

# Buffalo Resource Management Plan Revision



## What are the issues associated with mineral development?

The following General Mining Law of 1872 minerals are found in the Buffalo planning area:

- **Bentonite**
- **Uranium**
- **Gypsum**

Exploration for and production of commercially available minerals in the Buffalo planning area currently include uranium and bentonite. Annual production of bentonite varies with market demand as well as available stockpiles. With the increased interest in uranium due to market price increases, mining claim numbers are increasing in southern Campbell and Johnson Counties. There are many mining claims in the Buffalo planning area.



Exploration, development and disposal of the following minerals under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act occurs in the Buffalo planning area:

- **Sand**
- **Gravel**
- **Clinker**
- **Building stone**
- **Other common minerals are also available by permit**

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## What are the oil and gas trends in the Buffalo planning area?

In the United States, Wyoming ranks 7th in the production of oil and 2nd in the production of natural gas.



In the Buffalo planning area, federal oil and gas leases cover approximately 2,627,745 acres. This acreage represents approximately 55% of the total acres of mineral estate in the planning area.



Presently, there are 280 oil and gas fields in Campbell County, 42 oil and gas fields in Johnson County, and 2 oil and gas fields in Sheridan County. Oil production in Campbell and Johnson counties is on the decline, but is increasing in Sheridan County. Coalbed natural gas is the principal gas production in the Powder River Basin which is increasing and is currently producing at a rate of 1.2 billion cubic feet per day.

The table below identifies the number of producing oil and gas wells in the Buffalo planning area.

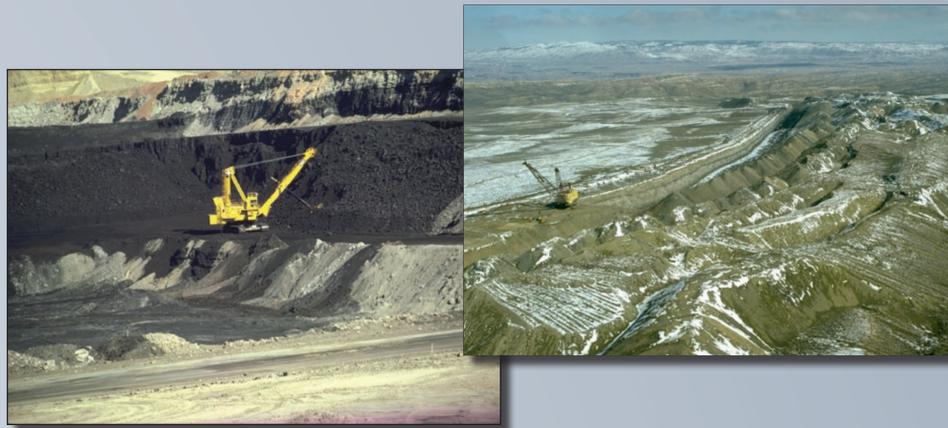
| COUNTY | FEDERAL OIL AND GAS WELLS | STATE AND FEE OIL AND GAS WELLS | TOTAL OIL AND GAS WELLS |
|--------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
|        |                           |                                 |                         |

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## How does coal production impact the Buffalo planning area?

The coal program in the Buffalo planning area represents the largest portion of coal activity in the Powder River Basin (PRB) Coal Federal Production Region.



In 2007, over 96% of Wyoming's coal production (436.5 million tons) came from the PRB. Coal from Wyoming's PRB is shipped nationwide. Wyoming PRB coal represented 38% of the Nation's coal production in 2007, with total production expected to grow at an annual rate of 2% to 3% per year in line with electric power demand.

The BLM's goal for the coal program in this region is to meet reserve needs to maintain currently operating mines consistent with environmental protections, coal resource conservation, and fair market value return to the government and public.

**The issues associated with coal production in the planning area include:**

- Potential conflicts between coal mining and existing and proposed conventional oil and coalbed natural gas development
- Potential impacts to cultural and paleontological resources
- Potential impacts to listed threatened and endangered species and other species of concern
- Potential impacts to wetland resources
- Potential air quality impacts (including cumulative impacts to visibility)
- Potential surface and groundwater quality and quantity impacts
- Potential impacts of and possible mitigation for nitrogen oxide emissions resulting from blasting of coal and overburden
- Potential human health impacts
- The need to address site-specific greenhouse gas emissions
- Others?