

APPENDIX B

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA FOR THE
NARO NORTH, NARO SOUTH, LITTLE THUNDER,
WEST ROUNDUP, AND WEST ANTELOPE LBA TRACTS

Appendix B. Unsuitability Criteria for the NARO North LBA Tract

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985a, 2001a), PLATTE RIVER RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985b), and TBNG (USFS 1985, 2001, 2002a)	FINDINGS FOR NARO NORTH LBA TRACT
1. Federal Land Systems. With certain exceptions that do not apply to this tract, all federal lands included in the following systems are unsuitable for mining: National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National System of Trails, National Wilderness Preservation System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Recreation Areas, Lands acquired through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, National Forests and Federal lands in incorporated cities, towns and villages.	There are Federal lands located around Gillette, Sheridan, and Wright which were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion. The TBNG is not a proclaimed National Forest. TBNG lands are included in the NARO North LBA Tract.	The TBNG lands included in the NARO North LBA Tract are not unsuitable under this criterion. None of the federal lands determined to be unsuitable under Criterion 1 are present on the NARO North LBA Tract, and therefore there are no unsuitable findings.
2. Rights-Of-Way and Easements. Federal lands that are within ROWs or easements or within surface leases for residential, commercial, industrial or other public purposes, on federally owned surface, are unsuitable for mining.	Portions of the BNSF&UP railroad, the Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line, and Wyoming State Highway 450 ROWs were found to be unsuitable under this criterion within the general review area.	The portions of the Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line, the BNSF&UP, and Highway 450 ROWs that were found to be unsuitable are not located on the NARO North LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 2 for the NARO North LBA Tract.
3. Dwellings, Roads, Cemeteries, and Public Buildings. Federal lands within 100 ft of a ROW of a public road or a cemetery; or within 300 ft of any public building, school, church, community or institutional building or public park; or within 300 ft of an occupied dwelling are unsuitable for mining.	Portions of Wyoming State Highway 450, Interstate Highway I-90, and one cemetery were found to be unsuitable under this criterion. Decisions were deferred on other highways/roads, occupied dwellings, and one school.	Highway 450, I-90, and the cemetery are not located on the NARO North LBA Tract. No occupied dwellings, other highways/roads, or schools are located on the tract. Therefore, there are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 3 for the NARO North LBA Tract.
4. Wilderness Study Areas. Federal lands designated as wilderness study areas are unsuitable for mining while under review for possible wilderness designation.	No lands in the general review area are within a wilderness study area.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 4 for the NARO North LBA Tract.
5. Lands with Outstanding Scenic Quality. Scenic federal lands designated by visual resource management analysis as Class I (outstanding visual quality or high visual sensitivity) but not currently on National Register of Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.	No lands in the general review area meet the scenic criteria as outlined.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 5 for the NARO North LBA Tract.
6. Land Used for Scientific Study. Federal lands under permit by the surface management agency and being used for scientific studies involving food or fiber production, natural resources, or technology demonstrations and experiments are unsuitable for the duration of the study except where mining would not jeopardize the purpose of the study.	A vegetation monitoring study site (NE ¼ of Sec. 1, T.41N., R.71W.), and the Hoe Creek Site (Sec. 7, T.47N., R.72W.) were found to be unsuitable under this criterion.	Neither the vegetation monitoring site or the Hoe Creek site are located on the NARO North LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 6 for the NARO North LBA Tract.
7. Cultural Resources. All publicly or privately owned places which are included in or are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and an appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable.	On the basis of the consultation with SHPO, there were no unsuitable findings under this criterion in the general review area. Continue using the "Standard Archeological Stipulation for Cultural Resources" to new leases.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 7 for the NARO North LBA Tract. The "Standard Archeological Stipulation for Cultural Resources" should be applied if this tract is leased.
8. Natural Areas. Federal lands designated as natural areas or National Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.	No lands in the general review area are designated as natural areas or as National Natural Landmarks.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 8 for the NARO North LBA Tract.

Appendix B

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985a, 2001a), PLATTE RIVER RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985b), and TBNG (USFS 1985, 2001, 2002a)	FINDINGS FOR NARO NORTH LBA TRACT
9. Critical Habitat for Threatened or Endangered Plant and Animal Species. Federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant and animal species, and scientifically documented essential habitat for threatened or endangered species are unsuitable.	There is no federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant or animal species within the general review area.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 9 for the NARO North LBA Tract.
10. State Listed Species. Federal lands containing habitat determined to be critical or essential for plant or animal species listed by a state pursuant to state law as threatened or endangered shall be considered unsuitable.	Wyoming does not maintain a state list of threatened or endangered species of plants or animals. Therefore, this criterion does not apply.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 10 for the NARO North LBA Tract.
11. Bald or Golden Eagle Nests. An active bald or golden eagle nest and appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable unless the lease can be conditioned so that eagles will not be disturbed during breeding season or unless golden eagle nests will be moved.	Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle nests on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones around nests after consultation with USFWS.	There are currently no active bald or golden eagle nests or established buffer zones located on the NARO North LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 11 for the NARO North LBA Tract.
12. Bald and Golden Eagle Roost and Concentration Areas. Bald and golden eagle roost and concentration areas on federal lands used during migration and wintering are unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that eagles shall not be adversely disturbed.	Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle roost areas on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with USFWS.	There are currently no bald or golden eagle roosts or established buffer zones located on the NARO North LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 12 for the NARO North LBA Tract.
13. Falcon Nesting Sites and Buffer Zones. Federal lands containing active falcon (excluding kestrel) cliff nesting sites and a suitable buffer zone shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure the falcons will not be adversely affected.	Defer suitability decisions on falcon nesting sites and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones around nesting sites after consultation with USFWS.	There are currently no falcon nesting sites or established buffer zones located on the NARO North LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 13 for the NARO North LBA Tract.
14. Habitat for Migratory Bird Species. Federal lands which are high priority habitat for migratory bird species of high federal interest shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that migratory bird habitat will not be adversely affected during the period it is in use.	Defer suitability decisions on migratory bird habitat and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones around nesting sites after consultation with USFWS.	No high priority habitat for migratory bird species of high federal interest has been identified on the NARO North LBA Tract and adjacent areas. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 14 for the NARO North LBA Tract.
15. Fish and Wildlife Habitat for Resident Species. Federal lands which the surface management agency and state jointly agree are fish, wildlife and plant habitat of resident species of high interest to the state, and which are essential for maintaining these priority wildlife species, shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure no long-term impact on the species being provided will occur.	Defer suitability decisions on grouse leks and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with USFWS.	There are no active or inactive sage grouse leks on or within two miles of the NARO North LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 15 for the NARO North LBA Tract.
16. Floodplains. Federal lands in riverine, coastal, and special floodplains shall be considered unsuitable where it is determined that mining could not be undertaken without substantial threat of loss of life or property.	The BLM and USFS have determined that the identified floodplains could potentially be mined. Therefore, all lands within the general review area are considered suitable.	Site-specific stipulations and resource protection safeguards will be applied if necessary during mining and reclamation planning. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 16 for the NARO North LBA Tract.
17. Municipal Watersheds. Federal lands which have been committed by the surface management agency to use as municipal watersheds shall be considered unsuitable.	There are no designated municipal watersheds in the general review area.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 17 for the NARO North LBA Tract.

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985a, 2001a), PLATTE RIVER RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985b), and TBNG (USFS 1985, 2001, 2002a)	FINDINGS FOR NARO NORTH LBA TRACT
18. National Resource Waters. Federal lands with national resource waters, as identified by states in their water quality management plans, and 1/4-mile buffer zones shall be unsuitable.	There are no designated national resource waters within the TBNG review area.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 18 for the NARO North LBA Tract.
19. Alluvial Valley Floors. Federal lands identified by the surface management agency, in consultation with the state, as AVFs where mining would interrupt, discontinue or preclude farming, are unsuitable. Additionally, when mining federal lands outside an AVF would materially damage the quality or quantity of water in surface or underground water systems that would supply AVFs, the land shall be considered unsuitable.	Consider areas determined to contain AVFs significant to farming as unsuitable. Defer decisions on other AVFs and analyze on a case by case basis at the time a lease action is evaluated.	No AVFs identified as significant to farming and therefore unsuitable for mining have been identified on the NARO North LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 19 for the NARO North LBA Tract.
20. State or Indian Tribe Criteria. Federal lands to which is applicable a criterion proposed by the state or Indian tribe located in the planning area and adopted by rulemaking by the Secretary are unsuitable.	There are no criterion proposed by state or Indian tribes that have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior. No tribal lands are located in or near the review area.	There are no unsuitability findings for this criterion on the NARO North LBA Tract.

Appendix B. Unsuitability Criteria for the NARO South LBA Tract

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985a, 2001a), PLATTE RIVER RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985b), and TBNG (USFS 1985, 2001, 2002a)	FINDINGS FOR NARO SOUTH LBA TRACT
<p>1. Federal Land Systems. With certain exceptions that do not apply to this tract, all federal lands included in the following systems are unsuitable for mining: National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National System of Trails, National Wilderness Preservation System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Recreation Areas, Lands acquired through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, National Forests and Federal lands in incorporated cities, towns and villages.</p>	<p>There are Federal lands located around Gillette, Sheridan, and Wright which were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion. The TBNG is not a proclaimed National Forest. No TBNG lands are included in the NARO South LBA Tract.</p>	<p>None of the federal lands determined to be unsuitable under Criterion 1 are present on the NARO South LBA Tract, and therefore there are no unsuitable findings.</p>
<p>2. Rights-Of-Way and Easements. Federal lands that are within ROWs or easements or within surface leases for residential, commercial, industrial or other public purposes, on federally owned surface, are unsuitable for mining.</p>	<p>Portions of the BNSF&UP railroad, the Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line, and Wyoming State Highway 450 ROWs were found to be unsuitable under this criterion within the general review area.</p>	<p>The portions of the Tri-County transmission line and Highway 450 ROWs that were found to be unsuitable are not located on the NARO South LBA Tract. The LBA tract includes a portion of the BNSF&UP railroad ROW. This ROW was designated unsuitable for mining and the lease will be stipulated to exclude mining within the ROW.</p>
<p>3. Dwellings, Roads, Cemeteries, and Public Buildings. Federal lands within 100 ft of a ROW of a public road or a cemetery; or within 300 ft of any public building, school, church, community or institutional building or public park; or within 300 ft of an occupied dwelling are unsuitable for mining.</p>	<p>Portions of Wyoming State Highway 450, Interstate Highway I-90, and one cemetery were found to be unsuitable under this criterion. Decisions were deferred on other highway/roads, occupied dwellings, and one school.</p>	<p>Highway 450, I-90, and the cemetery are not located on the NARO South LBA Tract. No occupied dwellings, unsuitable highways/roads, or schools are located on the tract. Therefore, there are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 3 for the NARO South LBA Tract.</p>
<p>4. Wilderness Study Areas. Federal lands designated as wilderness study areas are unsuitable for mining while under review for possible wilderness designation.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area are within a wilderness study area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 4 for the NARO South LBA Tract.</p>
<p>5. Lands with Outstanding Scenic Quality. Scenic federal lands designated by visual resource management analysis as Class I (outstanding visual quality or high visual sensitivity) but not currently on National Register of Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area meet the scenic criteria as outlined.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 5 for the NARO South LBA Tract.</p>
<p>6. Land Used for Scientific Study. Federal lands under permit by the surface management agency and being used for scientific studies involving food or fiber production, natural resources, or technology demonstrations and experiments are unsuitable for the duration of the study except where mining would not jeopardize the purpose of the study.</p>	<p>A vegetation monitoring study site (NE ¼ of Sec. 1, T.41N., R.71W.) and the Hoe Creek Site (Sec. 7, T.47N., T.72W.) were found to be unsuitable under this criterion.</p>	<p>Neither the vegetation monitoring site or the Hoe Creek site are located on the NARO South LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 6 for the NARO South LBA Tract.</p>
<p>7. Cultural Resources. All publicly or privately owned places which are included in or are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and an appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable.</p>	<p>On the basis of the consultation with SHPO, there were no unsuitable findings under this criterion in the general review area. Continue to apply the "Standard Archeological Stipulations for Culture Resources" to new leases.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 7 for the NARO South LBA Tract. The "Standard Archeological Stipulation for Cultural Resources" should be applied if this tract is leased.</p>
<p>8. Natural Areas. Federal lands designated as natural areas or National Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area are designated as natural areas or as National Natural Landmarks.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 8 for the NARO South LBA Tract.</p>
<p>9. Critical Habitat for Threatened or Endangered Plant and Animal Species. Federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant and animal species, and scientifically documented essential habitat for threatened or endangered species are unsuitable.</p>	<p>There is no federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant or animal species within the general review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 9 for the NARO South LBA Tract.</p>

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985a, 2001a), PLATTE RIVER RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985b), and TBNG (USFS 1985, 2001, 2002a)	FINDINGS FOR NARO SOUTH LBA TRACT
10. State Listed Species. Federal lands containing habitat determined to be critical or essential for plant or animal species listed by a state pursuant to state law as threatened or endangered shall be considered unsuitable.	Wyoming does not maintain a state list of threatened or endangered species of plants or animals. Therefore, this criterion does not apply.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 10 for the NARO South LBA Tract.
11. Bald or Golden Eagle Nests. An active bald or golden eagle nest and appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable unless the lease can be conditioned so that eagles will not be disturbed during breeding season or unless golden eagle nests will be moved.	Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle nests on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones around nests after consultation with USFWS.	There are currently no active bald or golden eagle nests or established buffer zones located on the NARO South LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 11 for the NARO South LBA Tract.
12. Bald and Golden Eagle Roost and Concentration Areas. Bald and golden eagle roost and concentration areas on federal lands used during migration and wintering are unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that eagles shall not be adversely disturbed.	Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle roost areas on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with USFWS.	There are currently no bald or golden eagle roost areas or established buffer zones located on the NARO South LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 12 for the NARO South LBA Tract.
13. Falcon Nesting Sites and Buffer Zones. Federal lands containing active falcon (excluding kestrel) cliff nesting sites and a suitable buffer zone shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure the falcons will not be adversely affected.	Defer suitability decisions on falcon nesting sites and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones around nesting sites after consultation with USFWS.	There are currently no falcon nesting sites or established buffer zones located on the NARO South LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 13 for the NARO South LBA Tract.
14. Habitat for Migratory Bird Species. Federal lands which are high priority habitat for migratory bird species of high federal interest shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that migratory bird habitat will not be adversely affected during the period it is in use.	Defer suitability decisions on migratory bird habitat and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones around nesting sites after consultation with USFWS.	No high priority habitat for migratory bird species of high federal interest has been identified on the NARO South LBA Tract or adjacent areas. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 14 for the NARO South LBA Tract .
15. Fish and Wildlife Habitat for Resident Species. Federal lands which the surface management agency and state jointly agree are fish, wildlife and plant habitat of resident species of high interest to the state, and which are essential for maintaining these priority wildlife species, shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure no long-term impact on the species being provided will occur.	Defer suitability decisions on grouse leks and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with USFWS.	There are no active or inactive sage grouse leks on or within two miles of the NARO South LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 15 for the NARO South LBA Tract.
16. Floodplains. Federal lands in riverine, coastal, and special floodplains shall be considered unsuitable where it is determined that mining could not be undertaken without substantial threat of loss of life or property.	The BLM and USFS have determined that the identified floodplains could potentially be mined. Therefore, all lands within the general review area are considered suitable.	Site-specific stipulations and resource protection safeguards will be applied if necessary during mining and reclamation planning. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 16 for the NARO South LBA Tract.
17. Municipal Watersheds. Federal lands which have been committed by the surface management agency to use as municipal watersheds shall be considered unsuitable.	There are no designated municipal watersheds in the general review area.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 17 for the NARO South LBA Tract.
18. National Resource Waters. Federal lands with national resource waters, as identified by states in their water quality management plans, and 1/4-mile buffer zones shall be unsuitable.	There are no designated national resource waters within the TBNG review area.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 18 for the NARO South LBA Tract.
19. Alluvial Valley Floors. Federal lands identified by the surface management agency, in consultation with the state, as AVFs where mining would interrupt, discontinue or preclude farming, are unsuitable. Additionally, when mining federal lands outside an AVF would materially damage the quality or quantity of water in surface or underground water systems that would supply AVFs, the land shall be considered unsuitable.	Consider areas determined to contain AVFs significant to farming as unsuitable. Defer decisions on other AVFs and analyze on a case by case basis at the time a lease action is evaluated.	No AVFs identified as significant to farming and therefore unsuitable for mining have been identified on the NARO South LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 19 for the NARO South LBA Tract.

Appendix B

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985a, 2001a), PLATTE RIVER RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985b), and TBNG (USFS 1985, 2001, 2002a)	FINDINGS FOR NARO SOUTH LBA TRACT
20. State or Indian Tribe Criteria. Federal lands to which is applicable a criterion proposed by the state or Indian tribe located in the planning area and adopted by rulemaking by the Secretary are unsuitable.	There are no criterion proposed by state or Indian tribes that have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior. No tribal lands are located in or near the review area.	There are no unsuitability findings for this criterion on the NARO South LBA Tract.

Appendix B. Unsuitability Criteria for the Little Thunder LBA Tract

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985a, 2001a), PLATTE RIVER RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985b), and TBNG (USFS 1985, 2001, 2002a)	FINDINGS FOR LITTLE THUNDER LBA TRACT
1. Federal Land Systems. With certain exceptions that do not apply to this tract, all federal lands included in the following systems are unsuitable for mining: National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National System of Trails, National Wilderness Preservation System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Recreation Areas, Lands acquired through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, National Forests and Federal lands in incorporated cities, towns and villages.	There are Federal lands located around Gillette, Sheridan, and Wright which were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion. The TBNG is not a proclaimed National Forest. TBNG lands are included in the Little Thunder LBA Tract.	The TBNG lands included in the Little Thunder LBA Tract are not unsuitable under this criterion. None of the federal lands determined to be unsuitable under Criterion 1 are present on the Little Thunder LBA Tract, and therefore there are no unsuitable findings.
2. Rights-Of-Way and Easements. Federal lands that are within ROWs or easements or within surface leases for residential, commercial, industrial or other public purposes, on federally owned surface, are unsuitable for mining.	Portions of the BNSF&UP railroad, the Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line, and the Wyoming State Highway 450 ROWs were found to be unsuitable under this criterion within the general review area.	The portion of the Tri-County transmission line that was found to be unsuitable is not located on the Little Thunder LBA Tract. The LBA tract may be configured to include a portion of the north-south BNSF&UP ROW. This portion of the ROW was designated unsuitable for mining and the lease will be stipulated to exclude mining within the ROW. The LBA includes a portion of the Highway 450 ROW east of the intersection with the main north-south railroad ROW. This portion of the ROW was designated unsuitable for mining and the lease will be stipulated to exclude mining within the ROW.
3. Dwellings, Roads, Cemeteries, and Public Buildings. Federal lands within 100 ft of a ROW of a public road or a cemetery; or within 300 ft of any public building, school, church, community or institutional building or public park; or within 300 ft of an occupied dwelling are unsuitable for mining.	Portions of Wyoming State Highway 450, Interstate Highway I-90, and one cemetery were found to be unsuitable under this criterion. Decisions were deferred on other highways/roads, occupied dwellings, and one school.	The Little Thunder LBA Tract includes a portion of Highway 450 east of the intersection with the north-south main BNSF&UP railroad trunk line which was designated unsuitable for mining and the lease will be stipulated to exclude mining within 100 ft of this highway ROW. There are no other unsuitable findings under Criterion 3 for the Little Thunder LBA Tract.
4. Wilderness Study Areas. Federal lands designated as wilderness study areas are unsuitable for mining while under review for possible wilderness designation.	No lands in the general review area are within a wilderness study area.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 4 for the Little Thunder LBA Tract.
5. Lands with Outstanding Scenic Quality. Scenic federal lands designated by visual resource management analysis as Class I (outstanding visual quality or high visual sensitivity) but not currently on National Register of Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.	No lands in the general review area meet the scenic criteria as outlined.	There are no unsuitable findings for Criterion 5 for the Little Thunder LBA Tract.
6. Land Used for Scientific Study. Federal lands under permit by the surface management agency and being used for scientific studies involving food or fiber production, natural resources, or technology demonstrations and experiments are unsuitable for the duration of the study except where mining would not jeopardize the purpose of the study.	A vegetation monitoring study site (NE ¼, Sec. 1, T.41N., R.71W.) and the Hoe Creek Site (Sec. 7, T.47N., R.72W.) were found to be unsuitable under this criterion.	Neither the vegetation monitoring site or the Hoe Creek site are located on the Little Thunder LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 6 for the Little Thunder LBA Tract.
7. Cultural Resources. All publicly or privately owned places which are included in or are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and an appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable.	On the basis of the consultation with SHPO, there were no unsuitable findings under this criterion in the general review area. Continue using the "Standard Archeological Stipulation for Cultural Resources" to new leases.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 7 for the Little Thunder LBA Tract. The "Standard Archeological Stipulation for Cultural Resources" should be applied if this tract is leased.
8. Natural Areas. Federal lands designated as natural areas or National Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.	No lands in the general review area are designated as natural areas or as National Natural Landmarks.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 8 for the Little Thunder LBA Tract.

Appendix B

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985a, 2001a), PLATTE RIVER RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985b), and TBNG (USFS 1985, 2001, 2002a)	FINDINGS FOR LITTLE THUNDER LBA TRACT
9. Critical Habitat for Threatened or Endangered Plant and Animal Species. Federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant and animal species, and scientifically documented essential habitat for threatened or endangered species are unsuitable.	There is no federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant or animal species within the general review area.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 9 for the Little Thunder LBA Tract.
10. State Listed Species. Federal lands containing habitat determined to be critical or essential for plant or animal species listed by a state pursuant to state law as threatened or endangered shall be considered unsuitable.	Wyoming does not maintain a state list of threatened or endangered species of plants or animals. Therefore, this criterion does not apply.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 10 for the Little Thunder LBA Tract.
11. Bald or Golden Eagle Nests. An active bald or golden eagle nest and appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable unless the lease can be conditioned so that eagles will not be disturbed during breeding season or unless golden eagle nests will be moved.	Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle nests on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones around nests after consultation with USFWS.	There are currently golden eagle nests on the Little Thunder LBA Tract. Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.
12. Bald and Golden Eagle Roost and Concentration Areas. Bald and golden eagle roost and concentration areas on federal lands used during migration and wintering are unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that eagles shall not be adversely disturbed.	Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle roost areas on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with USFWS.	Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.
13. Falcon Nesting Sites and Buffer Zones. Federal lands containing active falcon (excluding kestrel) cliff nesting sites and a suitable buffer zone shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure the falcons will not be adversely affected.	Defer suitability decisions on falcon nesting sites and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones around nesting sites after consultation with USFWS.	No falcon nesting sites have been identified on the Little Thunder LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 13 for the Little Thunder LBA Tract.
14. Habitat for Migratory Bird Species. Federal lands which are high priority habitat for migratory bird species of high federal interest shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that migratory bird habitat will not be adversely affected during the period it is in use.	Defer suitability decisions on high priority habitat for migratory bird species of high federal interest and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones for nesting areas after consultation with USFWS.	Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.
15. Fish and Wildlife Habitat for Resident Species. Federal lands which the surface management agency and state jointly agree are fish, wildlife and plant habitat of resident species of high interest to the state, and which are essential for maintaining these priority wildlife species, shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure no long-term impact on the species being provided will occur.	Defer suitability decisions on grouse leks and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with USFWS.	There are no active sage grouse leks on or within two miles of the Little Thunder LBA Tract. There is one inactive sage grouse lek located on an existing Black Thunder Mine lease within two miles of a portion of the Little Thunder LBA Tract. Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.
16. Floodplains. Federal lands in riverine, coastal, and special floodplains shall be considered unsuitable where it is determined that mining could not be undertaken without substantial threat of loss of life or property.	The BLM and USFS have determined that the identified floodplains could potentially be mined. Therefore, all lands within the general review area are considered suitable.	Site-specific stipulations and resource protection safeguards will be applied if necessary during mining and reclamation planning. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 16 for the Little Thunder LBA Tract.
17. Municipal Watersheds. Federal lands which have been committed by the surface management agency to use as municipal watersheds shall be considered unsuitable.	There are no designated municipal watersheds in the general review area.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 17 for the Little Thunder LBA Tract.

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985a, 2001a), PLATTE RIVER RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985b), and TBNG (USFS 1985, 2001, 2002a)	FINDINGS FOR LITTLE THUNDER LBA TRACT
18. National Resource Waters. Federal lands with national resource waters, as identified by states in their water quality management plans, and 1/4-mile buffer zones shall be unsuitable.	There are no designated national resource waters within the TBNG review area.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 18 for the Little Thunder LBA Tract.
19. Alluvial Valley Floors. Federal lands identified by the surface management agency, in consultation with the state, as AVFs where mining would interrupt, discontinue or preclude farming, are unsuitable. Additionally, when mining federal lands outside an AVF would materially damage the quality or quantity of water in surface or underground water systems that would supply AVFs, the land shall be considered unsuitable.	Consider areas determined to contain AVFs significant to farming as unsuitable. Defer decisions on other AVFs and analyze on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance.	No AVFs identified as significant to farming and therefore unsuitable for mining have been identified on the Little Thunder LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 19 for the Little Thunder LBA Tract.
20. State or Indian Tribe Criteria. Federal lands to which is applicable a criterion proposed by the state or Indian tribe located in the planning area and adopted by rulemaking by the Secretary are unsuitable.	There are no criterion proposed by state or Indian tribes that have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior. No tribal lands are located in or near the review area.	There are no unsuitability findings for this criterion on the Little Thunder LBA Tract.

Appendix B. Unsuitability Criteria for the West Roundup LBA Tract

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985a, 2001a), PLATTE RIVER RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985b), and TBNG (USFS 1985, 2001, 2002a)	FINDINGS FOR WEST ROUNDUP LBA TRACT
<p>1. Federal Land Systems. With certain exceptions that do not apply to this tract, all federal lands included in the following systems are unsuitable for mining: National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National System of Trails, National Wilderness Preservation System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Recreation Areas, Lands acquired through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, National Forests and Federal lands in incorporated cities, towns and villages.</p>	<p>There are Federal lands located around Gillette, Sheridan, and Wright which were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion. The TBNG is not a proclaimed National Forest. TBNG lands are included in the West Roundup LBA Tract.</p>	<p>The TBNG lands included in the West Roundup LBA Tract are not unsuitable under this criterion. None of the federal lands determined to be unsuitable under Criterion 1 are present on the West Roundup LBA Tract, and therefore there are no unsuitable findings.</p>
<p>2. Rights-Of-Way and Easements. Federal lands that are within ROWs or easements or within surface leases for residential, commercial, industrial or other public purposes, on federally owned surface, are unsuitable for mining.</p>	<p>Portions of the BNSF&UP railroad, the Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line, and the Wyoming State Highway 450 ROWs were found to be unsuitable under this criterion within the general review area. USFS has determined that portions of the North Rochelle Special Use Permit area are unsuitable under this criterion (USFS 2002b).</p>	<p>The portions of the Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line, the BNSF&UP, and the Wyoming Highway 450 ROWs that were found to be unsuitable are not on the West Roundup LBA Tract. The LBA tract may be configured to include the North Rochelle USFS Special Use Permit for ancillary facilities. The special use permit area has been determined to be unsuitable for mining and the lease will be stipulated to exclude mining in the unsuitable portions of the special use permit area (USFS 2002b).</p>
<p>3. Dwellings, Roads, Cemeteries, and Public Buildings. Federal lands within 100 ft of a ROW of a public road or a cemetery; or within 300 ft of any public building, school, church, community or institutional building or public park; or within 300 ft of an occupied dwelling are unsuitable for mining.</p>	<p>Portions of Wyoming State Highway 450, Interstate Highway 1-90, and one cemetery were found to be unsuitable for mining under this criterion. Decisions were deferred on other highways/roads, occupied dwellings, and one school.</p>	<p>Highway 450, I-90, and the designated cemetery are not located on the West Roundup LBA Tract. No occupied dwellings, highways/roads, or schools are located on the tract. Therefore, there are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 3 for the West Roundup LBA Tract.</p>
<p>4. Wilderness Study Areas. Federal lands designated as wilderness study areas are unsuitable for mining while under review for possible wilderness designation.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area are within a wilderness study area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 4 for the West Roundup LBA Tract.</p>
<p>5. Lands with Outstanding Scenic Quality. Scenic federal lands designated by visual resource management analysis as Class 1 (outstanding visual quality or high visual sensitivity) but not currently on National Register of Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area meet the scenic criteria as outlined.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings Under Criterion 5 for the West Roundup LBA Tract.</p>
<p>6. Land Used for Scientific Study. Federal lands under permit by the surface management agency and being used for scientific studies involving food or fiber production, natural resources, or technology demonstrations and experiments are unsuitable for the duration of the study except where mining would not jeopardize the purpose of the study.</p>	<p>A vegetation monitoring study site (NE ¼, Sec. 1, T.41N., R.71W.) and the Hoe Creek Site (Sec. 7, T.47N., R.72W.) were found to be unsuitable under this criterion.</p>	<p>Neither the vegetation monitoring site or the Hoe Creek site are located on the West Roundup LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 6 for the West Roundup LBA Tract.</p>
<p>7. Cultural Resources. All publicly or privately owned places which are included in or are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and an appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable.</p>	<p>On the basis of the consultation with SHPO, there were no unsuitable findings under this criterion in the general review area. Continue using the "Standard Archeological Stipulation for Cultural Resources" to new leases.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 7 for the West Roundup LBA Tract. The "Standard Archeological Stipulation for Cultural Resources" should be applied if this tract is leased.</p>
<p>8. Natural Areas. Federal lands designated as natural areas or National Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.</p>	<p>No lands in the general review area are designated as natural areas or as National Natural Landmarks.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 8 for the West Roundup LBA Tract.</p>

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985a, 2001a), PLATTE RIVER RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985b), and TBNG (USFS 1985, 2001, 2002a)	FINDINGS FOR WEST ROUNDUP LBA TRACT
9. Critical Habitat for Threatened or Endangered Plant and Animal Species. Federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant and animal species, and scientifically documented essential habitat for threatened or endangered species are unsuitable.	There is no federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant or animal species within the general review area.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 9 for the West Roundup LBA Tract.
10. State Listed Species. Federal lands containing habitat determined to be critical or essential for plant or animal species listed by a state pursuant to state law as threatened or endangered shall be considered unsuitable.	Wyoming does not maintain a state list of threatened or endangered species of plants or animals. Therefore, this criterion does not apply.	There are no unsuitable findings under criterion 10 for the West Roundup LBA Tract.
11. Bald or Golden Eagle Nests. An active bald or golden eagle nest and appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable unless the lease can be conditioned so that eagles will not be disturbed during breeding season or unless golden eagle nests will be moved.	Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle nests on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones around nests after consultation with USFWS.	There are currently no bald or golden eagle nests or established buffer zones located on the West Roundup LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 11 for the West Roundup LBA Tract.
12. Bald and Golden Eagle Roost and Concentration Areas. Bald and golden eagle roost and concentration areas on federal lands used during migration and wintering are unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that eagles shall not be adversely disturbed.	Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle roost areas on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with USFWS.	There are currently no bald or golden eagle roost areas or established buffer zones located on the West Roundup LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 12 for the West Roundup LBA Tract.
13. Falcon Nesting Sites and Buffer Zones. Federal lands containing active falcon (excluding kestrel) cliff nesting sites and a suitable buffer zone shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure the falcons will not be adversely affected.	Defer unsuitability decisions on falcon nesting sites and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones around nesting sites after consultation with USFWS.	No falcon nesting sites have been identified on the West Roundup LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 13 for the West Roundup LBA Tract.
14. Habitat for Migratory Bird Species. Federal lands which are high priority habitat for migratory bird species of high federal interest shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that migratory bird habitat will not be adversely affected during the period it is in use.	Defer suitability decisions on high priority habitat for migratory bird species of high federal interest and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones for nesting areas after consultation with USFWS.	Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.
15. Fish and Wildlife Habitat for Resident Species. Federal lands which the surface management agency and state jointly agree are fish, wildlife and plant habitat of resident species of high interest to the state, and which are essential for maintaining these priority wildlife species, shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure no long-term impact on the species being provided will occur.	Defer suitability decisions on grouse leks and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with USFWS.	There are no active sage grouse leks on or within two miles of the West Roundup LBA Tract. There is one inactive sage grouse lek located on an existing Black Thunder Mine lease within two miles of a portion of the West Roundup LBA Tract. Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.
16. Floodplains. Federal lands in riverine, coastal, and special floodplains shall be considered unsuitable where it is determined that mining could not be undertaken without substantial threat of loss of life or property.	The BLM and USFS have determined that the identified floodplains could potentially be mined. Therefore, all lands within the general review area are considered suitable.	Site-specific stipulations and resource protection safeguards will be applied if necessary during mining and reclamation planning. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 16 for the Little Thunder LBA Tract.
17. Municipal Watersheds. Federal lands which have been committed by the surface management agency to use as municipal watersheds shall be considered unsuitable.	There are no designated municipal watersheds in the general review area.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 17 for the West Roundup LBA Tract.

Appendix B

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985a, 2001a), PLATTE RIVER RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985b), and TBNG (USFS 1985, 2001, 2002a)	FINDINGS FOR WEST ROUNDUP LBA TRACT
18. National Resource Waters. Federal lands with national resource waters, as identified by states in their water quality management plans, and 1/4-mile buffer zones shall be unsuitable.	There are no designated national resource waters within the TBNG review area.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 18 for the West Roundup LBA Tract.
19. Alluvial Valley Floors. Federal lands identified by the surface management agency, in consultation with the state, as AVFs where mining would interrupt, discontinue or preclude farming, are unsuitable. Additionally, when mining federal lands outside an AVF would materially damage the quality or quantity of water in surface or underground water systems that would supply AVFs, the land shall be considered unsuitable.	Consider areas determined to contain AVFs significant to farming as unsuitable. Defer decisions on other AVFs and analyze on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance.	No AVFs identified as significant to farming and therefore unsuitable for mining have been identified on the West Roundup LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 19 for the West Roundup LBA Tract.
20. State or Indian Tribe Criteria. Federal lands to which is applicable a criterion proposed by the state or Indian tribe located in the planning area and adopted by rulemaking by the Secretary are unsuitable.	There are no criterion proposed by state or Indian tribes that have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior. No tribal lands are located in or near the review area.	There are no unsuitability findings for this criterion on the West Roundup LBA Tract.

Appendix B. Unsuitability Criteria for the West Antelope LBA Tract

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985a, 2001a), PLATTE RIVER RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985b), and TBNG (USFS 1985, 2001, 2002a)	FINDINGS FOR WEST ANTELOPE LBA TRACT
1. Federal Land Systems. With certain exceptions that do not apply to this tract, all federal lands included in the following systems are unsuitable for mining: National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National System of Trails, National Wilderness Preservation System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Recreation Areas, Lands acquired through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, National Forests and Federal lands in incorporated cities, towns and villages.	There are Federal lands located around Gillette, Sheridan, and Wright which were determined to be unsuitable under this criterion. The TBNG is not a proclaimed National Forest. No TBNG lands are included in the West Antelope LBA Tract.	None of the federal lands determined to be unsuitable under Criterion 1 are present on the West Antelope LBA Tract, and therefore there are no unsuitable findings.
2. Rights-Of-Way and Easements. Federal lands that are within ROWs or easements or within surface leases for residential, commercial, industrial or other public purposes, on federally owned surface, are unsuitable for mining.	Portions of the BNSF&UP railroad, the Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line, and Wyoming State Highway 450 ROWs were found to be unsuitable under this criterion within the general review area.	The portions of the Tri-County 230-Kv transmission line, the BNSF&UP, and the Wyoming Highway ROWs that were determined to be unsuitable are not located on the West Antelope LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 2 for the West Antelope LBA Tract.
3. Dwellings, Roads, Cemeteries, and Public Buildings. Federal lands within 100 ft of a ROWs of a public road or a cemetery; or within 300 ft of any public building, school, church, community or institutional building or public park; or within 300 ft of an occupied dwelling are unsuitable for mining.	Portions of Wyoming State Highway 450, Interstate Highway I-90, and one cemetery were found to be unsuitable under this criterion. Decisions were deferred on other highways/roads, occupied dwellings, and one school.	Highway 450, I-90, and the cemetery are not located on the West Antelope LBA Tract. No occupied dwellings, other highways/roads, or schools are located on the tract. Therefore, there are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 3 for the West Antelope LBA Tract.
4. Wilderness Study Areas. Federal lands designated as wilderness study areas are unsuitable for mining while under review for possible wilderness designation.	No lands in the general review area are within a wilderness study area.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 4 for the West Antelope LBA Tract.
5. Lands with Outstanding Scenic Quality. Scenic federal lands designated by visual resource management analysis as Class I (outstanding visual quality or high visual sensitivity) but not currently on National Register of Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.	No lands in the general review area meet the scenic criteria as outlined.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 5 for the West Antelope LBA Tract.
6. Land Used for Scientific Study. Federal lands under permit by the surface management agency and being used for scientific studies involving food or fiber production, natural resources, or technology demonstrations and experiments are unsuitable for the duration of the study except where mining would not jeopardize the purpose of the study.	A vegetation monitoring study site (NE ¼ of Sec. 1, T.41N., R.71W.), and the Hoe Creek Site (Sec. 7, T.47N., R.72W.) were found to be unsuitable under this criterion.	Neither the vegetation monitoring site or the Hoe Creek site are located on the West Antelope LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 6 for the West Antelope LBA Tract.
7. Cultural Resources. All publicly or privately owned places which are included in or are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and an appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable.	On the basis of the consultation with SHPO, there were no unsuitable findings under this criterion in the general review area. Continue using the "Standard Archeological Stipulation for Cultural Resources" to new leases.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 7 for the West Antelope LBA Tract. The "Standard Archeological Stipulation for Cultural Resources" should be applied if this tract is leased.
8. Natural Areas. Federal lands designated as natural areas or National Natural Landmarks are unsuitable.	No lands in the general review area are designated as natural areas or as National Natural Landmarks.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 8 for the West Antelope LBA Tract.
9. Critical Habitat for Threatened or Endangered Plant and Animal Species. Federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant and animal species, and scientifically documented essential habitat for threatened or endangered species are unsuitable.	There is no federally designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant or animal species within the general review area.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 9 for the West Antelope LBA Tract.

Appendix B

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985a, 2001a), PLATTE RIVER RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985b), and TBNG (USFS 1985, 2001, 2002a)	FINDINGS FOR WEST ANTELOPE LBA TRACT
10. State Listed Species. Federal lands containing habitat determined to be critical or essential for plant or animal species listed by a state pursuant to state law as threatened or endangered shall be considered unsuitable.	Wyoming does not maintain a state list of threatened or endangered species of plants or animals. Therefore, this criterion does not apply.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 10 for the West Antelope LBA Tract.
11. Bald or Golden Eagle Nests. An active bald or golden eagle nest and appropriate buffer zone are unsuitable unless the lease can be conditioned so that eagles will not be disturbed during breeding season or unless golden eagle nests will be moved.	Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle nests on a case by case basis at the time of leasing. Establish buffer zones around nests after consultation with USFWS.	There are golden eagle nests on the West Antelope LBA Tract. Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.
12. Bald and Golden Eagle Roost and Concentration Areas. Bald and golden eagle roost and concentration areas on federal lands used during migration and wintering are unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that eagles shall not be adversely disturbed.	Defer suitability decisions and evaluate bald and golden eagle roost areas on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with USFWS.	Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.
13. Falcon Nesting Sites and Buffer Zones. Federal lands containing active falcon (excluding kestrel) cliff nesting sites and a suitable buffer zone shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure the falcons will not be adversely affected.	Defer suitability decisions on falcon nesting sites and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones around nesting sites after consultation with USFWS.	No falcon nesting sites have been identified on the West Antelope LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 13 for the West Antelope LBA Tract.
14. Habitat for Migratory Bird Species. Federal lands which are high priority habitat for migratory bird species of high federal interest shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure that migratory bird habitat will not be adversely affected during the period it is in use.	Defer suitability decisions on high priority habitat for migratory bird species of high federal interest and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones for nesting areas after consultation with USFWS.	Evaluate suitability prior to lease issuance during consultation with USFWS.
15. Fish and Wildlife Habitat for Resident Species. Federal lands which the surface management agency and state jointly agree are fish, wildlife and plant habitat of resident species of high interest to the state, and which are essential for maintaining these priority wildlife species, shall be considered unsuitable unless mining can be conducted in such a way as to ensure no long-term impact on the species being provided will occur.	Defer suitability decisions on grouse leks and evaluate on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance. Establish buffer zones after consultation with USFWS.	There are no active or inactive sage grouse leks on or within two miles of the West Antelope LBA Tract. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 15 for the West Antelope LBA Tract.
16. Floodplains. Federal lands in riverine, coastal, and special floodplains shall be considered unsuitable where it is determined that mining could not be undertaken without substantial threat of loss of life or property.	The BLM and USFS have determined that the identified floodplains could potentially be mined. Therefore, all lands within the general review area are considered suitable.	Site-specific stipulations and resource protection safeguards will be applied if necessary during mining and reclamation planning. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 16 for the West Antelope LBA Tract.
17. Municipal Watersheds. Federal lands which have been committed by the surface management agency to use as municipal watersheds shall be considered unsuitable.	There are no designated municipal watersheds in the general review area.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 17 for the West Antelope LBA Tract.
18. National Resource Waters. Federal lands with national resource waters, as identified by states in their water quality management plans, and 1/4-mile buffer zones shall be unsuitable.	There are no designated national resource waters within the TBNG review area.	There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 18 for the West Antelope LBA Tract.

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUFFALO RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985a, 2001a), PLATTE RIVER RESOURCE AREA (BLM 1985b), and TBNG (USFS 1985, 2001, 2002a)	FINDINGS FOR WEST ANTELOPE LBA TRACT
<p>19. Alluvial Valley Floors. Federal lands identified by the surface management agency, in consultation with the state, as AVFs where mining would interrupt, discontinue or preclude farming, are unsuitable. Additionally, when mining federal lands outside an AVF would materially damage the quality or quantity of water in surface or underground water systems that would supply AVFs, the land shall be considered unsuitable.</p>	<p>Consider areas determined to contain AVFs significant to farming as unsuitable. Defer decisions on other AVFs and analyze on a case by case basis prior to lease issuance.</p>	<p>A portion of Spring Creek located on the West Antelope LBA Tract is a potential AVF, however, there is no present or historical record of agricultural uses of this potential AVF. There are no unsuitable findings under Criterion 19 for the West Antelope LBA Tract.</p>
<p>20. State or Indian Tribe Criteria. Federal lands to which is applicable a criterion proposed by the state or Indian tribe located in the planning area and adopted by rulemaking by the Secretary are unsuitable.</p>	<p>There are no criterion proposed by state or Indian tribes that have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior. No tribal lands are located in or near the review area.</p>	<p>There are no unsuitability findings for this criterion on the West Antelope LBA Tract.</p>