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**Contacts:** Serena Baker, 307-212-0197

## BLM Rock Springs Signs Bridger Coal Lease Modification Decision

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rock Springs Field Office releases the environmental assessment (EA), finding of no significant impact (FONSI), and decision record (DR) authorizing Bridger Coal Company to expand their coal lease (WYW154595) by 320 acres for underground mining.

The additional 320 acres of BLM-administered land is in the checkerboard region of mixed public, private and state owned land. The modified lease is adjacent to the current Bridger Permit Boundary. The permit covers approximately 26,691 acres of land the company leases east of Sweetwater County Road 15, roughly 35 miles northeast of Rock Springs, Wyo. In addition to the federal lease modification request, the company is proposing to conduct underground coal mining on connecting private land.

Bridger Coal Company operates the Jim Bridger Coal Mine complex which includes surface, underground, and highwall mining methods, along with ongoing reclamation, and has been in production since 1974.

Initial public scoping on the modified coal lease was conducted in April-May 2012. The EA was made available for public comment in January 2013; two comments were received, neither comment required modification of the document. The DR is subject to administrative review through the appeal process, which is outlined in the Decision Record.

Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the individual listed below during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the below individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

For more information, please contact Nancy Favour, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, at 307-352-0211. The EA, FONSI, and DR are available at:

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rsfo/bridgercoal.html>