

ITEM 2-7

NEGATIVE UNSUITABILITY DETERMINATION

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Negative Unsuitability Determination

Pages 149-150  
LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN,  
FERRON-PRICE PLANNING UNIT  
MANTI LASAL NATIONAL FOREST  
MAY 1979

United States Department of Agriculture  
United States Forest Service

soil studies, hydrologic studies, and studies concerning revegetation. If any area is determined not to be so reclaimable, such area shall be considered unsuitable for coal mining.

Exception: A lease may be issued upon presentation of information which contains results of studies showing that reclamation is possible to the standards of the SMCRA, the regulations, and approved State programs, including State regulations.

Application of Unsuitability Criteria to Ferron-Price Planning Unit

The areas of the planning unit to which the Unsuitability Criteria are applicable, referred to as "mineable coal areas,"<sup>1/</sup>were determined using available coal seam and geologic information. The mineable coal areas of the planning unit comprise 218,230 acres and include the Coal Lands Management Area A as described in the land management plan. Private, State lands and existing mining operations, totaling 50,110 acres, are exempt from the criteria. The remaining coal lands of the planning unit are not considered mineable with present mining technology. The Unsuitability Criteria was not applied to those lands.

Mineable coal areas of the planning unit are not suitable for strip mining, therefore, the General Exception is applicable. Mineable coal areas will not be considered unsuitable for leasing or mining. The criteria will be applied to each lease and operating plan on a site specific basis as they are proposed. Appropriate adjustments, modifications and stipulations will be applied at that time to reflect criteria application.

The criteria were applied to determine probable conflicts of surface effects from underground mining. The applicability of individual criterion are noted. The criteria were applied using the best data and information available. For some criteria, data is not available or is incomplete.

1. Federal Land Systems

Mineable coal areas of the planning unit do not meet the criterion.

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<sup>1/</sup> The term "mineable coal area" used in this discussion is defined as those lands to which the "Land Unsuitability Criteria" was applied. Private lands, and leases under development or that are being mined, were not included in the definition. The definition was applicable to inactive leases and unleased Federal land within the known recoverable coal resource areas as designated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

2. Rights-of-Way and Easements

Roads, pipelines, and electrical transmission lines cross the area under special use permit, rights-of-way and easements. Special use permits for roads, pipelines and transmission lines will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Exceptions to the criteria as well as special stipulations will be issued to protect surface facilities as needed.

3. Buffer Zones Along Rights-of-Way and Adjacent to Communities and Buildings

Roads, pipelines, and electrical transmission lines cross the area under special use permit, rights-of-way and easements. Special use permits for roads, pipelines and transmission lines will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Exceptions to the criteria as well as special stipulations will be issued to protect surface facilities as needed.

4. Wilderness Study Areas

Mineable coal areas of the planning unit have not been recommended for Wilderness or Wilderness Study and do not meet the criterion.

5. Scenic Areas

Some areas of the planning unit have outstanding scenic qualities and/or high visual sensitivity. The visual quality objectives of "Preservation" and "Retention" used by the Forest Service closely correspond to the Class I and II visual classification used by the Department of Interior. None of the mineable coal areas are classified as "Preservation." The foreground areas of Straight Canyon and Left Fork of Huntington Canyon are classed as "Retention."

6. Lands Used for Scientific Studies

Mineable coal areas of the planning unit do not meet the criterion.

7. Historic Lands and Sites

A number of archeologic, historic and paleontologic sites have been inventoried within mineable coal areas. The archeologic and historic sites are generally isolated and small. The sites will be protected in accordance with current policies, laws and regulations.