

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

### DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2013-0016-EA Focus Ranch Unit Geographic Area Plan

#### **Background**

Entek GRB LLC (Entek) has submitted four (4) Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) for 4 oil and gas wells and to construct associated access routes located in the exploratory Focus Ranch Unit.

Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2013-0016 (EA) analyzed three alternatives: a Proposed Action Alternative; a Modified Proposed Action Alternative and a No Action Alternative.

Under the Proposed Action, the BLM would approve 4 APDs (#28-2, #33-13, #4-14 and #11-14) and construct a re-route of the main unit road which would re-establish access to the Focus Ranch Unit Federal Wells #3-1 and #12-1. A total of 61 acres would be disturbed.

Under the Modified Proposed Action, the BLM would approve 2 APDs (#33-13, and #4-14) and a portion of “middle by-pass” re-route of the main access road as far as the existing #3-1 well would be constructed. A total of 27 acres would be disturbed.

Under the No Action Alternative, none of the APDs would be approved.

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the EA and all other available information, I have determined that the Proposed Action may constitute a major federal action that would adversely impact the quality of the human environment. This determination is based on the following factors:

- 1. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.*

As described in Chapter 3, Section 3.3.3, it is probable that impacts to the greater sage grouse during drilling and construction activities can be mitigated with a timing limitation during the breeding and nesting season. However, drilling conducted at other times of the year may create enough disturbances that sage grouse would not come back to the area for the subsequent breeding season. Sage grouse are also likely to be impacted long-term by noise and disturbance from traffic and the long-term occupancy of structures (tanks, pumping units, compressors, etc.) associated with development. Impacts would be more pronounced for development of the #2-28 well, the #11-14 well, and the access road re-route leading to the #12-1 well due to the proximity to active leks.

Approval for construction of the re-route of the access road to the #12-1 well would have highly uncertain consequences to sage grouse; therefore a Finding of No Significant Impact **could not be** reached for the Proposed Action.

## **Finding of No Significant Impact**

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the EA and all other available information, I have determined that the Modified Proposed Action **would not** constitute a major federal action that would adversely impact the quality of the human environment. This determination is based on the following factors:

1. Beneficial, adverse, direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts have been disclosed in the EA. Analysis indicated no significant impacts on society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests, or the locality. The physical and biological effects are limited to the Focus Ranch Unit and adjacent land.
2. Public health and safety would not be adversely impacted. There are no known or anticipated concerns with project waste or hazardous materials.
3. There would be no significant adverse impacts to regional or local air quality, prime or unique farmlands, known paleontological resources on public land within the area, wetlands, floodplain, areas with unique characteristics, ecologically critical areas or designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.
4. There are no highly controversial effects on the environment.
5. There are no effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk. Sufficient information on risk is available based on information in the EA and other past actions of a similar nature.
6. This alternative does not set a precedent for other actions that may be implemented in the future to meet the goals and objectives of adopted federal, state or local natural resource related plans, policies or programs.
7. No cumulative impacts related to other actions that would have a significant adverse impact were identified or are anticipated.
8. Based on previous and ongoing cultural surveys and through mitigation by avoidance, no known significant adverse impacts to cultural resources were identified or anticipated. There are no known American Indian religious concerns or persons or groups who might be disproportionately and adversely affected as anticipated by the Environmental Justice Policy.
9. No significant adverse impacts to any threatened or endangered species or their habitat that was determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act were identified. If, at a future time, there could be the potential for adverse impacts, treatments would be modified or mitigated not to have an adverse effect or new analysis would be conducted.
10. This alternative is in compliance with relevant federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and requirements for the protection of the environment.

I have reviewed the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed activities documented in the Focus Ranch Unit Geographic Area Plan EA No. DOI-BLM-N010-2013-0016-EA. I have also reviewed the project record for this analysis and the impacts of the proposed action and alternatives as disclosed in the Alternatives and Environmental Impacts sections of the EA. Based upon a review of the EA and the supporting documents, I have determined that the project as described in the Modified Proposed Action Alternative is not a major federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. Therefore, a Finding of No Significant Impact can be determined. Because there would not be any significant impact due to the implementation of the Modified Proposed Action, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

**SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:**



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Wendy Reynolds, Field Manager

**DATE SIGNED:** 10/22/2013