

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

**Decision Record
Environmental Assessment**
DOI-BLM-WY-070-EA10-247

July 2010

**Previously Sold Lease Parcels
June 2008-May 2010**

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DECISION RECORD
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-WY-070-EA10-247
Previously Sold Lease Parcels June 2008-May 2010

It is my decision to implement Alternative B -- the Proposed Action, and recommend the issuance of leases for parcels sold from June 2008 thru May 2010 as identified in EA - DOI-BLM-WY-070-EA10-247.

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

Compliance and Monitoring:

No monitoring would be required in the issuance of the lease 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 Standard Lease Notices 1-3 and Special 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 to any parcel that is issued 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 Powder River Basin Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (2003). The Final Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (ROD) were signed April 30, 2003.

Alternatives Considered:

Alternative A: No Action --Under the No Action alternative the BLM would not issue leases for any of the 101 parcels that have been sold, or are still available non-competitively. 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 would be a recommendation to the State Director to issue leases for 75 parcels that have made available oil and gas development containing approximately 29,200.82 acres of federal minerals administered by the Buffalo Field Office. Standard terms and conditions as well as special stipulations would apply. Lease

stipulations (as required by Title 43 Code of Federal Regulation 3131.3) were added to each parcel as identified by the Buffalo Field Office to address site specific 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 issuance of lease for 26 parcels containing approximately 8,988.95 acres; deferral is recommended pending completion of the Buffalo RMP.

Alternative C: Under Alternative C, leases would be issued for all 101 parcels 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 and economic issues; 5) application of measures to avoid or minimize environmental impacts. Alternative B has been chosen as the preferred alternative.

1. This decision is in conformance with the information and analysis contained in the Powder River Basin Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (2003), 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
2. The decision is consistent with all federal, state, and county authorizing actions required for implementation of the Proposed Action.
3. Economic benefits derived from implementation of the proposed action are considered important and have been analyzed in the EA.
4. Standard terms and conditions as well as special stipulations would apply. Lease stipulations (as required by Title 43 Code of Federal Regulation 3131.3) were added to each parcel as identified by the Buffalo Field Office to address site specific concerns or new information not identified in the land use planning process.


Authorized Officer

7/30/2010
Date

Attachments: None.