

## SOUTH GILLETTE AREA COAL EIS

### Background

Between July 2004 and August 2006, four individual applications for coal leases were filed by the operators of the four operating coal mines in the South Gillette area. These applications and respective mines are Belle Ayr North (Belle Ayr Mine), West Coal Creek (Coal Creek Mine), West Caballo (Caballo Mine) and Maysdorf II (Cordero Rojo Mine). These applications were to provide reserves to allow the mines to continue production. The Powder River Basin Regional Coal Team reviewed these applications at meetings between April 2005 and January 2007, and recommended the LBAs be processed. BLM combined the applications into one EIS because of the geographic proximity of the four applications.

### Current Status

The South Gillette Area Final EIS was issued for public comment in August 2009. Responses to comments on the Final EIS were issued July 2010. Records of Decision (RODs) were issued for the Belle Ayr North LBA on July 30, 2010, West Caballo LBA on August 6, 2010, West Coal Creek LBA on June 10, 2011, and Maysdorf II LBA on September 30, 2012.

### Past Actions

BLM issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS on these LBAs – April 2007  
BLM conducted scoping and a public meeting in Gillette – April 2007  
A Draft EIS was issued for public comment – October 2008  
A public hearing was held in Gillette – November 2008  
A Final EIS was issued for public comment – August 2009  
Responses to comments on the Final EIS were issued – July 2010  
Record of Decision for the Belle Ayr North LBA was issued - July 2010  
Record of Decision for the Caballo West LBA was issued - August 2010  
Record of Decision for the West Coal Creek LBA was issued – June 2011  
Record of Decision for the Maysdorf II LBA was issued – September 2012  
A correction for the Maysdorf II ROD was issued – April 5, 2013

### Future Actions

BLM will complete pre-sale FMV analysis on the Maysdorf II LBA North and South sale tracts.  
Separate competitive sales for each tract could be scheduled, announced and held, after FMV analysis is complete.  
If high bids at the sales meet or exceed FMV, leases could be issued to those bidders.  
If leases are issued, lessees would have to permit the leases for mining through Wyoming DEQ and OSM.

