



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wyoming State Office

P.O. Box 1828

Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828

In Reply Refer To:  
3420 (922 BJanssen)  
WYW154595  
Ten Mile Rim  
Phone No: 307-775-6206  
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JAN 22 2004

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is providing this Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the Ten Mile Rim coal lease by application for your review and comment. The proposed lease area is located adjacent to the existing Jim Bridger Coal Mine in Sweetwater County, Wyoming. This DEA has been prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and applicable regulations, and other applicable statutes, to address possible environmental and socioeconomic impacts that could result from this project. This DEA is not a decision document. Its purpose is to inform the public of the potential impacts from leasing and underground mining of Federal coal within the proposed tract and to evaluate alternatives to the proposal.

The proposed tract consists of public, private, and state owned minerals. The DEA analyzed two alternatives in detail including the proposed alternative to hold a coal lease sale for 2,242 acres of Federal coal reserves within the coal occurrence and development potential area outlined in the Green River Resource Management Plan (Rock Springs Field Office). This tract is estimated to contain 44 million tons of in-place Federal coal reserves. This alternative constitutes BLM's preferred alternative. The other alternative analyzed in detail is the No Action Alternative. Other alternatives were considered but dropped from detailed study.

A formal public hearing on the application to lease the tract of Federal coal identified as Ten Mile Rim will be held at 2:00 p.m., March 9, 2004, in the Pilot Butte Conference Room at the Rock Springs Field Office, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, Wyoming. The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the proposed coal lease sale, on the fair market value, maximum economic recovery of the Federal coal resources in the proposed tract, and on the DEA.

Copies of the DEA are available for inspection at the following locations:

Bureau of Land Management Wyoming State Office 5353 Yellowstone Road Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009	Bureau of Land Management Rock Springs Field Office 280 Highway 191 North Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901
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The comment period will close thirty (30) days after the Federal Register publishes the Notice of Public Hearing/Notice of Availability. The expected date of publication is February 3, 2004. In addition to comments received on the DEA, the BLM will accept and consider comments on fair market value and maximum economic recovery of the coal tract. All responses received by the end of the public comment

period will be reproduced in the Final Environmental Assessment (FEA). Comments received after that date will be considered and reproduced in the FEA as time permits. Please address written comments to:

Bureau of Land Management  
Rock Springs Field Office  
Attn: Teri Deakins  
280 Highway 191 North  
Rock Springs, WY 82901

Comments may be submitted via email to [teri\\_deakins@blm.gov](mailto:teri_deakins@blm.gov) (please put Ten Mile Rim in the subject line).

If you wish to comment on the DEA, your comments should relate directly to the document. We request that you make your comments as specific as possible and that you cite the location or locations in the document on which you are commenting. The agencies involved in preparing this DEA are required to respond in the FEA to all substantive comments submitted. Substantive comments should: (1) give any new information that could alter conclusions; (2) show why or how analysis or assumptions in the DEA are flawed; (3) show errors in data, sources, or methods; or (4) request clarifications that bear on conclusions. Opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response. However, they will be considered and included as part of the BLM decision-making process.

Comments, including the names and street addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the addresses listed above during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays, and may be published as part of the FEA. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and/or street address from public review or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Please retain this document for future reference. Should the FEA be published in an abbreviated format, you will need both documents to fully review the EA. Should you wish to be removed from the mailing list for the FEA and decision document, print your name and address on the attached postcard, stamp and return to the Rock Springs Field Office.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Teri Deakins, Project Manager at (307) 352-0211 or Jeff Clawson, Mining Engineer at (307) 352-0323.

Sincerely

  
for Robert A. Bennett  
State Director