

**United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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**Decision Record for  
Environmental Assessment  
WY-060-EA10-143**

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**August 2010**

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**Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale  
February 2011**

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Casper Field Office  
2987 Prospector Drive  
Casper, Wyoming 82604  
307-261-7600



**DECISION RECORD**  
**Environmental Assessment**  
**WY-060-EA10-143**  
**Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale**  
**February 2011**

It is my decision to implement Alternative B: Proposed Action: Recommendation Based Leasing, and recommend the availability of 11 parcels for leasing in the February 2011 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale as identified in environmental assessment (WY-060-EA10-143).

**Authorities:** The authority for this decision is contained in 43 CFR 3100.

**Compliance and Monitoring:**

No monitoring would be required in the availability or the issuance of the subject parcels. Should the parcels be developed, monitoring may be required and would be analyzed under future NEPA documentation.

**Terms / Conditions / Stipulations:**

For all parcels, Standard Oil and Gas lease stipulations, standard terms and conditions as well as Special Cultural Resource Lease Notices 1-3 and lease notices Washington Office: Threatened and Endangered Species Stipulation (included within Instruction Memorandum No. 2002-174); Migratory Bird Species-Interim Management Guidance Policy (included within Instruction Memorandum No. 2008-050); BLM Sensitive Species, Raptors, Migratory Birds, and Prairie Dog Surveys; Biological Survey; and other Washington Office and state guidance would apply and be attached per parcel as appropriate upon offering for lease.

**PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CONSISTENCY:**

The proposed action and alternatives have been reviewed and found to be in conformance with the following BLM Land Use Plans and the associated decision(s).

Pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1508.28 and 1502.21, this environmental assessment (EA) tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (2007). The Final Resource Management Plan was approved by a Record of Decision (ROD) signed on December 7, 2007.

**Alternatives Considered:**

**Alternative A: No Action: No Leasing** --Under the No Action alternative, the BLM would not offer for sale 17 parcels that have been nominated by industry expressions of interest (EOI). Surface management would remain the same and ongoing oil and gas development would continue on surrounding federal, private, and state leases.

**Alternative B: Proposed Action: Recommendation Based Leasing** -- The Proposed Action is a recommendation from the Casper Field Manager to the State Director to offer 11 parcels for competitive sale, containing a combined total of approximately 3,821 acres of federal minerals

administered by the Casper Field Office. Standard terms and conditions as well as special stipulations would apply. Lease stipulations (as required by Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations 3131.3) were added to each parcel as identified by the Casper Field Office to address site specific resource concerns or new information not identified in the land use planning process.

Additionally, there would be a recommendation to the State Director to defer the availability of 6 parcels (WY-1102-025, WY-1102-026, WY-1102-027, WY-1102-029, WY-1102-030, and WY-1102-031) containing a combined total of approximately 8,335 acres.

**Alternative C: Full Lease Issuance** - Under Alternative C, all 17 parcels nominated would be offered for competitive sale with the stipulations recommended at the time of offering.

**Rationale for Decision:**

The decision to approve the proposed action is based upon the following: 1) consistency with resource management plan and land use plan; 2) national policy; 3) agency statutory requirements; 4) relevant resource issues; 5) application of measures to avoid or minimize environmental impacts. Alternative B, the proposed action was chosen as being the most environmentally sound alternative.

1. This decision is in conformance with the Casper Resource Management Plan (December 2007).
2. It is the policy of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as derived from various laws, including the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended [30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*] and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, to make mineral resources available for disposal and to encourage development of mineral resources to meet national, regional, and local needs.
3. The decision is consistent with all federal, state, and county authorizing actions required for implementation of the Proposed Action.
4. Standard terms and conditions as well as special stipulations would apply. Lease stipulations (as required by Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations 3131.3) were added to each parcel as identified by the Casper Field Office to address site specific resource concerns or new information not identified in the land use planning process.

  
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Authorized Officer

10-6-10  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Attachments:** None.