R2-FS-2820

Serial No.: _____
Report No.: C20000829-37

REGION 2

NEPA VALIDATION & VERIFICATION FORM 36 CFR 228.102 (e)(1)
for
Oil & Gas Leasing

I. INTRODUCTION

A. FOREST: Routt National Forest
DISTRICT: Hahns Peak/Bears Ears

Legal description of proposed lease parcel:

FEDERAL SURFACE/FEDERAL (PUBLIC DOMAIN) MINERALS

T. 10 N., R. 88 W., 6th PM
Sec. 18: Lots 5-8, E2, E2W2;
Sec. 19: Lots 5-8, E2, E2W2;
Sec. 20: E2E2, W2NW, NWSW;
Sec. 21: ALL;

B. Land Status:

1. Is the parcel or portions of the parcel administratively unavailable for leasing? ( ) YES (X) NO
   If yes, reason for unavailability:

2. Lease Proposal:
   Includes private land with Federal minerals? ( ) YES (X) NO
   If yes, are NFS issues involved? ( ) YES ( ) NO

   If yes, attach Forest Service issues and recommendations for private lands. NFS recommendations to BLM for private lands are not binding or subject to appeal.

II. NEW INFORMATION 36 CFR 228.102(e)(1)

A. Has leasing been adequately addressed in a NEPA document? (X) YES ( ) NO
   Name of Document: Final Environmental Impact Statement and Land and Resource Management Plan, Routt NF, 1997 Revision; Record of Decision, Routt NF, Feb. 1998; 2006 Supplemental Information Report for Canada Lynx and Platte River small water depletions; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion, Aug. 7, 2007.

B. Is there significant new information or circumstances as defined by 40 CFR 1502.9 requiring additional environmental analysis? ( ) YES (X) NO

   If yes, additional NEPA required:

C. Is leasing this parcel consistent with the Forest Land/Grassland and Resource Management Plan? (X) YES ( ) NO

D. Are conditions of occupancy properly included as stipulations in the resulting lease? (X) YES ( ) NO

E. Are operations and development allowable on the proposed lease except where stipulations will prohibit all surface occupancy? (X) YES ( ) NO

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III. SUMMARY OF VERIFICATION ANALYSIS AND RECORD OF CONSENT/DENIAL TO LEASE:

( )A. Consent to issuance of the lease subject to Standard Lease Terms (SLT) and Forest Service Notice for Lands of the National Forest System Under Jurisdiction of Department of Agriculture (R2-FS-2820-13 (92)).

(X)B. Consent to issuance of the lease subject to Standard Lease Terms (SLT) and Forest Service Notice for Lands of the National Forest System Under Jurisdiction of Department of Agriculture (R2-FS-2820-13 (92)), and the following stipulations:

- X No Surface Occupancy Stipulation NSO -
- ___ Timing Limitation Stipulation TL -
- X Controlled Surface Use Stipulation CSU -
- ___ Lease Notice LN -

( )C. Object to lease for all or part of the proposed lease area.

IV. PREPARED BY:

Thomas A. Florich
Supervisor's Office Minerals Program Manager

11/6/08
Date

V. CONCURRENCE:

Jamie Kingsbury
Hahns Peak/Bears Ears District Ranger

11/7/08
Date

MINIMUM ATTACHMENTS

Parcel Map 7.5 min.
Required Stipulations
Lease Notices
Check List (optional)
Lease Denial (if applicable)

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OIL AND GAS LEASE PARCEL -- VERIFICATION & VALIDATION OF STIPULATIONS

Forest: Routt NF
District: Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District

	No Stip	Stip Yes (type[1])	Remarks[2]	Verified[3] (initials & date)
1. Slopes 40% - 60%	X			[illegible]
2. Slopes Greater than 60%	X			[illegible]
3. Moderate Erosion, Geo Hazards, Hydric Soils		X-CSU		[illegible]
4. High Erosion, High Geologic Hazard	X			[illegible]
5. Research Natural Areas	X			[illegible]
6. Special Interest Areas	X			[illegible]
Areas with Extremely Sensitive:				
7. Sensitive Watersheds		X-CSU		[illegible]
8. Alpine Environments	X			[illegible]
9. Visually Sensitive - Partial Retention VQO		X-CSU	REC ROADS	[illegible]
10. Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers	X			[illegible]
Threatened & Endangered Species				
11. Identify species:	X			[illegible]
Critical Wildlife Habitat Identified in Forest Plan or Other Wildlife Resources:				
12. Big Game Winter Range	X			[illegible]
13. Big Game Production Areas	X			[illegible]
14. Greater Sandhill Cranes Nesting Areas	X			[illegible]
15. Grouse Production Areas	X			[illegible]
16. Raptors (Golden Eagles, Osprey, Hawks, Owls, Falcons)	X			[illegible]
17. Colorado River Cutthroat Trout Habitat	X			[illegible]
18. Other specify (i.e. MIS or Sensitive species):	X			[illegible]
Developed Recreation Sites:				
19. Recreation Sites	X			[illegible]
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum:				
20. 3.31 Mgmt Areas, Backcountry motorized	X			[illegible]
21. 1.32 Mgmt Areas, Backcountry nonmotorized	X			[illegible]
Other Unique Characteristics or Concerns Addressed:				
22. Municipal Watersheds	X			[illegible]
23. Roadless Areas		X-NSO		[illegible]
24. Residential Interface	X			[illegible]
25. Unique Natural Area – Shorty/Cataract	X			[illegible]
26. Heritage Resource Sites	X			[illegible]

[1] Stipulation types: NSO (No Surface Occupancy), CSU (Controlled Surface Use), TL (Timing Limitation)
[2] Include specific information about stipulations and identify and describe Lease Notices, if any.
[3] Specialists should check leasing decision and decision stipulation maps, resource inventory maps, other applicable maps and information, and conditions on the ground if applicable and necessary to verify need or no need for stipulations and Lease Notices.

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NOTICE FOR LANDS OF THE NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM
UNDER JURISDICTION OF
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The permittee/lessee must comply with all the rules and regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture set forth at Title 36, Chapter II, of the Code of Federal Regulations governing the use and management of the National Forest System (NFS) when not inconsistent with the rights granted by the Secretary of Interior in the permit. The Secretary of Agriculture's rules and regulations must be complied with for (1) all use and occupancy of the NFS prior to approval of a permit/operation plan by the Secretary of the Interior, (2) uses of all existing improvements, such as forest development roads, within and outside the area permitted by the Secretary of the Interior, and (3) use and occupancy of the NFS not authorized by a permit/operation plan approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

All matters related to this stipulation are to be addressed to:

Forest Supervisor, Medicine Bow & Routt National Forests
2468 Jackson Street
Laramie, WY 82070-6535
(307) 745-2307

who is the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture.

NOTICE

CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES - The FS is responsible for assuring that the leased lands are examined to determine if cultural resources are present and to specify mitigation measures. Prior to undertaking any surface-disturbing activities on the lands covered by this lease, the lessee or operator, unless notified to the contrary by the FS, shall:

1. Contact the FS to determine if a site specific cultural resource inventory is required. If a survey is required, then:

2. Engage the services of a cultural resource specialist acceptable to the FS to conduct a cultural resource inventory of the area of proposed surface disturbance. The operator may elect to inventory an area larger than the area of proposed disturbance to cover possible site relocation which may result from environmental or other considerations. An acceptable inventory report is to be submitted to the FS for review and approval at the time a surface disturbing plan of operation is submitted.

3. Implement mitigation measures required by the FS and BLM to preserve or avoid destruction of cultural resource values. Mitigation may include relocation of proposed facilities, testing, salvage, and recordation or other protective measures. All costs of the inventory and mitigation will be borne by the lessee or operator, and all data and materials salvaged will remain under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Government as appropriate.

The lessee or operator shall immediately bring to the attention of the FS and BLM any cultural or paleontological resources or any other objects of scientific interest discovered as a result of surface operations under this lease, and shall leave such discoveries intact until directed to proceed by FS and BLM.

ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES - The FS is responsible for assuring that the leased land is examined prior to undertaking any surface-disturbing activities to determine effects upon any plant or animal species listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened, or their habitats. The findings of this examination may result in some restrictions to the operator's plans or even disallow use and occupancy that would be in violation of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 by detrimentally affecting endangered or threatened species or their habitats.

The lessee/operator may, unless notified by the FS that the examination is not necessary, conduct the examination on the leased lands at his discretion and cost. This examination must be done by or under the supervision of a qualified resource specialist approved by the FS. An acceptable report must be provided to the FS identifying the anticipated effects of a proposed action on endangered or threatened species or their habitats.

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NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY STIPULATION
Roadless Areas Capable for Wilderness Designation

No surface occupancy or use is allowed on the lands described below (legal subdivision or other description).

ALL LANDS

On portions (or all, which ever is applicable) of the lands as shown on the attached map, Exhibit A.

For the purpose of:

Preserving the roadless character of these areas identified as capable for wilderness designation.

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes. (For guidance on the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manual 1624 and 3101 or FS Manual 1950 and 2820).

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CONTROLLED SURFACE USE STIPULATION
Moderate Erosion, Geologic Hazards, or Hydric Soils

Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special operating constraints.

Strict environmental controls are necessary to prevent adverse environmental consequences. Surface occupancy will be allowed, but the manner in which development activities will be permitted will be more restrictive than standard lease terms would permit.

On lands described below:

T. 10 N., R. 88 W., 6th PM
Sec. 18: Lots 5-8, W2NE, E2W2;
Sec. 19: Lots 5-8, E2W2, W2SE, SESE;
Sec. 20: SESE;
Sec. 21: E2NE, N2NW, NESE, S2SE;

On portions (or all, which ever is applicable) of the lands as shown on the attached map, Exhibit A.

For the purpose of:

Protecting areas with moderate erosion or geologic hazard, or hydric soils.

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes. (For guidance on the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manual 1624 and 3101 or FS Manual 1650 and 2820.)

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CONTROLLED SURFACE USE STIPULATION
Sensitive Watersheds

Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special operating constraints.

Use Best Management Practice of no ground-disturbing activities within 300 feet of a stream, wetland, lake, or pond in sensitive watersheds unless a watershed specialist
- has determined and approved a different distance from the potentially affected resource will minimize degradation from increased water and sediment yield to acceptable levels, or
- has identified and approved other equally effective means to minimize degradation, or
- has attested that operations as designed will minimize degradation from increased water and sediment yield to acceptable levels.

On the lands described below:

T. 10 N., R. 88 W., 6th PM
Sec. 18: SENE, SESW, SE;
Sec. 19: Lots 6-8;
Sec. 19: NE, NENW, SWNW, E2SW, SE;
Sec. 20: E2E2, W2NW, NWSW;
Sec. 21: S2NW, SW, S2SE;

On portions (or all, which ever is applicable) of the lands as shown on the attached map, Exhibit A.

For the purpose of:

To protect sensitive watersheds by minimizing degradation from increased water and sediment yield.

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes. (For guidance on the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manual 1624 and 3101 or FS Manual 1950 and 2820.)

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CONTROLLED SURFACE USE STIPULATION
Visually Sensitive Lands

Surface occupancy or use is subject to the following special operating constraints.

Areas in the Forest with high scenic and recreational values may require screening, buffering, or site relocation beyond that which is allowed under the standard lease terms. This stipulation is applied to areas allocated to Management Area prescriptions 4.2 (Scenery and Major Transportation Corridors) or 4.3 (Dispersed Recreation) or other areas with visual quality objective of partial retention. In order to meet the visual quality objective in areas of retention and/or partial retention or to maintain the recreational values, it may be necessary to modify the siting or design of the proposed development activities. This stipulation gives the Forest Service the authority to relocate the site or modify the timing more than is permitted in the standard lease terms to meet the retention objective.

On lands described below:

T. 10 N., R. 88 W., 6th PM
Sec. 18: E2, E2NW;
Sec. 19: E2NE, SESW, SE;
Sec. 20: E2E2, W2NW, NWSW;

On portions (or all, which ever is applicable) of the lands as shown on the attached map, Exhibit A.

For the purpose of:

Protecting areas with high scenic and recreational values.

Any changes to this stipulation will be made in accordance with the land use plan and/or the regulatory provisions for such changes. (For guidance on the use of this stipulation, see BLM Manual 1624 and 3101 or FS Manual 1650 and 2820.)