

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
South Dakota Field Office
310 Roundup Street
Belle Fourche, SD 57717**

**Decision Record and Leasing Recommendation
Determination of NEPA Adequacy DOI-BLM-MT-C040-2016-10-DNA**

Decision:

It is my decision to implement the proposed action as identified in the South Dakota Field Office (SDFO) Oil and Gas Leasing Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA), DOI-BLM-MT-C040-2016-10-DNA. The DNA addressed three lease parcels containing 720.00 federal mineral acres, underlying private surface, within the administrative boundary of the USFS Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, which would be offered for competitive and/or noncompetitive lease issuance at the competitive sale. Competitive leases will be issued for parcels sold at the sale, and noncompetitive leases may be issued for applications filed during the 2 year period following the sale.

Authorities:

The authority for this decision is contained in 43 CFR 3100.

Compliance and Monitoring:

Should the parcels be developed, monitoring may be required and would be addressed and analyzed under future NEPA documentation.

Terms, Conditions, and Stipulations:

For all parcels, standard terms and conditions, as well as the lease notices and stipulations identified by parcel in Attachment 1 of the DNA, would apply and be attached to the lease parcel.

Plan Conformance and Consistency:

The proposed action has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with the following plans and associated Record of Decision(s):

LUP Name: Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Nebraska National Forest
Date Approved: 2009

LUP Name: Final Environmental Impact Statement and Land and Resource Management Plan,
Record of Decision, Nebraska & Samuel R. McKelvie NFs, Oglala, Buffalo Gap, & Ft. Pierre NGs
Date Approved: July 31, 2002

Cooperating Status: BLM was a co-preparer with the USFS in addressing oil and gas on private lands with federal minerals within the US Forest Service Nebraska National Forest Administrative Boundary within the 2009 Land Use Plan referenced above. This plan covers all the parcels identified within this DNA.

Alternatives Considered:

The action is the same action as that previously analyzed within the existing NEPA documents. The nominated parcels are within the analysis area of the LUP documents listed in part B of this DNA.

After a review of the parcels, the BLM determined that it was appropriate to defer certain parcels nominated for inclusion in the July 12, 2016 oil and gas lease sale. These deferrals of certain nominated parcels were made consistent with the BLM's greater sage-grouse conservation plans and strategy, which direct the BLM to prioritize oil and gas leasing and development in a manner that minimizes resource conflicts in order to protect important habitat and reduce development time and costs.

In total, 6 parcels containing 2040 acres located within the SDFO were nominated through Expressions of Interest for the July 12, 2016 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, which are available for leasing through the SDFO RMP and the Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Nebraska National Forest. It is the State Director's discretion to not carry forward parcels within greater sage-grouse habitat pending implementation guidance on the 2015 Approved SDFO Resource Management Plan. For the reasons identified above, the BLM exercised its discretion to defer 3 of those parcels containing 1320 acres. As a result of these deferrals, this DNA analyzes 3 parcels containing 720 acres located within the SDFO.

The alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document are fully appropriate with respect to the proposed actions. The lease parcel number, size, and detailed locations and associated stipulations are listed in Appendix A of the DNA. Standard terms and conditions, as well as stipulations identified in Appendix B, would apply.

Public Comments:

This DNA was made available for a 30-day public comment period which ended on March 8, 2016. Six written submissions were received during the 30-day comment period. After review and consideration of the comments, some modifications were made to the DNA. Refer to Appendix D of the updated DNA for a summary of public participation and changes made to the document.

Rationale for the Decision:

The decision to approve the proposed action is based on the following: 1) consistency with resource management and land use plans; 2) national policy; 3) agency statutory requirements; 4) relevant resource issues; and 5) application of measures to avoid or minimize environmental impacts.

1. LUP Name: Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Nebraska National Forest
Date Approved: 2009

LUP Name: Final Environmental Impact Statement and Land and Resource Management Plan, Record of Decision, Nebraska & Samuel R. McKelvie NFs, Oglala, Buffalo Gap, & Ft. Pierre NGs
Date Approved: July 31, 2002

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2. It is the policy of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as derived from various laws, including the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended [30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*] and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, to make mineral resources available

for disposal and to encourage development of mineral resources to meet national, regional, and local needs.

3. The decision is consistent with all federal, state, and county authorizing actions required for implementation of the Preferred Alternative.
4. Standard terms and conditions as well as special stipulations would apply. Lease stipulations(as required by Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations 3101.1-3) were added to each parcel as identified by the SDFO to address site specific resource concerns or new information not identified in the planning process.

Recommended by:

LORI KIMBALL Digitally signed by LORI KIMBALL
Date: 2016.06.27 10:22:37 -06'00'

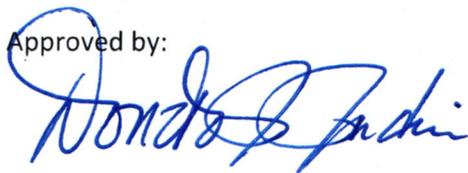
Chip Kimball, Field Manager
Date:

Concurrence by:

DIANE FRIEZ Digitally signed by DIANE FRIEZ
Date: 2016.06.30 13:28:54 -06'00'

Diane M. Friez, District Manager
Date:

Approved by:



Donato J. Judice, Deputy State Director, Division of Energy, Minerals and Realty

Date: 6/30/2016