

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

**Decision Record
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-WY-020-EA10-74**

June 2010

November 2010, Lease Parcel #175

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



DECISION RECORD
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-WY-020-EA10-74

November 2010, Lease Parcel #175

It is my decision to implement Alternative B -- the Proposed Action, and recommend the issuance of a portion of lease parcel WY-1011-175 as identified in EA, - DOI-BLM-WY-020-EA10-74

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 parcel. Should the portion of the lease parcel be developed, monitoring may be required and would be analyzed under future NEPA documentation.

Terms / Conditions / Stipulations:

For the parcel, 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) 1502.21 and 1508.28, this environmental assessment (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 -- The No Action alternative. The BLM would not issue the lease, under this alternative, that was nominated. 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 parcel to determine if the State Director should issue the lease as modified in light of new resource information. As nominated, the parcel is approximately 849.09 acres. Based upon review, the Cody Field Office recommends the parcel be partitioned; resulting in a deferral of approximately 264.34 acres and the remaining approximate 584.75 acres would be offered for lease. Standard terms and conditions as well as special stipulations would apply. Lease stipulations (as required by Title 43 Code of Federal Registration 3131.3) would be added to the remaining parcel 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.

Alternative C: Full Lease Issuance--Under Alternative C, nominated parcel #175 (approximately 849.09 acres) would be issued 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 2 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 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 Cody Field Office to address site specific concerns or new information not identified in the land use planning process.

Michael P. Stewart
Authorized Officer

8/3/2010
Date