the North Hilight Field LBA study area. The "Standard Archeological Stipulation" should be applied if this tract is leased.</p>
<p>8. Natural Areas. Federal lands designated as natural areas or National Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area are designated as natural areas or as National Natural Landmarks.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 8 for the North Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>9. Critical Habitat for Threatened or Endangered Plant and Animal Species. Federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant and animal species, and scientifically documented essential habitat for threatened or endangered species are unsuitable.</p>	<p>There is no federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant or animal species within the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 9 for the North Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>10. State Listed Threatened or Endangered Species. Federal lands containing habitat determined to be critical or essential for plant or animal species listed by a state pursuant to state law as threatened or endangered shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>Wyoming does not maintain a state list of threatened or endangered species of plants or animals. Therefore, this criterion does not apply.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 10 for the North Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>11. Bald or Golden Eagle Nests. An active bald or golden eagle nest and appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable unless the lease can be conditioned so that eagles will not be disturbed during breeding season or unless golden eagle nests will be moved.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle nests on a case by case basis at the time of leasing. Establish buffer zones around nests during mining and reclamation planning after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>There are currently no bald or golden eagle nests (active or inactive) on the North Hilight Field LBA study area. Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.</p>
<p>12. Bald and Golden Eagle Roost and Concentration Areas. Bald and golden eagle roost and concentration areas on federal lands used during migration and wintering are unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that eagles shall not be adversely disturbed.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle roost areas on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>There are no identified roost sites on the North Hilight Field LBA study area. Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.</p>
<p>13. Falcon Nesting Sites and Buffer Zones. Federal lands containing active falcon (excluding kestrel) cliff nesting sites and a suitable buffer zone shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure the falcons will not be adversely affected.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions on falcon nesting sites and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones around nesting sites after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>No falcon nesting sites have been identified on the North Hilight Field LBA study area. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 13 for the North Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>14. Habitat for Migratory Bird Species. Federal lands which are high priority habitat for migratory bird species of management concern in Wyoming shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that migratory bird habitat will not be adversely affected during the period it is in use.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions on high priority habitat for migratory bird species of management concern in Wyoming and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones for nesting areas during mining and reclamation planning after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>Evaluate suitability during consultation with USFWS.</p>

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985, 2001a)	FINDINGS FOR THE NORTH HIGHLIGHT FIELD LBA STUDY AREA
<p>15. Fish and Wildlife Habitat for Resident Species. Federal lands which the surface management agency and state jointly agree are fish, wildlife and plant habitat of resident species of high interest to the state, and which are essential for maintaining these priority wildlife species, shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure no long-term impact on the species being provided will occur.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions on grouse leks and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with WGFD.</p>	<p>There is currently one occupied and one unoccupied/abandoned (no activity for 10 consecutive years) sage-grouse lek identified on lands within the North Hilight Field LBA study area. There are currently no other occupied or unoccupied sage-grouse leks within 2 miles of the North Hilight Field LBA study area. Evaluate this criterion prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones during mining and reclamation planning after consultation with WGFD.</p>
<p>16. Floodplains. Federal lands in riverine, coastal, and special floodplains shall be considered unsuitable where it is determined that mining could not be undertaken without substantial threat of loss of life or property.</p>	<p>The BLM and USFS have determined that the identified floodplains in the general review area could potentially be mined. Therefore, all lands within the general review area are considered suitable.</p>	<p>Site-specific stipulations and resource protection safeguards will be applied if necessary during mining and reclamation planning. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 16 for the North Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>17. Municipal Watersheds. Federal lands which have been committed by the surface management agency to use as municipal watersheds shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no designated municipal watersheds in the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 17 for the North Hilight Field LBA study area</p>
<p>18. National Resource Waters. Federal lands with national resource waters, as identified by states in their water quality management plans, and ¼-mile buffer zones shall be unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no designated national resource waters within the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 18 for the North Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>19. Alluvial Valley Floors. Federal lands identified by the surface management agency, in consultation with the state, as AVFs where mining would interrupt, discontinue or preclude farming, are unsuitable. Additionally, when mining federal lands outside an AVF would materially damage the quality or quantity of water in surface or underground water systems that would supply AVFs, the land shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>Consider areas determined to contain AVFs significant to farming as unsuitable. Defer decisions on other AVFs and analyze on a case-by-case basis prior to lease issuance.</p>	<p>No AVFs or potential AVFs have been identified on the North Hilight Field LBA study area with characteristics indicating potential significance to farming. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 19 for the North Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>20. State or Indian Tribe Criteria. Federal lands to which is applicable a criterion proposed by the state or Indian tribe located in the planning area and adopted by rulemaking by the Secretary are unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no criterion proposed by state or Indian tribes that have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior. No tribal lands are located in or near the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitability findings for this criterion on the North Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>

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APPENDIX B. UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA FOR THE SOUTH HIGHLIGHT FIELD LBA STUDY AREA

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985, 2001a)	FINDINGS FOR THE SOUTH HIGHLIGHT FIELD LBA STUDY AREA
<p>1. Federal Land Systems. With certain exceptions that do not apply to this tract, all federal lands included in the following systems are unsuitable for mining: National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National System of Trails, National Wilderness Preservation System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Recreation Areas, Lands acquired through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, National Forests and Federal lands in incorporated cities, towns and villages.</p>	<p>There are Federal lands located around Gillette, Sheridan, and Wright that were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion. TBNG lands are included in the South Hilight Field LBA study area. The TBNG is not a proclaimed National Forest.</p>	<p>None of the federal lands determined to be unsuitable under Criterion 1 are present on the South Hilight Field LBA study area. Therefore, there are no unsuitable findings under this criterion.</p>
<p>2. Rights-Of-Way and Easements. Federal lands that are within ROWs or easements or within surface leases for residential, commercial, industrial or other public purposes, on federally owned surface, are unsuitable for mining.</p>	<p>Portions of the BNSF & UP railroad ROW, the Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line ROW, the Wyoming State Highway 450 ROW, and the I-90 ROW were found to be unsuitable under this criterion within the general review area.</p>	<p>The portions of the Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line ROW, the Wyoming State Highway 450 ROW, and the I-90 ROW that were determined to be unsuitable are not located on the South Hilight Field LBA study area. A portion of the north-south BNSF & UP railroad ROW that was found to be unsuitable for mining is located on the western boundary of tract as applied for and under Alternative 2. Therefore, this portion of the BNSF & UP railroad ROW was designated unsuitable and the lease will be stipulated to exclude mining within the ROW.</p>
<p>3. Buffer Zones for Rights-Of-Way, Communities, and Buildings. Federal lands within 100 ft of a ROW of a public road or a cemetery; or within 300 ft of any public building, school, church, community or institutional building or public park; or within 300 ft of an occupied dwelling are unsuitable for mining.</p>	<p>Portions of Wyoming State Highway 450, Interstate Highway I-90, and one cemetery were found to be unsuitable under this criterion. Decisions were deferred on other highways/roads, occupied dwellings, and one school until an application to lease is filed.</p>	<p>Highway 450, I-90, and the cemetery are not located on the South Hilight Field LBA study area. No occupied dwellings or schools are located on the study area. Portions of the ROWs of the Hilight and Reno roads, both county roads, are located on the tract as applied for and/or under Alternative 2. Therefore, the portions of the South Hilight Field LBA study area within the ROWs of the Hilight and Reno roads and the associated 100-ft buffer zones are designated unsuitable and the lease will be stipulated to exclude mining within these areas unless a permit to move the road is approved by Campbell County Board of Commissioners.</p>
<p>4. Wilderness Study Areas. Federal lands designated as wilderness study areas are unsuitable for mining while under review for possible wilderness designation.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area are within a wilderness study area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 4 for the South Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>5. Scenic Areas. Scenic federal lands designated by visual resource management analysis as Class I (outstanding visual quality or high visual sensitivity) but not currently on National Register of Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area meet the scenic criteria as outlined.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 5 for the South Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>6. Land Used for Scientific Study. Federal lands under permit by the surface management agency and being used for scientific studies involving food or fiber production, natural resources, or technology demonstrations and experiments are unsuitable for the duration of the study except where mining would not jeopardize the purpose of the study.</p>	<p>Two vegetation monitoring study sites on the TBNG (NE¼ of Sec. 1, T.41N., R.71W. and NW¼ NW¼ of Sec. 30, T.41N., R.69W.), and the Hoe Creek Site (Sec. 7, T.47N., R.72W.) were found to be unsuitable under this criterion.</p>	<p>The vegetation monitoring sites and the Hoe Creek site are not located on the South Hilight Field LBA study area. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 6 for the South Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985, 2001a)	FINDINGS FOR SOUTH HILIGHT FIELD LBA STUDY AREA
<p>7. Cultural Resources. All publicly or privately owned places which are included in or are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and an appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable.</p>	<p>On the basis of the consultation with SHPO, there were no unsuitable findings under this criterion in the general review area. Continue using the “Standard Archeological Stipulation” to new leases.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 7 for the South Hilight Field LBA study area. The “Standard Archeological Stipulation” should be applied if this tract is leased.</p>
<p>8. Natural Areas. Federal lands designated as natural areas or National Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area are designated as natural areas or as National Natural Landmarks.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 8 for the South Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>9. Critical Habitat for Threatened or Endangered Plant and Animal Species. Federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant and animal species, and scientifically documented essential habitat for threatened or endangered species are unsuitable.</p>	<p>There is no federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant or animal species within the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 9 for the South Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>10. State Listed Threatened or Endangered Species. Federal lands containing habitat determined to be critical or essential for plant or animal species listed by a state pursuant to state law as threatened or endangered shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>Wyoming does not maintain a state list of threatened or endangered species of plants or animals. Therefore, this criterion does not apply.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 10 for the South Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>11. Bald or Golden Eagle Nests. An active bald or golden eagle nest and appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable unless the lease can be conditioned so that eagles will not be disturbed during breeding season or unless golden eagle nests will be moved.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle nests on a case by case basis at the time of leasing. Establish buffer zones around nests during mining and reclamation planning after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>There are currently no bald or golden eagle nests (active or inactive) on the South Hilight Field LBA study area. Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.</p>
<p>12. Bald and Golden Eagle Roost and Concentration Areas. Bald and golden eagle roost and concentration areas on federal lands used during migration and wintering are unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that eagles shall not be adversely disturbed.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle roost areas on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>There are no identified roost sites on the South Hilight Field LBA study area. Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.</p>
<p>13. Falcon Nesting Sites and Buffer Zones. Federal lands containing active falcon (excluding kestrel) cliff nesting sites and a suitable buffer zone shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure the falcons will not be adversely affected.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions on falcon nesting sites and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones around nesting sites after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>No falcon nesting sites have been identified on the South Hilight Field LBA study area. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 13 for the South Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>14. Habitat for Migratory Bird Species. Federal lands which are high priority habitat for migratory bird species of management concern in Wyoming shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that migratory bird habitat will not be adversely affected during the period it is in use.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions on high priority habitat for migratory bird species of management concern in Wyoming and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones for nesting areas during mining and reclamation planning after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>Evaluate suitability during consultation with USFWS.</p>

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UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985, 2001a)	FINDINGS FOR SOUTH HIGHLIGHT FIELD STUDY AREA
<p>15. Fish and Wildlife Habitat for Resident Species. Federal lands which the surface management agency and state jointly agree are fish, wildlife and plant habitat of resident species of high interest to the state, and which are essential for maintaining these priority wildlife species, shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure no long-term impact on the species being provided will occur.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions on grouse leks and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with WGFD.</p>	<p>There are currently are no occupied (active within the last 10 years) or unoccupied (destroyed or abandoned) sage-grouse leks identified on lands within the South Hilight Field LBA study area. There is currently one unoccupied (destroyed) sage-grouse lek located on an existing Black Thunder Mine lease within 2 miles of the South Hilight Field LBA study area. Evaluate this criterion prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones during mining and reclamation planning after consultation with WGFD.</p>
<p>16. Floodplains. Federal lands in riverine, coastal, and special floodplains shall be considered unsuitable where it is determined that mining could not be undertaken without substantial threat of loss of life or property.</p>	<p>The BLM and USFS have determined that the identified floodplains in the general review area could potentially be mined. Therefore, all lands within the general review area are considered suitable.</p>	<p>Site-specific stipulations and resource protection safeguards will be applied if necessary during mining and reclamation planning. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 16 for the South Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>17. Municipal Watersheds. Federal lands which have been committed by the surface management agency to use as municipal watersheds shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no designated municipal watersheds in the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 17 for the South Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>18. National Resource Waters. Federal lands with national resource waters, as identified by states in their water quality management plans, and ¼-mile buffer zones shall be unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no designated national resource waters within the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 18 for the South Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>19. Alluvial Valley Floors. Federal lands identified by the surface management agency, in consultation with the state, as AVFs where mining would interrupt, discontinue or preclude farming, are unsuitable. Additionally, when mining federal lands outside an AVF would materially damage the quality or quantity of water in surface or underground water systems that would supply AVFs, the land shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>Consider areas determined to contain AVFs significant to farming as unsuitable. Defer decisions on other AVFs and analyze on a case-by-case basis prior to lease issuance.</p>	<p>No AVFs or potential AVFs have been identified on the South Hilight Field LBA study area with characteristics indicating potential significance to farming. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 19 for the South Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>20. State or Indian Tribe Criteria. Federal lands to which is applicable a criterion proposed by the state or Indian tribe located in the planning area and adopted by rulemaking by the Secretary are unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no criterion proposed by state or Indian tribes that have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior. No tribal lands are located in or near the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitability findings for this criterion on the South Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>

APPENDIX B. UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA FOR THE WEST HILIGHT FIELD LBA STUDY AREA

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985, 2001a)	FINDINGS FOR WEST HILIGHT FIELD LBA STUDY AREA
<p>1. Federal Land Systems. With certain exceptions that do not apply to this tract, all federal lands included in the following systems are unsuitable for mining: National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National System of Trails, National Wilderness Preservation System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Recreation Areas, Lands acquired through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, National Forests and Federal lands in incorporated cities, towns and villages.</p>	<p>There are Federal lands located around Gillette, Sheridan, and Wright that were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion. TBNG lands are included in the West Hilight Field LBA study area. The TBNG is not a proclaimed National Forest.</p>	<p>None of the federal lands determined to be unsuitable under Criterion 1 are present on the West Hilight Field LBA study area. Therefore, there are no unsuitable findings under this criterion.</p>
<p>2. Rights-Of-Way and Easements. Federal lands that are within ROWs or easements or within surface leases for residential, commercial, industrial or other public purposes, on federally owned surface, are unsuitable for mining.</p>	<p>Portions of the BNSF & UP railroad ROWs, the Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line ROW, the Wyoming State Highway 450 ROW, and the I-90 ROW were found to be unsuitable under this criterion within the general review area.</p>	<p>The portions of the Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line ROW, the Wyoming State Highway 450 ROW, and the I-90 ROW that were determined to be unsuitable are not located on the West Hilight Field LBA study area. A portion of the north-south BNSF & UP railroad ROW that was found to be unsuitable for mining is located on the eastern boundary of the tract configured under Alternative 2. Therefore, this portion of the BNSF & UP railroad ROW was designated unsuitable and the lease will be stipulated to exclude mining within the ROW.</p>
<p>3. Buffer Zones for Rights-Of-Way, Communities, and Buildings. Federal lands within 100 ft of a ROW of a public road or a cemetery; or within 300 ft of any public building, school, church, community or institutional building or public park; or within 300 ft of an occupied dwelling are unsuitable for mining.</p>	<p>Portions of Wyoming State Highway 450, Interstate Highway I-90, and one cemetery were found to be unsuitable under this criterion. Decisions were deferred on other highways/roads, occupied dwellings, and one school until an application to lease is filed.</p>	<p>I-90 and the cemetery are not located on the West Hilight Field LBA study area. No occupied dwellings or schools are located on the study area. The West Hilight Field LBA study area includes a portion of Highway 450 west of the intersection with the north-south main BNSF & UP railroad trunk line, which was not designated unsuitable for mining under Criterion 2. However, a portion of the Highway 450 ROW is located on the tract as applied for and under Alternatives 2 and 3. A portion of the ROW of the Hilight Road, a county road, is also located on the tract configured under Alternatives 2 and 3. Therefore, the portions of the West Hilight Field LBA study area within the ROWs of Highway 450 and Hilight Road and the associated 100-ft buffer zones are designated unsuitable and the lease will be stipulated to exclude mining within these areas unless permits to move the highway and road are approved by Wyoming Department of Transportation and Campbell County Commissioners, respectively.</p>
<p>4. Wilderness Study Areas. Federal lands designated as wilderness study areas are unsuitable for mining while under review for possible wilderness designation.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area are within a wilderness study area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 4 for the West Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>5. Scenic Areas. Scenic federal lands designated by visual resource management analysis as Class I (outstanding visual quality or high visual sensitivity) but not currently on National Register of Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area meet the scenic criteria as outlined.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 5 for the West Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>

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UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985, 2001a)	FINDINGS FOR WEST HILIGHT FIELD LBA STUDY AREA
<p>6. Land Used for Scientific Study. Federal lands under permit by the surface management agency and being used for scientific studies involving food or fiber production, natural resources, or technology demonstrations and experiments are unsuitable for the duration of the study except where mining would not jeopardize the purpose of the study.</p>	<p>Two vegetation monitoring study sites on the TBNG (NE¼ of Sec. 1, T.41N., R.71W. and NW¼ NW¼ of Sec. 30, T.41N., R.69W.), and the Hoe Creek Site (Sec. 7, T.47N., R.72W.) were found to be unsuitable under this criterion.</p>	<p>The vegetation monitoring sites and the Hoe Creek site are not located on the West Hilight Field LBA study area. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 6 for the West Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>7. Cultural Resources. All publicly or privately owned places which are included in or are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and an appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable.</p>	<p>On the basis of the consultation with SHPO, there were no unsuitable findings under this criterion in the general review area. Continue using the "Standard Archeological Stipulation" to new leases.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 7 for the West Hilight Field LBA study area. The "Standard Archeological Stipulation" should be applied if this tract is leased.</p>
<p>8. Natural Areas. Federal lands designated as natural areas or National Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area are designated as natural areas or as National Natural Landmarks.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 8 for the West Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>9. Critical Habitat for Threatened or Endangered Plant and Animal Species. Federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant and animal species, and scientifically documented essential habitat for threatened or endangered species are unsuitable.</p>	<p>There is no federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant or animal species within the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 9 for the West Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>10. State Listed Threatened or Endangered Species. Federal lands containing habitat determined to be critical or essential for plant or animal species listed by a state pursuant to state law as threatened or endangered shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>Wyoming does not maintain a state list of threatened or endangered species of plants or animals. Therefore, this criterion does not apply.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 10 for the West Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>11. Bald or Golden Eagle Nests. An active bald or golden eagle nest and appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable unless the lease can be conditioned so that eagles will not be disturbed during breeding season or unless golden eagle nests will be moved.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle nests on a case by case basis at the time of leasing. Establish buffer zones around nests during mining and reclamation planning after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>There are currently no bald eagle nests (active or inactive) on the West Hilight Field LBA study area. There is currently one active golden eagle nest within ¼ mile of the West Hilight Field LBA study area. Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.</p>
<p>12. Bald and Golden Eagle Roost and Concentration Areas. Bald and golden eagle roost and concentration areas on federal lands used during migration and wintering are unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that eagles shall not be adversely disturbed.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle roost areas on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>There are no identified roost sites on the West Hilight Field LBA study area. Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.</p>
<p>13. Falcon Nesting Sites and Buffer Zones. Federal lands containing active falcon (excluding kestrel) cliff nesting sites and a suitable buffer zone shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure the falcons will not be adversely affected.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions on falcon nesting sites and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones around nesting sites after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>No falcon nesting sites have been identified on the West Hilight Field LBA study area. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 13 for the West Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985, 2001a)	FINDINGS FOR WEST HILIGHT FIELD LBA STUDY AREA
<p>14. Habitat for Migratory Bird Species. Federal lands which are high priority habitat for migratory bird species of management concern in Wyoming shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that migratory bird habitat will not be adversely affected during the period it is in use.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions on high priority habitat for migratory bird species of management concern in Wyoming and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones for nesting areas during mining and reclamation planning after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>Evaluate suitability during consultation with USFWS.</p>
<p>15. Fish and Wildlife Habitat for Resident Species. Federal lands which the surface management agency and state jointly agree are fish, wildlife and plant habitat of resident species of high interest to the state, and which are essential for maintaining these priority wildlife species, shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure no long-term impact on the species being provided will occur.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions on grouse leks and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with WGFD.</p>	<p>There is currently one undetermined (no documented activity for the last 10 years, but insufficient information to designate occupied) sage-grouse lek identified on lands within the West Hilight Field LBA study area, and one undetermined sage-grouse lek located within 2 miles of the West Hilight Field LBA study area. Evaluate this criterion prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones during mining and reclamation planning after consultation with WGFD.</p>
<p>16. Floodplains. Federal lands in riverine, coastal, and special floodplains shall be considered unsuitable where it is determined that mining could not be undertaken without substantial threat of loss of life or property.</p>	<p>The BLM and USFS have determined that the identified floodplains in the general review area could potentially be mined. Therefore, all lands within the general review area are considered suitable.</p>	<p>Site-specific stipulations and resource protection safeguards will be applied if necessary during mining and reclamation planning. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 16 for the West Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>17. Municipal Watersheds. Federal lands which have been committed by the surface management agency to use as municipal watersheds shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no designated municipal watersheds in the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 17 for the West Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>18. National Resource Waters. Federal lands with national resource waters, as identified by states in their water quality management plans, and ¼-mile buffer zones shall be unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no designated national resource waters within the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 18 for the West Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>19. Alluvial Valley Floors. Federal lands identified by the surface management agency, in consultation with the state, as AVFs where mining would interrupt, discontinue or preclude farming, are unsuitable. Additionally, when mining federal lands outside an AVF would materially damage the quality or quantity of water in surface or underground water systems that would supply AVFs, the land shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>Consider areas determined to contain AVFs significant to farming as unsuitable. Defer decisions on other AVFs and analyze on a case-by-case basis prior to lease issuance.</p>	<p>No AVFs or potential AVFs have been identified on the West Hilight Field LBA study area with characteristics indicating potential significance to farming. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 19 for the West Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>
<p>20. State or Indian Tribe Criteria. Federal lands to which is applicable a criterion proposed by the state or Indian tribe located in the planning area and adopted by rulemaking by the Secretary are unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no criterion proposed by state or Indian tribes that have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior. No tribal lands are located in or near the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitability findings for this criterion on the West Hilight Field LBA study area.</p>

APPENDIX B. UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA FOR THE WEST JACOBS RANCH LBA STUDY AREA

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985, 2001a)	FINDINGS FOR THE WEST JACOBS RANCH LBA STUDY AREA
<p>1. Federal Land Systems. With certain exceptions that do not apply to this tract, all federal lands included in the following systems are unsuitable for mining: National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National System of Trails, National Wilderness Preservation System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Recreation Areas, Lands acquired through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, National Forests and Federal lands in incorporated cities, towns and villages.</p>	<p>There are Federal lands located around Gillette, Sheridan, and Wright that were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion. No TBNG lands are included in the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area. The TBNG is not a proclaimed National Forest.</p>	<p>None of the federal lands determined to be unsuitable under Criterion 1 are present on the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area. Therefore, there are no unsuitable findings under this criterion.</p>
<p>2. Rights-Of-Way and Easements. Federal lands that are within ROWs or easements or within surface leases for residential, commercial, industrial or other public purposes, on federally owned surface, are unsuitable for mining.</p>	<p>Portions of the BNSF & UP railroad ROWs, the Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line ROW, the Wyoming State Highway 450 ROW, and the I-90 ROW were found to be unsuitable under this criterion within the general review area.</p>	<p>The portions of the Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line ROW, the Wyoming State Highway 450 ROW, and the I-90 ROW that were determined to be unsuitable are not located on the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area. A portion of the north-south BNSF & UP railroad ROW that was found to be unsuitable for mining is located on the eastern boundary of the tract as applied for and under Alternative 2. Therefore, this portion of the BNSF & UP railroad ROW was designated unsuitable and the lease will be stipulated to exclude mining within the ROW.</p>
<p>3. Buffer Zones for Rights-Of-Way, Communities, and Buildings. Federal lands within 100 ft of a ROW of a public road or a cemetery; or within 300 ft of any public building, school, church, community or institutional building or public park; or within 300 ft of an occupied dwelling are unsuitable for mining.</p>	<p>Portions of Wyoming State Highway 450, Interstate Highway I-90, and one cemetery were found to be unsuitable under this criterion. Decisions were deferred on other highways/roads, occupied dwellings, and one school until an application to lease is filed.</p>	<p>I-90 and the cemetery are not located on the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area. No occupied dwellings or schools are located on the study area. The West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area includes a portion of Highway 450 west of the intersection with the north-south main BNSF & UP railroad trunk line, which was not designated unsuitable for mining under Criterion 2. However, a portion of the Highway 450 ROW is located on the tract as applied for and under Alternative 2. A portion of the ROW of the Hilight Road, a county road, is also located on the tract as applied for and under Alternative 2. Therefore, the portions of the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area within the ROWs of Highway 450 and Hilight Road and the associated 100-ft buffer zones are designated unsuitable and the lease will be stipulated to exclude mining within these areas unless permits to move the highway and road are approved by Wyoming Department of Transportation and Campbell County Commissioners, respectively.</p>
<p>4. Wilderness Study Areas. Federal lands designated as wilderness study areas are unsuitable for mining while under review for possible wilderness designation.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area are within a wilderness study area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 4 for the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area.</p>
<p>5. Scenic Areas. Scenic federal lands designated by visual resource management analysis as Class I (outstanding visual quality or high visual sensitivity) but not currently on National Register of Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area meet the scenic criteria as outlined.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 5 for the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area.</p>

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985, 2001a)	FINDINGS FOR THE WEST JACOBS RANCH LBA STUDY AREA
<p>6. Land Used for Scientific Study. Federal lands under permit by the surface management agency and being used for scientific studies involving food or fiber production, natural resources, or technology demonstrations and experiments are unsuitable for the duration of the study except where mining would not jeopardize the purpose of the study.</p>	<p>Two vegetation monitoring study sites on the TBNG (NE¼ of Sec. 1, T.41N., R.71W. and NW¼ NW¼ of Sec. 30, T.41N., R.69W.), and the Hoe Creek Site (Sec. 7, T.47N., R.72W.) were found to be unsuitable under this criterion.</p>	<p>The vegetation monitoring sites and the Hoe Creek site are not located on the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 6 for the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area.</p>
<p>7. Cultural Resources. All publicly or privately owned places which are included in or are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and an appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable.</p>	<p>On the basis of the consultation with SHPO, there were no unsuitable findings under this criterion in the general review area. Continue using the "Standard Archeological Stipulation" to new leases.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 7 for the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area. The "Standard Archeological Stipulation" should be applied if this tract is leased.</p>
<p>8. Natural Areas. Federal lands designated as natural areas or National Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area are designated as natural areas or as National Natural Landmarks.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 8 for the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area.</p>
<p>9. Critical Habitat for Threatened or Endangered Plant and Animal Species. Federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant and animal species, and scientifically documented essential habitat for threatened or endangered species are unsuitable.</p>	<p>There is no federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant or animal species within the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 9 for the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area.</p>
<p>10. State Listed Threatened or Endangered Species. Federal lands containing habitat determined to be critical or essential for plant or animal species listed by a state pursuant to state law as threatened or endangered shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>Wyoming does not maintain a state list of threatened or endangered species of plants or animals. Therefore, this criterion does not apply.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 10 for the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area.</p>
<p>11. Bald or Golden Eagle Nests. An active bald or golden eagle nest and appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable unless the lease can be conditioned so that eagles will not be disturbed during breeding season or unless golden eagle nests will be moved.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle nests on a case by case basis at the time of leasing. Establish buffer zones around nests during mining and reclamation planning after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>There are currently no bald eagle nests (active or inactive) on the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area. There is currently one active golden eagle nest on lands within the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area. Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.</p>
<p>12. Bald and Golden Eagle Roost and Concentration Areas. Bald and golden eagle roost and concentration areas on federal lands used during migration and wintering are unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that eagles shall not be adversely disturbed.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle roost areas on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>There are no identified roost sites on the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area. Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.</p>
<p>13. Falcon Nesting Sites and Buffer Zones. Federal lands containing active falcon (excluding kestrel) cliff nesting sites and a suitable buffer zone shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure the falcons will not be adversely affected.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions on falcon nesting sites and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones around nesting sites after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>No falcon nesting sites have been identified on the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 13 for the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area.</p>

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UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985, 2001a)	FINDINGS FOR THE WEST JACOBS RANCH LBA STUDY AREA
<p>14. Habitat for Migratory Bird Species. Federal lands which are high priority habitat for migratory bird species of management concern in Wyoming shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that migratory bird habitat will not be adversely affected during the period it is in use.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions on high priority habitat for migratory bird species of management concern in Wyoming and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones for nesting areas during mining and reclamation planning after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>Evaluate suitability during consultation with USFWS.</p>
<p>15. Fish and Wildlife Habitat for Resident Species. Federal lands which the surface management agency and state jointly agree are fish, wildlife and plant habitat of resident species of high interest to the state, and which are essential for maintaining these priority wildlife species, shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure no long-term impact on the species being provided will occur.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions on grouse leks and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with WGFD.</p>	<p>There are currently are no occupied (active within the last 10 years) or unoccupied (destroyed or abandoned) sage-grouse leks identified on lands within the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area. There are currently two undetermined (no documented activity for the last 10 years, but insufficient information to designate occupied) sage-grouse leks identified on lands adjacent to the LBA tract: one approximately 1 mile south-southwest and one approximately 1.3 miles south-southwest of the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area. Evaluate this criterion prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones during mining and reclamation planning after consultation with WGFD.</p>
<p>16. Floodplains. Federal lands in riverine, coastal, and special floodplains shall be considered unsuitable where it is determined that mining could not be undertaken without substantial threat of loss of life or property.</p>	<p>The BLM and USFS have determined that the identified floodplains in the general review area could potentially be mined. Therefore, all lands within the general review area are considered suitable.</p>	<p>Site-specific stipulations and resource protection safeguards will be applied if necessary during mining and reclamation planning. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 16 for the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area.</p>
<p>17. Municipal Watersheds. Federal lands which have been committed by the surface management agency to use as municipal watersheds shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no designated municipal watersheds in the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 17 for the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area.</p>
<p>18. National Resource Waters. Federal lands with national resource waters, as identified by states in their water quality management plans, and ¼-mile buffer zones shall be unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no designated national resource waters within the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 18 for the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area.</p>
<p>19. Alluvial Valley Floors. Federal lands identified by the surface management agency, in consultation with the state, as AVFs where mining would interrupt, discontinue or preclude farming, are unsuitable. Additionally, when mining federal lands outside an AVF would materially damage the quality or quantity of water in surface or underground water systems that would supply AVFs, the land shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>Consider areas determined to contain AVFs significant to farming as unsuitable. Defer decisions on other AVFs and analyze on a case-by-case basis prior to lease issuance.</p>	<p>No AVFs or potential AVFs have been identified on the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area with characteristics indicating potential significance to farming. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 19 for the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area.</p>
<p>20. State or Indian Tribe Criteria. Federal lands to which is applicable a criterion proposed by the state or Indian tribe located in the planning area and adopted by rulemaking by the Secretary are unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no criterion proposed by state or Indian tribes that have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior. No tribal lands are located in or near the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitability findings for this criterion on the West Jacobs Ranch LBA study area.</p>

APPENDIX B. UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA FOR THE NORTH PORCUPINE LBA STUDY AREA

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985, 2001a)	FINDINGS FOR THE NORTH PORCUPINE LBA STUDY AREA
<p>1. Federal Land Systems. With certain exceptions that do not apply to this tract, all federal lands included in the following systems are unsuitable for mining: National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National System of Trails, National Wilderness Preservation System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Recreation Areas, Lands acquired through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, National Forests and Federal lands in incorporated cities, towns and villages.</p>	<p>There are Federal lands located around Gillette, Sheridan, and Wright that were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion. TBNG lands are included in the North Porcupine LBA study area. The TBNG is not a proclaimed National Forest.</p>	<p>None of the federal lands determined to be unsuitable under Criterion 1 are present on the North Porcupine LBA study area. Therefore, there are no unsuitable findings under this criterion.</p>
<p>2. Rights-Of-Way and Easements. Federal lands that are within ROWs or easements or within surface leases for residential, commercial, industrial or other public purposes, on federally owned surface, are unsuitable for mining.</p>	<p>Portions of the BNSF & UP railroad ROWs, the Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line ROW, the Wyoming State Highway 450 ROW, and the I-90 ROW were found to be unsuitable under this criterion within the general review area.</p>	<p>The portions of the Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line ROW, the Wyoming State Highway 450 ROW, and the I-90 ROW that were determined to be unsuitable are not located on the North Porcupine LBA study area. A portion of the BNSF & UP railroad ROW that was found to be unsuitable for mining crosses the tract as applied for and under Alternative 2. Therefore, this portion of the BNSF & UP railroad ROW was designated unsuitable and the lease will be stipulated to exclude mining within the ROW.</p>
<p>3. Buffer Zones for Rights-Of-Way, Communities, and Buildings. Federal lands within 100 ft of a ROW of a public road or a cemetery; or within 300 ft of any public building, school, church, community or institutional building or public park; or within 300 ft of an occupied dwelling are unsuitable for mining.</p>	<p>Portions of Wyoming State Highway 450, Interstate Highway I-90, and one cemetery were found to be unsuitable under this criterion. Decisions were deferred on other highways/roads, occupied dwellings, and one school until an application to lease is filed.</p>	<p>Highway 450, I-90, and the cemetery are not located on the North Porcupine LBA study area. No occupied dwellings or schools are located on the study area. Portions of the ROWs of the Antelope, Matheson, and Mackey roads, all county roads, are located on the tract as applied for and under Alternative 2. The relocation of the Antelope Road and a portion of the Matheson Road within the LBA study area have been approved by the Campbell County Commissioners. Therefore, the portions of the North Porcupine LBA study area within the ROWs of the Mackey Road and a portion of the Matheson Road and the associated 100-ft buffer zones are designated unsuitable for mining and the lease will be stipulated to exclude mining within these areas unless permits to move the roads are approved by Campbell County Board of Commissioners.</p>
<p>4. Wilderness Study Areas. Federal lands designated as wilderness study areas are unsuitable for mining while under review for possible wilderness designation.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area are within a wilderness study area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 4 for the North Porcupine LBA study area.</p>
<p>5. Scenic Areas. Scenic federal lands designated by visual resource management analysis as Class I (outstanding visual quality or high visual sensitivity) but not currently on National Register of Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area meet the scenic criteria as outlined.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 5 for the North Porcupine LBA study area.</p>

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UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985, 2001a)	FINDINGS FOR THE NORTH PORCUPINE LBA STUDY AREA
<p>6. Land Used for Scientific Study. Federal lands under permit by the surface management agency and being used for scientific studies involving food or fiber production, natural resources, or technology demonstrations and experiments are unsuitable for the duration of the study except where mining would not jeopardize the purpose of the study.</p>	<p>Two vegetation monitoring study sites on the TBNG (NE¼ of Sec. 1, T.41N., R.71W. and NW¼ NW¼ of Sec. 30, T.41N., R.69W.), and the Hoe Creek Site (Sec. 7, T.47N., R.72W.) were found to be unsuitable under this criterion.</p>	<p>The vegetation monitoring sites and the Hoe Creek site are not located on the North Porcupine LBA study area. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 6 for the North Porcupine LBA study area.</p>
<p>7. Cultural Resources. All publicly or privately owned places which are included in or are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and an appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable.</p>	<p>On the basis of the consultation with SHPO, there were no unsuitable findings under this criterion in the general review area. Continue using the "Standard Archeological Stipulation" to new leases.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 7 for the North Porcupine LBA study area. The "Standard Archeological Stipulation" should be applied if this tract is leased.</p>
<p>8. Natural Areas. Federal lands designated as natural areas or National Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area are designated as natural areas or as National Natural Landmarks.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 8 for the North Porcupine LBA study area.</p>
<p>9. Critical Habitat for Threatened or Endangered Plant and Animal Species. Federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant and animal species, and scientifically documented essential habitat for threatened or endangered species are unsuitable.</p>	<p>There is no federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant or animal species within the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 9 for the North Porcupine LBA study area.</p>
<p>10. State Listed Threatened or Endangered Species. Federal lands containing habitat determined to be critical or essential for plant or animal species listed by a state pursuant to state law as threatened or endangered shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>Wyoming does not maintain a state list of threatened or endangered species of plants or animals. Therefore, this criterion does not apply.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 10 for the North Porcupine LBA study area.</p>
<p>11. Bald or Golden Eagle Nests. An active bald or golden eagle nest and appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable unless the lease can be conditioned so that eagles will not be disturbed during breeding season or unless golden eagle nests will be moved.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle nests on a case by case basis at the time of leasing. Establish buffer zones around nests during mining and reclamation planning after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>There are currently no bald eagle nests (active or inactive) on the North Porcupine LBA study area. There are currently two active golden eagle nests on lands within the North Porcupine LBA study area. Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.</p>
<p>12. Bald and Golden Eagle Roost and Concentration Areas. Bald and golden eagle roost and concentration areas on federal lands used during migration and wintering are unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that eagles shall not be adversely disturbed.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle roost areas on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>There are no identified roost sites on the North Porcupine LBA study area. Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.</p>
<p>13. Falcon Nesting Sites and Buffer Zones. Federal lands containing active falcon (excluding kestrel) cliff nesting sites and a suitable buffer zone shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure the falcons will not be adversely affected.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions on falcon nesting sites and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones around nesting sites after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>No falcon nesting sites have been identified on the North Porcupine LBA study area. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 13 for the North Porcupine LBA study area.</p>

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985, 2001a)	FINDINGS FOR THE NORTH PORCUPINE LBA STUDY AREA
<p>14. Habitat for Migratory Bird Species. Federal lands which are high priority habitat for migratory bird species of management concern in Wyoming shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that migratory bird habitat will not be adversely affected during the period it is in use.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions on high priority habitat for migratory bird species of management concern in Wyoming and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones for nesting areas during mining and reclamation planning after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>Evaluate suitability during consultation with USFWS.</p>
<p>15. Fish and Wildlife Habitat for Resident Species. Federal lands which the surface management agency and state jointly agree are fish, wildlife and plant habitat of resident species of high interest to the state, and which are essential for maintaining these priority wildlife species, shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure no long-term impact on the species being provided will occur.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions on grouse leks and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with WGFD.</p>	<p>There is currently one occupied (active within the last 10 years) sage-grouse lek and no unoccupied (destroyed or abandoned) sage-grouse leks identified on lands within the North Porcupine LBA study area. There are currently two occupied sage-grouse leks identified on lands adjacent to the LBA tract: both are approximately 1.5 miles southeast of the LBA study area. There is also one unoccupied/abandoned (no activity for 10 consecutive years) sage-grouse lek identified on lands adjacent to the LBA tract: approximately 0.5 mile southeast of the LBA study area. Evaluate this criterion prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones during mining and reclamation planning after consultation with WGFD.</p>
<p>16. Floodplains. Federal lands in riverine, coastal, and special floodplains shall be considered unsuitable where it is determined that mining could not be undertaken without substantial threat of loss of life or property.</p>	<p>The BLM and USFS have determined that the identified floodplains in the general review area could potentially be mined. Therefore, all lands within the general review area are considered suitable.</p>	<p>Site-specific stipulations and resource protection safeguards will be applied if necessary during mining and reclamation planning. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 16 for the North Porcupine LBA study area.</p>
<p>17. Municipal Watersheds. Federal lands which have been committed by the surface management agency to use as municipal watersheds shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no designated municipal watersheds in the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 17 for the North Porcupine LBA study area.</p>
<p>18. National Resource Waters. Federal lands with national resource waters, as identified by states in their water quality management plans, and ¼-mile buffer zones shall be unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no designated national resource waters within the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 18 for the North Porcupine LBA study area.</p>
<p>19. Alluvial Valley Floors. Federal lands identified by the surface management agency, in consultation with the state, as AVFs where mining would interrupt, discontinue or preclude farming, are unsuitable. Additionally, when mining federal lands outside an AVF would materially damage the quality or quantity of water in surface or underground water systems that would supply AVFs, the land shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>Consider areas determined to contain AVFs significant to farming as unsuitable. Defer decisions on other AVFs and analyze on a case-by-case basis prior to lease issuance.</p>	<p>No AVFs or potential AVFs have been identified on the North Porcupine LBA study area with characteristics indicating potential significance to farming. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 19 for the North Porcupine LBA study area.</p>
<p>20. State or Indian Tribe Criteria. Federal lands to which is applicable a criterion proposed by the state or Indian tribe located in the planning area and adopted by rulemaking by the Secretary are unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no criterion proposed by state or Indian tribes that have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior. No tribal lands are located in or near the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitability findings for this criterion on the North Porcupine LBA study area.</p>

APPENDIX B. UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA FOR THE SOUTH PORCUPINE LBA STUDY AREA

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985, 2001a)	FINDINGS FOR THE SOUTH PORCUPINE LBA STUDY AREA
<p>1. Federal Land Systems. With certain exceptions that do not apply to this tract, all federal lands included in the following systems are unsuitable for mining: National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National System of Trails, National Wilderness Preservation System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Recreation Areas, Lands acquired through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, National Forests and Federal lands in incorporated cities, towns and villages.</p>	<p>There are Federal lands located around Gillette, Sheridan, and Wright that were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion. TBNG lands are included in the South Porcupine LBA study area. The TBNG is not a proclaimed National Forest.</p>	<p>None of the federal lands determined to be unsuitable under Criterion 1 are present on the South Porcupine LBA study area. Therefore, there are no unsuitable findings under this criterion.</p>
<p>2. Rights-Of-Way and Easements. Federal lands that are within ROWs or easements or within surface leases for residential, commercial, industrial or other public purposes, on federally owned surface, are unsuitable for mining.</p>	<p>Portions of the BNSF & UP railroad ROWs, the Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line ROW, the Wyoming State Highway 450 ROW, and the I-90 ROW were found to be unsuitable under this criterion within the general review area.</p>	<p>The portions of the Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line ROW, the Wyoming State Highway 450 ROW, and the I-90 ROW that were determined to be unsuitable are not located on the South Porcupine LBA study area. A portion of the BNSF & UP railroad ROW that was found to be unsuitable for mining crosses the tract configured under Alternative 2. Therefore, this portion of the BNSF & UP railroad ROW was designated unsuitable and the lease will be stipulated unsuitable to exclude mining within the ROW.</p>
<p>3. Buffer Zones for Rights-Of-Way, Communities, and Buildings. Federal lands within 100 ft of a ROW of a public road or a cemetery; or within 300 ft of any public building, school, church, community or institutional building or public park; or within 300 ft of an occupied dwelling are unsuitable for mining.</p>	<p>Portions of Wyoming State Highway 450, Interstate Highway I-90, and one cemetery were found to be unsuitable under this criterion. Decisions were deferred on other highways/roads, occupied dwellings, and one school until an application to lease is filed.</p>	<p>Highway 450, I-90, and the cemetery are not located on the South Porcupine LBA study area. No occupied dwellings or schools are located on the study area. Portions of the ROW of the Antelope Road, a county road, are located on the tract as applied for and under Alternative 2. The relocation of a portion of the Antelope Road within the LBA study area has been approved by the Campbell County Commissioners. Therefore, the portions of the South Porcupine LBA study area within the ROW of a portion of the Antelope Road and the associated 100-ft buffer zone are designated unsuitable for mining and the lease will be stipulated to exclude mining within these areas unless a permit to move the road is approved by Campbell Co. Board of Commissioners.</p>
<p>4. Wilderness Study Areas. Federal lands designated as wilderness study areas are unsuitable for mining while under review for possible wilderness designation.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area are within a wilderness study area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 4 for the South Porcupine LBA study area.</p>
<p>5. Scenic Areas. Scenic federal lands designated by visual resource management analysis as Class I (outstanding visual quality or high visual sensitivity) but not currently on National Register of Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area meet the scenic criteria as outlined.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 5 for the South Porcupine LBA study area.</p>

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985, 2001a)	FINDINGS FOR THE SOUTH PORCUPINE LBA STUDY AREA
<p>6. Land Used for Scientific Study. Federal lands under permit by the surface management agency and being used for scientific studies involving food or fiber production, natural resources, or technology demonstrations and experiments are unsuitable for the duration of the study except where mining would not jeopardize the purpose of the study.</p>	<p>Two vegetation monitoring study sites on the TBNG (NE¼ of Sec. 1, T.41N., R.71W. and NW¼ NW¼ of Sec. 30, T.41N., R.69W.), and the Hoe Creek Site (Sec. 7, T.47N., R.72W.) were found to be unsuitable under this criterion.</p>	<p>The vegetation monitoring sites and the Hoe Creek site are not located on the South Porcupine LBA study area. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 6 for the South Porcupine LBA study area.</p>
<p>7. Cultural Resources. All publicly or privately owned places which are included in or are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and an appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable.</p>	<p>On the basis of the consultation with SHPO, there were no unsuitable findings under this criterion in the general review area. Continue using the "Standard Archeological Stipulation" to new leases.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 7 for the South Porcupine LBA study area. The "Standard Archeological Stipulation" should be applied if this tract is leased.</p>
<p>8. Natural Areas. Federal lands designated as natural areas or National Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area are designated as natural areas or as National Natural Landmarks.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 8 for the South Porcupine LBA study area.</p>
<p>9. Critical Habitat for Threatened or Endangered Plant and Animal Species. Federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant and animal species, and scientifically documented essential habitat for threatened or endangered species are unsuitable.</p>	<p>There is no federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant or animal species within the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 9 for the South Porcupine LBA study area.</p>
<p>10. State Listed Threatened or Endangered Species. Federal lands containing habitat determined to be critical or essential for plant or animal species listed by a state pursuant to state law as threatened or endangered shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>Wyoming does not maintain a state list of threatened or endangered species of plants or animals. Therefore, this criterion does not apply.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 10 for the South Porcupine LBA study area.</p>
<p>11. Bald or Golden Eagle Nests. An active bald or golden eagle nest and appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable unless the lease can be conditioned so that eagles will not be disturbed during breeding season or unless golden eagle nests will be moved.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle nests on a case by case basis at the time of leasing. Establish buffer zones around nests during mining and reclamation planning after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>There are currently no bald or golden eagle nests (active or inactive) on the South Porcupine LBA study area. Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.</p>
<p>12. Bald and Golden Eagle Roost and Concentration Areas. Bald and golden eagle roost and concentration areas on federal lands used during migration and wintering are unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that eagles shall not be adversely disturbed.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle roost areas on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>There are no identified roost sites on the South Porcupine LBA study area. Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.</p>
<p>13. Falcon Nesting Sites and Buffer Zones. Federal lands containing active falcon (excluding kestrel) cliff nesting sites and a suitable buffer zone shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure the falcons will not be adversely affected.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions on falcon nesting sites and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones around nesting sites after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>No falcon nesting sites have been identified on the South Porcupine LBA study area. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 13 for the South Porcupine LBA study area.</p>

Appendix B

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985, 2001a)	FINDINGS FOR THE SOUTH PORCUPINE LBA STUDY AREA
<p>14. Habitat for Migratory Bird Species. Federal lands which are high priority habitat for migratory bird species of management concern in Wyoming shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that migratory bird habitat will not be adversely affected during the period it is in use.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions on high priority habitat for migratory bird species of management concern in Wyoming and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones for nesting areas during mining and reclamation planning after consultation with USFWS.</p>	<p>Evaluate suitability during consultation with USFWS.</p>
<p>15. Fish and Wildlife Habitat for Resident Species. Federal lands which the surface management agency and state jointly agree are fish, wildlife and plant habitat of resident species of high interest to the state, and which are essential for maintaining these priority wildlife species, shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure no long-term impact on the species being provided will occur.</p>	<p>Defer suitability decisions on grouse leks and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with WGFD.</p>	<p>There are currently are no occupied (active within the last 10 years) or unoccupied (destroyed or abandoned) sage-grouse leks identified on lands within the South Porcupine LBA study area or on lands within 2 miles of the LBA study area. Evaluate this criterion prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones during mining and reclamation planning after consultation with WGFD.</p>
<p>16. Floodplains. Federal lands in riverine, coastal, and special floodplains shall be considered unsuitable where it is determined that mining could not be undertaken without substantial threat of loss of life or property.</p>	<p>The BLM and USFS have determined that the identified floodplains in the general review area could potentially be mined. Therefore, all lands within the general review area are considered suitable.</p>	<p>Site-specific stipulations and resource protection safeguards will be applied if necessary during mining and reclamation planning. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 16 for the South Porcupine LBA study area.</p>
<p>17. Municipal Watersheds. Federal lands which have been committed by the surface management agency to use as municipal watersheds shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no designated municipal watersheds in the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 17 for the South Porcupine LBA study area.</p>
<p>18. National Resource Waters. Federal lands with national resource waters, as identified by states in their water quality management plans, and 1/4-mile buffer zones shall be unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no designated national resource waters within the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 18 for the South Porcupine LBA study area.</p>
<p>19. Alluvial Valley Floors. Federal lands identified by the surface management agency, in consultation with the state, as AVFs where mining would interrupt, discontinue or preclude farming, are unsuitable. Additionally, when mining federal lands outside an AVF would materially damage the quality or quantity of water in surface or underground water systems that would supply AVFs, the land shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>Consider areas determined to contain AVFs significant to farming as unsuitable. Defer decisions on other AVFs and analyze on a case-by-case basis prior to lease issuance.</p>	<p>No AVFs or potential AVFs have been identified on the South Porcupine LBA study area with characteristics indicating potential significance to farming. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 19 for the South Porcupine LBA study area.</p>
<p>20. State or Indian Tribe Criteria. Federal lands to which is applicable a criterion proposed by the state or Indian tribe located in the planning area and adopted by rulemaking by the Secretary are unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no criterion proposed by state or Indian tribes that have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior. No tribal lands are located in or near the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitability findings for this criterion on the South Porcupine LBA study area.</p>