U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Public Scoping for Potential Amendment to the Buffalo Resource Management Plan

Litigation Driven

- Western Organization of Resource Councils, et al. (WORC) vs BLM
- August 3, 2022 Order from U.S. Montana District Court impacting Miles City, Montana and Buffalo, Wyoming RMPs by requiring BLM to

  1. Conduct new coal screening and NEPA analysis that considers no leasing and limited coal leasing alternatives.
  2. Disclose the public health impacts, both climate and non-climate, of burning fossil fuels from the planning areas.

- BLM to complete new coal screening and NEPA analysis by December 3, 2023.
- In addition (and outside the scope of the SEIS effort) – the Order states that comprehensive analysis is required for pending or new oil, gas, or coal leasing that meets the court order requirements above.

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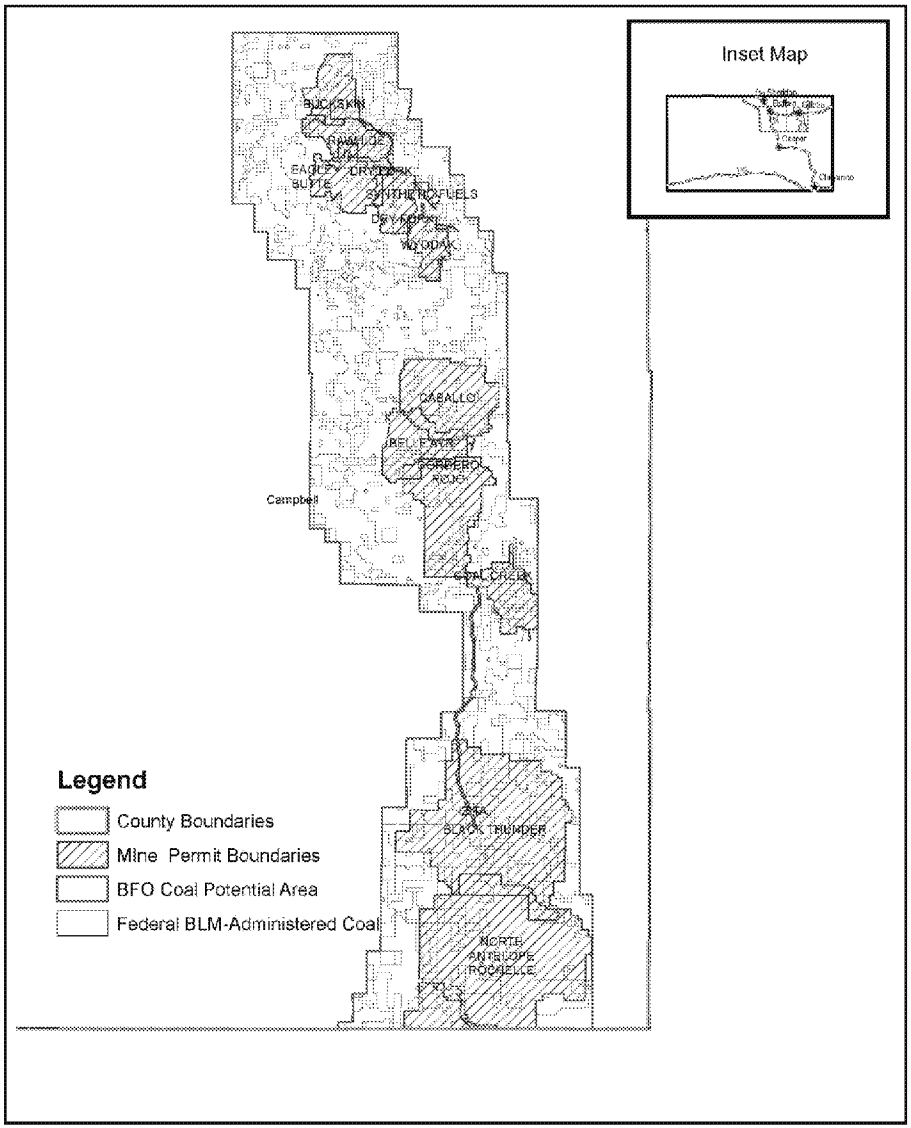
Coal Development Potential Area



Coal Development Potential Area:

- 455,567 acres
- 12 active coal mines
- Primarily federal coal

Purpose and Need

1. Conduct new coal screening and NEPA analysis that allows for the development of the no leasing and limited coal leasing alternatives.

2. Disclose the public health impacts, both climate and non-climate, of burning fossil fuels (oil, gas, coal) from the planning areas.

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Alternatives

Alternatives being considered are:

1. Decision from the 2019 Approved RMP Amendment (no action)
2. No availability of federal coal for future consideration of leasing (no leasing alternative)
3. Reduced availability of federal coal for future consideration of leasing (reduced leasing alternative(s))

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Schedule & Public Involvement

- Notice of Intent: October 3, 2022
- NOA Draft SEIS: Winter 2022
- NOA Final SEIS: Proposed RMPA: Summer 2023
- Record of Decision: December 3, 2023

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Comments

- Keep your comments focused on purpose and need.
- Provide resource information, identify potential issues and their impact extent.

Submit your comments by Nov. 3, 2022.

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Questions

Contact Information

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Comments (due Nov. 3)

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