SCOPING STATEMENT
MARTIN'S COVE LEASE PROJECT

Corporation of the Presiding Bishop,
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
and
Bureau of Land Management

Description of Project

Public Law 108-137, December 1, 2003, directs the Secretary of the Interior to lease for a period of 25 years approximately 940 acres of Federal land in Natrona County, Wyoming (see map) to the Corporation of the Presiding Bishop of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints ("Corporation"). This tract contains Martin's Cove.

The law requires a number of conditions be added to any lease. The Corporation may, with approval of BLM, improve the leasehold as necessary from time to time in order to accommodate visitors. The Corporation would give the United States a lease covenant to ensure public access, consistent with the historical purposes of the site, across private land owned by the Corporation to both Martin's Cove and the nearby Devil's Gate site. The Corporation may establish, in consultation with BLM, certain visitor's guidelines consistent with the historic nature of Martin's Cove to protect public health and safety. Lease rental payments would be fair market rental value of the lands to be leased, reduced by the fair market rental value of public easements granted by the Corporation.

The Federal government would retain the subsurface mineral estate, and the entire leasehold was withdrawn from mining location and all other forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal by Public Law 108-137.

Finally, the law specifies that the Secretary shall comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in carrying out these provisions.

Relationship to Existing Plans and Documents

The document which directs management of federal lands within the project area is the Lander Resource Management Plan (LRMP) and Record of Decision approved in 1987. The objective for the management of leases, permits, and easements is that they would be "allowed on a case-by-case basis … unless there is some specific inconsistency with the general management guidelines or objectives." The Oregon/Mormon Pioneer Trail Management Plan provides that important trail-related sites are to be "recommended for special protection, interpretation, use, or other management measures." Land uses are to be "compatible with protection of trail resources."

National Environmental Policy Act

Public Law 108-137 requires that the proposed lease be analyzed in accordance with the requirements of NEPA. To comply with NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, which implement NEPA, the BLM is required to prepare an environmental analysis. The environmental document will serve several purposes. It will provide both the public and

governmental agencies with information about the potential environmental consequences of the project and alternatives; identify all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the project and alternatives; and provide the responsible official with information upon which to make an informed decision regarding the project.

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

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

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

Scoping Meeting:
A public meeting will be held to provide interested members of the public with further information about the proposed lease and their opportunities to submit scoping comments to BLM. This meeting will be held at the following time and location:

Thursday, May 27
4:00 – 7:00 PM

BLM – Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, WY 82604

Interdisciplinary Team
Based on current understanding of issues, concerns, and opportunities and established objectives from other plans, an interdisciplinary team made up of the following specialists has been tentatively identified:

Don Ogaard	Project Manager/Interdisciplinary Team Leader
Tim Nowak	Cultural Resources Specialist
Mary Wilson	Public Affairs Specialist
Mel Schlagel	Realty Specialist

Other specialists may be added to the team as a result of issues identified during scoping.

Timing Needs or Requirements
Public input is important in establishing the level and scope of the analysis. The public is encouraged to participate throughout the environmental analysis process to help in identifying the level of analysis needed, alternatives to the proposed action, other issues or concerns that should be analyzed, mitigation opportunities, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure the completeness of the analysis process.

Comments are due by **June 14, 2004**. Please submit your comments to:

Don Ogaard, Project Manager
BLM – Worland Field Office
PO Box 119
Worland, WY 82401

307.347.5160

E-mail: WY_Martins_Cove@blm.gov

Project documents and information at: http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/lfodocs/martinscove

Initial Mailing List
The scoping notice initial mailing distribution includes the following agencies, officials, organizations, and media:

Government Offices
Office of the Governor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Wyoming State Planning Coordinator
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Wyoming Geological Survey
Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Elected Officials
U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Cubin
(Jackie King, Field Representative)
U.S. Senator Mike Enzi
(Cherie Hilderbrant, Field Representative)
U.S. Senator Craig Thomas
(Linda Harris, Field Representative)

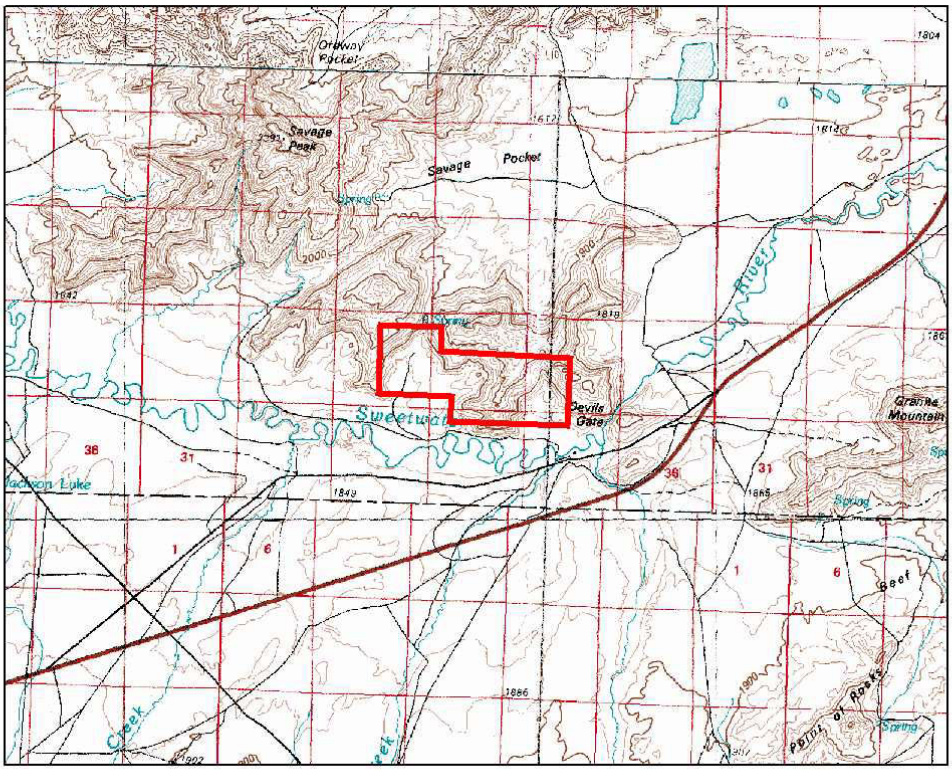
Native American Tribes and Organizations
Shoshone Business Council
Arapaho Business Council
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
Ute Tribal Council
Crow Tribal Council
Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
Oglala Sioux Tribal Council
Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council

Public Land Users and User Groups
Western Land Exchange Project
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Society for American Archaeology
Wyoming Outdoor Council
Wyoming Chapter – Sierra Club
Alliance for Historic Wyoming

Newspapers
Casper Star-Tribune
Wyoming Tribune-Eagle

Radio Stations
KUWR - University of Wyoming

Television Stations
KTWO-TV - Casper
KCWY-TV - Casper
KFNB-TV - Casper
KGWC-TV – Casper



Martin's Cove Proposed Lease Boundary

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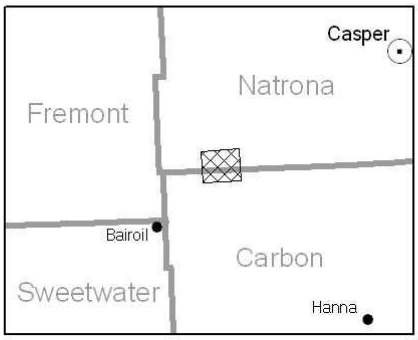
Bureau of Land Management

May 12, 2004

No warranty made for any purpose not intended by BLM



Map area