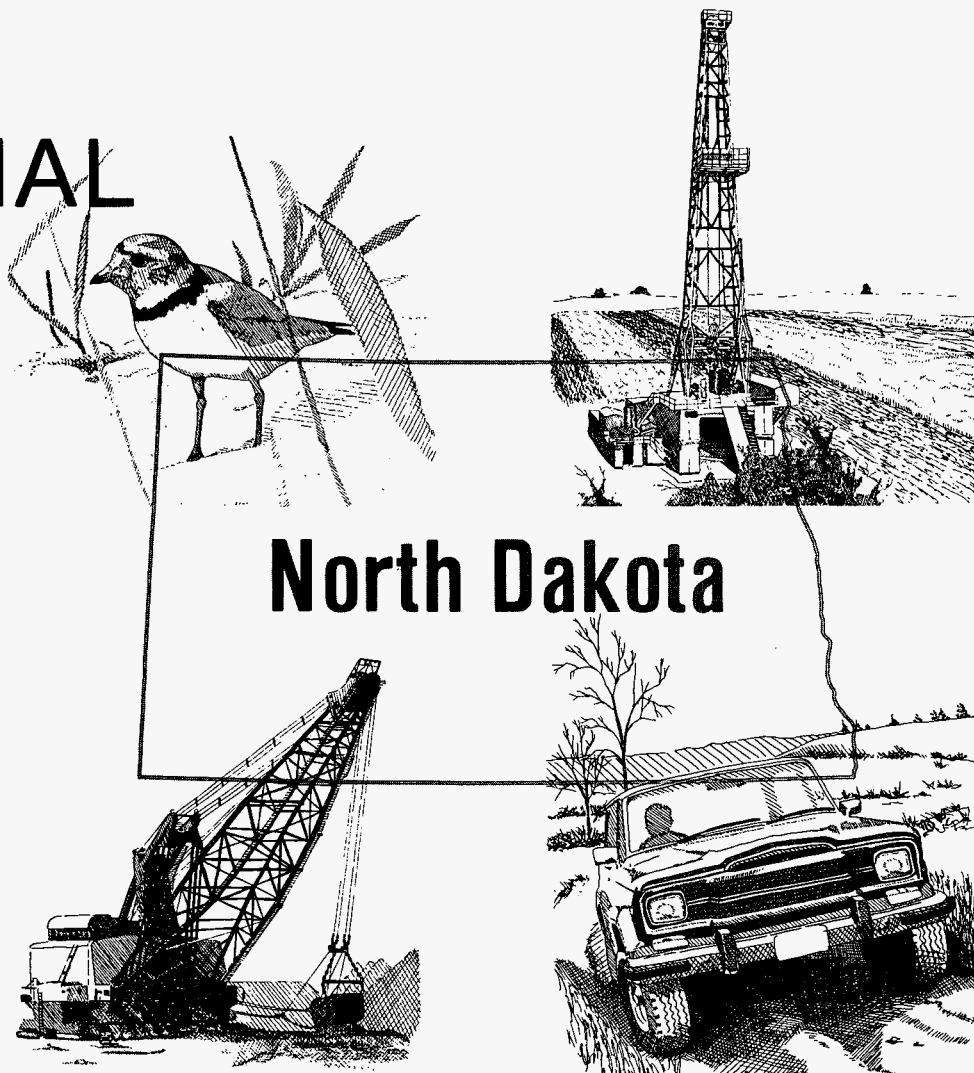


North Dakota Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

FINAL



JULY 1987

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Dickinson District**

BLM-MT-ES-87-006-4410

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

FINAL

NORTH DAKOTA
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN/
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Dickinson District Office
Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior

July 1987

Marvin LeNoue

Acting State Director
Montana and the Dakotas



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

222 North 32nd Street
P.O. Box 36800
Billings, Montana 59107

Dear Reader:

This proposed North Dakota Resource Management Plan and final Environmental Impact Statement is to be used in conjunction with draft plan and environmental impact statement issued in December 1986. The draft document analyzed four alternative management plans, including the preferred alternative, for approximately 67,571 acres of public surface and nearly 4.8 million acres of federal minerals administered by the Bureau of Land Management in North Dakota.

Comments and suggestions received during the public review of the draft plan and environmental impact statement did not require major changes to the document or the accompanying maps. Written comments on the draft, along with a summary of oral comments provided during four public meetings, are presented in this document. Responses to the comments and changes made to the text of the draft are also included. We have included a section titled How to Use This Document. This section describes how the various portions of the draft and this document compliment each other. This section also directs the reader to several key areas depending on the level of review desired. A limited number of the draft documents and accompanying maps is available at the Bureau of Land Management, Dickinson District Office, 202 East Villard, P.O. Box 1229, Dickinson, North Dakota 58602.

This concludes the Bureau of Land Management's evaluation of the proposed plan and alternatives. Issuance of a Record of Decision and implementation of the resource management plan will occur soon after the end of a 30-day protest period.

All parts of this plan may be protested. Protests should be sent to the Director (760), Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets NW, Washington, D.C. 20240, within the 30-day protest period ending August 18, 1987. Protest statements should include the following information:

The name, mailing address, telephone number and interest of the person filing the protest.

A statement of the issue or issues being protested.

A statement of the part or parts of the plan being protested.

A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that were submitted during the planning process by the protesting party, or an indication of the date the issue or issues were discussed for the record.

A concise statement explaining why the proposed decision is believed to be wrong.

At the end of the 30-day protest period, the proposed plan, excluding any portions under protest, will become final. Approval will be withheld on any portion of the plan under protest until final action has been completed. Any significant changes to the proposed plan made as a result of a protest will be made available for public review and comment prior to final approval and implementation.

Following final approval of the plan a "desk document" will be prepared that will consolidate and summarize all management guidance developed through the planning process. This document will be designed for the everyday use of Bureau of Land Management employees in the implementation of the resource management plan. A limited number of the desk documents will be available to the public upon request. Persons wishing to receive copies of the desk document should contact the Dickinson District Office, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 1229, Dickinson, ND 58602; (701) 225-9148.

If requested, a hearing will be held prior to plan approval to discuss the proposed plan and its relationship to potential coal leasing. A hearing may be requested by any person having an interest which is, or may be, adversely affected by implementation of the plan. Request for a hearing should be made to Mark Stiles, Project Manager, Dickinson District Office, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 1229, Dickinson, North Dakota 58602.

We thank the individuals and organizations who have participated in our planning process; helping us to prepare a plan that will lead to more effective and efficient management of public lands and minerals. Your interest is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Acting State Director

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

**LEAD AGENCY: DICKINSON DISTRICT OFFICE
DICKINSON, NORTH DAKOTA
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

TYPE OF ACTION: Administrative

JURISDICTION OF ACTION: The entire state of North Dakota

ABSTRACT: The North Dakota Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement addresses future management options for 67,571 acres of public surface and about 4.8 million acres of federal minerals administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Dickinson District, located in Dickinson, North Dakota. The plan and environmental impact statement focus on four alternatives. These alternatives are based on themes ranging from the maximization of commodity resource production to the protection of amenity resources, and include the alternative of "No Action or Continuation of Present Management" and the proposed alternative. Each alternative prescribes management of resources and programs under the four identified planning issues: (1) coal leasing, (2) land pattern adjustment, (3) oil and gas leasing, and (4) off-road vehicle use designations. When the plan is finalized, it will provide a comprehensive framework for Bureau of Land Management activities in North Dakota for the next 15 or more years. The draft plan and environmental impact statement, and accompanying maps should be used in conjunction with this final environmental impact statement, which contains modifications and corrections to the draft and comments received during public review.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Stiles, Project Manager, Dickinson District Office, 202 East Villard, P.O. Box 1229, Dickinson, North Dakota 58602; telephone (701) 225-9148.