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(Wyo.)- Interior Dept. Cuts Mineral Payments To 36 States



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CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) - The U.S. Department of Interior is cutting federal mineral payments to 36 states by a total of roughly \$110 million this fiscal year. It's part of the automatic federal spending cuts that started this month.

Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead says his state will lose the most - at least \$53 million over the next five months. Wyoming is the nation's leading coal-producing state.

Western states that are home to the most energy production from federal lands will experience the heaviest cuts. The Interior Department is compiling a list of how much each state will lose.

A spokesman for Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue in Denver says the cuts total 5 percent of annual mineral revenue payments made to states from mineral production within their borders and offshore.