



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Casper Field Office
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3120 (WYP 06)

To: DSD, Division of Minerals and Lands (WY920)

Through: District Manager, High Plains District (WYP000)

From: Field Manager, Casper (WYP060) *Joseph C. Meyer*

Subject: August 2013 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-2012-019 and Attachment 7, BLM Wyoming Sage-Grouse Fluid Mineral Lease Screen, issued February 10, 2012 for all Bureau of Land Management offices within Wyoming regarding Greater Sage-Grouse Lease Screen. 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 2013 Oil and Gas Competitive Lease Sale.

Recommendation for available for leasing:

The following parcels are not located within a Greater Sage-grouse Core Area as established by the criteria set in IM WY-2012-019. I recommend the parcels listed below be offered for lease in the August 2013 Oil and Gas Competitive Lease Sale because the parcels do not fit the first screening criteria outlined in IM WY-2012-019.

Parcel 062 (WY-1308-062)
Parcel 092 (WY-1308-092)
Parcel 093 (WY-1308-093)
Parcel 094 (WY-1308-094)
Parcel 095 (WY-1308-095)
Parcel 096 (WY-1308-096)
Parcel 097 (WY-1308-097)
Parcel 098 (WY-1308-098)
Parcel 099 (WY-1308-099)
Parcel 100 (WY-1308-100)
Parcel 101 (WY-1308-101)
Parcel 102 (WY-1308-102)
Parcel 103 (WY-1308-103)
Parcel 104 (WY-1308-104)
Parcel 106 (WY-1308-106)
Parcel 107 (WY-1308-107)

Parcel 108 (WY-1308-108)
Parcel 109 (WY-1308-109)
Parcel 110 (WY-1308-110)
Parcel 111 (WY-1308-111)
Parcel 112 (WY-1308-111)

Parcel 122 (WY-1308-122) is entirely located within a Greater Sage-grouse Core Area. However, the parcel is not located within at least eleven square miles of contiguous, manageable, Federal fluid mineral estate as established by the criteria set in IM WY-2012-019. In addition the parcel is partially located 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" I recommend Parcel 122 (WY-1308-122) be offered for lease in the August 2013 Oil and Gas Competitive Lease Sale with appropriate stipulations.

Recommendation for available for leasing in part and deferment in part:

Parcel 051 (WY-1308-051) is located in both the Casper Field Office (Converse County) and the Newcastle Field Office (Niobrara County). The following recommendation is only for those portions of the parcel located within the Casper Field Office. Parcel 051 (WY-1308-051) is partially located within a Greater Sage-grouse Core Area. However, the parcel is not located within at least eleven square miles of contiguous, manageable, Federal fluid mineral estate as established by the criteria set in IM WY-2012-019. The parcel is partially located within 0.60 mile of an occupied Sage-grouse lek and is therefore recommended for deferral in part as established by the criteria set in IM WY-2012-019.

The specific portions of Parcel 051 (WY-1308-051) that are recommended for lease are specifically identified as:

T.0380N, R.0670W, 06th PM, WY
Sec. 021 NENW;
028 NENW,NESE;
029 E2SW;
032 W2NE,SENE,E2NW,N2SE,SESE;
033 W2SW;
035 SE;

The specific portions of Parcel 051 (WY-1308-051) that are recommended for deferral are specifically identified as:

T.0380N, R.0670W, 06th PM, WY
Sec. 028 E2NE

Parcel 123 (WY-1308-123) is partial located within a Greater 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 portion of Parcel 123 (WY-1308-123) recommended for lease is located partially 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" The specific portions of Parcel 123 (WY-1302-123) that are recommended for lease are specifically identified as:

T.0350N, R.0870W, 06th PM, WY
Sec. 003 SENE;
005 LOTS 1-4;
005 S2N2;
006 SENE;

The portion of Parcel 123 (WY-1302-123) recommended for deferral is entirely located in a Greater Sage-grouse Core Area. This portion of the parcel is recommended for deferral pending an amendment action for the Casper RMP to evaluate additional Greater Sage-grouse habitat conservation measures. The specific portions of Parcel 123 (WY-1308-123) that are recommended for deferral are specifically identified as:

T.0350N, R.0870W, 06th PM, WY
Sec. 001 LOTS 4;
012 NENW,SESW;

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

The following parcels are either partially or entirely located within a Greater Sage-grouse Core Area, at least eleven square miles of contiguous, manageable, Federal fluid mineral estate and are not an immediate drainage risk or within an oil and gas unit as established by the criteria set in IM WY-2012-019. I recommend the following parcels for deferral from leasing as these parcels meet the deferral criteria identified in the fluid mineral leasing screen for Greater Sage-grouse. The deferral is recommended pending an amendment action for the Casper RMP to evaluate additional Greater Sage-grouse protections.

Parcel 063 (WY-1308-063)
Parcel 064 (WY-1308-064)
Parcel 065 (WY-1308-065)
Parcel 113 (WY-1302-094)

The following parcels are entirely located within a Greater Sage-grouse Core Area, at least eleven square miles of contiguous, manageable, Federal fluid mineral estate and are not an immediate drainage risk or within an oil and gas unit as established by the criteria set in IM WY-2012-019. In addition, the following parcels are recommended for deferral pending an amendment action for the Casper RMP to evaluate additional Greater Sage-grouse habitat conservation measures.

Parcel 118 (WY-1308-118)
Parcel 119 (WY-1308-119)
Parcel 120 (WY-1308-120)

The following parcels are entirely located within a Greater Sage-grouse Core Area but do not meet the eleven square miles of contiguous, manageable, Federal fluid mineral estate established by the criteria set in IM WY-2012-019. However, the following parcels are recommended for deferral pending an amendment action for the Casper RMP to evaluate additional Greater Sage-grouse habitat conservation measures.

Parcel 117 (WY-1308-117)

Parcel 121 (WY-1308-121)