

Wyoming mineral leases undergo scrutiny

Associated Press | Posted: Monday, August 31, 2009 9:25 am

CHEYENNE - The Wyoming Legislature will audit the Office of State Lands and Investment to make sure Wyoming is getting enough money from mineral leases.

The audit will attempt to determine if the office is doing enough to encourage mineral lease holders to explore and move toward production. A preliminary scoping report reviewed by the Legislature's Management Audit Committee found that as much as 99 percent of land leased for uranium is not in production, nor is about 97 percent of land leased for coal mining.

The state office collected \$5.6 million in coal royalties for the 2009 fiscal year. Total revenue from leased state land, including agriculture and special use, totaled more than \$197 million for the 2009 fiscal year.