

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

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**Decision Record  
Environmental Assessment  
WY-080-EA10-27**

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**August 24, 2010**

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

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Newcastle Field Office  
1101 Washington Blvd.  
Newcastle, Wyoming 82701  
307-746-6600



**DECISION RECORD**  
**Environmental Assessment**  
**WY-080-EA10-27**  
**Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale**  
**February 2011**

It is my decision to implement Alternative B -- the Proposed Action, and recommend the availability of 10 parcels for leasing in the February 2011 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale as identified in environmental assessment (WY-080-EA10-27 ).

**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 one or more of 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 Newcastle Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (2000). The Final Resource Management Plan was approved by a Record of Decision (ROD) signed on August 25, 2000.

**Alternatives Considered:**

**Alternative A: No Action** --Under the No Action alternative, the BLM would not offer for sale 10 parcels that have been nominated by industry as 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** -- The Proposed Action is a recommendation from the Newcastle Field Manager to the State Director to offer 10 parcels for competitive sale, federal minerals administered by the Newcastle Field Office. Standard terms and conditions as well as special stipulations would apply. Lease stipulations (as required by Title 43 Code of Federal

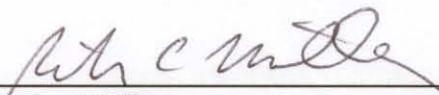
Regulations 3131.3) were added to each parcel as identified by the Newcastle Field Office to address site specific resource concerns or new information not identified in the land use planning process.

**Alternative C:** Under Alternative C, all 10 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 Newcastle Resource Management Plan (August 2000).
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 Newcastle 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

10/05/2010  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Attachments:** None.