

**LAND USE PLAN (LUP) AMENDMENT / MAINTENANCE SHEET**

**Plan Name:** Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan  
**Location:** Bureau of Land Management – Vernal Field Office  
**Program:** Minerals and Energy [Oil Shale and Tar Sands]  
**Revision:** 6 **Maintenance Change Sheet No.:** 2013-01

**LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Paragraph</b>	<b>Change Description</b>
2013-01-001	58	Table with Existing Environmental Statements	Add: Approved Land Use Plan Amendments/Record of Decision (ROD) for Allocation of Oil Shale and Tar Sands Resources on Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
2013-01-002	59	1 <sup>st</sup> Paragraph	Since the start of this RMP revision, Congress enacted the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Section 369 of the Energy Policy Act requires the Secretary of Interior to "complete a programmatic environmental impact statement for a commercial leasing program for oil shale and tar sands resources on public lands, with an emphasis on the most geologically prospective lands within each of the States of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming." On December 13, 2005, the BLM published a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register initiating a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to support a commercial oil shale and tar sands leasing program on federal lands in these three states. Since that time, <del>the scope of the PEIS has been revised. The BLM is no longer using the PEIS as the document that supports the NEPA requirements for leasing. Given that the development technologies for in situ production of oil shale are just emerging, there is a lack of information regarding resource use and associated impacts. Consequently, the BLM has changed this document to a resource allocation document that identifies the BLM managed lands for which applications to lease oil shale and tar sands resources will be accepted in the future. However, although applications will be accepted, additional NEPA analysis will be performed before any leasing of the area will be considered. the Record of Decision (ROD) for the oil shale/tar sands PEIS has been signed on (March 3, 2013). The ROD amended management decisions in the RMP. For oil shale, see management decisions MIN-15 through MIN-22. For tar sands, see management decisions MIN-23 through MIN-27.</del>
2013-01-003	99		<del><u>Combined Hydrocarbon Areas/Special Tar Sand Areas</u><u>Oil Shale</u></del>

<sup>1</sup> Page references and paragraph numbering on this LUP Maintenance Sheet correspond to the Vernal ROD / Approved RMP reissued in June 2009.

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2013-01-004	99	MIN-15	<u>Management decisions regarding combined hydrocarbon areas/special tar sand areas are deferred to the PEIS that is being prepared. While the Oil Shale and Tar Sands Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) [approved March 3, 2013] refers to “application for leasing for commercial oil shale development,” the BLM could publish in the Federal Register one or more additional requests for expressions of interest in Research, Development, and Demonstration (RD&amp;D) leasing within Utah. Any new RD&amp;D lease would have to be consistent with the BLM Vernal Field Office RMP.</u>
2013-01-005	99	<u>MIN-16</u>	<u>Lands would be available only for RD&amp;D leases first. The BLM would issue a commercial lease only when a lessee satisfies the conditions of its RD&amp;D lease and the regulations at 43 CFR Part 3926 for conversion to a commercial lease. The preference right acreage, if any, which would be included in the converted lease, would be specified in the RD&amp;D lease.</u>
2013-01-006	99	<u>MIN-17</u>	<u>Commercial leasing will occur utilizing a lease by application process described in Section 2.3.3. of Approved Oil Shale and Tar Sands PEIS. The process will require that additional NEPA analysis be conducted prior to lease issuance. Information collected as part of the lease application process will be incorporated into the NEPA analysis.</u>
2013-01-007	99	<u>MIN-18</u>	<u>Approval of the project-specific plan of operation will require NEPA review to consider site-specific and project-specific factors. The NEPA review for the plan of operations may be incorporated into NEPA for the lease application if adequate operational data are provided by the applicant(s).</u>
2013-01-008	99	<u>MIN-19</u>	<u>The BLM will consider and give priority to the use of land exchanges, where appropriate and feasible, to consolidate land ownership and mineral interests within the oil shale basins.</u>
2013-01-009	99	<u>MIN-20</u>	<u>Approximately 360,350 acres of land within the most geologically prospective oil shale area will be available for application for leasing for commercial oil shale development in accordance with applicable Federal and State regulations and BLM policies.</u>

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2013-01-010	99	<a href="#">MIN-21</a>	<a href="#">Applications for commercial leases using surface mining technologies will only be accepted within an area of 133,194 acres within the most geologically prospective oil shale area where the overburden is 0 to 500 feet thick. Applications for commercial leasing using surface mining technologies will not be accepted in any other areas.</a>
2013-01-011	99	<a href="#">MIN-22</a>	<a href="#">The Ute Indian Tribe will be consulted regarding potential leasing for commercial oil shale development on 57,700 acres of split estate lands located in the Hill Creek Extension of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation prior to considering any parcel for leasing.</a>
2013-01-012	99	New Sub-heading	<a href="#">Special Tar Sand Areas (STSA)</a>
2013-01-013	99	<a href="#">MIN-23</a>	<a href="#">Commercial leasing of tar sands resources will require that additional NEPA analysis be conducted prior to lease issuance. Information collected as part of the lease application process will be incorporated into the NEPA analysis.</a>
2013-01-014	99	<a href="#">MIN-24</a>	<a href="#">Approval of the project-specific plans of operation will require NEPA review to consider site-specific and project-specific factors. The NEPA review for the plan of operations may be incorporated into NEPA for the lease application if adequate operational data are provided by the applicant(s).</a>
2013-01-015	99	<a href="#">MIN-25</a>	<a href="#">The BLM will consider and give priority to the use of land exchanges, where appropriate and feasible, to consolidate land ownership and mineral interests within the STSAs.</a>
2013-01-016	99	<a href="#">MIN-26</a>	<p><a href="#">The following amounts of land within the specific Special Tar Sand Areas (STSAs) will be available for application for leasing for commercial tar sands development in accordance with applicable Federal and State regulations and BLM policies:</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">• Argyle Canyon STSA (5 acres)</a></li> <li><a href="#">• Asphalt Ridge STSA (2,123 acres)</a></li> <li><a href="#">• Hill Creek STSA (45,307 acres)</a></li> <li><a href="#">• Pariette STSA (860 acres)</a></li> <li><a href="#">• P.R. Spring STSA (43,293 acres)</a></li> <li><a href="#">• Raven Ridge STSA (9,134 acres)</a></li> <li><a href="#">• Sunnyside STSA (1,982 acres)</a></li> </ul>

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2013-01-017	99	<a href="#">MIN-27</a>	<a href="#">The Ute Indian Tribe will be consulted regarding potential leasing for commercial tar sands development on split estate lands located in the Hill Creek Extension of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation prior to considering any parcel for leasing. These lands fall entirely within the Hill Creek STSA.</a>

**RATIONALE / JUSTIFICATION**

The Approved Land Use Plan Amendments/Record of Decision (ROD) for Allocation of Oil Shale and Tar Sands Resources on Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement was signed and approved March 3, 2013.

This Maintenance Sheet incorporates the oil shale and tar sand management decisions approved through the land use plan amendment process as identified in the PEIS above.

	<b>SIGNATURES</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>Program Lead</b>	/s/ Kelly Buckner	05-24-2013
<b>Environmental Coordinator</b>	/s/ Kelly Buckner	05-24-2013
<b>Field Office Manager</b>	/s/ Michael Stiewig	05-24-2013