

3120 (WYP06)

To: DSD, Division of Minerals and Lands (WY920)
Through: District Manager, High Plains District (WYP00)
From: Field Manager, Casper (WYP06) *Joseph E. Meyer*
Subject: August 2012 Oil and Gas Competitive Lease Sale Preliminary List Justification for lease and/or deferral recommendations within Greater Sage-grouse Core Areas.

The following recommendations are consistent with Instruction Memorandum (IM) No. WY-2010-013, issued January 4, 2010 for all Bureau of Land Management offices within Wyoming regarding Oil and Gas Leasing Screen for Greater Sage-grouse. This data was utilized during the lease screening process in conjunction with mapping data from the Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP) and associated Record of Decision, issued December 7, 2007. For a full list and description of lease specific stipulations as they are related to each parcel, please see the final August 2012 Oil and Gas Competitive Lease Sale.

Recommendation for available for leasing:

The following parcels are not located within a Sage-grouse Core Area or suitable habitat as established by the criteria set in the Casper RMP, IM WY-2010-012, and IM WY-2010-013. I recommend the parcels listed below be offered for lease in the August 2012 Oil and Gas Competitive Lease Sale because the parcels do not fit the first or second screening criteria outlined in IM WY-2010-13.

Parcel 001 (WY-1208-001),
Parcel 002 (WY-1208-002),
Parcel 003 (WY-1208-003),
Parcel 004 (WY-1208-004),
Parcel 005 (WY-1208-015),
Parcel 006 (WY-1208-006),
Parcel 007 (WY-1208-007),
Parcel 008 (WY-1208-008),
Parcel 009 (WY-1208-009),
Parcel 010 (WY-1208-010),
Parcel 011 (WY-1208-011),
Parcel 013 (WY-1208-013),
Parcel 014 (WY-1208-014),
Parcel 015 (WY-1208-025),
Parcel 017 (WY-1208-017),
Parcel 018 (WY-1208-018),
Parcel 040 (WY-1208-040),
Parcel 043 (WY-1208-043),
Parcel 046 (WY-1208-046),
Parcel 047 (WY-1208-047),
Parcel 052 (WY-1208-052),
Parcel 053 (WY-1208-053),
Parcel 054 (WY-1208-054),
Parcel 055 (WY-1208-055),

Parcel 056 (WY-1208-056),
Parcel 057 (WY-1208-057),
Parcel 058 (WY-1208-058),
Parcel 059 (WY-1208-059),
Parcel 060 (WY-1208-060),
Parcel 061 (WY-1208-061),
Parcel 062 (WY-1208-062),
Parcel 063 (WY-1208-063),
Parcel 064 (WY-1208-064),
Parcel 065 (WY-1208-065),
Parcel 066 (WY-1208-066),
Parcel 067 (WY-1208-067),
Parcel 068 (WY-1208-068),
Parcel 069 (WY-1208-069),
Parcel 070 (WY-1208-070),
Parcel 071 (WY-1208-071),
Parcel 072 (WY-1208-072),
Parcel 073 (WY-1208-073),
Parcel 074 (WY-1208-074),
Parcel 075 (WY-1208-075),
Parcel 076 (WY-1208-076),
Parcel 077 (WY-1208-077),
Parcel 078 (WY-1208-078),
Parcel 079 (WY-1208-079),

Parcel 081 (WY-1208-081),
Parcel 082 (WY-1208-082),
Parcel 083 (WY-1208-083),
Parcel 084 (WY-1208-084),
Parcel 085 (WY-1208-085),
Parcel 086 (WY-1208-086),
Parcel 088 (WY-1208-088),
Parcel 089 (WY-1208-089),

Parcel 092 (WY-1208-092),
Parcel 093 (WY-1208-093),
Parcel 098 (WY-1208-098),
Parcel 099 (WY-1208-099),
*Parcel 100 (WY-1208-100) in-part,
Parcel 101 (WY-1208-101),
Parcel 395 (WY-1208-395).

*Parcel 100 (WY-1208-100) is entirely located within a Sage-grouse Core Area and partially located within the Wind River Basin Management Area (MA), as identified in the Casper RMP. For this reason, the initial nomination has been separated into two. Both in-part portions of the parcel have different recommendations for deferral/ lease and are discussed below in detail.

The following parcels are either partially or entirely located within a Sage-grouse Core Area. However, the parcels are not located within suitable Sage-grouse nesting habitat as established by the criteria set in the Casper RMP, IM WY-2010-012, and IM WY-2010-013. I recommend the parcels listed below be offered for lease in the August 2012 Oil and Gas Competitive Lease Sale with appropriate stipulations because the parcels do not fit the second screening criteria outlined in IM WY-2010-13.

Parcel 080 (WY-1208-080),
Parcel 092 (WY-1208-092),
Parcel 093 (WY-1208-093),

Parcel 098 (WY-1208-098),
Parcel 099 (WY-1208-099),
Parcel 101 (WY-1208-101).

The following parcels are either partially or entirely located within suitable Sage-grouse nesting habitat as established by the criteria set in the Casper RMP, IM WY-2010-012, and IM WY-2010-013. However, the parcels are not located within a Sage-grouse Core Area. I recommend the parcels listed below be offered for lease in the August 2012 Oil and Gas Competitive Lease Sale with appropriate stipulations because the parcels do not fit the first screening criteria outlined in IM WY-2010-13.

Parcel 043 (WY-1208-043),
Parcel 047 (WY-1208-047),
Parcel 055 (WY-1208-055),
Parcel 056 (WY-1208-056),
Parcel 064 (WY-1208-064),
Parcel 065 (WY-1208-065),
Parcel 066 (WY-1208-066),

Parcel 067 (WY-1208-067),
Parcel 068 (WY-1208-068),
Parcel 069 (WY-1208-069),
Parcel 070 (WY-1208-070),
Parcel 071 (WY-1208-071),
Parcel 077 (WY-1208-077),
Parcel 089 (WY-1208-089).

The following parcels are either partially or entirely located within a Sage-Grouse Core Area and suitable Sage-grouse nesting habitat as established by the criteria set in the Casper RMP, IM WY-2010-012, and IM WY-2010-013. Adjacent and surrounding lands have multiple valid leases and the parcel is not within or part of eleven square miles of contiguous, manageable, unleased Federal minerals; therefore I recommend the parcels listed below be offered for lease in the August 2012 Oil and Gas Competitive Lease Sale with appropriate stipulations because the parcels do not fit the third screening criteria outlined in IM WY-2010-13.

Parcel 079 (WY-1208-079),
Parcel 088 (WY-1208-088),

*Parcel 100 (WY-1208-100) in-part

The portion of Parcel 100 (WY-1208-100) recommended for lease is located entirely within the Wind River Basin Management Area (MA) as identified in the Casper RMP. The Wind River Basin MA, as described in Decision 7067, "...is established on a portion of the Wind River Basin with high and moderate gas potential. Oil and gas development is a priority in the area with minimum restrictions. New oil and gas leases in this area will be issued with standard stipulations only...." Of the approximately 520 acres located with the Wind River Basin MA recommended for lease, only 16 percent or 80 acres are located within a sage-grouse nesting buffer, the remaining 440 acres are not located in suitable habitat. The specific portions of Parcel 100 (WY-1208-100) that are recommended for lease are specifically identified as:

*Parcel 100 (WY-1208-100) in-part, 6th P.M., T. 35N., R. 87 W.,
 Sections 002 Lots 3,4;
 002 SENE, W2SW, SESE;
 011 N2NE, NWNW, SESE;
 014 NWNW;
 020 SWNE, SENW;

Recommendation for deferment from leasing pending WY Sage-grouse RMP Amendment:

The following parcels are either partially or entirely located within a Sage-grouse Core Area and suitable Sage-grouse nesting habitat as established by the criteria set in the Casper RMP, IM WY-2010-012, and IM WY-2010-013. I recommend the following parcels for deferment from leasing as these parcels meet all of the criteria identified in the oil and gas leasing screen for Greater Sage-grouse. The deferment is recommended pending an amendment/maintenance action for the Casper RMP to evaluate additional Greater Sage-grouse protections.

Parcel 090 (WY-1208-090),	Parcel 097 (WY-1208-097),
Parcel 091 (WY-1208-091),	*Parcel 100 (WY-1208-100) in-part.
Parcel 096 (WY-1208-096),	

The portion of Parcel 100 (WY-1208-100) recommended for deferral meets all of the criteria identified in the oil and gas leasing screen for Greater Sage-grouse and above. The specific portion of Parcel 100 (WY-1208-100) that is recommended for deferral contains approximately 160 acres and is specifically identified as:

*Parcel 100 (WY-1208-100) in-part, 6th P.M., T. 35N., R. 87 W.,
 Section 013, NE ¼;

Recommendation for deferment from leasing pending coordination with surface agency is performed:

The surface ownership of Parcel 022 (WY-1208-022) and Parcel 039 (WY-1208-039) is the Bureau of Reclamation. The Surface ownership of Parcel 037 (WY-1208-037) is the Department of Defense. The deferral of all three parcels is recommended pending coordination with each agency.

Recommendation for deferment from leasing regarding Camp Guernsey:

The Casper Field Office currently administers one special land use permit on 200 acres issued to the Wyoming Army National Guard for military training purposes near Camp Guernsey. It is one of only four occurrences of segregation from mineral leasing, as oil and gas leasing and development is

incompatible with military training exercises, including heavy artillery use and the presence of unexploded ordnance.

Camp Guernsey Land Transfer Proposal – Deferment recommended pending land tenure adjustment.

The Wyoming Army National Guard has submitted a proposed boundary change and expansion to accommodate their mission and an increased demand for training. The following parcels are partially or entirely located within the proposed boundary change and are recommended for deferral pending a land tenure adjustment.

Parcel 033 (WY-1208-033),
Parcel 034 (WY-1208-034),
Parcel 035 (WY-1208-035),

Parcel 036 (WY-1208-036),
Parcel 038 (WY-1208-038).

Recommendation for deletion:

Parcel 080 (WY-1208-080) is entirely located within the Sand Hills Management Area (MA). The Sand Hills MA is administratively unavailable for oil and gas leasing pursuant to Decision 7047 of the Casper RMP. For this reason I recommend deletion of Parcel 080 (WY-1208-080).