

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR
Williams
Carr Draw III East Remand
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - WY-070-09-078

The preferred alternative, Alternative C as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) would authorize Williams's Carr Draw III East Coal Bed Natural Gas (CBNG) POD comprised of the following 82 Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs):

	Well Name	Well #	Qtr/Qtr	Sec	TWP	RNG	Lease #
1	CARR DRAW III E CARU	11-18BG*	NWNW	18	50N	75W	WYW146811
2	CARR DRAW III E CARU	11-18W	NWNW	18	50N	75W	WYW146811
3	CARR DRAW III E CARU	12-19BG	SWNW	19	50N	75W	WYW154404
4	CARR DRAW III E CARU	12-19W	SWNW	19	50N	75W	WYW154404
5	CARR DRAW III E CARU	14-19BG	SWSW	19	50N	75W	WYW154404
6	CARR DRAW III E CARU	14-19W	SWSW	19	50N	75W	WYW154404
7	CARR DRAW III E CARU	21-19BG	NENW	19	50N	75W	WYW146811
8	CARR DRAW III E CARU	21-19W	NENW	19	50N	75W	WYW146811
9	CARR DRAW III E CARU	23-19BG	NESW	19	50N	75W	WYW146811
10	CARR DRAW III E CARU	23-19W	NESW	19	50N	75W	WYW146811
11	CARR DRAW III E CARU	32-19BG	SWNE	19	50N	75W	WYW146811
12	CARR DRAW III E CARU	32-19W	SWNE	19	50N	75W	WYW146811
13	CARR DRAW III E CARU	34-19BG	SWSE	19	50N	75W	WYW146811
14	CARR DRAW III E CARU	34-19W	SWSE	19	50N	75W	WYW146811
15	CARR DRAW III E CARU	41-19BG	NENE	19	50N	75W	WYW146811
16	CARR DRAW III E CARU	41-19W	NENE	19	50N	75W	WYW146811
17	CARR DRAW III E CARU	43-19BG	NESE	19	50N	75W	WYW146811
18	CARR DRAW III E CARU	43-19W	NESE	19	50N	75W	WYW146811
19	CARR DRAW III E CARU	12-20BG	SWNW	20	50N	75W	WYW146811
20	CARR DRAW III E CARU	12-20W	SWNW	20	50N	75W	WYW146811
21	CARR DRAW III E CARU	14-20BG	SWSW	20	50N	75W	WYW146811
22	CARR DRAW III E CARU	14-20W	SWSW	20	50N	75W	WYW146811
23	CARR DRAW III E CARU	22-20BG	SENW	20	50N	75W	WYW146811
24	CARR DRAW III E CARU	22-20W	SENW	20	50N	75W	WYW146811
25	CARR DRAW III E CARU	34-20BG	SWSE	20	50N	75W	WYW129538
26	CARR DRAW III E CARU	34-20W	SWSE	20	50N	75W	WYW129538
27	CARR DRAW III E CARU	43-20BG	NESE	20	50N	75W	WYW146811
28	CARR DRAW III E CARU	43-20W	NESE	20	50N	75W	WYW146811
29	CARR DRAW III E CARU	21-29BG	NENW	29	50N	75W	WYW129538
30	CARR DRAW III E CARU	21-29W	NENW	29	50N	75W	WYW129538
31	CARR DRAW III E CARU	41-29BG	NENE	29	50N	75W	WYW129538
32	CARR DRAW III E CARU	41-29W	NENE	29	50N	75W	WYW129538
33	CARR DRAW III E CARU	14-30BG	SWSW	30	50N	75W	WYW146812
34	CARR DRAW III E CARU	14-30W	SWSW	30	50N	75W	WYW146812

	Well Name	Well #	Qtr/Qtr	Sec	TWP	RNG	Lease #
35	CARR DRAW III E CARU	21-30BG	NENW	30	50N	75W	WYW146812
36	CARR DRAW III E CARU	21-30W	NENW	30	50N	75W	WYW146812
37	CARR DRAW III E CARU	31-30BG	NWNE	30	50N	75W	WYW146812
38	CARR DRAW III E CARU	31-30W	NWNE	30	50N	75W	WYW146812
39	CARR DRAW III E CARU	34-30BG	SWSE	30	50N	75W	WYW146812
40	CARR DRAW III E CARU	34-30W	SWSE	30	50N	75W	WYW146812
41	CARR DRAW III E CARU	41-30BG	NENE	30	50N	75W	WYW146812
42	CARR DRAW III E CARU	41-30W	NENE	30	50N	75W	WYW146812
43	CARR DRAW III E CARU	42-30BG	NESE	30	50N	75W	WYW146812
44	CARR DRAW III E CARU	42-30W	NESE	30	50N	75W	WYW146812
45	CARR DRAW III E CARU	21-31BG	NENW	31	50N	75W	WYW146812
46	CARR DRAW III E CARU	21-31W	NENW	31	50N	75W	WYW146812
47	CARR DRAW III E CARU	14-13BG	SWSW	13	50N	76W	WYW146290
48	CARR DRAW III E CARU	14-13W	SWSW	13	50N	76W	WYW146290
49	CARR DRAW III E CARU	23-13BG	NESW	13	50N	76W	WYW146290
50	CARR DRAW III E CARU	23-13W	NESW	13	50N	76W	WYW146290
51	CARR DRAW III E CARU	32-13BG	SWNE	13	50N	76W	WYW146290
52	CARR DRAW III E CARU	32-13W	SWNE	13	50N	76W	WYW146290
53	CARR DRAW III E CARU	34-13BG	SWSE	13	50N	76W	WYW146290
54	CARR DRAW III E CARU	34-13W	SWSE	13	50N	76W	WYW146290
55	CARR DRAW III E CARU	43-13BG	NESE	13	50N	76W	WYW146290
56	CARR DRAW III E CARU	43-13W	NESE	13	50N	76W	WYW146290
57	CARR DRAW III E CARU	34-23BG	SWSE	23	50N	76W	WYW146290
58	CARR DRAW III E CARU	34-23W	SWSE	23	50N	76W	WYW146290
59	CARR DRAW III E CARU	44-23BG	SESE	23	50N	76W	WYW146290
60	CARR DRAW III E CARU	44-23W	SESE	23	50N	76W	WYW146290
61	CARR DRAW III E CARU	14-24BG	SWSW	24	50N	76W	WYW146290
62	CARR DRAW III E CARU	14-24W	SWSW	24	50N	76W	WYW146290
63	CARR DRAW III E CARU	21-24BG	NENW	24	50N	76W	WYW146290
64	CARR DRAW III E CARU	21-24W	NENW	24	50N	76W	WYW146290
65	CARR DRAW III E CARU	23-24BG	NESW	24	50N	76W	WYW146290
66	CARR DRAW III E CARU	23-24W	NESW	24	50N	76W	WYW146290
67	CARR DRAW III E CARU	12-25BG	SWNW	25	50N	76W	WYW147335
68	CARR DRAW III E CARU	12-25W	SWNW	25	50N	76W	WYW147335
69	CARR DRAW III E CARU	22-25BG	SENE	25	50N	76W	WYW146290
70	CARR DRAW III E CARU	22-25W	SENE	25	50N	76W	WYW146290
71	CARR DRAW III E CARU	23-25BG	NESW	25	50N	76W	WYW146290
72	CARR DRAW III E CARU	23-25W	NESW	25	50N	76W	WYW146290
73	CARR DRAW III E CARU	32-25BG	SWNE	25	50N	76W	WYW146290
74	CARR DRAW III E CARU	32-25W	SWNE	25	50N	76W	WYW146290
75	CARR DRAW III E CARU	34-25BG	SWSE	25	50N	76W	WYW147335
76	CARR DRAW III E CARU	34-25W	SWSE	25	50N	76W	WYW147335

	Well Name	Well #	Qtr/Qtr	Sec	TWP	RNG	Lease #
77	CARR DRAW III E CARU	43-25BG	NESE	25	50N	76W	WYW147335
78	CARR DRAW III E CARU	43-25W	NESE	25	50N	76W	WYW147335
79	CARR DRAW III E CARU	21-26BG	NENW	26	50N	76W	WYW33138
80	CARR DRAW III E CARU	21-26W	NENW	26	50N	76W	WYW33138
81	CARR DRAW III E CARU	41-26BG	NENE	26	50N	76W	WYW33138
82	CARR DRAW III E CARU	41-26W	NENE	26	50N	76W	WYW33138

This approval would be subject to adherence with all of the operating plans and mitigation measures contained in the Master Surface Use Plan of Operations, Drilling Plan, Water Management Plan, and information in individual APDs. This approval is also subject to operator compliance with all mitigation and monitoring requirements contained within the Powder River Oil and Gas Project Environmental Impact Statement and Resource Management Plan Amendment (PRB FEIS) approved April 30, 2003. The proposed water line that will transport water off location was inspected and approved for use in EA WY-070-08-013.

RATIONALE: The decision to authorize Alternative C, as described in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA), is based on the following:

1. The Operator, in their POD, has committed to:
 - Comply with all applicable Federal, State and Local laws and regulations.
 - Obtain the necessary permits from other agencies for the drilling, completion and production of these wells including water rights appropriations, the installation of water management facilities, water discharge permits, and relevant air quality permits.
 - Offer water well agreements to the owners of record for permitted water wells within ½ mile of a federal CBNG producing well in the POD.
 - Provide water analysis from a designated reference well in each coal zone.
2. The Operator has certified that a Surface Use Agreement has been reached with the Landowner(s).
3. Alternative C will not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation.
4. It is in the public interest to approve this development to help meet the nation’s future needs for energy reserves and reduce the U.S. dependence on foreign sources of energy. It also helps to stimulate local economies by maintaining stability for the workforce.
5. Mitigation measures applied by the BLM will lessen environmental impacts.
6. Approval of this Alternative is in conformance with the PRB FEIS and the Approved Resource Management Plan for the Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Buffalo Field Office, April 2001.
7. Alternative C incorporates appropriate local sage-grouse research and the best available science from across the species’ range in development of Conditions of Approval attached.
8. Alternative C incorporates components of the Wyoming Governor’s Sage Grouse Implementation Team’s “Core Population Area” strategy and local research to provide appropriate protections for sage-grouse, while meeting the purpose and need for the Carr Draw III East project.
9. Surface disturbing activities will be restricted during sage-grouse breeding and nesting periods (March 1 to June 15) for 39 of the 41 locations and accesses located in sage-grouse habitat for the life of the project. Locations 21-26 and 34-30 were co-located with existing disturbance outside of sage-grouse habitat.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT: Based on the analysis of the potential environmental impacts, I have determined that NO significant impacts are expected from the implementation of Alternative C and, therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required.

In conformance with Appendix E, *Record of Decision, Powder River Oil and Gas Project Environmental Impact Statement and Resource Management Plan Amendment* (PRB FEIS), BLM Buffalo Field Office has initiated actions within the PRB FEIS analysis area in response to additional information regarding impacts to sage-grouse. These measures include:

1. Early initiation of a Land Use Plan (LUP) revision, based upon the evaluation of monitoring data generated under the “Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP)” in the PRB FEIS Record of Decision
2. Establishment of sage-grouse “focus” areas, encompassing approximately 1 million acres of sage-grouse habitat. These areas are managed under strict guidelines designed to preserve sage-grouse habitat for development of Alternatives during the LUP process (Appendix 1).
3. Initiation of a Population Viability Analysis in the Powder River Basin. This is a 24 month project involving the USGS, BLM Miles City Field Office, BLM Buffalo Field Office and the University of Montana.
4. Development of Alternatives that modify the Proposed Action to reflect the best available science in sage-grouse management.
5. Development of Conditions of Approval, specific to sage-grouse management, that incorporates some recommendations from recent research, the NE Local Sage-grouse Working Group and the Petroleum Association of Wyoming.

The implementation of Alternative C best meets the stated Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action. With the application of mitigation measures in Alternative C, sage-grouse population viability in the project area will not be compromised due to the larger scope of planning actions and research initiated by the BLM, Buffalo Field Office.

Site Specific Conditions of Approval

Sage Grouse

The following conditions will alleviate impacts to sage-grouse:

- a. No surface disturbing activities are permitted from March 1 to June 15. This condition affects all locations and Accesses in the Carr Draw III East POD *except* the 21-26 and 34-30 locations. This condition will be implemented on an annual basis for the life of the project.
- b. A sage-grouse survey will be conducted by a biologist following the most current WGFD protocol. All survey results shall be submitted in writing to a Buffalo BLM biologist and approved prior to surface disturbing activities.
- c. Well metering, maintenance and other site visits will be restricted to one visit per month during the breeding and nesting season (March 1– June 15) for the life of the project.
- d. All impoundments approved in this authorization will be treated each year to control mosquito larvae.
- e. Maximum design speed on all operator-constructed and maintained roads (except county roads) will not exceed 25 miles per hour.