

## **WBR ARTICLE**

### **Coal tract sale to boost Wyo's mineral monies**

By Tim Monroe

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CHEYENNE - Wyoming will receive significant additional amounts of federal mineral money as a result of the Bureau of Land Management's sale of two coal tracts.

According to Jim Robinson, senior economist at the state's Economic Analysis Division, the sale of the Eagle Butte West sale should produce more than \$18 million a year for five years. The South Maysdorf sale will bring Wyoming just over \$25 million a year for five years.

"Both sales will help us bridge the economic gap in coal lease bonus dollars since the current stream of payments is almost at an end," Robinson said, "But tentative coal sales are on the horizon. As many as four sales are anticipated in the next two years that could be worth over \$325 million to the state."

As many as eight additional BLM sales could take place in 2010 and 2011.

About \$200 million of federal mineral royalties received by Wyoming help fund the school foundation (44.8 percent); the highway fund (30.3 percent); cities and towns (9.375 percent); University of Wyoming (6.75 percent); capital construction for schools and buildings (6.5 percent); and, highways/county roads (2.25 percent).

During the two fiscal years 2009-2010, Wyoming expects to receive \$1.77 billion from the federal government in the form of the state's share of rent, royalties and bonus payments.