

**ATTACHMENT 5**

**SPECIAL PROTECTION MEASURES FOR WILDIFE**

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## Special Protective Measures for Wildlife

The special protective measures presented below were developed by the BLM and its cooperating agencies (CAs) to address the effects of winter development on wildlife. The BLM will evaluate the effectiveness of these measures annually and adaptively adjust their application to optimize opportunities to mitigate impacts to wildlife resources within the WTP Project Area.

The BLM and its CAs will conduct an annual review to evaluate operator compliance with conditions of approval (COAs), resource conditions, and effectiveness of mitigation measures, particularly those addressing wildlife. While exceptions may be granted in mapped sage-grouse wintering areas using the criteria set forth in the Approved RMP (BLM 2008b) and this FEIS, no exceptions will be granted to seasonal closures in areas that UDWR and the BLM have identified as the core winter-use areas. In other areas, the BLM will apply wildlife mitigation measures consistent with adaptive management practices as necessary to achieve its resource objectives. As part of the review of resource conditions the following information will be considered:

- Annual report on reclaimed versus unreclaimed surface disturbance.
- Range trend studies, including evaluation of phenology, endangered plants, and noxious weeds, will be submitted for review every 3 years.
- Annual survey results will be submitted on mule deer herd populations while their numbers are below objectives; if population objectives are exceeded, population survey results will be submitted every 3 years. Annual surveys will supplement those conducted by UDWR as necessary.
- Survey results on elk populations will be submitted every 3 years while populations exceed their objective numbers; if population numbers are below their objective, surveys will be submitted annually. Annual surveys will supplement those conducted by UDWR as necessary.
- Annual report on sage-grouse winter use monitoring to determine the effectiveness of sage-grouse mitigation and to provide useful information for potentially modifying the winter drilling exceptions through the adaptive management process.

### General Measures

- The operator will be responsible to coordinate with the BLM and appropriate agencies on an annual basis (prior to September 1 of each year) to plan for winter drilling activities.
- All coordination on winter drilling between the appropriate agencies must be completed and all respective APDs must be submitted prior to September 1 each year.
- As part of the annual review and planning process for winter drilling, the BLM and agencies will coordinate with the operators to concentrate the locations of winter drilling activities to limited or confined areas (e.g., on one or two mesas only).

### Measures for Big Game Species

- The following travel restrictions will be adhered to between December 1 and April 15 by all types of vehicles in order to minimize disturbances during periods of major animal

movement (6:00-8:00 AM and 5:00-7:00 PM or 6:00-8:00 AM and 6:00-8:00 PM during day light savings time). These restrictions will be contingent on the presence of elk and deer in the areas.

- Contractors and vendors for non-critical rig visits will not travel during these periods.
- Rig shift changes will be adjusted so that they will not coincide with these periods.
- Normal delivery of drilling supplies will not occur during these periods.
- These restrictions will not apply to vehicles directly involved in casing, cementing, and/or emergency operations necessary to maintain viable hole conditions.
- During snow depths of 16 inches or greater, edges of plowed roads will be opened at intervals of approximately ¼ mile to create wildlife exit points and crossing areas when snow walls develop. Exits will be opened to approximately 15 feet, down to the top of vegetation, and will remain within the ROW.

### Measures for Sage-Grouse

- Disturbance will be minimized in and around core winter use areas through strategic planning for optimal realignment of existing roads and placement of new roads, well pads and other infrastructure, thereby reducing habitat fragmentation (see ROD **Figure 1**). Strategic planning will include cooperation with the UDWR to determine appropriate locations for road realignments and other surface activities so as to minimize impacts on sage-grouse. Road realignments will occur within 1 year of signing this ROD.
- No surface disturbance will be authorized in core winter use areas (during any time of the year) until the operator submits a site-specific plan of development for proposed roads, wells, pipelines, and/or other project features that will be constructed within those areas.
- No winter development (i.e., construction, drilling, or completion activities) will be allowed in core winter use areas on Prickly Pear Bench or in the Peters Point area between December 1 - March 14.
- In accordance with the Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Approved RMP) construction, drilling, or completion activities will be precluded within two miles of known leks (or new leks which may be located during the life of the project (LOP)) between March 15 and July 15. In addition, regardless of season, development will be precluded from within ½ mile of known leks.
- Upgrades to or use of the Interplanetary airstrip for project-related activities will be prohibited.

### **Special Protective Measures for the Water Resources**

The following special protective measures were developed by the BLM and its cooperating agencies to address the effects of development on water resources, including high country watersheds:

- Well pads and access roads within high-country watershed areas (areas above 7,000 feet in elevation) would be fully constructed or upgraded during the period between April 15 and December 1.

- Throughout the WTP Project Area, snow must be removed within 48 hours of cessation of each winter storm producing greater than 4 inches of snowfall; snow removal would occur only on those roads necessary to access wells and production facilities.
- The operators will be required to fund an annual water quality monitoring program as outlined in **Attachment 7**. If samples and monitoring detect or determine any degradation of water quality as a result of the WTP project the BLM will reevaluate the effectiveness of the BMPs and mitigation measures contained within this ROD (**Attachment 2**).