United States Department of the Interior

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Spring Creek Mine

LBA1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement

WELCOME

PUBLIC MEETING

BIG HORN COUNTY BUILDING

HARDIN, MT

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

5:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

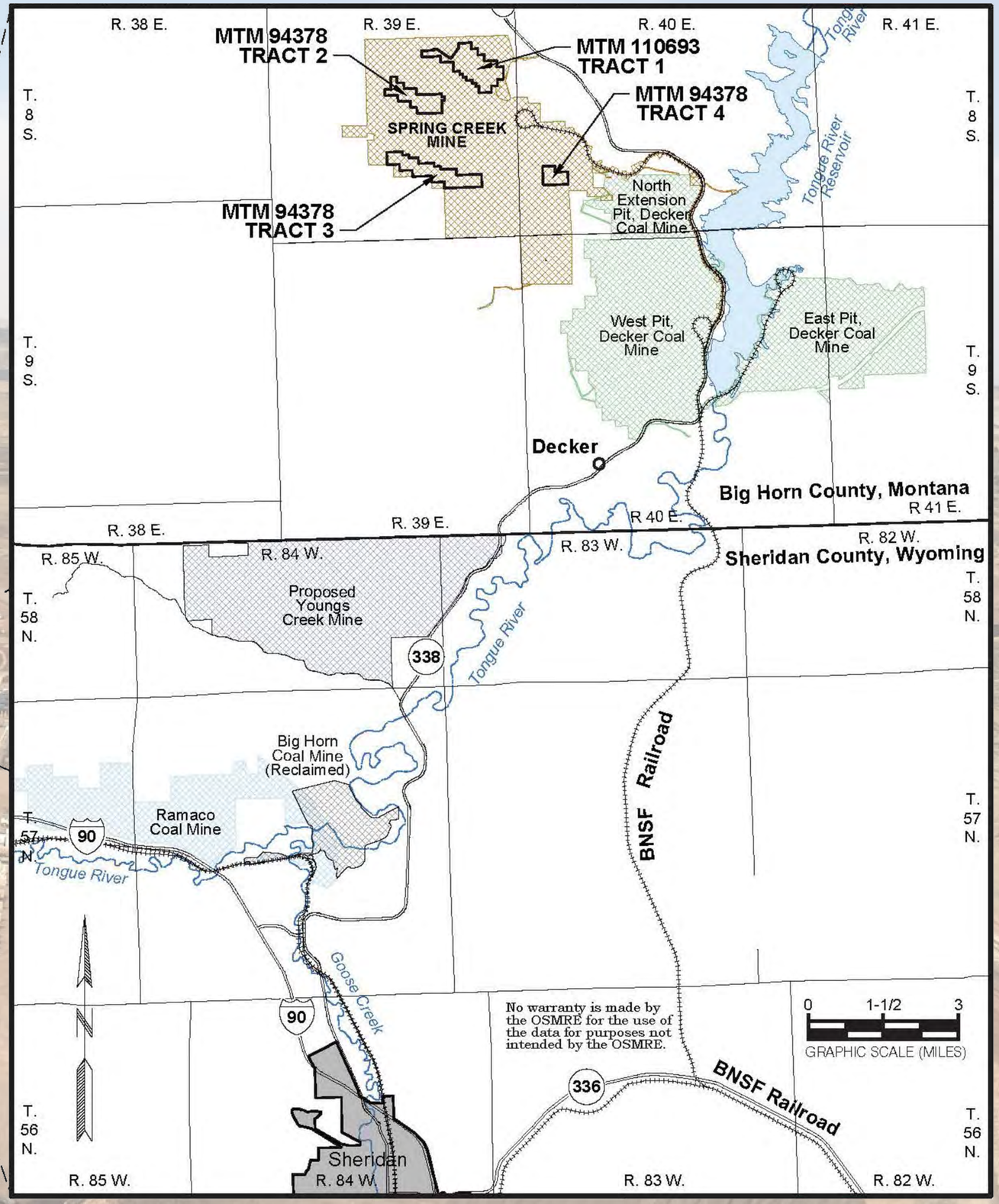
How to Comment

Everyone is encouraged to provide comments. Your comments will become part of the official public record and will be considered in the final environmental impact statement (FEIS). Submit your comments by October 22, 2024.

- **Drop form in Comment Box**
- **Email: SCM_LBA1_EIS@wwcengineering.com**
- **Mail: ATTN: Spring Creek Mine LBA1 EIS, C/O Marcelo Calle, OSMRE Western Regions 5, 7-11, P.O. Box 25065, Lakewood, CO 80225-0065**
- **Website: https://www.osmre.gov/laws-and-regulations/nepa/projects**

General Location of the Spring Creek Mine LBA1 Tracts

STATE OF MONTANA



Project Background

2006 — **BLM Issues EA for MTM 94378**

2007 — **BLM issues MTM 94378 to Spring Creek Coal, LLC**

2011 — **MDEQ approves permit revision to add MTM 94378**

2012 — **OSMRE adopts 2006 BLM EA and issues FONSI. ASLM approves Federal Mining Plan Modification**

2016 — **2012 Federal Mining Plan Modification challenged. Court orders OSMRE to prepare an updated EA. OSMRE completes the 2016 LBA1 EA and issues FONSI.**

2021 — **2016 Federal Mining Plan Modification challenged. Court orders OSMRE to prepare an EIS**

2023 — **Court grants extension for OSMRE to complete NEPA to May 10, 2024, extended to March 14, 2025.**

The United States District Court for the District of Montana (the Court) held in *WildEarth Guardians v. Haaland*, No. CV 17-80-BLG-SPW (D. Mont 2021) that the 2016 LBA1 EA failed to take a hard look at the following:

- Indirect and cumulative effects of diesel emissions, noise, vibrations, and coal dust emissions from rail cars based on the final destination and routes of SCM coal shipments
- Indirect effects of non-greenhouse gas from downstream combustion emissions
- Effects related to the social cost of greenhouse gases

Additional issues identified during Public Scoping

- The potential for adverse effects to air quality from combustion of mined coal
- The potential effects of the Project on climate change, and subsequent effects to other resource areas
- The potential for the Project to adversely affect human health and safety
- The potential for the Project to adversely affect minority, low-income and indigenous communities
- The potential for the Project to adversely affect the hydrologic balance of groundwater and surface water

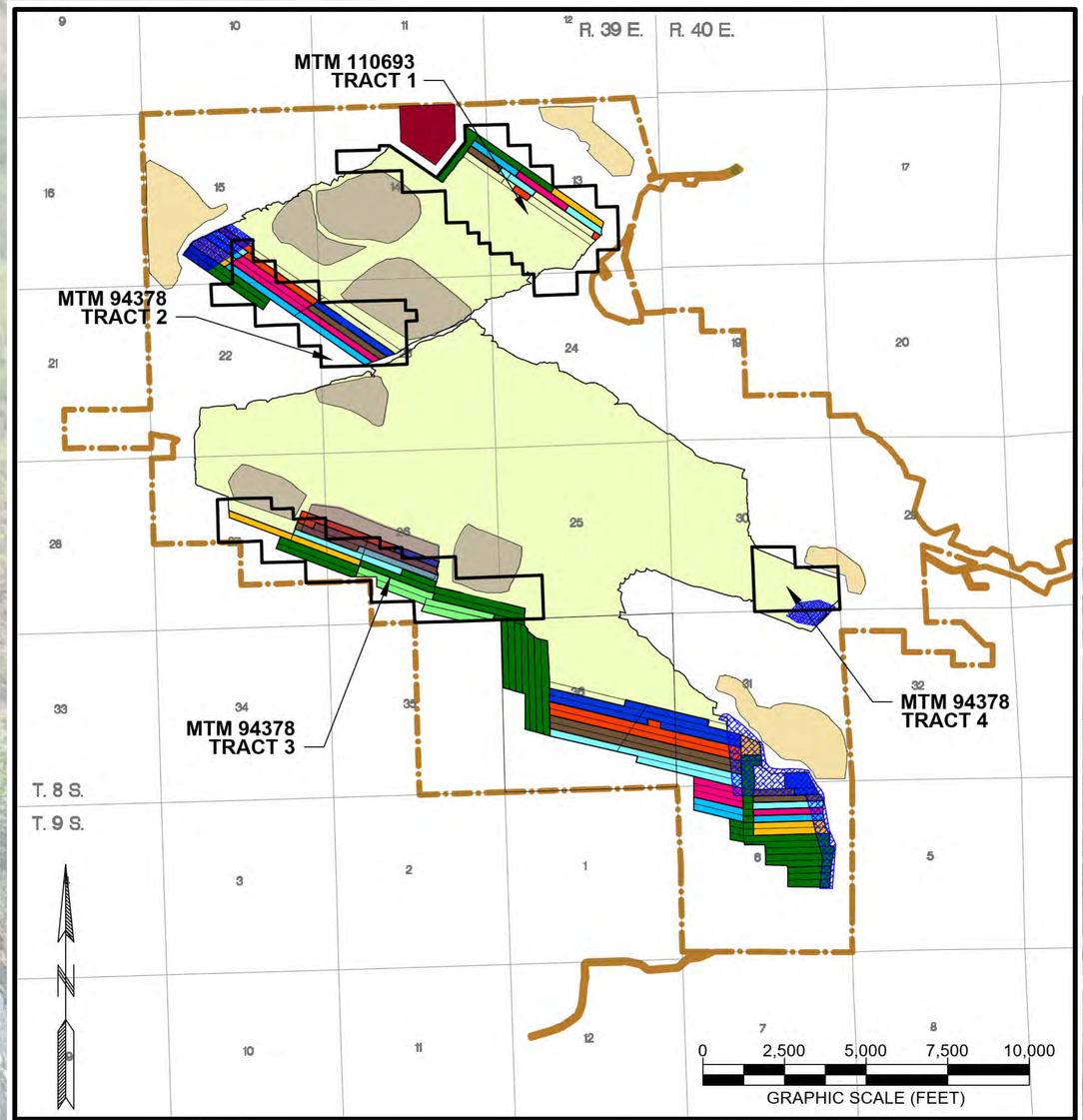
Alternatives Evaluated in DEIS

Item	Alternative 1 Proposed Action	Alternative 2 Partial Mining	Alternative 3 Accelerated Mining Rate	Alternative 4 No Action
Remaining LBA1 Recoverable Federal Coal	39.9 Mt	19.3 Mt	39.9 Mt	0 Mt
Estimated Average Annual LBA1 Coal Production	Varies Annually (0.78 – 4.87 Mt)	Varies Annually (2.20 – 4.87 Mt)	18 Mt	0 Mt
Remaining Years from Recovering LBA1 Coal	16 years 2024-2039	5 years 2024-2028	2.2 years 2024-2026	0 year
Remaining LBA1 Area to be Disturbed	162.5 acres[1]	78.5 acres[2]	162.5 acres[1]	0 acres

[1] This number reflects the remaining acres of approved disturbance associated with the four LBA1 tracts as of December 31, 2023.
[2] This number reflects the remaining acres of approved disturbance associated with the four LBA1 tracts as of December 31, 2023, and only mining for the 5-year term.

OSMRE has not yet identified the preferred alternative.
The DEIS Chapter 6 identifies the environmentally preferred alternative as required by 40 CFR 1502.14(f).

Life of Mining Sequence



LEGEND

- Spring Creek Mine Permit Boundary (MR276)
- LBA Tract
- No Disturbance Area
- Approximate Locations of Boxcut, Ramp Cut-Outs, or Stockpiled Overburden Available for Export to Other Pits
- Approximate Temporary In-Pit Stockpile Footprint Location
- Approximate Temporary Out-of-Pit Overburden Stockpile Location

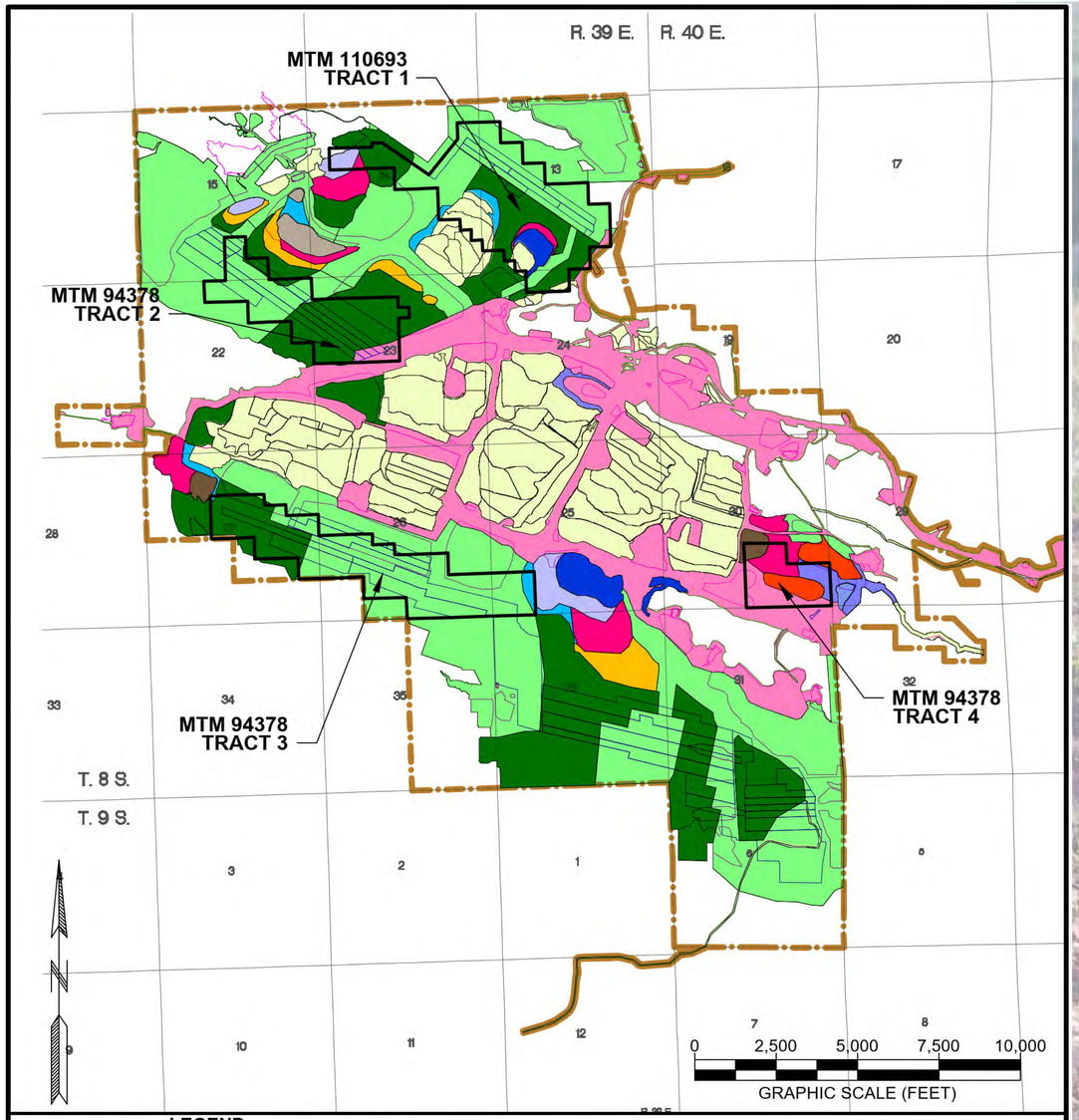
COMPLETED MINING SEQUENCE (A/D Coal)

- 1980 - 2022 (approximate mined)

ESTIMATED MINING SEQUENCE (Upper A/D Coal)

- 2023
- 2024
- 2025
- 2026
- 2027
- 2028
- 2029
- 2030-2034
- 2035-2039

Reclamation as of February 28, 2023



LEGEND

- Spring Creek Mine Permit Boundary (MR 276)
- Life of Mine Disturbance Boundary (MR 281)
- LBA Tract
- Mining Sequence
- Stockpile/Pond/Trap Facilities

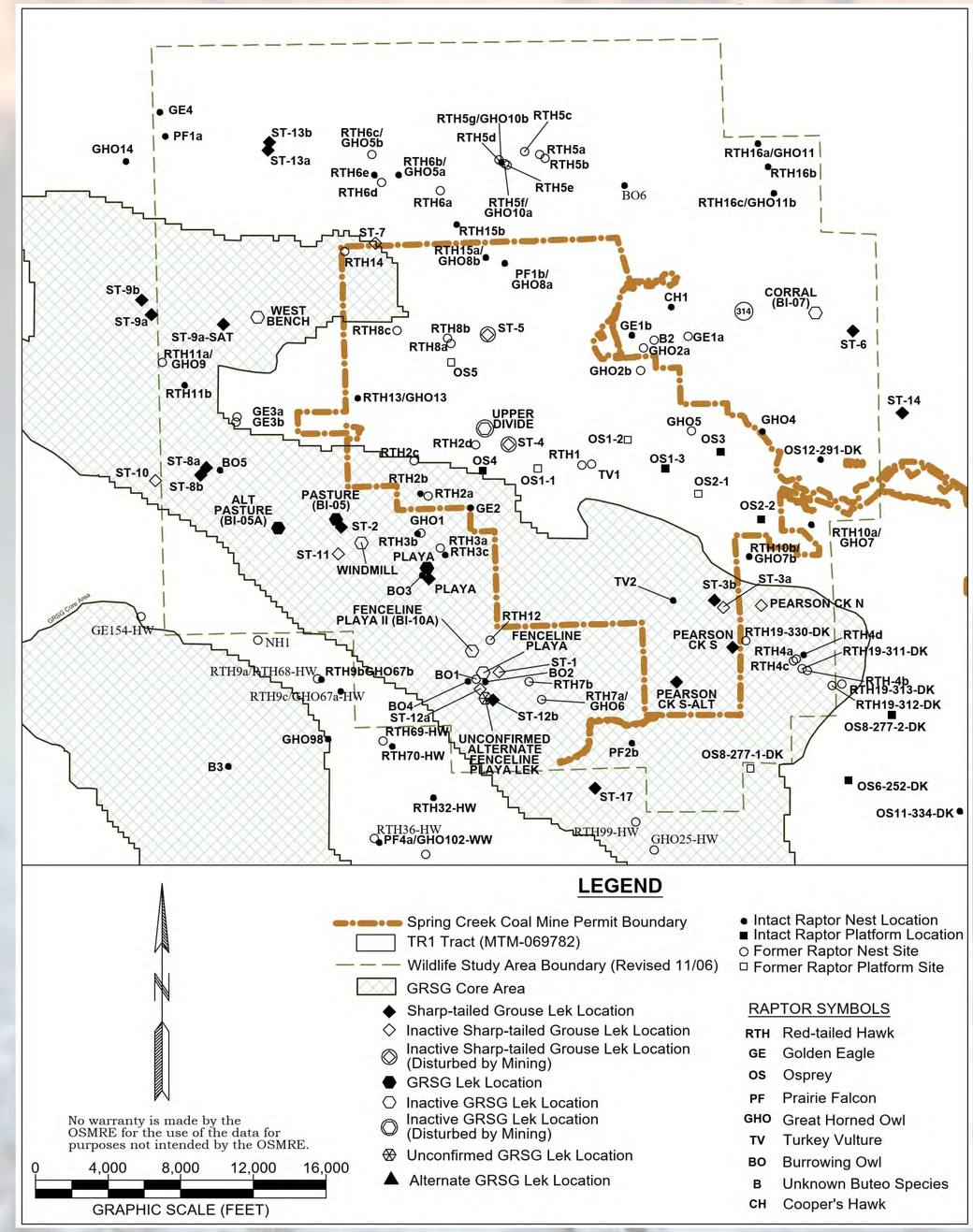
COMPLETED RECLAMATION AREAS

- 1980 - 2022

ESTIMATED RECLAMATION AREAS

- 2023
- 2024
- 2025
- 2026
- 2027
- 2028
- 2029
- 2030 - 2034
- 2035 - 2039
- 2040 - End of Mine

2022 Spring Creek Mine Wildlife Monitoring



Summary of Wildlife Impacts

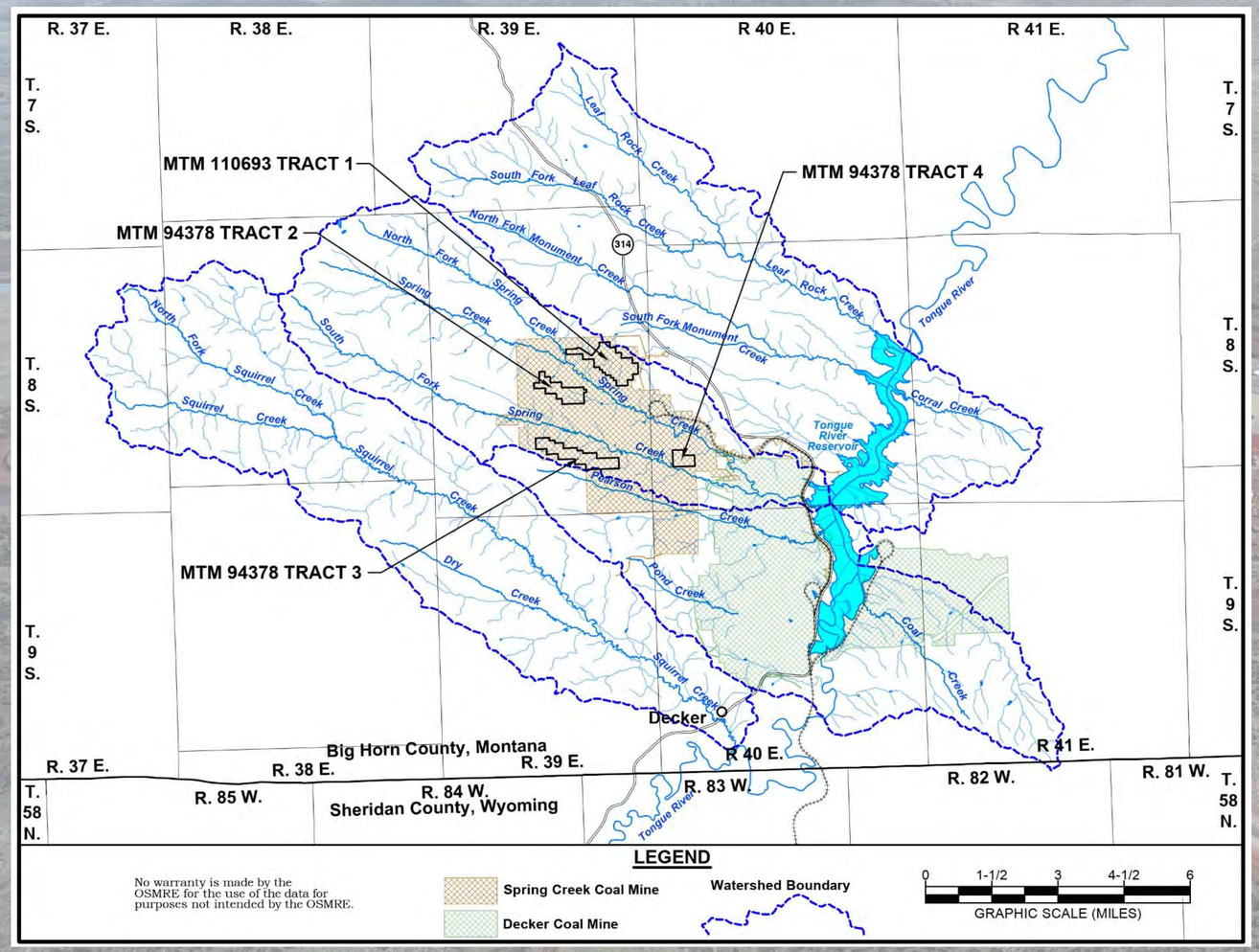
<u>Big Game</u>
Alternative 1: Moderate and Short-term (~16 years)
Alternative 2: Moderate and Short-term (~ 5 years)
Alternative 3: Moderate and Short-term (~ 2 years)
Alternative 4: Minor and Short-term
Cumulative: Small

<u>Raptors</u>
Alternative 1: Moderate and Short-term (~16 years)
Alternative 2: Moderate and Short-term (~ 5 years)
Alternative 3: Moderate and Short-term (~ 2 years)
Alternative 4: Negligible
Cumulative: Small

<u>Greater Sage-Grouse</u>
Alternative 1: Moderate and Short-term (~16 years)
Alternative 2: Moderate and Short-term (~ 5 years)
Alternative 3: Moderate and Short-term (~ 2 years)
Alternative 4: Negligible
Cumulative: Small

<u>Threatened & Endangered Species</u>
Alternatives 1-4: Negligible – No T&E species in LBA1 tracts
Cumulative: Negligible

Watershed and Surface Drainages



Summary of Water Resource Impacts

<u>Groundwater</u>
Alternatives 1-3: Moderate and Long-term
Alternative 4: None
Cumulative: Moderate

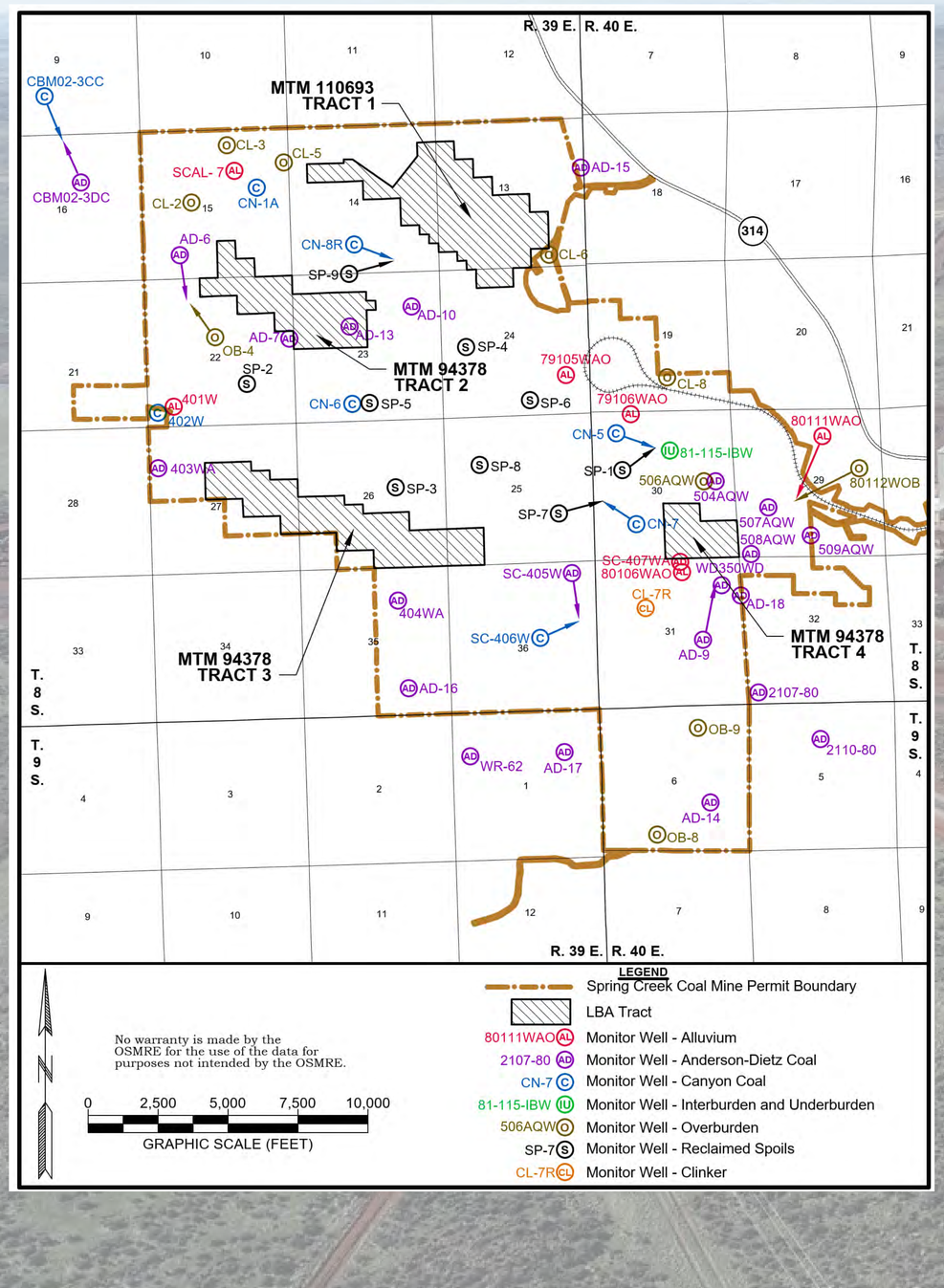
<u>Surface Water</u>
Alternatives 1-3: Moderate and Short-term
Alternative 4: Minor
Cumulative: Moderate

<u>Water Rights</u>
Alternatives 1-3:
- Groundwater: Moderate and Long-term
- Surface Water: Negligible

Alternative 4:
- Groundwater: None
- Surface Water: Negligible

Cumulative:
- Groundwater: Moderate
- Surface Water: Negligible

Active Groundwater Monitor Well Network



No warranty is made by the OSMRE for the use of the data for purposes not intended by the OSMRE.

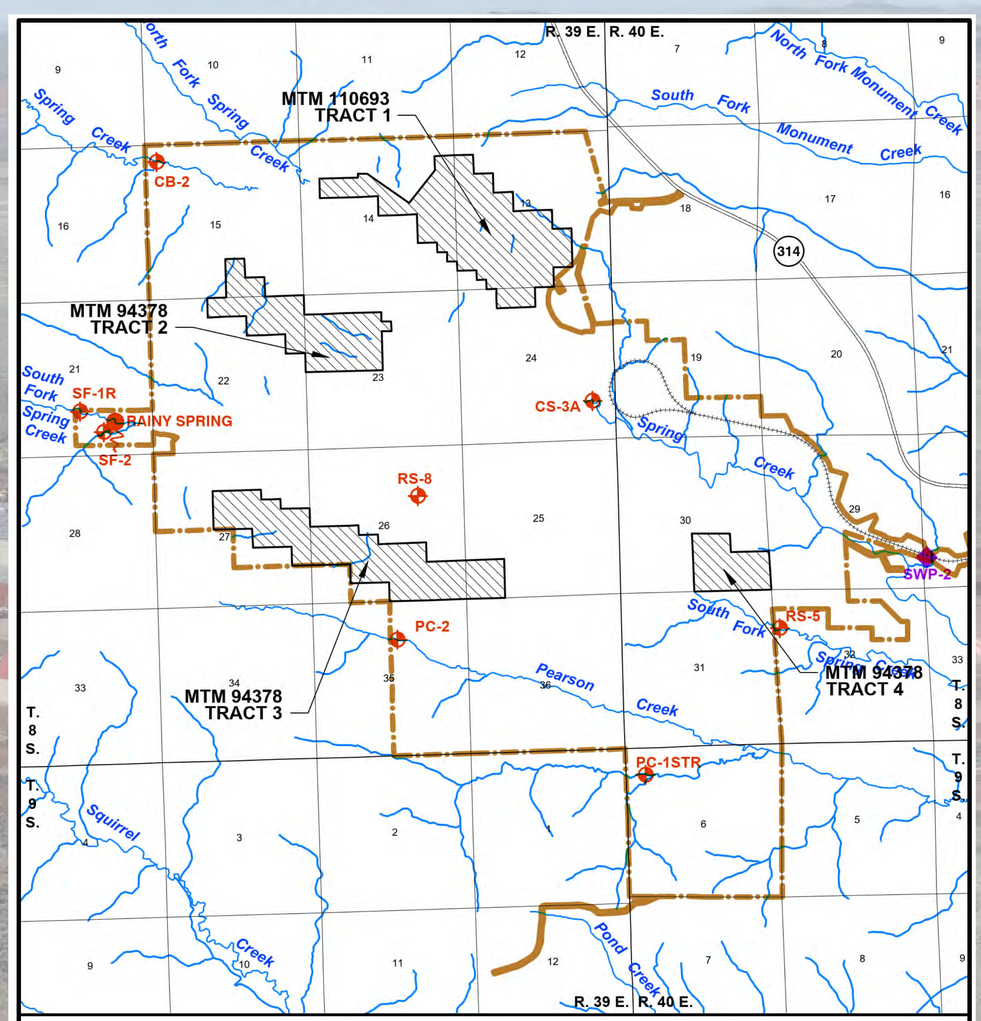
0 2,500 5,000 7,500 10,000

GRAPHIC SCALE (FEET)

LEGEND

- Spring Creek Coal Mine Permit Boundary
- LBA Tract
- 80111WAO — Monitor Well - Alluvium
- 2107-80 — Monitor Well - Anderson-Dietz Coal
- CN-7 — Monitor Well - Canyon Coal
- 81-115-IBW — Monitor Well - Interburden and Underburden
- 506AQW — Monitor Well - Overburden
- SP-7 — Monitor Well - Reclaimed Spoils
- CL-7R — Monitor Well - Clinker

Active Surface Water Monitoring Network



No warranty is made by the OSMRE for the use of the data for purposes not intended by the OSMRE.

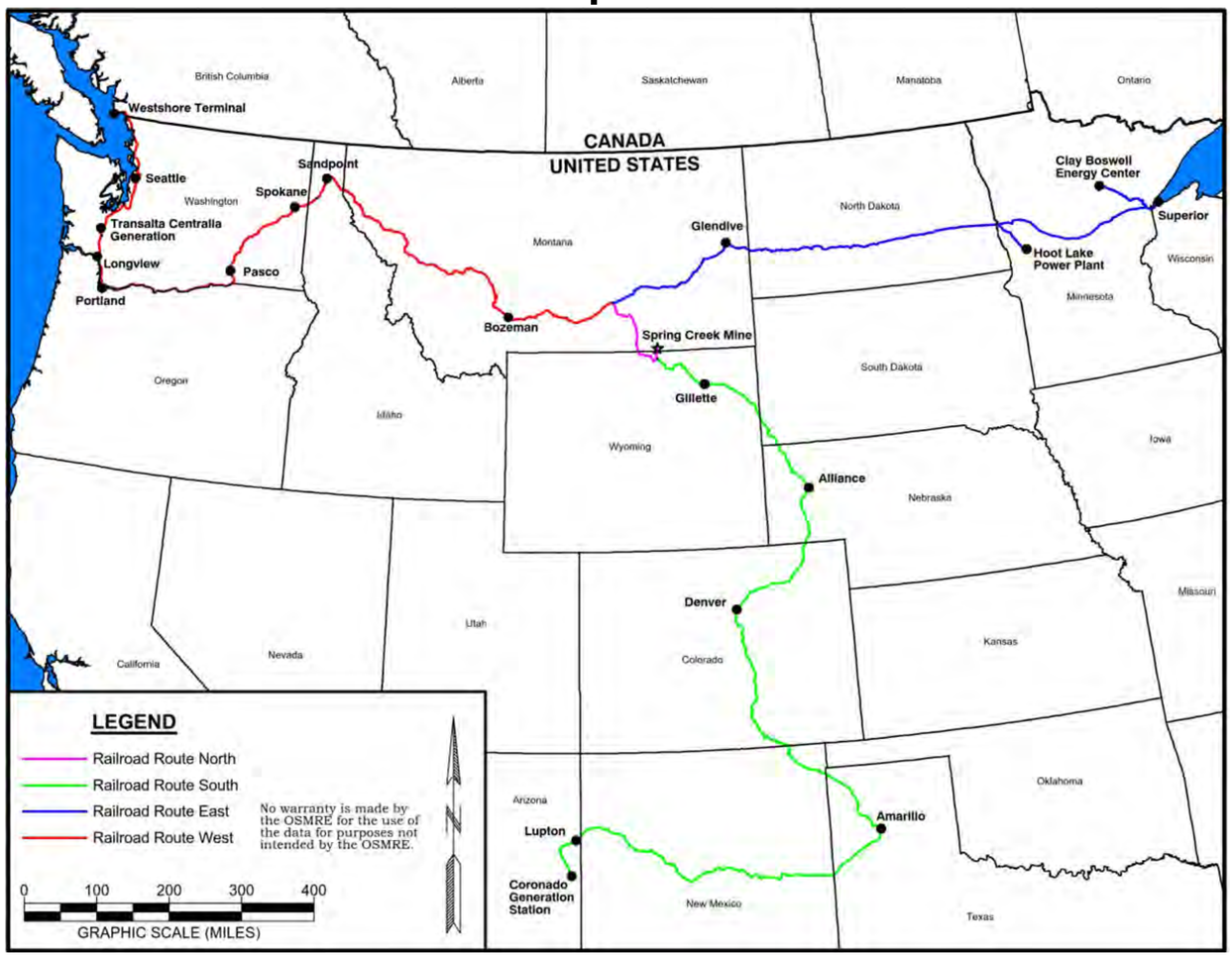
0 2,500 5,000 7,500 10,000

GRAPHIC SCALE (FEET)

LEGEND

- Spring Creek Coal Mine Permit Boundary
- RS-5 — Stream Monitoring Location
- SWP-2 — Storm Water Monitoring Location
- RAINY SPRING — Spring Monitoring Location
- Native Stream Channel
- LBA Tract

BNSF Railroad and Shipping Routes in North America Used to Transport SCM Coal



Between 2016 and 2023, approximately 66 to 95 percent of the coal mined from the SCM was shipped to U.S. markets and the remaining coal was shipped to foreign markets (Republic of Korea and Japan)

Summary of Climate Change Impacts

There are currently no set specific thresholds for allowable GHG emissions, therefore, it is not possible to determine if any of the alternatives would significantly impact global GHG emissions on their own; however, all anthropogenic GHG emissions may cumulatively have a significant impact on global climate change.

Summary for Potential Annual GHG Emissions from the LBA1 Tracts by Alternative

Segment	Alternative 1 Proposed Action	Alternative 2 Partial Mining	Alternative 3 Accelerated Mining Rate	Alternative 4 No Action
Annual Coal Production (Mt)	Varies[1] Avg 2.5 Mt	Varies[1] Avg 3.9 Mt	18 Mt	0 Mt
Years	2024-2039	2024-2028	2024-2026	2024
Worker Commute	2,487	2,487	2,487	2,487
Mine operations (ton CO_2e)	14,314	22,129	76,343	5,729[3]
Rail transport (ton CO_2e)	55,221	85,369	294,510	0
Terminal Handling[2] (ton CO_2e)				
Westshore Terminal	272	420	2,466	0
MERC Terminal	204	315	1,849	0
Vessel Shipment[2] (ton CO_2e)				
Westshore Terminal	24,477	37,840	130,380	0
MERC Terminal	1,082	1,672	5,762	0
Coal combustion (ton CO_2e)	3,559,914	5,503,483	18,986,210	0
Annual (ton CO_2e)	**3,657,914**	**5,653,716**	**19,500,008**	**8,216**
Total	**58,527,527**	**28,268,582**	**58,500,023**	**8,216**
Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases (SC-GHG)	**$796 million – $8.8 billion**	**$411 million – $4.4 billion**	**$875 million – $9.2 billion**	**$0**

[1] Annual coal production is based on Life of Mine mining sequence outlined in the approved MDEQ SMP C1979012 (NTEC 2023a) – see Table 2.2-2
[2] Assumes 32% of annual coal produced from the LBA1 tracts will be transported to the seaport terminal in British Columbia, Canada for vessel transport to Asia, and 24% will be transported to the terminal in Superior, Wisconsin for vessel transport to power plants located along the Great Lakes
[3] Assumes emissions from mine operations associated with reclamation of the current disturbance in the LBA1 tracts
[4] Provides the range of SC-GHG estimates for the three discount rates (5%, 3%, and 2.5%) and the 3% discount rate of the 95th percentile.