

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

**Decision Record
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2010-0011-EA**

July 2010

**Lease Parcel Review
August 2010**

Worland Field Office
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Worland, Wyoming 82401
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DECISION RECORD
Environmental Assessment
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It is my decision to implement Alternative C -- the Proposed Action, and recommend to the Wyoming State Director to offer the nominated lease parcels, as identified in EA - **DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2010-0011-EA**, in the August 2010 lease sale.

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 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 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 Washakie Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (1988), and the Grass Creek Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement. The Final Resource Management Plans were approved by a Record of Decision (ROD) signed September 1988 and September, 1998, respectively.

Alternatives Considered:

Alternative A: No Action

Under the No Action alternative, the BLM would not issue any of the leases that have been nominated. Surface management would remain the same and ongoing oil and gas development would continue on surrounding federal, private, and state leases.

Alternative B: Full Lease Issuance

Under Alternative B, all three nominated parcels, approximately 1800 acres, would be issued with the stipulations recommended at the time of nomination.

Alternative C: Proposed Action

This would include issuing parcel #90 as nominated containing approximately 240 acres of federal minerals administered by the Worland Field Office; and modifying the nomination boundary for parcel #85 containing approximately 880 acres, and thereby deferring approximately 320 acres. Standard terms and conditions as well as special stipulations would apply. Lease stipulations (as required by Title 43 Code of Federal Registration 3131.3) were added to each parcel as identified by the Worland 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 parcel #91 containing approximately 360 acres.

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 Washakie Resource Management Plan (September 1988) and Grass Creek Resource Management Plan (September 1998).
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 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 Registration 3131.3) were added to each parcel as identified by the Worland Field Office to address site specific concerns or new information not identified in the land use planning process.

Karla Buel
Authorized Officer

8/5/2010
Date