

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Environmental Assessment
WYW-010-2010-078-EA
Town of Ten Sleep Public Land Sale WYW-165149

INTRODUCTION:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted an environmental analysis (EA) for the proposed non-competitive direct sale of public land to the Town of Ten Sleep (Town) in Washakie County, Wyoming.

The Town has identified a lack of affordable housing in their community, and has approached BLM with a proposal to purchase a parcel of vacant public land near town. The desire of the Town is to provide more affordable land for housing, to encourage in migration of employees for local businesses and institutions in this remote community. The purpose of this land sale is to meet the need identified by the Town. The proposed alternative is to convey title to the surface estate to the Town for 22.98 acres of BLM administered public lands, which the Town has identified for acquisition under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The Town has proposed a direct sale pursuant to 43 CFR 2711.3-3.

The EA for the proposed sale (WYW-010-2010-078-EA), available at the BLM Worland Field Office, is incorporated by reference for this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). A no action alternative (no sale) was also analyzed in the EA. The EA is also available for public review and comment by visiting the BLM website at: <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/wfodocs.html>

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Based upon a review of the EA and the supporting documents, I have determined that the project is not a major federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27 and do not exceed those effects described in the Washakie Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (RMP/ROD) dated September 2, 1988. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed.

This finding is based on the context and intensity of the project as described:

Context: The proposed sale is a site-specific action directly involving approximately 22.98 acres of BLM administered land that by itself does not have international, national, regional, or state-wide importance but does have local importance.

Intensity: The following discussion is organized around the Ten Significance Criteria described in 40 CFR 1508.27 and incorporated into resources and issues considered (includes supplemental authorities Appendix 1 H-1790-1) and supplemental Instruction Memorandum, Acts, regulations and Executive Orders.

The following have been considered in evaluating intensity for this proposal:

1. **Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse.** The proposed action would impact resources as described in the EA. The environmental effects discussed in the EA are not considered significant nor exceed the criteria established for sales in the Washakie RMP/ROD.
2. **The degree to which the selected alternative will affect public health or safety.** The proposed sale would have no affect on public health or safety.
3. **Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.** Historic and cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas were not present in the area to be affected, and they would not be impacted by the proposed sale.
4. **The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.** There is no scientific controversy over the nature of the impacts on the quality of the human environment.
5. **The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.** The proposed public land sale is not unique or unusual. The environmental effects to the human environment are fully analyzed in the EA. There are no predicted effects on the human environment that are considered to be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks from sale of the land.
6. **The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.** The proposed transfer of title to public land to the Town was considered by an interdisciplinary team of BLM staff resource specialists within the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Significant cumulative effects are not predicted. The land sale conforms with previous decisions of the Washakie RMP/ROD. The analysis of the effects of the proposed action and the no action alternative is described in Chapter 4 of the EA.
7. **Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts – which include connected actions regardless of land ownership.** The interdisciplinary team of BLM resource specialists evaluated the possible actions in context of past, present and

reasonably foreseeable actions. Significant cumulative effects are not predicted. Disclosure of the effects of the proposed sale is contained in Chapter 4 of the EA.

- 8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.** The proposed public land sale will not adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, nor will it cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources. Cultural inventories of the public land proposed for sale have been completed and cultural resources are not present and are therefore not affected.
- 9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, or the degree to which the action may adversely affect: 1) a proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species or its habitat, or 2) a species on BLM's sensitive species list.** There are no endangered or threatened species or habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, or a proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species or its habitat, or a species on BLM's sensitive species list occurring in the area of the proposed land sale, and thus there is not adverse affect.
- 10. Whether the action threatens a violation of a federal, state, local, or tribal law, regulation or policy imposed for the protection of the environment, where non-federal requirements are consistent with federal requirements.** The proposed sale does not violate any known federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

Authorized Officer

Date