

Dated: October 20, 1998.

**Michael P. McDermott,**

*Chief, Office of Outreach.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[MT920-1310-00]

#### Dillon Oil and Gas Management Framework Plan (MFP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Amendment.

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Amend Oil and Gas Leasing Decisions in Madison and Beaverhead Counties of Montana for the Dillon Management Framework Plan.

**SUMMARY:** The BLM Dillon Field Office hereby gives notice of its intent to prepare a Management Framework Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement. The purposes of this amendment are to analyze the environmental impacts associated with leasing and development of oil and gas resources and ensure compliance with BLM planning guidance for leasing federal minerals. The MFP amendment and associated EIS will provide analysis to enable fluid mineral leasing allocation decisions on approximately 902,528 acres of public land and 1,305,504 acres of subsurface mineral estate administered by the BLM. The BLM Dillon Field Office administers most of this area; however, 59,287 acres of public domain land located immediately south of the Big Hole River in the extreme northern portion of Beaverhead County are under the jurisdiction of the BLM Butte Field Office. The other issues covered in the existing MFP will continue to be valid and may be referenced in preparing the proposed amendment.

**DATES:** A public scoping brochure will be prepared and sent to the public and interested parties after this notice in the Federal Register. This is anticipated to happen shortly after the beginning of 1999. Local newspapers will issue press releases on this brochure and initiate a 30-day public comment period on the proposed amendment, issues, and planning criteria. A Draft MFP EIS/Amendment should be available for public review during early spring of 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Bureau of Land Management, Dillon Field Office, 1005

Selway Drive, Dillon, Montana 59725-9431.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bureau of Land Management, Attention: Scott Powers, Field Manager, 1005 Selway Drive, Dillon, Montana 59725-9431, Phone: (406) 683-2337.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following are anticipated issues and concerns for the MFP EIS/Amendment:

1. The action of leasing (pre-lease) fluid minerals versus the process of permitting fluid mineral operations (post-lease) are not well understood.
2. Concerns about degradation of water quality from construction activity, disposal of produced water, and surface discharge from spills or accidents.
3. Geophysical exploration operations as a result of oil and gas leasing activity.
4. Not leasing or providing adequate protection for areas that have special wildlife concerns or habitat.
5. Sensitive species that may become listed as threatened and endangered.
6. Fisheries (specifically the West Slope Cutthroat Trout).
7. Consistency of stipulations with leasing stipulations on adjoining National Forest System lands.

The following planning criteria and assumptions to this plan will be as follows:

1. The current MFP cannot be protested.
2. The EIS/Amendment will stand alone, but may tier off or incorporate by reference other documents.
3. Scope of analysis will be consistent with the level of analysis in approved plans and standards which were developed due to the *Conner vs Burford*, 848 F.2d 1441 (9th Cir. 1988).
4. Area of analysis will be Federal mineral estate, excluding Forest System, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands in Madison and Beaverhead Counties within the BLM Dillon Field Office and the small portion administered by the BLM Butte Field Office in Beaverhead County.
5. Data acquisition will consist primarily of extrapolation and compilation of existing data and appropriate literature search.
6. Existing geological and fluid minerals data will be used to develop occurrence potentials and reasonably foreseeable development scenarios. These scenarios will be used to analyze the effects of various oil and gas leasing alternatives.
7. Narrative and format will be based on existing approved plans.
8. Automated mapping techniques will be used.

9. Special fluid leasing stipulations with a standard structure, wording, and usage will be developed and will be consistent with the Forest Service whenever possible.

10. Continuing management guidance will be expanded to reflect recent resource regulations and guidelines pertaining to oil and gas leasing.

11. A list of sensitive species will be identified and addressed in the document.

12. To the extent practicable, this document will be consistent with oil and gas leasing analysis for adjoining Forest Service lands and leases.

Dated: December 10, 1998.

**Thomas P. Lonnie,**

*Deputy State Director, Division of Resources.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-921-41-5700; WYW108811]

#### Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease

Pursuant to the provisions of 30 U.S.C. 188 (d) and (e), and 43 CFR 3108.2-3 (a) and (b)(1), a petition for reinstatement of oil and gas lease WYW108811 for lands in Fremont County, Wyoming, was timely filed and was accompanied by all the required rentals accruing from the date of termination. The lessee has agreed to the amended lease terms for rentals and royalties at rates of \$5.00 per acre, or fraction thereof, per year and 16 $\frac{2}{3}$  percent, respectively.

The lessee has paid the required \$500 administrative fee and \$125 to reimburse the Department for the cost of this **Federal Register** notice. The lessee has met all the requirements for reinstatement of the lease as set out in Section 31 (d) and (e) of the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 188), and the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to reinstate lease WYW108811 effective May 1, 1998, subject to the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above.

Dated: December 3, 1998.

**Pamela J. Lewis,**

*Chief, Leasable Minerals Section.*

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