

Posted: _____

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-120-2008-65-EA

PROJECT NAME: Laramie Energy Access Roads to Illinois Ranch Pads 1-08 and 2-02

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Access road for Pad 1-08

T. 6N., R. 78W., sec. 6: SE¼

T. 6N., R. 78W., sec. 7: Lot 1

T. 6N., R. 79W., sec. 1: SE¼SE¼

Access road for Pad 2-02

T. 6N., R. 79W., sec 2: Lot 4

KREMMLING FIELD OFFICE, KREMMLING, COLORADO

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC-73324

APPLICANT: Laramie Energy II, LLC

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION: The purpose of this Environmental Assessment is to analyze an application from Laramie Energy II, LLC (LEII) for access roads to private oil and gas leases held by the same company. The portion of the roads on public land is not part of the oil and gas lease and therefore LEII needs a right-of-way for legal access and ground disturbing activities.

The BLM is preparing the Environmental Assessment (EA) to address potential impacts associated with approval of Laramie Energy II's ROW's. It is the intent of the applicant to exercise their lease rights on private property and access their leases as efficiently as possible.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background: LEII recently acquired oil and gas leases from the Buffalo Land and Cattle Company (private surface, private minerals). As part of the lease agreement, Laramie had agreed to a drilling commitment on the property in 2008. Due to the exploratory nature of the

wells and limited geology, LEII and Buffalo Creek believes it would be prudent and in the best interest of both parties to situate the wells in the proposed locations. LEII plans to drill the wells as soon as possible.

Proposed Action:

Well Pad 1-08

LEII proposes to construct a 5900 foot, 24 foot wide (16' running surface) access road encompassing 3.25 acres of BLM-administered public land. There are two segments of road on public land with private land in between. The proposed access is the most direct route with the least amount of distance, upgrades and vegetation clearing. Entry would be from JCR 21. (See Attached Map)

Well Pad 2-02

LEII proposes to construct a 900 foot, 24 foot wide (16' running surface) access road encompassing .5 acres of BLM-administered public land. The road would start from an existing access point to public land from Colorado Hwy. 125 to the property line of the Buffalo Creek Land and Cattle Co. (See Attached Map)

Design Features Common to both Well Pads

- The roads would be graveled and have borrow ditches on each side.
- The access roads would be crowned and ditched with 3" minus pit run from a neighboring gravel pit used to build the road.
- Depending on the soil properties and base, geo-grid under layment may be lain down prior to gravelling the roads.
- LLE would not use the access roads in periods of excessive soil moisture to prevent rutting caused by vehicular traffic.
- Erosion control devices would be placed along the roads to manage stormwater run-off. Run-outs would be cut into the sage in locations to be determined to dissipate any stormwater run-off.
- LEII would obtain a storm water permit and developing a stormwater management plan.
- The right-of-way fences along Highway 125 and County Road 21 would be cut and relocated to create lanes by fencing either side of the new access roads for about 50 feet and installing gates across those roads. The lanes would provide space for large vehicles to pull-off and stop, if gates at the ends of the lanes need to be opened. Construction standards and materials would be consistent with the existing fences.
- After installation, any cut and fill slopes of the road ROW's would be prepped and re-seeded with the attached seed mixture.
- LEII intends to inventory all of the pads, roads and pipelines to insure no noxious weeds have been introduced. If noxious weeds are found, the BLM would be notified and the weeds would be treated by LEII.
- Dust abatement techniques and frequency would be determined by LEII.

- If the determination is made the roads are not required due to a dry well, LEII would remove all gravel and geo-grid (if used), recontour the access back to its original state or as near to as possible, and seed the roads with a seed mix recommended by the BLM.
- Cattle guards of appropriate size would be needed in Section 6 for the access to well pad 1-08 and at the intersection of Hwy. 125 and proposed access road for well pad 2-02.

Design Features for Well Pad 1-08

- Any installation of culverts will be determined with an onsite preconstruction meeting. Culvert would be a minimum of 18” in diameter and the inlets and outlets of the culverts would be armored to prevent undercutting and scouring.
- The landowner has proposed to LEII to use the dam for the Shawver Reservoir as a crossing for the drainage. In this regard, LEII intends to cut the dam down approx. 2’, compact the remaining surface if needed and widen the crown of the dam to a 14’ graveled running surface. Any additional fill would be prevented from entering into the water in the reservoir.

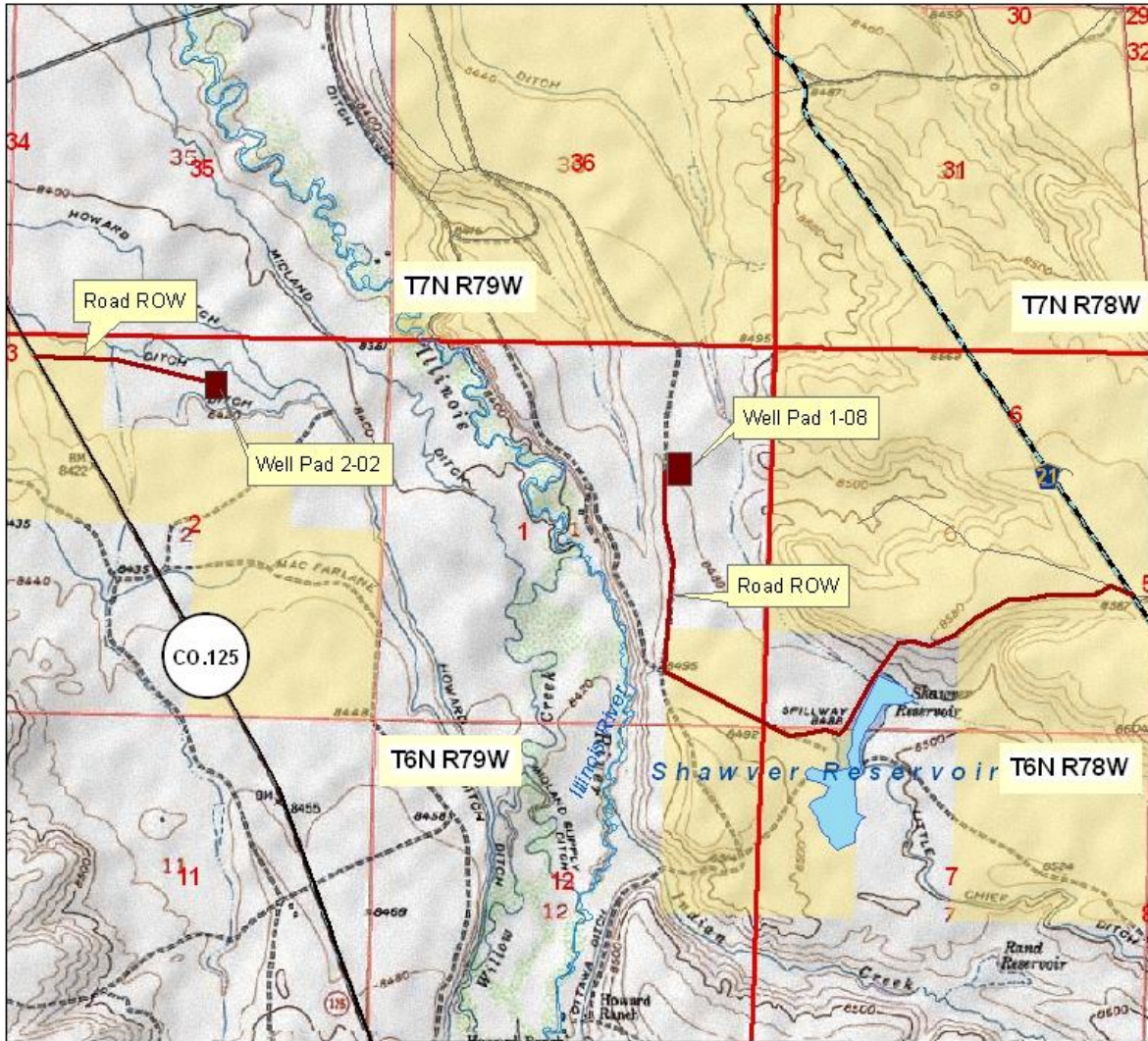
Design Features for Well Pad 2-02

- There would be a 40’ radius entry curve off of Hwy. 125.
- The existing 18” culvert under the access adjacent to Hwy 125 would be extended or replaced.

Exhibit B – Stipulations have incorporated these Design Features



Laramie Energy Illinois Ranch Well Pads and Access Roads



Legend

— Major Roads	Land Status
■ Reservoirs	■ Bureau of Land Mgt
— Major Streams	■ Division of Wildlife
■ Wilderness Study Area	■ National Park
▨ AC EC	■ National Rec Area
	■ National Wildlife Refuge
	■ Private
	■ State
	■ State Forest
	■ US Forest Service
	— County Roads

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

1:24,000

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the Accuracy, Reliability, or Completeness of this Data for Individual Use or Aggregate Use with Other Data.

Map: MacFarlane & Owl Ridge
BLM, Kremmling F O 12/2/2008
gisuser/nepa/2008/Laramie Energy

No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative would be to deny a right-of-way to Laramie Energy II. Alternative routes would have to be established to the well pad.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT ANALYZED IN DETAIL: Prior to selecting a preferred access, LEII considered several parameters in making the selection. Several routes were reviewed for the advantages and disadvantages before the final proposed access was selected. Some of the parameters reviewed were length of road, amount of new construction, landowner concerns, proximity to homes and bodies of water to be avoided.

For Pad 1-08, a significant concern was the proximity of the alternate routes to the occupied home and the amount of traffic that would be involved. Also alternate routes would travel through the Illinois Ranch traditional calving grounds. See Table 1 for all the route comparisons.

For Pad 2-02, the property to the north is a hay meadow separated by at least one head ditch with no culvert or crossing and the property to the south is owned by another landowner.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

Decision Number/Page: II-B-12 pg.14

Decision Language: Decision Language: Provide the opportunity to utilize public lands for development of facilities which benefit the public, while considering environmental and agency concerns

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: The proposed roads would be located in sagebrush steppe habitat. Migratory birds expected to inhabit the project sites include Sage Sparrows, Horned Larks, Western Kingbirds, Common Nighthawks, Green-tailed Towhees, Red-tail Hawks, Prairie Falcons, Western Bluebirds, American Kestrels, Burrowing owls, Swainson's hawks, and golden eagles.

Environmental Consequences: The proposed project would eliminate a small amount of sagebrush habitat in the process of upgrading the existing roads. Migratory birds inhabiting the proposed project area would likely move from the area during road construction and subsequent drilling activities on private land. This displacement would be short term and birds are likely to move into habitat adjacent to the project area. No take of migratory species would be expected to occur as a result of the project. If construction is completed after the peak nesting season (April 1st to July 15th), it is not likely that active nests from ground nesting species would be destroyed. If construction occurs during this period, it is possible that a few nests would be destroyed and/or the activity may cause nest abandonment. The reclamation plan, which would be implemented after project completion, would adequately restore most of the sagebrush habitat lost due to the project's construction activities.

In the No Action Alternative, migratory birds would not be impacted if the access roads were not built and their sagebrush steppe habitat would not be eliminated.

Mitigation: None

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: The Proposed Action is located within the North Platte River basin, which is tributary to the Platte River System. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has determined that any water depletion within the Platte River jeopardizes the continued existence of one or more federally-listed threatened or endangered species and adversely modifies or destroys designated and proposed critical habitat. Depletions may affect and are likely to adversely affect the whooping crane, the interior least tern, the piping plover, and the pallid sturgeon in Nebraska.

The proposed roads would be located in habitat occupied by Greater sage-grouse, a BLM designated sensitive species. While sage-grouse occupy the project area on a yearlong basis, the area is especially important as nesting and brood rearing for sage-grouse. Two sage-grouse breeding complexes (i.e. referred to as leks) are located at 1.9 and 2.4 miles from the road going to the #2-02 well and 1.8 and 3.2 miles from the road leading to well #1-08. The sagebrush habitat adjoining the lek provides hiding and nesting cover for sage-grouse during the breeding season.

No other threatened, endangered or sensitive species are known to inhabit the proposed project area.

Environmental Consequences: The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP), established in 2006, is implementing actions designed to assist in the conservation and recovery of the target species and their associated habitats along the central and lower Platte River in Nebraska through a basin-wide cooperative approach agreed to by the States of Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming and the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. A programmatic biological opinion was completed on June 16, 2006, that covers new depletions, but the exact reasonable and prudent alternatives for federal depletions from new projects is still being determined, especially for non-agricultural related activities. The BLM is working with the USFWS, Jackson County, and the three states to develop the reasonable and prudent alternatives for non-agricultural depletions in Jackson County.

The operator has secured private agricultural water to use for the wells. At the current time, this non-agricultural depletion is being mitigated under Jackson County's existing agricultural depletions. If the USFWS determines that nonagricultural uses must be mitigated differently, new consultation may be required in the future and the applicant's depletion could be revisited.

Since vegetative loss from the proposed road development would occur, a small amount of sage-grouse nesting habitat would be impacted by the proposed project. The distance from the proposed roads to the leks, located less than 2 miles may interfere with sage grouse breeding and push the birds from their nests during construction activities.

In the No Action Alternative, sage-grouse breeding habits would not be impacted if the access roads were not built and sage grouse nesting habitat would not be eliminated. Birds would not be pushed from their nests due to construction activities.

Mitigation: To avoid conflicts with breeding & nesting sage-grouse, no road construction is permitted from March 1 to June 30th.

SOILS

Affected Environment: The proposed roads on BLM lands are actually upgrades to existing primitive roads. The road to well #2-02 receives ranch use and is basically a two track with good vegetation outside of the tracks. The road to well #1-08 receives more public use but is still a two track road. The public land portion of the roads is mapped by the Jackson County Soil Survey as Cabin sandy loams. These soils formed in gravelly alluvium and are located along old river terraces. Most of the public road segments have little to gentle slopes. The soil surface textures are sandy loams, but very gravelly sand is within 20-40 inches from the surface, with gravels making up about 70% of the volume. Plant available moisture is low and the soils are placed in a dry mountain loam range site. The soil is highly erodible by wind and only moderately erodible by water. The soil is rated as good roadfill and fair topsoil, with some limitations due to small stones.

Environmental Consequences: New soil disturbance would be limited to the crowning, widening and surfacing of the roads. The amount of traffic, especially during the construction

and drilling phases will also be much greater. Current design features would take care of dust control and erosion control from the increased road traffic. If the roads are reclaimed, the remaining topsoil from road construction should provide an adequate seedbed for revegetation success. If the topsoil has been removed or mixed with the subsoil, the site would be much more difficult to reclaim due to the underlying coarser textured soil. The operator must be able to have four inches of topsoil spread evenly across the road disturbance prior to seeding.

In the No Action Alternative, if the roads were not built, the existing two tracks would continue to be used by the public and soil erosion by wind and water would continue. There may still be a loss of topsoil from these types of erosion.

Mitigation: None

VEGETATION

Affected Environment: The proposed action occurs in a sagebrush steppe ecosystem. The majority of vegetation along the access roads is a mixture of sagebrush with an understory of grasses and forbs

Environmental Consequences: The proposed action would involve the improvement of two existing two-track roads. The road improvements would cause the loss of about 4 acres of vegetation. The overall loss of vegetation would have limited impact on the overall health of the vegetation within the proposed area. The road improvement may also help the vegetation within the areas by keeping travels to an existing road instead of traveling off road due to poor road conditions. If the proposed roads are reclaimed than loss of 4 acres would be negligible for sagebrush steppe community.

In the No Action Alternative, there would be no loss of vegetation due to the construction of roads.

Mitigation: None

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL

Affected Environment: The proposed roads would be constructed in sagebrush steppe habitat which is occupied by a variety of terrestrial wildlife. Mule deer move through the project area at various times in the year en-route to summer and winter range. Moose use the area around well #1-08 as summer and winter range due to its proximity to the Illinois River. Elk concentrate in the project area during winter and use the area along the river for calving in the spring. Pronghorn, badgers, coyotes, red foxes, black bear, cougar, and a variety of small rodents inhabit the area on a yearlong basis.

Environmental Consequences: Harassment or disturbance of wildlife would be minimal since construction activities would be short-term, in isolated areas, and not likely to occur during periods of animal concentration (e.g. in winter). Animals may temporarily avoid the project area during and after operations due to noise, and increased activity/traffic and thus be pushed onto private property or away from their water source and normal calving areas. The impact to these animals would be greater during the winter especially if travel is difficult due to snow depth.

Animals are usually more stressed in the winter from the cold and lack of food and a lot of constant movement could create health problems for already stressed animals. The mitigation below would alleviate the impacts to wintering big game.

In the No Action Alternative, wildlife would continue to be harassed to some extent as the public would continue to use the existing two track roads. Proposed alternate routes would still displace animals due to noise and increased activity/traffic. Winter movement would not occur as much because there would be less public in the area during periods of deep snow.

Mitigation: To avoid conflicts with wintering big game, no road construction is permitted from December 1st to April 30.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: The geographic scope for the cumulative impact analysis is Jackson County.

In regards to past actions regarding oil and gas activity and their associated facilities, oil and gas was first discovered in northeastern Jackson County in 1926 by Continental Oil Company. This discovery marked the beginning of oil and gas development in the North McCallum Field. In 1952, oil was discovered in the Coalmont area southwest of Walden. Since that time, 13 fields have been discovered and developed, all in the North Park (Jackson County) area. This development created a maze of cross country roads. The proposed action and the no action alternative would not change cumulative effects in regards to past actions because these roads are existing.

In regards to present actions, there has been recent interest in the Coalmont Niabrara formation in southern Jackson County. To date, there are 28 approved drilling permits for Jackson County, of these there have been several wells (three to seven) drilled on private surface and four on federal surface with access roads being developed from existing 2- tracks or trails. The construction of these access roads and well pads would bring additional displacement of wildlife as each project begins. Soil erosion from wind would be a continual problem until the roads are either graveled for year round use or rehabilitated due to a dry hole. Noise would be cumulatively increased. Vegetation would be increasingly lost.

In regards to present actions, the no action alternative would continue to have soil erosion from wind, but wildlife displacement would not be as great. As these roads are existing and open for public use, the no action alternative could create the same effects on resources as the proposed action. Vegetation could deteriorate with cross country travel rather than traveling on a good all season developed road.

In regards to future actions, there are approximately 10 additional wells planned for development within Jackson County at this time which would all need access road development. When added to the impacts of all of the other actions in Jackson County, the cumulative impacts from this proposal are not significant as these roads are existing two-tracks and new routes are normally not being requested from the BLM. In regards to future actions, the no action alternative would not have a cumulative effect, as the roads already exist. Resources could be impacted from public use as much as from oil company development.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: No comments were received from the tribes (see Appendix 2 for Native American tribe list). The proposed project was listed on the Kremmling Field Office internet NEPA register and NEPA public room board. No comments were received from the public.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: See IDT-RRC in Appendix 1.

FONSI

CO-120-2008-65 EA

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

DECISION RECORD

DECISION: It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached EA. This decision is contingent on meeting all mitigation measures and monitoring requirements listed below.

RATIONALE: The Proposed Action, to authorize the construction of access roads to well pads, will allow access for energy exploration in an environmentally sound manner. The design features of the Proposed Action and mitigation measures included below will ensure that the applicable natural resources are adequately protected.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

Wildlife:

To avoid conflicts with breeding & nesting sage-grouse, no road construction is permitted from March 1 to June 30th.

To avoid conflicts with wintering big game, no road construction is permitted from December 1st to April 30.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: The right-of-way will be inspected and monitored periodically during terms of the grant to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant. The right-of-way will also be inspected after any maintenance activities to determine compliance with and effectiveness of reclamation measures.

NAME OF PREPARER: Susan Cassel

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Susan Cassel

DATE: 1/19/2009

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Peter McFadden

DATE SIGNED: 3/16/09

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Stipulations
- 2) Seed Mix
- 3) Table 1 – Comparison of Alternative Routes for Well Pad #1-08

APPENDICES:

- Appendix 1 – Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist
Appendix 2 – Native American Tribes

Appendix 1

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS REVIEW RECORD AND CHECKLIST:

Project Title: Laramie Energy II Access Road
Project Leader: Susan Cassel
Date Proposal Received: 9-22-08 and 12-24-2008
Date Submitted for Comment: 12-2-08
Due Date for Comments: 1-23-09

Need for a field Exam: No
Scoping Needs/Interested or Affected Publics: NA
Consultation/Permit Requirements:

Consultation	Date Initiated	Date Completed	Responsible Specialist/ Contractor	Comments
Cultural/Archeological Clearance/SHPO	11/12/08	1/26/2009	B. Wyatt	The Class III inventory located segments of an historic ditch. The historic ditch 5JA1901 is considered not eligible. The project is a “no effect”, there are no historic properties that would be affected.
Native American	8-30-08	1-26-09	B. Wyatt	Tribal consultation was conducted on each well location. To date no Native American Tribe has identified any area of traditional tribal concern.
T&E Species/FWS	N/A	N/A	M. McGuire	
Permits Needed (i.e. Air or Water)			Applicant	The applicant is responsible for obtaining a stormwater permit or waiver for the proposed action from the state of Colorado.

(NP) = Not Present
(NI) = Resource/Use Present but Not Impacted
(PI) = Potentially Impacted and Brought Forward for Analysis.

NP NI PI	Discipline/Name	Date Review Comp.	Initials	Review Comments (required for Critical Element NIs, and for elements that require a finding but are not carried forward for analysis.)
CRITICAL ELEMENTS				
NI	Air Quality Belcher	1/9/09	PB	The proposed upgrade and possible reclamation of the roads would create small amounts of fugitive dust of short duration. As per the Design Features, dust control and surfacing of the roads would reduce fugitive dust to a minimal amount.
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Cassel	3-6-09	SC	There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NI	Cultural Resources Wyatt	1/26/2009	BBW	The Class III inventory located segments of an historic ditch. The historic ditch 5JA1901 is considered no eligible. The project is a “no effect”, there are no historic properties that

					would be affected.
NP	Environmental Justice S. Cassel	2/19/09	SC		According to the most recent Census Bureau statistics (2000), there are no minority or low income communities within the Kremmling Planning Area.
NP	Farmlands, Prime and Unique Belcher	1/09/09	PB		There are no farmlands, prime or unique, in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NI	Floodplains Belcher	1/9/09	PB		The proposed roads and pads are located outside of the floodplain and would not affect its functionality.
NP	Invasive, Non-native Species Scott	11-4-08	MS		There are currently no invasive or non-native species threatening the project area. Under the design features of the proposed action Laramie Energy II, LLC would be responsible for monitoring and controlling any invasive species found.
	Migratory Birds McGuire	1/20/09	MM		Finding: See Write -up
NP	Native American Religious Concerns Wyatt	1/26/09	BBW		Tribal consultation was conducted on each well location. To date no Native American Tribe has identified any area of traditional tribal concern.
PI	T/E, and Sensitive Species (Finding on Standard 4) McGuire	1/20/09	MM		Finding: See write-up
NI	Wastes, Hazardous and Solid Hodgson	1/23/09	KH		There are no quantities of wastes, hazardous or solid, located on BLM-administered lands in the proposed project area. The ROW holder(s) should comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated regarding hazardous and/or solid wastes. Therefore, there would be no anticipated wastes generated as a result of the Proposed Action or No Action alternative.
NI	Water Quality, Surface and Ground (Finding on Standard 5) Belcher	1/9/09	PB		Finding: The upgraded roads on BLM lands, with a stormwater mgmt. plan, would not impact surface or ground water quality. Any runoff from the public roads would be intercepted by irrigation ditches or Shawver reservoir, and not reach the Illinois River.
NI	Wetlands & Riparian Zones (Finding on Standard 2) Belcher	1/9/09	PB		Finding: The Proposed Action is located in upland areas and would not have direct impacts to wetlands or riparian areas. The design features will prevent indirect impacts to wetlands in the area.
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers Monkouski	1/27/09	JJM		There are no eligible Wild and Scenic River segments in the proposed project area.
NP	Wilderness Monkouski	1/27/09	JJM		There is no designated Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas in the proposed project area.
NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS (A finding must be made for these elements)					
PI	Soils (Finding on Standard 1) Belcher	1/15/09	PB		Finding: See write-up
PI	Vegetation (Finding on Standard 3) Johnson Torma	1/26/09	PY		Finding: See vegetation section
NP	Wildlife, Aquatic (Finding on Standard 3) McGuire	1/20/09	MM		Finding: No aquatic wildlife present in the project area.
PI	Wildlife, Terrestrial (Finding on Standard 3) McGuire	1/20/09	MM		Finding: See write-up

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS					
NI	Access/Transportation	Monkouski	1/27/09	JJM	The existing roads would remain open with public access terminating at private lands. Increased traffic may occur on each access route during well pad construction, maintenance and hauling of products but would not impact access or transportation.
NI	Fire	Wyatt	1/26/09	BBW	All biomass material removed from road improvements and well pad construction should be masticated and spread to no greater depth than 3 inches or burned.
NP	Forest Management	K. Belcher	1/9/09	KB	There are no timber resources in the project area.
NI	Geology and Minerals	Hodgson	1/23/09	KH	No impacts.
NI	Hydrology/Water Rights	Belcher	1/9/09	PB	The applicant is responsible for securing water rights necessary for drilling and dust control. The state of Colorado is responsible for administering these rights and insuring no injury to existing water rights.
NI	Paleontology	Rupp	10/15/08 & 1/20/09	FGR	APE paleontologically inventoried for ROW to #2-02. No fossils were located. ROW for #1-08, fossil bearing rock is not present.
NI	Noise	Monkouski	1/27/09	JJM	There would be a short-term increase in noise levels in the project area while road construction activities occur.
NI	Range Management	Johnson Torma	1/26/09	PT	There would be no loss in permitted AUMs for either grazing allotments (07141, 07147). Installation of cattle guards would be required for both access roads as per the design features.
NI	Lands/ Realty Authorizations	Cassel	1/27/2009	SC	There are no leases or permits in the location of the proposed action. There are two ROW's for a ditch, COC-59478 and COC-59477, just north of the location of the access road for well pad 2-02 that would not be impacted by the proposed action.
NI	Recreation	Monkouski Sterin Windsor	1/27/09	JJM	Existing recreational uses in the general area include hunting; wildlife viewing; and driving for pleasure. The project area is currently classified as 'Open' in the Off-Highway Vehicle plan adopted in 1988. Motorized vehicle traffic is encouraged to remain on existing, well defined roads and trails. Cross country travel is discouraged to protect vegetation, soil, visual, and wildlife values. There are no known conflicts with recreation management sections of the RMP and there are no recreation activity plans or other special recreation designations for this area. The Proposed Action would not cause any impacts to the recreation resource.
NI	Socio-Economics	S. Cassel	2/19/09	SC	There is always an economic benefit to the county when wells are drilled and the State when production occurs.
NI	Visual Resources	Windsor	1/7/09	AW	Both ROWs are within VRM Class III. The proposed road alignments would follow existing routes. The proposed improvements to the existing routes would increase the visibility

				of the existing routes, but the level of change to the landscape would be low. The road improvements could attract the attention of the casual observer, but would not dominate the landscape.
NI	Cumulative Impact Summary Cassel	2/19/2009	SC	See Analysis in EA
FINAL REVIEW				
	P&E Coordinator Cassel	2/19/2009	SC	
	Field Manager McFadden			

STIPULATIONS
FOR
COC-73324
Laramie Energy II Access Roads

MITIGATION

1. To avoid conflicts with breeding & nesting sage-grouse, no road construction is permitted from March 1 to June 30th.
2. To avoid conflicts with wintering big game, no road construction is permitted from December 1st to April 30.

DESIGN FEATURES ADDED FROM ANALYSIS (Design Features from application also apply)

3. The holder shall contact the authorized officer at least 5 (five) days prior to the anticipated start of any major construction/repair that may be needed. The authorized officer will require and schedule a preconstruction conference with the holder prior to the holder's commencing construction and/or surface disturbing activities on the right-of-way to discuss culvert placements and any other concerns the Kremmling Field Office Staff may have.
4. Cattle guards of appropriate size will be needed in Section 6 for the access to well pad 1-08 and at the intersection of Hwy. 125 and proposed access road for well pad 2-02.
5. The existing 18" culvert under the access adjacent to Hwy 125 would be extended or replaced.
6. Any additional fill from cutting the dam down approx. 2', compacting the remaining surface if needed and widening the crown of the dam to a 14' graveled running surface shall be prevented from entering into the water in the reservoir.
7. No construction or routine maintenance activities shall be performed during periods when the soil is too wet to adequately support construction equipment. If such equipment creates ruts in excess of four (4) inches deep, the soil shall be deemed too wet to adequately support construction equipment.
8. All gravel and other materials imported from outside of the project area would need to be certified weed free. If this certification is not possible, the BLM would require inspection of the source area of the materials, including gravel, to insure invasive, non-native seeds would not be imported into the project area.
9. If invasive, non-native species do become established or spread, it would be the responsibility of the holder to control the weeds.

10. All construction equipment and vehicles must be clean, especially the underside, when they enter the project area.
11. The holder shall seed all disturbed areas with the attached seed mixture. There shall be no primary or secondary noxious weed seed in the seed mixture. Seed shall be tested and the viability testing of seed shall be done in accordance with State law(s) and within 12 (twelve) months prior to purchase. Commercial seed shall be either certified or registered seed. The seed mixture container shall be tagged in accordance with State law(s) and available for inspection by the authorized officer.

STANDARD STIPULATIONS

12. Use of pesticides shall comply with the applicable Federal and state laws. Pesticides shall be used only in accordance with their registered uses and within limitations imposed by the Secretary of the Interior. Prior to the use of pesticides, the holder shall obtain from the authorized officer written approval of a plan showing the type and quantity of material to be used, pest(s) to be controlled, method of application, location of storage and disposal of containers, and any other information deemed necessary by the authorized officer. Emergency use of pesticides shall be approved in writing by the authorized officer prior to such use.
13. The holder(s) shall comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated. In any event, the holder(s) shall comply with the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601, et seq.) with regard to any toxic substances that are used, generated by or stored on the right-of-way or on facilities authorized under this right-of-way grant. (See 40 CFR, Part 702-799 and especially, provisions on polychlorinated biphenyls, 40 CFR 761.1-761.193.) Additionally, any release of toxic substances (leaks, spills, etc.) in excess of the reportable quantity established by 40 CFR, Part 117 shall be reported as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, Section 102b. A copy of any report required or requested by any Federal agency or State government as a result of a reportable release or spill of any toxic substances shall be furnished to the authorized officer concurrent with the filing of the reports to the involved Federal agency or State government.
14. The holder is responsible for informing all persons in the area who are associated with this project that they shall be subject to prosecution for disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts.
15. The holder shall immediately bring to the attention of the Authorized Officer any and all antiquities, or other objects of historic, paleontological, or scientific interest including but not limited to, historic or prehistoric ruins or artifacts DISCOVERED as a result of operations under this authorization (16 U.S.C. 470.-3, 36 CFR 800.112).
16. The holder shall immediately suspend all activities in the area of the object and shall leave such discoveries intact until written approval to proceed is obtained from the Authorized Officer. Approval to proceed shall be based upon evaluation of the object(s).

Evaluation shall be by a qualified professional selected by the Authorized Officer from a Federal agency insofar as practicable (BLM Manual 8142.06E). When not practicable, the holder shall bear the cost of the services of a non-Federal professional.

Within five working days the Authorized Officer shall inform the holder as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- the mitigation measures the holder shall likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
- a timeframe for the Authorized Officer to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the Authorized Officer are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the holder wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the Authorized Officer shall assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the holder shall be responsible for mitigation costs. The Authorized Officer shall provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the Authorized Officer that the required mitigation has been completed, the holder shall then be allowed to resume construction.

Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest that are outside of the authorization boundaries but directly associated with the impacted resource shall also be included in this evaluation and/or mitigation.

Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest, identified or unidentified, that are outside of the authorization and not associated with the resource within the authorization shall also be protected. Impacts that occur to such resources that are related to the authorizations activities shall be mitigated at the holder's cost.

17. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.
18. If paleontological materials (fossils) are discovered during surface disturbing activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials and contact the authorized officer. The operator and the authorized officer shall consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating the paleontological site.

19. One month prior to termination of the right-of-way, the holder shall contact the authorized officer to arrange a joint inspection of the right-of-way. This inspection shall be held to agree to an acceptable termination (and rehabilitation) plan. This plan shall include, but is not limited to, removal of facilities, drainage structures, or surface material, recontouring, topsoiling, or seeding. The authorized officer must approve the plan in writing prior to the holder's commencement of any termination activities.

SEED MIX

Drill Seeding Rate

<u>SEED NAME</u>	<u>Application Rate</u> PLS/Acre	<u>Seeds/SQ. FT.</u>
Grasses		
Western wheatgrass Pascopyrum smithii, variety. Arriba	2.97	7.5
Thickspike Wheatgrass Elymus lanceolatus var. Critana	2.13	7.5
Bluebunch wheatgrass Pseudoroegneria spicata, var. Secar (Alternate var. Goldar)	2.51	7.5
Sheep fescue Festuca ovina, var. Covar	.62	7.5
<hr/>		
Total	8.23	30
Forbs		
Alfalfa var. Ladak	.73	3.5
Big sagebrush Artemisia tridentata ssp. wyomingensis	.06	3.5
<hr/>		
Total	.79	7

- * Big sagebrush and Alfalfa may be seeded when it would be better for success
- * Broadcast seeds at twice the rate

(Seed tags must be submitted to BLM after seeding.)

*** do not seed prior to October 1, to avoid sprouting.**

MULCH

Native Hay or Straw 2,000 lbs. X acres =

- Mulch is optional but it will help reclamation results.
- Must be Certified Noxious Weed Free

Table 1: Proposed Access and Alternative Routes Considered for Well Pad 1-08									
Figure	BLM (ft)	Private CR21 (ft)	Private (ft)	New Construction BLM	New Construction Private	Total (ft)	Proximity to Residence	Historic Ranch Calving Area	Proximity to Water Bodies
1 (Proposed)	5900	0	4441	0	0	10341	N	N	Shawyer Res. See Note 3
A	3976	14667	5555	See Note 1	1240	25438	Y (622' & 30' Above)	Y (through Calving)	Illinois River (176')
B	6166	14667	2478	See Note 1	1240	24551	Y(1170' & 30' Above)	Y (Through Calving)	Illinois River (176')
C	7470	14667	2478	See Note 2	1240	25585	Y(1170' & 30' Above)	Y (Through Calving)	Illinois River (176')
D	6920	14667	2048	0	0	23635	Y(1170' & 30' Above)	Y (Through Calving)	N
E	4992	14667	5124	0	0	24783	Y (622' & 30' Above)	Y (Through Calving)	N

Note 1: From field review and grade shots the section of road in the NWSW of sec. 36 would need to be re-constructed to make an 8-10 % grade

Note 2: The grade (horseshoe) in the NESW of Sec. 36 would likely need to be adjusted for large vehicle traffic.

Note 3: Discussion with the landowner indicated approval to re-construct the dam on Shawyer Reservoir for a 14-16' travelway.

Appendix 2

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES CONTACTED:

Colorado Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Attn: Ernest House Jr., Exec. Sec.
130 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203

Richard Brannen Sr., No. Arapaho Business Council
Northern Arapaho Business Council
P O Box 396
Fort Washakie, Wyoming 82514

Robert Goggles, NAGPRA Rep.
Northern Arapaho Business Council
328 17 Mile Road
Arapaho, Wyoming 82510

Jo Ann White, THPO Director
Northern Arapaho Tribe
P O Box 396
Fort Washakie, Wyoming 82514

Mr. Norman Tidzump, Hist. Preserv. Officer
Shoshone Tribe
P O Box 1008
Fort Washakie, Wyoming 82514

Ivan Posey, Shoshone Business Council
Shoshone Tribe
P O Box 538
Fort Washakie, Wyoming 82514

Clement Frost, Chairman
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
P O Box 737
Ignacio, Colorado 81137

Neil Cloud, NAGPRA Rep.
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Box 737, Mail Stop #73
Ignacio, Colorado 81137

Curtis Cesspooch, Chairman
Uintah & Ouray Tribal Business Center
P O Box 190
Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Betsy Chapoose, NAGPRA Rep.
Uintah & Ouray Tribal Business Council
P O Box 190
Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Ernest House, Sr. Chairman
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
P O Box JJ
Towaoc, Colorado 81334

Terry Knight, Sr., NAGPRA Rep.
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
P O Box 468
Towaoc, Colorado 81334