

Crook County Land Use Planning & Zoning Commission
P.O. Box 37
Sundance, WY 82729

15 September 2009

Wyoming High Plains District Office
Bureau of Land Management
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, WY 82604

Atten: Teresa Johnson

Dear Ms. Johnson:

WHEREAS: BLM's issuing coal leases in the Belle Ayr North Coal Tract, West Coal Creek Coal Tract, Caballo West Coal Tract and Maysdorf II Coal Tract is purely an extension of the life of the existing coal mining operations in the decertified Powder River Federal Coal Production Region, Wyoming; and

WHEREAS: the Belle Ayr Mine, Coal Creek Mine, Caballo Mine and Codero-Rojo Mine individually have a mining and reclamation plan approved by the Land Quality Division of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality; and

WHEREAS: the Belle Ayr Mine, Coal Creek Mine, Caballo Mine and the Codero-Rojo Mine individually have an air quality permit approved by the Air Quality Division of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality; and

WHEREAS: the mining sector is the fourth largest employment sector in Crook County (see Attachment One) employing nine percent (375) of Crook County's labor force which equates to 930 Crook County residents benefiting (see Attachment Two for families per household) from mining sector employment; and

WHEREAS: the mining sector average annual wage in 2002 was \$55,000 (\$1057.00 per week) and is projected to be \$80,000+ (\$1538.00+ per week) in 2012 (see Attachment Three), while the 2006 per capita personal income in Crook County was \$36,752 (\$707.00 per week) (see Attachment Four); and

WHEREAS: mining employment total payroll adds \$19,455,215 (see Attachment Five) to the economy of Crook County annually; and

WHEREAS: Crook County 2006 sales tax receipts from the mining sector were \$340,484.00 and the 2007 sales tax receipts from the mining sector were \$530,737.00 (see Attachment Six)

RECEIVED

SEP 16 2009

Bureau of Land Management
Casper Field Office

WHEREAS: the Belle Ayr , Coal Creek, Caballo and Codero-Rojo mining operations provide employment opportunities for Crook County college youth thru summer employment;

NOW THEREFORE: the Crook County Land Use Planning & Zoning Commission unanimously, and whole heartedly, recommend the issuance of coal leases for Belle Ayr North, West Coal Creek, Caballo West and the Maysdorf II tracts in the decertified Powder River Federal Coal Production Region, Wyoming.

Respectfully submitted.

Mrs. Jeanne Whalen

Jeanne Whalen, Chairman
Crook County Land Use Planning & Zoning Commission

cc: U. S. Senator Michael Enzi
Russell Senate Office Building, Room 379A
Washington, D. C. 20510

U. S. Senator John Barrasso
307 Dirksen, Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

U. S. Representative Cynthia Lummis
1004 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Governor Dave Freudenthal
Capitol Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Senator Charles Townsend
P. O. Box 760
Newcastle, WY 82701

Representative Mark A. Semlek
1307 D Road
Moorcroft, WY 82721

Robert W. Johnson, Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street, N W
Washington, D.C. 20240

Crook County Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 37
Sundance, WY 82729

ATTACHMENT ONE

Crook County, Wyoming

County Profile

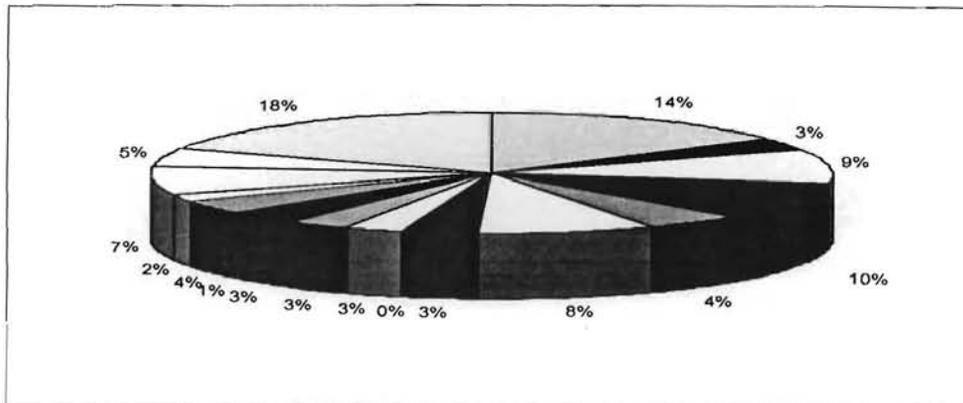


Employment by Industry

Total employment		4,177
Farm employment	594	14%
Forestry, fishing, related activities, and other 3/	132	3%
Mining	366	9%
Utilities	#	
Construction	409	10%
Manufacturing	183	4%
Wholesale trade	#	
Retail Trade	339	8%
Transportation and warehousing	128	3%
Information	19	0%
Finance and insurance	106	3%
Real estate and rental and leasing	124	3%
Professional and technical services	118	3%
Management of companies and enterprises	#	
Administrative and waste services	#	
Educational services	21	1%
Health care and social assistance	148	4%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	79	2%
Accommodation and food services	304	7%
Other services, except public administration	191	5%
Government and government enterprises	736	18%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Not shown to avoid disclosure of confidential information, but the estimates for this item are included in the totals.
 \$ Less than 10 jobs, but the estimates for this item are included in the totals.



Unemployment

Labor Force	3,601
Employed	3,493
Unemployed	108
Unemployment Rate	3.0%

Source: Wyoming Labor Market Information, June 2008

ATTACHMENT TWO

State & County QuickFacts

Crook County, Wyoming

People QuickFacts	Crook County	Wyoming
Population, 2008 estimate	6,457	532,668
Population, percent change, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2008	9.7%	7.9%
Population estimates base (April 1) 2000	5,887	493,782
Persons under 5 years old, percent, 2008	6.8%	7.2%
Persons under 18 years old, percent, 2008	22.3%	24.1%
Persons 65 years old and over, percent, 2008	15.9%	12.3%
Female persons, percent, 2008	49.6%	49.3%
White persons, percent, 2008 (a)	98.1%	93.9%
Black persons, percent, 2008 (a)	0.1%	1.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent, 2008 (a)	1.1%	2.5%
Asian persons, percent, 2008 (a)	0.1%	0.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent, 2008 (a)	0.0%	0.1%
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2008	0.7%	1.5%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2008 (b)	1.2%	7.7%
White persons not Hispanic, percent, 2008	97.1%	86.8%
Living in same house in 1995 and 2000, pct 5 yrs old & over	64.1%	51.3%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2000	0.9%	2.3%
Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2000	3.1%	6.4%
High school graduates, percent of persons age 25+, 2000	85.8%	87.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher, pct of persons age 25+, 2000	17.5%	21.9%
Persons with a disability, age 5+, 2000	1,066	77,143
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2000	22.4	17.8
Housing units, 2007	3,170	242,332
Homeownership rate, 2000	79.9%	70.0%
Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2000	5.5%	15.2%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2000	\$85,400	\$96,600
Households, 2000	2,308	193,608
Persons per household, 2000	2.51	2.48
Median household income, 2007	\$49,890	\$52,433
Per capita money income, 1999	\$17,379	\$19,134
Persons below poverty, percent, 2007	7.5%	9.5%
Business QuickFacts	Crook County	Wyoming
Private nonfarm establishments with paid employees, 2006	218	20,242 ¹
Private nonfarm employment, 2006	1,484	204,153 ¹
Private nonfarm employment, percent change 2000-2006	9.5%	16.9% ¹
Nonemployer establishments, 2006	595	42,149
Total number of firms, 2002	683	53,103
Black-owned firms, percent, 2002	F	0.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native owned firms, percent, 2002	F	1.1%
Asian-owned firms, percent, 2002	F	0.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander owned firms, percent, 2002	F	0.0%
Hispanic-owned firms, percent, 2002	F	2.5%
Women-owned firms, percent, 2002	F	24.4%
Manufacturers shipments, 2002 (\$1000)	NA	4,061,516

Wholesale trade sales, 2002 (\$1000)	D	3,331,043
Retail sales, 2002 (\$1000)	32,701	5,783,756
Retail sales per capita, 2002	\$5,543	\$11,586
Accommodation and foodservices sales, 2002 (\$1000)	9,218	984,684
Building permits, 2008	10	2,669
Federal spending, 2007 (\$1000)	47,592	5,355,060 ¹
Geography QuickFacts	Crook County	Wyoming
Land area, 2000 (square miles)	2,858.59	97,100.40
Persons per square mile, 2000	2.1	5.1
FIPS Code	011	56
Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area	None	

1: Includes data not distributed by county.

(a) Includes persons reporting only one race.

(b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories.

D: Suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information

F: Fewer than 100 firms

FN: Footnote on this item for this area in place of data

NA: Not available

S: Suppressed; does not meet publication standards

X: Not applicable

Z: Value greater than zero but less than half unit of measure shown

Source U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts. Data derived from Population Estimates, Census of Population and Housing, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, State and County Housing Unit Estimates, County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners, Building Permits, Consolidated Federal Funds Report

Last Revised: Friday, 04-Sep-2009 15:25:54 EDT

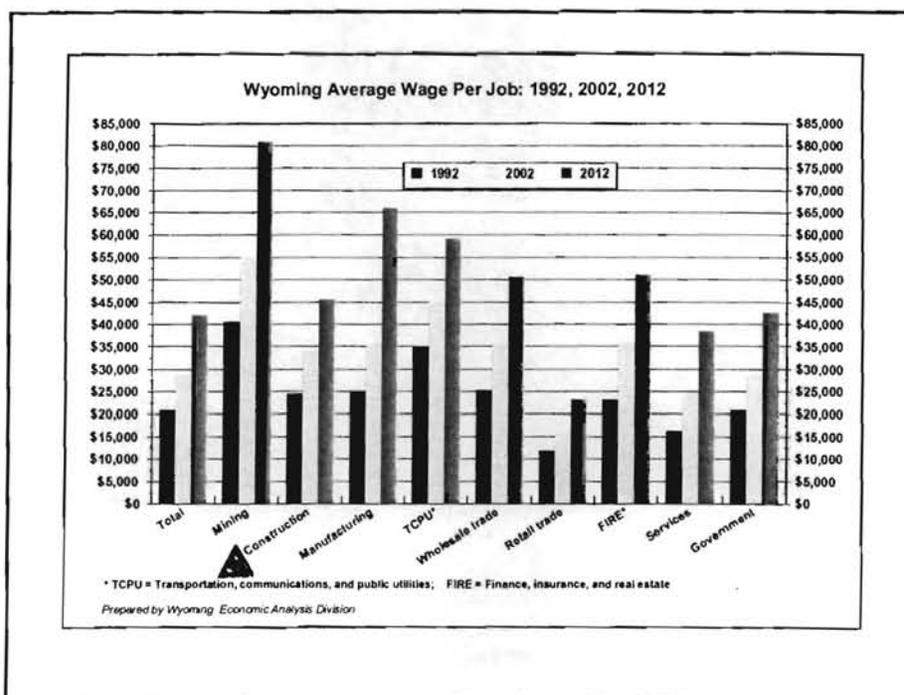
ATTACHMENT THREE

Wages in Wyoming

- In 2002, Wyoming's average annual wage level was \$28,975 (42nd in the U.S).
- Percent change between 2002 and 2001 was 3.3% (tied for 6th in the U.S.).
- Colorado, Utah and Nebraska ranked 11th, 35th, and 40th, respectively (\$38,005, \$30,585, \$29,448).
- Idaho, No. Dakota, So. Dakota, and Montana ranked 45th, 48th, 49th, and 50th, respectively.
- The national average was \$36, 764.

Economic Analysis Division – Wyoming State Government

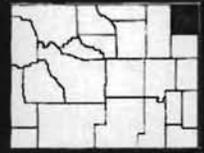
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ATTACHMENT FOUR

Crook County, Wyoming

County Profile



2007 Population:	6,284
Land Area:	2,859 sq. mi.
Persons per sq. mi.:	2.19
County Seat:	Sundance (pop. 1,205)

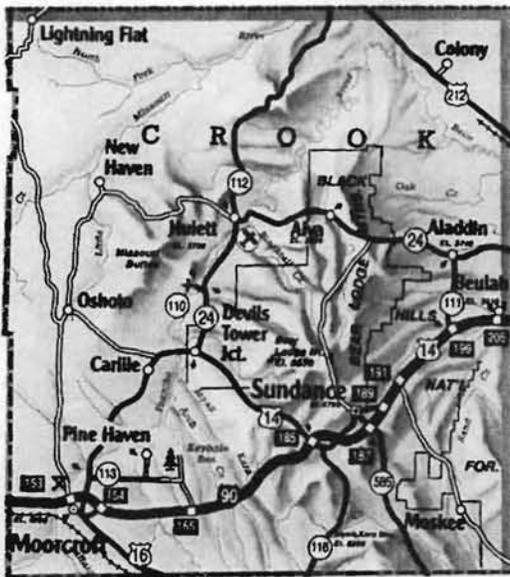
Source: Wyoming Economic Analysis Division, July 2007

Population Distribution

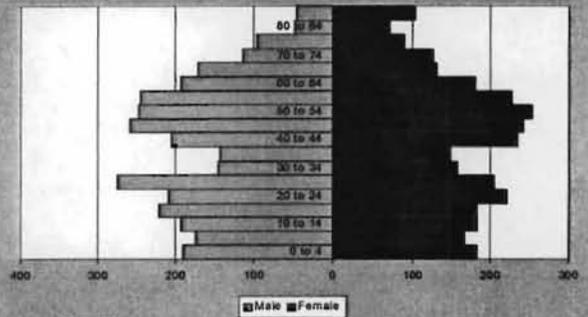
Age	2007 estimate
<19	1,492
20-34	1,212
35-54	1,734
55-74	1,388
75+	458

Median Age 41.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



2007 Distribution by Age by Sex



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Cost of Living Index

Overall	90
Food	101
Housing	78
Apparel	116
Transportation	100
Medical	96
Recreation & Personal Care	99

Source: State of Wyoming Economic Analysis Division
Prices as of January 9, 10, 11 2008

Household Income

	2006
Per Capita Personal Income	\$36,752
Average Price of Single-Family Home	\$138,568

Source: Wyoming Economic Analysis Division
A Profile of Wyoming Demographics, Economics and Housing -
December 31, 2007 (www.wyomingcda.com)

ATTACHMENT FIVE

Table 4: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Third Quarter by County, 2007 and 2008*

County	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change	
	2007	2008	n	%	2007	2008	\$	%	2007	2008	\$	%
Total	284,312	293,422	9,110	3.2	\$2,712,377,399	\$2,980,190,638	\$267,813,239	9.9	\$734	\$781	\$47	6.4
Albany	15,127	15,364	237	1.6	\$123,863,391	\$133,191,282	9,327,891	7.5	\$630	\$667	37	5.9
Big Horn	4,360	4,390	30	0.7	32,886,947	35,535,225	2,648,278	8.1	580	623	43	7.4
Campbell	27,285	29,293	2,008	7.4	329,909,734	376,552,488	46,642,754	14.1	930	989	59	6.3
Carbon	7,859	7,771	-88	-1.1	71,499,060	75,524,249	4,025,189	5.6	700	748	48	6.9
Converse	4,994	5,463	469	9.4	44,898,073	55,647,482	10,749,409	23.9	692	784	92	13.3
Crook	2,371	2,392	21	0.9	18,801,167	19,455,215	654,048	3.5	610	626	16	2.6
Fremont	16,323	16,847	524	3.2	129,120,480	141,699,236	12,578,756	9.7	608	647	39	6.4
Goshen	4,106	4,331	225	5.5	27,844,767	30,092,733	2,247,966	8.1	522	534	12	2.3
Hot Springs	2,016	2,113	97	4.8	14,167,320	16,227,499	2,060,179	14.5	541	591	50	9.2
Johnson	3,628	3,776	148	4.1	27,216,442	31,520,911	4,304,469	15.8	577	642	65	11.3
Laramie	43,585	44,260	675	1.5	391,395,811	413,219,437	21,823,626	5.6	691	718	27	3.9
Lincoln	7,590	6,509	-1,081	-14.2	83,153,367	59,339,030	-23,814,337	-28.6	843	701	-142	-16.8
Natrona	39,498	40,689	1,191	3.0	392,926,859	435,780,256	42,853,397	10.9	765	824	59	7.7
Niobrara	833	848	15	1.8	5,374,967	5,663,888	288,921	5.4	496	514	18	3.6
Park	14,888	15,134	246	1.7	114,349,747	128,396,444	14,046,697	12.3	591	653	62	10.5
Platte	3,282	3,242	-40	-1.2	24,727,714	25,663,952	936,238	3.8	580	609	29	5.0
Sheridan	13,623	13,997	374	2.7	118,056,399	129,798,186	11,741,787	9.9	667	713	46	6.9
Sublette	5,466	5,823	357	6.5	68,433,368	81,180,539	12,747,171	18.6	963	1,072	109	11.3
Sweetwater	24,791	25,865	1,074	4.3	292,013,255	325,216,986	33,203,731	11.4	906	967	61	6.7
Teton	21,193	21,582	389	1.8	186,931,730	205,167,026	18,235,296	9.8	678	731	53	7.8
Uinta	9,885	10,622	737	7.5	89,238,998	101,012,169	11,773,171	13.2	694	732	38	5.5
Washakie	4,019	4,206	187	4.7	32,851,078	35,289,715	2,438,637	7.4	629	645	16	2.5
Weston	2,260	2,336	76	3.4	17,782,588	20,438,584	2,655,996	14.9	605	673	68	11.2
Nonclassified ^b	5,331	6,567	1,236	23.2	74,934,137	98,578,106	23,643,969	31.6	1,081	1,155	73	6.8

*Preliminary.

^bThe employer may be located statewide or in more than one county.

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, developed through a cooperative program between Research & Planning and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Extract date: January 2009.

ATTACHMENT SIX

CROOK COUNTY (Continued)

PERSONAL INCOME	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total Personal Income (000)	\$146,488	\$170,244	\$173,059	\$181,400	\$202,697	\$220,717
Per Capita Personal Income	\$24,845	\$29,474	\$29,332	\$30,380	\$33,620	\$35,784
Per Capita Current Transfer Receipts*	\$3,120	\$3,533	\$3,683	\$3,979	\$4,267	\$4,338
Per Capita Dividends, Interest, and Rent	\$5,897	\$6,689	\$5,545	\$5,821	\$6,990	\$6,699
Average Wage and Salary Disbursements	\$21,937	\$23,446	\$24,611	\$24,894	\$26,087	\$28,143
Average Non-farm Proprietors' Income	\$14,991	\$22,287	\$22,263	\$23,288	\$26,454	\$27,875

* Current Transfer Receipts mainly include social security, disability, Medicare and Medicaid, and other income maintenance payments.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System

FULL AND PART TIME EMPLOYMENT	2004		2005		EARNINGS (Thousands of Dollars)	2004		2005	
	Wage and Salary	Proprietors	Wage and Salary	Proprietors		Wage and Salary	Proprietors	Wage and Salary	Proprietors
Wage and Salary	2,391	1,465	2,455	1,515	Wage and Salary	\$62,375	\$69,090	\$62,375	\$69,090
Proprietors					Supplements to Wages and Salaries*	\$15,159	\$16,907	\$15,159	\$16,907
TOTAL	3,856	3,970	3,970	3,856	TOTAL	\$77,534	\$85,997	\$77,534	\$85,997
Farm	603		601		Farm *	\$5,155	\$10,318	\$5,155	\$10,318
Forestry, Fishing, Related Activities	130		124		Forest, Fish, Related Activities	\$2,812	\$2,843	\$2,812	\$2,843
Mining	275		333		Mining	\$19,498	\$24,098	\$19,498	\$24,098
Utilities	(D)		(D)		Utilities	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Construction	355		340		Construction	\$11,907	\$11,843	\$11,907	\$11,843
Manufacturing	177		168		Manufacturing	\$7,610	\$7,745	\$7,610	\$7,745
Wholesale Trade	(D)		(D)		Wholesale Trade	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Retail Trade	306		320		Retail Trade	\$7,084	\$7,583	\$7,084	\$7,583
Transportation and Warehousing	131		131		Transportation and Warehouse	\$3,386	\$3,739	\$3,386	\$3,739
Information	17		18		Information	\$294	\$298	\$294	\$298
Finance and Insurance	(D)		107		Finance & Insurance	(D)	\$2,491	(D)	\$2,491
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	(D)		119		Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	(D)	\$804	(D)	\$804
Professional and Technical Services	97		119		Professional & Tech. Services	\$3,197	\$4,730	\$3,197	\$4,730
Management of Companies and Enterprises	(D)		(D)		Manag. of Co. & Enterprises	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Administrative and Waste Services	(D)		(D)		Administration & Waste Services	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Educational Services	19		19		Educational Services	\$314	\$332	\$314	\$332
Health Care and Social Assistance	134		157		Health Care & Social Assist.	\$2,386	\$2,639	\$2,386	\$2,639
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	93		77		Arts, Entertainment & Rec.	\$2,879	\$1,758	\$2,879	\$1,758
Accommodation and Food Services	294		282		Accommodation & Food Services	\$2,594	\$2,540	\$2,594	\$2,540
Other Services, except public administration	163		171		Other Services	\$1,899	\$1,985	\$1,899	\$1,985
Government and Government Enterprises	722		737		Government	\$25,710	\$28,078	\$25,710	\$28,078

*Supplements to Wages and Salaries include employer contributions for employee pension and insurance funds, and for government social insurance.

(D) - not shown to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System

SALES TAX COLLECTIONS INDUSTRY (NAICS)	FY 2006		FY 2007	
	Total Taxes (\$)	4% Taxes (\$)	Total Taxes (\$)	4% Taxes (\$)
Agr. Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting	3,504	2,336	4,395	2,930
Mining	340,484	227,177	530,737	354,147
Utilities	433,953	289,312	316,510	209,567
Construction	110,126	73,703	105,462	70,533
Manufacturing	194,341	129,644	187,763	125,070
Wholesale Trade	419,000	279,363	565,600	377,059
Retail Trade	1,903,629	1,274,921	1,984,990	1,324,684
Transportation & Warehousing	6,062	4,083	33,724	22,484
Information	104,836	69,895	113,446	76,215
Financial Activities	130,437	87,068	118,419	78,978
Professional & Business Services	30,623	20,481	29,135	19,426
Educational & Health Services	3,587	2,391	-3,986	-2,907
Leisure & Hospitality	428,149	286,003	491,280	327,985
Other Services	118,179	79,304	143,049	95,379
Public Administration	412,830	274,900	390,952	260,635
TOTAL	\$4,639,738	\$3,100,580	\$5,011,478	\$3,342,185

Note: Total sales tax collections may include both 4% state imposed taxes and local optional (up to 2%) taxes.

Source: State of Wyoming, Department of Revenue

Crook County Growth & Development
P.O. Box 848
Sundance, Wyoming 82729-0848

POSTAGE DUE 44

Wyoming High Plains District Office
Bureau of Land Management
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, WY 82604