

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

**Decision Record
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-WY-080-2010-18-EA**

July 2010

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

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



DECISION RECORD
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-WY-080-2010-18-EA
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-080-2010-18.

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 Newcastle Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (1999). The Final Resource Management Plan was approved by a Record of Decision (ROD) signed in 2000.

Alternatives Considered:

Alternative A: No Action --Under the No Action alternative, the BLM would not issue any of the 101 parcels that have been sold, and would not offer for sale the remaining 4 parcels that are open to non-competitive sale. 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 100 leases for parcels that have been sold for oil and gas development containing approximately 54,166.61 acres and would offer for sale noncompetitive 4 parcels containing approximately 360.57 acres that are open to non-competitive sale of 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 Regulation

3131.3) were added to each parcel as identified by the Newcastle 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 a lease for 1 parcel containing approximately 279.35 acres until the process to include a more restrictive stipulation has been resolved with the company.

Alternative C: Under Alternative C, leases would be issued for all 105 parcels with the stipulations recommended at the time of offering and/or sale.

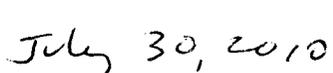
Rationale for Decision:

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 2 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. Economic benefits derived from implementation of the proposed action are 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 Code of Federal Regulation 3131.3) were added to each parcel as identified by the Newcastle Field Office to address site specific concerns or new information not identified in the land use planning process.



Authorized Officer



Date

Attachments: None.