



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado River Valley Field Office
2300 River Frontage Road
Silt, Colorado 81652
www.co.blm.gov

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NEPA LOG NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2012-0044-CX

Background

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) OFFICE: Colorado River Valley Field Office (CRVFO), Silt, Colorado

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC24099 and COC24603 (Oil and Gas Leases)

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TITLE: Proposal to Conduct Geophysical Operations on Federal Surface and/or Minerals in the South Grand Valley Area West of Parachute, Colorado Authorized by Notice of Intent and Authorization to Conduct Oil and Gas Geophysical Exploration Authorizations (NOI).

LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: Exploration would occur on Federal and private surface with underlying Federal minerals and on private surface with underlying private minerals.. The project would occur generally west of the lower reaches of Parachute Creek and range in distance of 1 mile to 5 miles west and north of Parachute, Garfield County, Colorado. Figure 1 is a project location map.

Township 6 South (T6S), Range 96 West (R96W), Section 33, Lot 10 (40.47 acres)
Township 7 South (T7S), Range 96 West (R96W), Section 3, N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ (200 acres)
Section 4, Lots 2, 3, 7, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ (384.30 acres)
Section 5, Lot 7, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ (76.56 acres)
Section 9, Lots 1, 2, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ (152.77 acres)
Section 10, Lot 4, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ (76.46 acres)
Sixth Principal Meridian

representing 930.56 acres on BLM lands

APPLICANT: WPX Energy Rocky Mountain LLC (“WPX”) is the Operator; Green River Energy Resources, Inc. (GRER) is the Geophysical Company.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: WPX is proposing the Niobrara 2D seismic program to be implemented by GRER to develop a 2 dimensional image of the geologic structure and stratigraphy underlying the project area. The data generated from this geophysical survey would significantly enhance evaluation of the potential mineral resources under Federal lease, thereby reducing the potential for non-productive wells and associated construction of new roads, well pads and pipelines. The geophysical survey would consist of three separate seismic lines comprising 5.46 miles across BLM land and 5.56 miles across private land (Figure 1).

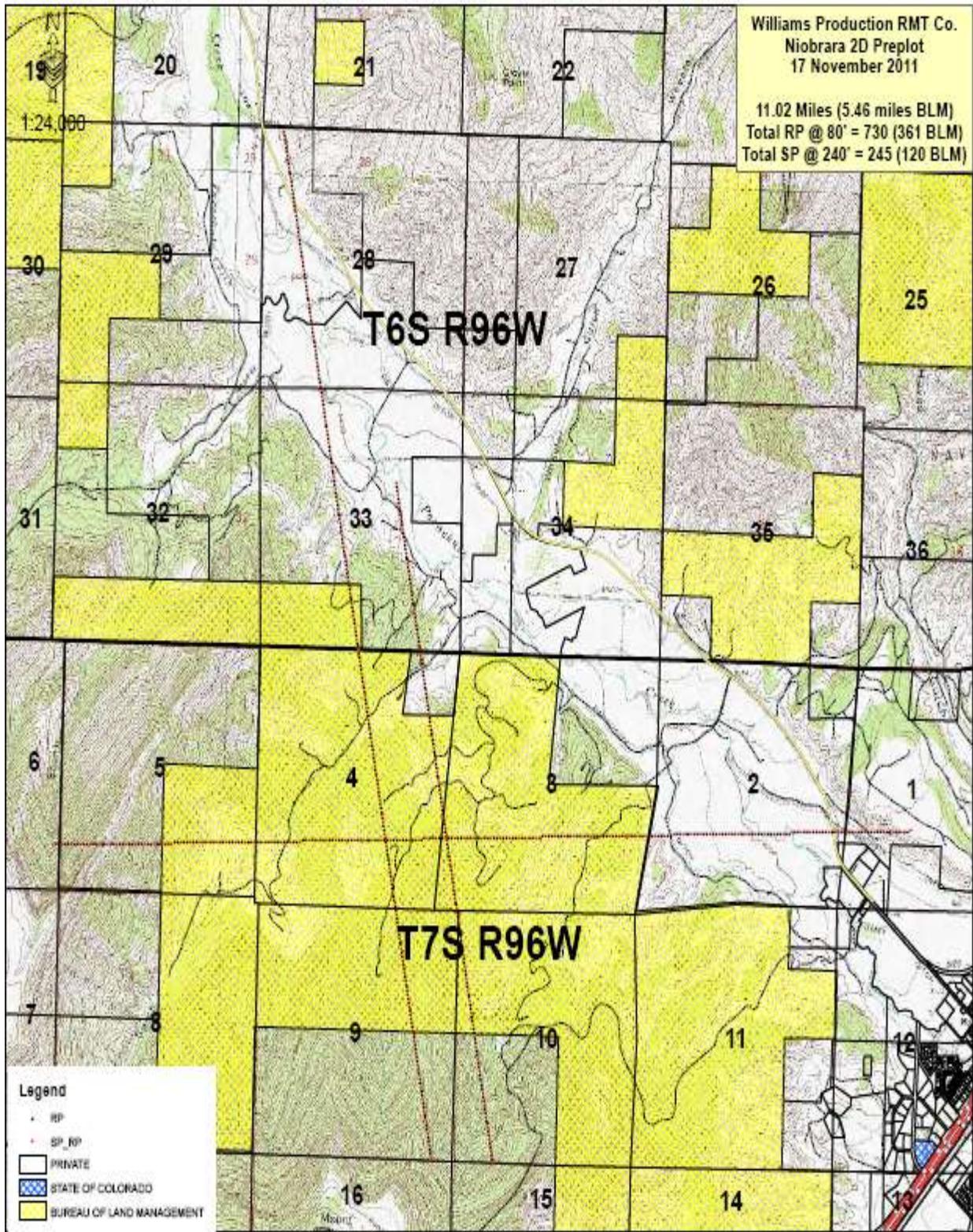


Figure 1. Location Map for WPX's Niobrara 2D Seismic Project

Three different methods of generating sonic energy sources would be achieved with the use of heliportable, buggy or track shot-hole operations. All of the planned shot-hole work on BLM, however, would be conducted heliportable as the topography is too rough for anything other than foot and helicopter access. Existing access roads across the BLM portion of the project would be used to ferry crews and equipment. The majority of the private land portion of the job would be conducted with buggy or tracked vehicles based on topographic constraints. Heliportable operations would be used where topography dictates.

The project would involve three phases. The initial phase was conducted in May 2012 where surveyors established specific locations of predetermined source points (along source lines) and geophone receiver points (along receiver lines). Specific resource constrained locations (e.g., archaeological sites or rare plant habitats) were mapped and avoided during the project layout per BLM requirements. The second phase of the project involving the shot hole drilling is slated for June 2012 after the NOI is approved. The last phase would be scheduled for June 2012 once drilling is far enough along or completed. Seismic crews would be mobilized to the project location and begin laying out equipment to start the recording phase of the project. The project would be expected to finish by late July 2012.

The project would involve three seismic lines with an average of 243 receiver (geophone) stations per line. It is planned that all receiver stations would be active for the actual recording of each individual source point on that line. The receivers would be spaced at an interval of 80 feet with a total of 730 receiver points (RPs) or 66 RPs per mile. Total linear distance of receiver points would be 11.02 miles. The sources would be spaced at an interval of 240 feet with a total of 245 source points (SPs) or 22 SPs per mile. To maintain the highest integrity of the geophysical data, relocation of source points would be kept to a minimum and receiver points would be positioned as plotted on the project map (Figure 1).

Each source point would be drilled (using either heliportable, buggy or track-type drills as described) with a "shot hole" approximately 4 to 5 inches in diameter and up to 60 feet in depth. A 20 pound charge, expressly manufactured for geophysical surveys, would be loaded in the shot hole and exploded at the desired recording time and period. Each shot hole would be drilled with compressed air to encourage the return of the drill cuttings from the hole. A nonmetallic plug would be installed in the shot hole within 3 feet of the surface and the remaining 3 feet would be tamped to the surface and covered with drill cuttings and soil. Excess drill cuttings would be mixed with surrounding soils (to a depth of 1 inch or less) and spread on the surface around the shot hole perimeter.

Some shot holes, particularly for stabilization of alluvial surface conditions, require a small volume of water (typically less than 5 gallons per hole on less than 10 percent of the source points). GRER estimates that the proposed drilling operations for this project would use less than 100 gallons of water; water would be obtained from a local municipal water source.

To mitigate unacceptable environmental impacts, any shot holes drilled through water-bearing zones would be filled with bentonite to a point above the water zone. Drilling would be conducted no closer than 100 feet from cliff edges, upland escarpments or areas in excess of 60 degrees of slope. Furthermore, as identified by BLM or during the project survey, areas of special concern (e.g., National Historic Preservation sites, sensitive species locations, or riparian areas) would be designated for avoidance.

Buggy or track drills would travel off road only on private lands following a pre-planned meandering route to the source locations to drill the shot holes. Buggies are outfitted with low-pressure rubber-tires (similar to ATV tires but much larger in size). No clearing or grading with earthmoving equipment would be conducted to access the source points. It would be allowed, however, to remove trees or limbs less

than 8 inches in diameter. The “cut” material would be bucked and scattered. Buggy and track drill operations would occur on slopes of 27 degrees or less.

Heliportable drills would be used across the steeper topography in the project area; this drilling technique would be used exclusively on public lands. Drills would be transported by sling underneath the ship to the planned source holes. Average flying altitude of the helicopter would range from 300 to 600 feet above the ground. The helicopter would not land at any of the source holes, but use the sling method to transport drill and materials to the various planned shot hole locations. For this project, it is estimated that 4-5 flight hours per day per helicopter would be necessary to support each drill crew, resulting in approximately 25 to 35 shot holes accomplished daily per crew.

Receiver lines may require cutting of dense vegetation along a corridor not to exceed 3 feet in order to deploy the recording equipment (geophone arrays with 6 sensors, batteries and cord connections) on the ground along the seismic lines. The recording equipment would be deployed by crews on the ground and gathered by helicopter.

Recording trucks would be located along existing roads across the project area staffed by two to four persons. An additional two to four persons would serve as troubleshooters to remedy problems with recording equipment with as much work as possible conducted with pickup trucks or ATVs to access the receiver and source lines. During demobilization operations, all recording equipment would be retrieved on foot and bagged, moving the gear to staging areas for demobilization by helicopter. All flagging, lathe and related seismic debris would be removed by crewmembers daily.

GRER projects that 20 percent of the Niobrara 2D project or 49 shot holes would be drilled with buggy or track drills on private lands with the remaining 196 shot holes being drilled heliportable including the work on BLM. Using a 12-foot wide area of disturbance for buggy or track drills, a 25-foot radius around heliportable shot holes, and a 3-acre staging area, short-term disturbance as a result of the geophysical operations would total less than 100 acres.

Project duration would be planned for 45 days beginning as soon as permitting allows in June 2012. Approximately 18 crew member would conduct the planned seismic operations using a 10-12 hour work-day. Operations would generally be limited to daylight hours based on helicopter flight protocols. No camps, powder magazines, or helipads would be located on Federal lands. The explosive magazine is planned on WPX property within the project area boundary. No new construction of roads and/or trails would occur.

Land Use Plan Conformance

The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for and is in conformance with (43 CFR §1610.5 and § 2800, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name: The current land use plan is the *Glenwood Springs Resource Management Plan* (RMP) (BLM 1984, revised 1988). Relevant amendments include the *Oil and Gas Plan Amendment to the Glenwood Springs Resource Management Plan* (BLM 1991) and the *Oil & Gas Leasing & Development Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan Amendment* (BLM 1999).

Date Approved/Amended: *Oil and Gas Plan Amendment to the Glenwood Springs Resource Management Plan* (BLM 1991) – approved November 27, 1991; *Oil & Gas Leasing & Development Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan Amendment* (BLM 1999) – approved March 24, 1999.

Determination of Conformance: The 1991 plan amendment for oil and gas (BLM 1991) included the following at page 3: “697,720 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate within the Glenwood Springs Resource Area (GSRA) are open to oil and gas leasing and development, subject to lease terms and (as applicable) lease stipulations” (BLM 1991, page 3). This decision was carried forward into the 1999 plan amendment for oil and gas. The 1999 plan amendment for oil and gas (BLM 1999) included the following at page 15: “In areas being actively developed, the operator must submit a Geographic Area Proposal (GAP) that describes a minimum of 2 to 3 years of activity for operator controlled leases within a reasonable geographic area.” The 1999 plan amendment for oil and gas (BLM 1999) included the following at page 2-4: “The BLM transfers to the lease holder the right to explore and develop all the oil and gas resources, subject to the stipulations attached to the lease” (BLM 1999, page 2-4). Exploration activities are provided for under the current plans and amendments above for the public domain lands involved. The action would not result in land use allocation decisions and would not limit the choice of reasonable alternative actions relative to the land use decisions being examined. Therefore, the project conforms to the current LUP, as amended.

Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 (B) (replacing the previous list of the BLM CXs at 516 DM 11.5). “Approval of Notices of Intent to conduct geophysical exploration of oil, gas, or geothermal, pursuant to 43 CFR 3150 or 3250, when no temporary or new road construction is proposed.” This CX may be used for compliance with NEPA when analyzing Notices of Intent to Conduct Geophysical Exploration (NOI). Instruction Memorandum (IM) No. 2009-044 establishes policy and provides guidance to BLM for the new geophysical exploration Categorical Exclusion (CX) finalized August 14, 2007. This CX is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 applies (Table 1). Any “Yes” answers in Table 1 preclude use of the CX.

Table 1. Extraordinary Circumstances		
1. May have significant impacts on public health and safety.	Yes	<u>No</u>
2. May have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild and scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 119880; national monument; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	Yes	<u>No</u>
3. May have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA Section 102 (2) (E)).	Yes	<u>No</u>
4. May have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	Yes	<u>No</u>
5. May establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	Yes	<u>No</u>
6. May have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	Yes	<u>No</u>
7. May have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	Yes	<u>No</u>
8. May have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	Yes	<u>No</u>

Table 1. Extraordinary Circumstances		
9. May violate a Federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	Yes	<u>No</u>
10. May have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	Yes	<u>No</u>
11. May limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	Yes	<u>No</u>
12. May contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weed or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	Yes	<u>No</u>

Persons and/or Agencies Consulted

Bret Gunneson, Kent Rider – WPX Energy Rocky Mountain LLC
 Ray Mays – Green River Energy Resources Inc.
 Chairwoman Irene Cuch – Ute Indian Tribe (Uintah and Ouray Reservation)
 Chairman Jimmy Newton – Southern Ute Indian Tribe
 Chairman Gary Hayes – Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
 Creed Clayton, Charlie Sharp – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Grand Junction

Interdisciplinary Review

BLM staff from the CRVFO listed in Table 2 participated in the preparation of this CX, including review of survey results submitted by the Operator’s consultants, evaluation of impacts likely to occur from implementation of the Proposed Action, and identification of appropriate COAs.

Table 2. BLM Interdisciplinary Team Authors and Reviewers		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Areas of Participation</i>
DJ Beaupeurt	Realty Specialist	Right-of-Ways, Realty Actions
John Brogan	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns
Jim Byers	Natural Resource Specialist	Project Lead, Access & Transportation, Range Management, Socio-Economics,
Allen Crockett, Ph.D.	Supervisory NRS/Phys. Sci.	NEPA Review
Shauna Kocman, Ph.D., P.E.	Hydrologist	Air Quality, Noise, Soils, Surface Water, Waters of the U.S.
Julie McGrew	Natural Resource Specialist	Visual Resources
Judy Perkins, Ph.D.	Ecologist	Invasive Non-native Species, Special Status Plants, Vegetation
Sylvia Ringer	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds, Special Status Species, Aquatic and Terrestrial
Todd Sieber	Geologist	Geology and Minerals, Groundwater, Paleontology

The Proposed Action was presented to the Colorado River Valley Field Office interdisciplinary team on February 22, 2012.

Remarks/Mitigation: Conditions of approval to be attached to the individual NOI are listed in Attachment A.

Name of Preparer: Jim Byers, Natural Resource Specialist

Date: June 11, 2012

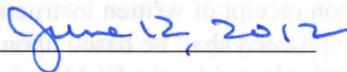
Decision and Rationale: I have reviewed this categorical exclusion record and have decided to implement the Proposed Action.

I have reviewed Section B, Land Use Plan Conformance, and Section C, Compliance with NEPA, and have determined that the Proposed Activity is in conformance with the applicable land use plan(s) and referenced NEPA documents. This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

Signature of Authorized Official:


Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist

Date Signed:



Surface-Use Conditions of Approval DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2012-0044-CX

1. Administrator Notification. The operator shall contact the Field/District Office at least 48 hours prior to the start of the project to schedule a pre-work conference. The crew supervisor and additional crew chiefs (if needed) shall attend the pre-work conference to discuss the terms and conditions for this operation.
2. Cultural Education/Discovery. All persons in the area who are associated with this project shall be informed that if anyone is found disturbing historic, archaeological, or scientific resources, including collecting artifacts, the person or persons shall be subject to prosecution.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the BLM authorized officer shall be notified 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), activities shall stop in the vicinity of the discovery, and the discovery shall be protected for 30 days or until notified by the BLM authorized officer to proceed.

If in connection with operations under this contract, the operator, its contractors, their subcontractors, or the employees of any of them discovers, encounters, or becomes aware of any objects or sites of cultural value or scientific interest such as historic ruins or prehistoric ruins, graves or grave markers, fossils, or artifacts, the operator shall immediately suspend all operations in the vicinity of the cultural resource and shall notify the BLM authorized officer of the findings (16 USC 470h-3, 36 CFR 800.112). Operations may resume at the discovery site upon receipt of written instructions and authorization by the BLM authorized officer. Approval to proceed shall be based upon evaluation of the resource. Evaluation shall be by a qualified professional selected by the BLM authorized officer from a Federal agency insofar as practicable. When not practicable, the operator shall bear the cost of the services of a non-Federal professional.

Within five working days, the BLM authorized officer shall inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- what mitigation measures the holder shall likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming that *in-situ* preservation is not necessary)
- the timeframe for the BLM authorized officer to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11, or any agreements in lieu thereof, to confirm through the SHPO State Historic Preservation Officer that the findings of the BLM authorized officer are correct and that mitigation is appropriate

The operator may relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and delays associated with this process, as long as the new area has been appropriately cleared of resources and the exposed materials are recorded and stabilized. Otherwise, the operator shall be responsible for mitigation costs. The BLM authorized officer shall provide technical and procedural guidelines for relocation and/or to conduct mitigation. Upon verification from the BLM authorized officer that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator shall be allowed to resume construction.

Antiquities, historic ruins, prehistoric ruins, and other cultural or paleontological objects of scientific interest that are outside the authorization boundaries but potentially affected, either directly or

indirectly, by the Proposed Action shall also be included in this evaluation or mitigation. Impacts that occur to such resources as a result of the authorized activities shall be mitigated at the operator's cost, including the cost of consultation with Native American groups.

Any person who, without a permit, injures, destroys, excavates, appropriates or removes any historic or prehistoric ruin, artifact, object of antiquity, Native American remains, Native American cultural item, or archaeological resources on public lands is subject to arrest and penalty of law (16 USC 433, 16 USC 470, 18 USC 641, 18 USC 1170, and 18 USC 1361).

3. Rights-of-Way. The operator shall obtain permission from right-of-way holders prior to drilling and setting charges within authorized limits of the rights-of-way.
4. Access and Transportation. Existing routes and trails shall be used to the maximum extent possible. Unless otherwise approved by the BLM Authorized Officer, only heliportable drilling shall be allowed on BLM because of steep slopes and rough terrain

Vehicular travel shall be suspended when ground conditions are wet enough to cause rutting or other noticeable surface deformation and severe compaction. As a general rule, if vehicles or other project equipment create ruts in excess of four inches deep when traveling cross-country over wet soils, the soil shall be deemed too wet for vehicular use.

5. Staging Areas. The staging area(s) shall be situated with good, safe access to county roads or state highways. The fuel truck for the helicopter shall also be utilized at the staging area(s).

The staging area(s) shall be kept clean and free of litter. Portable rest room facilities shall be provided and routinely serviced at the staging area. Such waste facilities shall be removed from the site upon completion of the project.

6. Road Construction. Roads shall not be constructed for geophysical projects authorized under a categorical exclusion.
7. Maintenance of Existing Range Improvements. Operators of vehicles and equipment shall be responsible for not damaging fences and keeping gates as found. As a last resort, should a fence be cut for access, that fence must be repaired to former or better condition, after equipment has passed through.
8. Reclaiming Shot Holes. Shot holes shall be backfilled and plugged, in accordance with state regulations, after they are loaded with the explosive charge. Each shot hole would be drilled with compressed air to encourage the return of the drill cuttings from the hole. A nonmetallic plug would be installed in the shot hole within 3 feet of the surface and the remaining 3 feet would be tamped to the surface and covered with drill cuttings and soil. Excess drill cuttings would be mixed with surrounding soils (to a depth of 1 inch or less) and spread on the surface around the shot hole perimeter.

Some shot holes, particularly for stabilization of alluvial surface conditions, require a small volume of water (typically less than 5 gallons per hole on less than 10 percent of the source points). GRER estimates that the proposed drilling operations for this project would use less than 100 gallons of water; water would be obtained from a local municipal water source.

To mitigate unacceptable environmental impacts, any shot holes drilled through water-bearing zones would be filled with bentonite to a point above the water zone. Drilling would be conducted no closer than 100 feet from cliff edges, upland escarpments or areas in excess of 60 degrees of slope. Furthermore, as identified by BLM or during the project survey, areas of special concern (e.g., National Historic Preservation sites, sensitive species locations, or riparian areas) would be designated for avoidance.

9. **Vegetation Removal.** Geophysical equipment may encounter congested areas with trees requiring one or more trees to be removed and/or limbed. If such action is needed then the tree(s) and/or limb(s) shall be less than eight (8) inches at diameter breast height (dbh) or at the base of the branch. Trees to be cut or limbed which are located adjacent to public roads, communities, and/or public facilities shall be immediately cut into smaller pieces so that it is not aesthetically displeasing and dispersed within the immediate vicinity.

10. **Reclamation.** If soil is disturbed to the extent that erosion is likely or visual impacts are readily apparent, the disturbed areas shall be rehabilitated utilizing the following techniques:

Ruts and vehicle tracks shall be filled with soil and/or obliterated by either hand raking or similar method. When completing this work, care shall be taken to minimize disturbance to surrounding lands that have not been disturbed. All areas where rehabilitation work is accomplished shall be reseeded. Any and all tire tracks 100 feet or longer leading away from an established dirt or two-track road on public lands shall be hand raked to blend into the surrounding soil surface.

11. **Setbacks and Buffers:** The operator shall adhere to setbacks or “buffer zones” that are set forth in the following tables (Tables 3 and 4). Offsets in Table 3 and 4 can be reduced if approved by the appropriate owner(s) or operator(s).

Table 3. Offset (in Feet) from Certain Objects								
Object	Pounds of Explosive Charge							
	0.5	1	2	3	5	6 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 20
Pipeline <6 in. diameter	50	100	150	150	200	250	300	400
Pipeline 6-12 in. diameter	75	150	200	200	300	400	500	600
Pipeline >12 in. diameter	100	200	250	250	300	500	600	800
Telephone Line	20	20	30	40	40	50	50	50
Railroad Track or Paved Highway	50	100	150	150	150	220	280	350
Electric powerline (Shot holes not to exceed 200 ft. depth)	75	100	200	200	200	200	250	300
Water wells, buildings, underground cistern, and similar objects	225	300	400	450	700	800	1,000	1,200
Brick and/or concrete block buildings	275	400	500	600	800	1,000	1,200	1,500
Producing oil and gas wells	250	450	600	700	800	900	1,000	1,000
Irrigation wells	500	800	1,000	1,200	1,500	2,000	2,500	2,500

Table 4. Minimum Safe Offset In Feet for Vibrator Truck Operations	
Structures	Distance (feet)
Residences, Buildings, Concrete Base Structures	300
Water Wells	350
Concrete Water Pipeline	100
PVC/Plastic Water Pipeline	20
Oil or Gas Well	250
Oil or Gas High Pressure Pipelines	30
High Voltage Power Lines	0
Local Transmission Power Lines	0

12. Riparian Areas. No equipment, only foot traffic laying receiver lines, shall be used in swampy/wetland areas.
13. Migratory Birds. Visible migratory bird nests shall be avoided and not disturbed.
14. Noxious and Invasive Weeds. All equipment shall be power washed prior to entering Federal lands to help mitigate the spread of noxious plants.
15. Wildlife. In order to minimize watershed damage and disturbance to game animals utilizing important seasonal wildlife habitat, seismic activity shall only be allowed during the period from May 1 to November 30. Exceptions to this limitation may be specifically approved by the authorized officer.
16. Fire Conditions. When fire conditions reach high, the helicopter, vehicles, and equipment shall carry water, shovels, and other firefighting equipment to extinguish any fires that are accidentally started by the seismic operations.
17. Spill and Leakage Protection. If oil, lubricants and other petroleum or man-made products are accidentally spilled onto the ground surface, the BLM shall be contacted and provided specific information about the spill and/or leak. Spills or leaks shall be cleaned from the soil and any contaminated material shall be bio-remediated or disposed of at an authorized landfill.
18. Removal of Materials. During the demobilization of the recording equipment, all flagging, lath, pin flags, and similar materials used in the seismic project layout shall be removed from public land and disposed of at an authorized landfill .
19. Helicopter Operations. The helicopter used in this project shall be operated as authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration and in accordance with Federal Aviation Regulations.

 The helicopter pilot shall contact the Grand Junction Fire Dispatch at 970-257-4800 and inform them of the flight plan and hours of operations so that Dispatch can inform other aircraft working in the area.
20. All Applicant-Committed Environmental Protection Measures documented in the applicant’s NOI shall be complied with in addition to these terms and conditions.

21. Special Status Plant Protections as Identified During USFWS Consultation.

No drilling activities shall occur within delineated potential habitats for federally listed species, or within a 100 meter buffer around these habitats. No drilling activities shall occur within delineated potential habitats for BLM sensitive species, or within a 30 meter buffer around these habitats.

Outer edges of potential habitat buffers shall be marked with wood lathe and flagging, and seismic workers shall be informed about the need to minimize impact in these areas during seismic activities. During the laying and removal of cable and geophones in potential habitats, foot traffic shall be limited to the extent required to accomplish the associated task.

A Quality Assurance/Quality Control person approved by the BLM CRVFO shall be present on-site during the seismic operation to insure that the mitigations for potential habitat sites and their buffers are implemented. The Quality Assurance/Quality Control person shall oversee the field crew operations in potential habitat and shall be competent in identification of the federally listed species potentially occurring in the project vicinity. If any federally listed species are observed during pre-construction surveying or project operations, status information shall be forwarded to the BLM CRVFO and USFWS, and appropriate protection protocols shall be implemented. Actions that would adversely affect the listed species shall be discontinued and these areas shall be avoided by BLM Standard Offset distances for the remainder of the project.

Due to terrain and vegetation limitations, access to the portions of the project located on BLM lands shall be limited to foot traffic supported by helicopters. No motorized vehicles shall be used off of designated roads and trails.