

Main document changes and comments

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In accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended [30 U.S.C. § 181 et seq.], Federal Onshore Oil & Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987 [30 U.S.C. § 181 et seq.] and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3120.1-2(a), the BLM Wyoming State Office (WSO) conducts a quarterly competitive oil and gas lease sale for lands that are eligible and available for leasing. A Notice of Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale (Sale Notice), which lists parcels to be offered at the auction, was published by the WSO at least 45 days before each of the subject auction dates. Applicable lease stipulations for each parcel were identified in the Sale Notices. The decision as to which public lands and minerals are open for leasing and what leasing stipulations may be necessary is made during the BLM's land use planning process in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) [43 U.S.C. § 1712]. Surface management/use for mineral extraction on non-BLM administered surface overlying Federal minerals is determined by the BLM in consultation with the appropriate surface management agency or the private surface owner when surface use is proposed by the leaseholder or its designated operator.

BLM is responsible for oil and gas leasing on about 700 million acres of BLM, national forest, and other Federal lands, and seeks to ensure that mineral resources are developed in an environmentally responsible manner.

In accordance with the MLA and 43 CFR § 3120.1-2, the BLM WSO conducts quarterly competitive oil and gas lease sales for lands that are eligible and available. Private individuals or entities may file Expressions of Interest (EOIs) to suggest parcels for consideration for leasing by the BLM. The authorized officer also may identify lands for leasing consideration. Additional information on the competitive lease sale process is available on-line at: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/oil-and-gas/leasing>

The offering and subsequent issuance of oil and gas leases, in and of itself, does not cause or directly result in any surface disturbance. The BLM cannot determine, prior to conducting a lease sale, whether a proposed parcel actually will be leased, or if it is subsequently leased, whether the lease will be explored or developed.

Once a parcel is sold and the lease is issued, the lessee has the right to use the leased lands to explore and drill for all of the oil and gas within the lease boundaries, subject to the stipulations attached to the lease, restrictions derived from specific nondiscretionary statutes, and other reasonable measures to minimize adverse impacts (see 43 § CFR 3101.1-2). Further, relevant regulations at 43 CFR § 3162.5-1(a) provide: "The operator shall conduct operations in a manner which protects the mineral resources, other natural resources, and environmental quality. In that respect, the operator shall comply with the pertinent orders of the authorized officer and other standards and procedures as set forth in the applicable laws, regulations, lease terms and conditions, and the approved drilling plan or subsequent operations plan. Before approving any Application for Permit to Drill submitted pursuant to § 3162.3-1 of this title, or other plan requiring environmental review, the authorized officer shall prepare an environmental record of review or an environmental assessment, as appropriate. These environmental documents will be used in determining whether or not an environmental impact statement is required and in determining any appropriate terms and conditions of approval of the submitted plan." Accordingly, the BLM can subject development of existing leases to reasonable conditions to minimize impacts to other resources, through the application of COAs at the time of permitting. Any constraints must conform with the applicable land use plan and be consistent with rights granted to the holder under the lease. In addition, upon cessation of lease operations, the lessee must plug the well(s) and abandon any facilities on the lease. The surface must also be reclaimed to the satisfaction of the BLM authorized officer, in accordance with the MLA, Section 17g [30 U.S.C. § 226(g)].

Oil and gas leases are issued for a 10-year period and continue for so long thereafter as oil or gas is produced in paying quantities. If a lessee fails to produce oil or gas, does not make annual rental payments, does not comply

with the terms and conditions of the lease, or relinquishes the lease, the lease may terminate or be cancelled, and BLM may consider offering the lands for lease at another lease sale after a new review process.

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Decisions to be made

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BLM will decide

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include which

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whether to offer

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would be offered

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that would be offered for lease under this sale,

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The sale and issuance of the leases conforms to the approved RMPs (43 CFR § 1610.5) and Records of Decision (RODs) for the applicable planning areas, as amended or updated, including:

High Plains District (HPD)

- The Casper Field Office (CFO) RMP ROD approved on December 7, 2007 (supported by June 2007 FEIS), as amended by the Wyoming Greater Sage-grouse Land Use Plan Amendment Rocky Mountain Region ROD approved on September 21, 2015 and amended on March 15, 2019 (GSG ARMPA) (supported by May 2015 and December 2018 FEISs’).
- The Newcastle Field Office (NFO) RMP ROD approved on August 25, 2000 (supported by June 1999 FEIS), as amended by the GSG ARMPA (supported by May 2015 and December 2018 FEISs’).

Wind River/Bighorn Basin District (WRBBD)

- The Lander Field Office (LFO) RMP ROD signed on June 26, 2014 (supported by February 2013 FEIS), as amended by the (GSG ARMPA) (supported by May 2015 and December 2018 FEISs’).
- The Cody Field Office (CYFO) Bighorn Basin/Rocky Mountain Region RMP ROD approved on (supported by May 2015 FEIS); amended on March 15, 2019 (supported by December 2018 FEIS).
- The Worland Field Office (WFO) Bighorn Basin/Rocky Mountain Region RMP/ROD approved on (supported by May 2015 FEIS); amended on March 15, 2019 (supported by December 2018 FEIS).

High Desert District (HDD)

- The Rawlins Field Office (RFO) RMP ROD approved on December 24, 2008 (supported by January 2008 FEIS) as amended by the GSG ARMPA (supported by May 2015 and December 2018 FEISs’).
- The Green River (Rock Springs Field Office (RSFO)) RMP ROD approved on August 8, 1997 (supported by April 1996 FEIS), as amended by the GSG ARMPA (supported by May 2015 and December 2018 FEISs’).
- The Pinedale Field Office (PFO) RMP ROD approved on November 26, 2008 (supported by August 2008 FEIS), as amended by the GSG ARMPA (supported by May 2015 and December 2018 FEISs’).
- The Kemmerer Field Office (KFO) RMP ROD approved on May 24, 2010 (supported by August 2008 FEIS), as amended by the GSG ARMPA (supported by May 2015 and December 2018 FEISs’)

The FO RMPs include allocation decisions which identify lands as either open or closed to fluid mineral leasing, and (if open) provide stipulations that are attached to new leases to mitigate effects of potential development operations.

This EA discloses the affected environment, as well as the anticipated reasonably-foreseeable GHG emissions’ related impacts of leasing and development, and potential mitigation of those impacts. The EA provides information for BLM to determine whether this project would have significant impacts not already disclosed and analyzed in other NEPA documents, warranting an EIS. The RMP EISs have already evaluated potentially significant impacts arising from the BLM’s land use planning decisions. *See* 43 CFR § 46.140(c). Based on this specific EA, the BLM may issue a “finding of no significant impacts” (FONSI), if no significant impacts are identified. If a FONSI is reached, a Decision Record (DR) may be signed approving the selected alternative, which could be the proposed action, the no-action alternative, or a combination thereof.

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parcels		
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in areas open to leasing in the respective RMP		
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available for lease		
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855		
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167		
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, including the BLM’s Wyoming Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment (ARMPA) for Greater Sage-grouse ROD (September 21, 2015		
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or updated		
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Page 37: Inserted)	Norelius, Erik E	3/28/2019 10:50:00 AM
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Page 38: Inserted Rock Springs (Green River) RMP FEIS pg. 194, 221-222, 341, 347-348, 355-357, 360-363, 401	Norelius, Erik E	3/28/2019 10:41:00 AM

¹ Acreage was errantly included in the initial preliminary shapefiles used by the FO's to review the parcels; further review reveals this acreage was not part of the original nomination. As such, no deletion is required and the original parcel acreage remains unchanged.

¹ Acreages have been updated to reflect further adjudicative refinement

Page 38: Deleted	Norelius, Erik E	3/28/2019 10:41:00 AM
RSFO		
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Rock Springs (Green River) RMP FEIS pg. 130-131, 194, 200, 206-207, 221-222, 341, 343, 347, 353, 355-357, 360-363, 400		
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RSFO		
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Rock Springs (Green River) RMP FEIS pg. 38, 42-43, 130-131, 193, 206-207, 221, 341, 343, 344, 347-348, 353-356, 361-363, 402		
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RSFO		
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in Montana,		
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GWP		
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The analysis within the 2015 BFO RMP utilized 21 as the GWP factor for CH ₄ . Recalculating the projected CO ₂ e values utilizing the recommended value of 28 for oil and gas is shown in the below table. A comparison of these updated 100-year GWP values to		
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recommended 20-year		
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is also provided		
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for the BFO		
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28		
Page 52: Inserted	Gamper, Merry E	4/22/2019 2:52:00 PM
494,205.6		
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684,908.2		

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The BLM recently initiated an amendment to its Greater Sage-grouse RMPs, including the RMPs governing public lands in Wyoming (<https://goo.gl/22jKE2>). The 90-day public comment period on the Draft RMP amendment and draft EIS ended on August 2, 2018, or 15 days after the last public meeting is held, whichever occurs last. As well, the protest period for the Final EIS and proposed RMP amendment ended January 23, 2019; resolution of these protests is ongoing. Until the RMPs are amended, the BLM will continue to ensure its implementation decisions (including this lease sale) conform to the approved RMP.

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, as amended or updated

Header and footer changes

Text Box changes

Header and footer text box changes

Footnote changes

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¹ Acreage was errantly included in the initial preliminary shapefiles used by the FO's to review the parcels; further review reveals this acreage was not part of the original nomination. As such, no deletion is required and the original parcel acreage remains unchanged.

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¹ Acreages have been updated to reflect further adjudicative refinement

Endnote changes