

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

**Decision Record
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-WY-020-EA10-79**

**Written in
August 2010**

February 2011 Lease Parcels

Cody Field Office
1002 Blackburn Street
Cody, WY 82414
307-578-5900



DECISION RECORD
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It is my decision to implement Alternative B -- the Proposed Action as identified in Environmental Assessment (EA) - DOI-BLM-WY-020-EA10-79.

Authorities: The authority for this decision is contained in 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3100.

Compliance and Monitoring:

No monitoring would be required in the sale of the lease parcels. Should the lease parcels be developed, monitoring may be required and would be analyzed under future NEPA documentation.

Terms / Conditions / Stipulations:

For the 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); Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Sensitive Species, Raptors, Migratory Birds, and Prairie Dog Surveys; Biological Survey; and other Washington Office and state guidance would apply and be attached to any parcel that is sold 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 CFR 1502.21 and 1508.28, this EA tiers to and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the Cody Resource Management Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (ROD), November 11, 1990.

Alternatives Considered:

Alternative A: No Action – This Alternative is the No Action alternative. The BLM would not sell the leases that were nominated and 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 -- Alternative B analyzes the nominated lease parcels to determine if the State Director should post the nominated parcels for sale. Portions of two of the nominated parcels listed are within area's currently undergoing analysis for wilderness characteristics, as outlined in Secretarial Order 3310 and Draft Manuals 6300-1 and 6300-2, and subsequent management in the bighorn Basin RMP revision. The two parcels are; WY-1102-040, 312.960 acres, and parcel WY-1102-041, 1,440.000 acres, for a total of 1,752.960 acres, recommended for deferment from the February 2011 lease sale.

Standard terms and conditions as well as special stipulations would apply. Lease stipulations (as required by Title 43 CFR 3131.3) would be added to the parcels to be leased as identified by the Cody Field Office to address site specific concerns or new information not identified in the land use planning process.

Nominated parcels to be offered;

WY-1102-041 201.560 Acres
T.0550N, R.0970W, 06th PM, WY
Sec. 002 LOTS 8;
024 E2SE;
025 E2NE;

WY-1102-042 2040.000 Acres
T.0560N, R.0970W, 06th PM, WY
Sec. 001 NWSW,S2SW;
002 S2;
003 S2S2;
009 E2E2;
010 ALL;
011 ALL;

WY-1102-043 1225.800 Acres
T.0560N, R.0970W, 06th PM, WY
Sec. 012 LOTS 1-6,41-A,41-B,109F;
012 NW,N2S2;
013 LOTS 1,4,5,41-A,41-B,41-C;
014 LOTS 1,2;
014 N2N2;
015 N2N2.

Nominated parcels to be deferred;

WY-1102-040 312.960 Acres
T.0540N, R.0970W, 06th PM, WY
Sec. 001 LOTS 1-4;
001 S2N2;

WY-1102-041 1440.000 Acres
T.0550N, R.0970W, 06th PM, WY
Sec. 022 SWNE,S2;
023 SWNE,S2NW,E2SW,SE;
025 E2SE;
026 ALL.

Alternative C: Full Lease Sale --Under Alternative C, the nominated parcels would be sold with the stipulations recommended at the time of nomination.

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 and economic issues; 5) application of measures to avoid or minimize environmental impacts. Alternative B was chosen as being the most environmentally sound alternative.

1. This decision is in conformance with the Cody Resource Management Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision, November 8, 1990.
2. It is the policy of the 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. Economic benefits derived from implementation of the proposed action considered important and have been analyzed in the EA.
5. Standard terms and conditions as well as special stipulations would apply. Lease stipulations (as required by Title 43 CFR 3131.3) were added to each parcel as identified by the Cody Field Office to address site specific concerns or new information not identified in the land use planning process.



Michael P. Stewart
Cody Field Manager

Date 1/24/2011