

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641**

Section 390 Categorical Exclusion (CX) for Oil and Gas Development

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2012-0076-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC-60831

PROJECT NAME: Williams Three New Wells on Existing Barcus Creek Unit (BCU) 12-31-198 Well Pad

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T1N-R98W-Sec.31-SWNW

APPLICANT: Williams Production RMT Company (Williams)

BACKGROUND: The BCU 12-31-198 well pad was analyzed in the [CO-110-2010-0268-EA](#) document, which was signed on 5/16/2011.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Williams proposes to drill three new wells (BCU 412-31-198, 411-31-198, and 12-31-198) from the existing BCU 12-31-198 location (See Figure 1). No additional surface disturbance would be required to access the well pad or to drill or produce the proposed wells. Williams proposes to complete the wells by piping frac water stored on the nearby BCU 24-30-198 well pad through temporary lines placed in an existing right-of-way (ROW) to the BCU 12-31-198 well pad. Additional information is available in the operator's site-specific [Surface Use Plan](#) and [Master Surface Use Plan](#) which are on file at the White River Field Office (WRFO) BLM.

Decision to be Made: The BLM will decide whether or not to permit the proposed three wells and whether or not allow the temporary placement of pipeline in the existing ROW between the BCU 24-30-198 and BCU 12-31-198 well pads, and if so under what conditions.

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

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Page 2-5

Decision Language: "Make federal oil and gas resources available for leasing and development in a manner that provides reasonable protection for other resource values."

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58) prescribed five CX's for activities whose purpose is for the exploration of oil or gas.

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act, #2: "*Drilling an oil and gas location or well pad at a site at which drilling has occurred within five (5) years prior to the date of spudding the well.*"

Documentation

The BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1) provides specific instructions for using this CX.

1) *Is the proposed well to be drilled from a location or well pad that has been previously disturbed or constructed to support drilling a well?* Yes.

2) *Has drilling occurred on the site within five years prior to the date of spudding the proposed well?* Yes. The BCU 42-36-199 well, also located on the BCU 12-31-198 well pad, was spud on 7/18/2011.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the WRFO interdisciplinary team on 3/20/2012. A list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the WRFO. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Table 1. Interdisciplinary Team

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	4/9/2012
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	4/16/2012
Amber Shanklin	Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	5/25/2012

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The proposed well pad location and access route were inventoried at the Class III (100 percent) pedestrian level for the original location (Conner et al. 2010 compliance dated 2/11/2010). One site has been officially determined as eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, is located along the access route.

The mitigation measures identified in CO-110-2010-0268-EA for protection and monitoring of the site should be carried forward to this Proposed Action. These mitigation measures would prevent new impacts to known cultural resources as a result of approving the proposed new wells.

Native American Religious Concerns: No Native American Religious Concerns are known in the area, and none have been noted by Northern Ute Tribal authorities. Should recommended inventories or future consultations with Tribal authorities reveal the existence of such sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken.

Paleontological Resources: The new proposed wells are located on a well pad located in an area generally mapped as the Uinta Formation (Tweto 1979), which the BLM WRFO has classified as a Potential Fossil Yield Classification 4/5 formation, meaning it is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources. If it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying sedimentary rock formation for the cuttings pit there is a potential to impact scientifically noteworthy fossil resources. There could be a potential to lose important paleontological data within the regional paleontological database.

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: Wildlife issues have remained static since initial pad development was authorized in May 2011. Wildlife impact evaluations remain accurate and relevant to the activity associated with the Proposed Action and no further analysis or mitigation is considered necessary.

Threatened and Endangered Plant Species: The project area occurs in close proximity to the Yellow Creek Tongue of the Green River Formation which is potential habitat for the two federally threatened species, the *Physaria congesta* (Dudley Bluffs bladderpod) and the *Physaria obcordata* (Dudley Bluffs twinpod). However, there are no concerns associated with the special status plant species since no new surface disturbance will occur. Dust abatement should be limited to water use only to limit impacts to surrounding potential habitat.

REFERENCES CITED:

- Armstrong, Harley J., and David G. Wolny
1989 Paleontological Resources of Northwest Colorado. A Regional Analysis. Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, Colorado.
- Conner, Carl E., Barbara Davenport and James C. Miller
2010 Class III Cultural Resources Inventory for the Barcus Creek Unit in Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Grand River Institute, Grand Junction, Colorado. (11-11-02: SHPO #RB.LM.R1230)
- Tweto, Ogden
1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

MITIGATION:

- 1) If the well has not been spudded by 7/18/2016 (five years from previous well spud or completion), the Application for Permit to Drill will expire and the operator is to cease all operations related to preparing to drill the well (390-CX requirement).
- 2) All access roads will be treated with water only as a dust suppressant during construction and drilling activities so that there is not a visible dust trail behind vehicles. There should be no traces of oil or solvents in the water and it should be properly permitted for this use by the State of Colorado. Only water needed for abating dust should be applied; dust abatement should not be used as a water disposal option under any circumstances.

The following applicable mitigation measures from the CO-110-2010-0268-EA are carried forward:

Air Quality

- 3) All vehicles will abide by company and public speed restrictions during all activities.
- 4) All construction and drilling activity shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless there are safety concerns or if activities are otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer (AO).
- 5) In order to protect public land health standards for soils, erosion features such as rilling, gullyng, piping, and mass wasting on the surface disturbance or adjacent to the surface disturbance as a result of this action will be addressed immediately after observation by contacting the AO and submitting a plan to assure successful soil stabilization with Best Management Practices to address erosion problems.

Hazardous and Solid Wastes

- 6) All lessees and/or operators and right-of-way holders shall comply with all federal, state and/or local laws, rules, and regulations, including but not limited to onshore orders and notices to lessees, addressing the emission of and/or the handling, use, and release of any substance that poses a risk of harm to human health or the environment.
- 7) Where required by law or regulation to develop a plan for the prevention of releases or the recovery of a release of any substance that poses a risk of harm to human health or the environment, provide a current copy of said plan to the BLM WRFO.
- 8) Through all phases of oil and gas exploration, development, and production, all lessees and/or operators and holders of rights-of-way shall employ, maintain, and periodically update to the best available technology(s) aimed at reducing: 1) emissions, 2) fresh water use, and 3) utilization, production, and release of hazardous material.
- 9) All substances that pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment shall be stored in appropriate containers. Fluids that pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, including but not limited to produced water, shall be stored in appropriate containers and in secondary containment systems at 110 percent of the largest vessel's capacity. Secondary fluid containment systems, including but not limited to tank batteries shall be lined with a minimum 24 mil impermeable liner.

- 10) Construction sites and all facilities shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. "Waste" means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment.
- 11) As a reasonable and prudent lessee/operator in the oil and gas industry, acting in good faith, all lessees/operators and right-of-way holders will report all emissions or releases that may pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, regardless of a substance's status as exempt or nonexempt and regardless of fault, to the BLM WRFO (970) 878-3800.
- 12) As a reasonable and prudent lessees/operator and/or right-of-way holder in the oil and gas industry, acting in good faith, all lessees/operators and right-of-way holders will provide for the immediate clean-up and testing of air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils contaminated by the emission or release of any substance that may pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, regardless of that substance's status as exempt or non-exempt. Where the lessee/operator or right-of-way holder fails, refuses or neglects to provide for the immediate clean-up and testing of air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils contaminated by the emission or release of any quantity of a substance that poses a risk of harm to human health or the environment, the BLM WRFO may take measures to clean-up and test air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils at the lessee/operator's expense. Such action will not relieve the lessee/operator of any liability or responsibility.
- 13) With the acceptance of this authorization, the commencement of operations under this authorization, or within thirty calendar days from the issuance of this authorization, whichever occurs first, and during the life of the pipeline, the right-of-way holder and the lessee/operator, and through the right-of-way holder and lessee/operator, its agents, employees, subcontractors, successors and assigns, stipulate and agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the United States Government, its agencies, and employees from all liability associated with the emission or release of substances that pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment.

Surface and Groundwaters

- 14) Keep road inlet and outlet ditches, catchbasins, and culverts free of obstructions, particularly before and during spring run-off. Routine machine-cleaning of ditches should be kept to a minimum during wet weather. Leave the disturbed area in a condition that provides drainage with no additional maintenance.
- 15) To protect freshwater aquifers during drilling the surface casing, only freshwater and benign additives such as bentonite and/or a benign lost circulation material that does not pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment (i.e. shredded cane stalks, mineral fiber and hair, mica flakes, ground and sized limestone or marble, wood, nut hulls, corncobs or cotton hulls) shall be used in drilling fluids.

Vegetation

- 16) The area should be surveyed for the presence of noxious/invasive species before and after construction. If undesirable species are found, they should be promptly eradicated using approved materials and methods. If invasive, non-native species establish within the project area, and spread onto adjoining BLM lands, the applicant will be responsible for control of those populations.

- 17) Use seed that is certified and free of noxious weeds. All seed tags will be submitted to the designated Natural Resource Specialist within 14 calendar days from the time the seeding activities have ended via Sundry Notice (SN). The SN will include the purpose of the seeding activity (i.e., seeding well pad cut and fill slopes, seeding pipeline corridor, etc.). In addition, the SN will include the well or well pad number associated with the seeding activity, if applicable, the name of the contractor that performed the work, his or her phone number, the method used to apply the seed (e.g., broadcast, hydro-seeded, drilled), whether the seeding activity represents interim or final reclamation, an estimate of the total acres seeded, an attached map that clearly identifies all disturbed areas that were seeded, and the date the seed was applied.
- 18) Promptly revegetate all disturbed areas not necessary for production with a BLM approved seed mix (See Table 2. below) Woody debris should not be scattered along pipelines until after seeding operations are completed. Seed mixture rates are Pure Live Seed (PLS) pounds per acre. Drill seeding is the preferred method of application. If drill seeding cannot be accomplished, seed should be broadcast at double the rate used for drill seeding.

Table 2. Required Seed Mix

Seed Mix	Cultivar	Species	Scientific Name	Application Rate (lbs PLS/acre)	
3	Rosanna	Western Wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	4	
	Whitmar	Bluebunch Wheatgrass	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata ssp. inermis</i>	3.5	
	Rimrock	Indian Ricegrass	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	3	
		Needle and Thread Grass	<i>Hesperostipa comata ssp. comata</i>	2.5	
	Timp	Northern Sweetvetch	<i>Hedysarum boreale</i>	3.5	
		Scarlet Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	0.5	
	Alternates:*				
	Critana	Thickspike Wheatgrass	<i>Elymus lanceolatus ssp. lanceolatus</i>	3	
	Scarlet Gilia	<i>Ipomopsis aggregata</i>	0.5		

Cultural Resources

- 19) Williams is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
- 20) If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. Williams will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. Williams, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.

- 21) Williams is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
- 22) If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. Williams will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. Williams, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
- 23) Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, 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.
- 24) During all phases of access road construction, well tie pipeline construction, well pad construction and drilling operations personnel are to be restricted to the access road route and well pad construction area during all working hours.
- 25) Applicant shall establish a two acre enclosure, centered on the geographic center of the identified cultural site, of standard BLM range fence design labeled as "Please Keep Out, ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY AREA" and will monitor the fence and site for damage at least once per year during the life of the wells. Damage to the fence will be repaired promptly. Damage to the site will be immediately reported to the AO by telephone with written follow up within 48 hours.

Paleontology

- 26) The permittee is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.
- 27) If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the proponent or any of his agents must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days.

Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.

- 28) If it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying rock formation to construct the well pad access road(s), bury the well tie pipelines, level the well pads or excavate the reserve/blooi/cuttings pits an approved paleontologist shall be present to monitor work before such excavations begin and throughout the excavation process.

Visual Resources

- 29) Above ground facilities will be painted Shadow Gray, consistent with the BLM Standard Environmental Color Chart.
- 30) All disturbed areas will be contoured to blend with the natural topography. Blending is defined as reducing form, line, shape and color contrast with the disturbing activity.

Wildlife

- 31) As a means of reducing inadvertent nest disruption by as much as 70 percent (e.g., less than 10 attempts versus up to 30), it is recommended that earthwork for the pad be conducted at a date after 15 July (outside the core nesting season).

Fire

- 32) When working on lands administered by WRFO BLM, notify Craig Interagency Dispatch (970-826-5037) in the event of any fire. The reporting party will inform the dispatch center of fire location, size, status, smoke color, aspect, fuel type and contact information. The reporting party, or a representative of, should remain nearby in order to make contact with incoming fire resources to expedite actions taken towards an appropriate management response. The applicant and contractors will not engage in any fire suppression activities outside the approved project area. Accidental ignitions caused by welding, cutting, grinding, etc. will be suppressed by the applicant only if employee safety is not endangered and if the fire can be safely contained using hand tools and portable hand pumps. If chemical fire extinguishers are used the applicant must notify incoming fire resources on extinguisher type and the location of use. Natural ignitions caused by lightning will be managed by federal fire personnel.

If a natural ignition occurs within the approved project area, the fire may be initially contained by the applicant only if employee safety is not endangered. The use of heavy equipment for fire suppression is prohibited, unless authorized by the Field Office Manager.

Realty

- 33) All activities shall comply with applicable local, state, and federal laws, statutes, regulations, standards, and implementation plans.

Rangeland Management

- 34) Any range improvement projects such as fences, water developments, or other livestock handling/distribution facilities that are damaged or destroyed as a result of implementation of the Proposed Action shall be promptly repaired or replaced by the applicant to restore pre-disturbance functionality.

MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring of drilling, production, and post-production activities will be conducted by White River Field Office staff during construction of well pads, access roads, and pipelines. Specific mitigation developed in the associated Categorical Exclusion and the lease terms and conditions will be followed. The Operator will be notified of compliance related issues in writing, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), will be provided 30 days to resolve such issues.

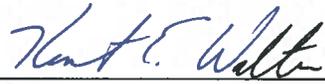
NAME OF PREPARER: Christina J. Barlow

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Heather Sauls

COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



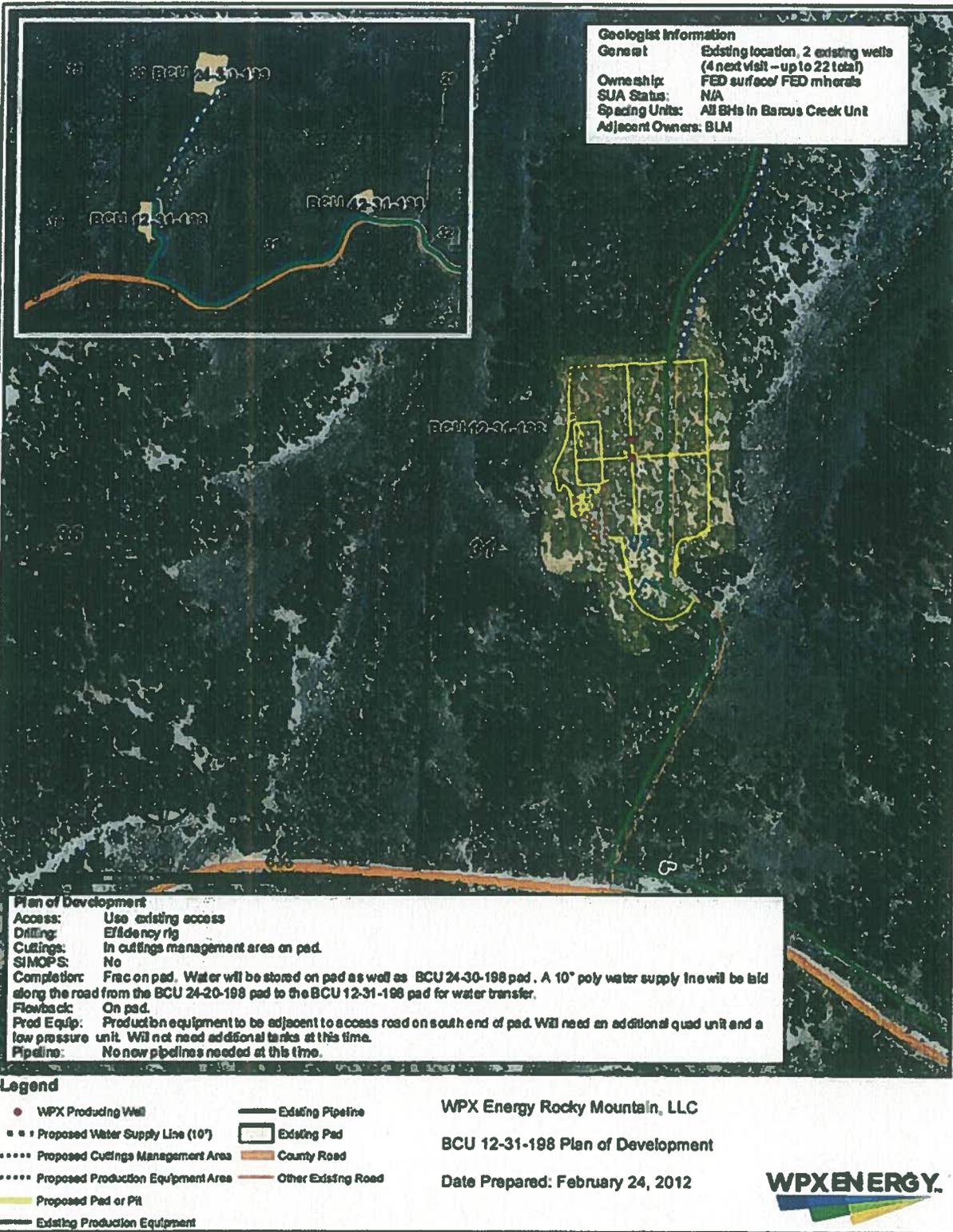
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

06/08/2012

ATTACHMENTS: Figure 1. Plan of Development Map

Attachment 1. Plan of Development Map



**U.S. Department of the Interior
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220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641**

DECISION

PROJECT NAME: Williams Three New Wells on Existing Barcus Creek Unit (BCU) 12-31-198 Well Pad

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-2011-0076-CX

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-2011-0076-CX, authorizing the drilling, operation, and maintenance of the BCU 412-31-198, 411-31-198, and 12-31-198 wells from the existing BCU 12-31-198 well pad.

Mitigation Measures:

- 1) If the well has not been spudded by 7/18/2016 (five years from previous well spud or completion), the Application for Permit to Drill will expire and the operator is to cease all operations related to preparing to drill the well (390-CX requirement).
- 2) All access roads will be treated with water only as a dust suppressant during construction and drilling activities so that there is not a visible dust trail behind vehicles. There should be no traces of oil or solvents in the water and it should be properly permitted for this use by the State of Colorado. Only water needed for abating dust should be applied; dust abatement should not be used as a water disposal option under any circumstances.

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- 13) With the acceptance of this authorization, the commencement of operations under this authorization, or within thirty calendar days from the issuance of this authorization, whichever occurs first, and during the life of the pipeline, the right-of-way holder and the lessee/operator, and through the right-of-way holder and lessee/operator, its agents, employees, subcontractors, successors and assigns, stipulate and agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the United States Government, its agencies, and employees from all liability associated with the emission or release of substances that pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment.

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Table 1. Required Seed Mix

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- 21) Williams is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
- 22) If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. Williams will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. Williams, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.

- 23) Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, 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.
- 24) During all phases of access road construction, well tie pipeline construction, well pad construction and drilling operations personnel are to be restricted to the access road route and well pad construction area during all working hours.
- 25) Applicant shall establish a two acre enclosure, centered on the geographic center of the identified cultural site, of standard BLM range fence design labeled as "Please Keep Out, ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY AREA" and will monitor the fence and site for damage at least once per year during the life of the wells. Damage to the fence will be repaired promptly. Damage to the site will be immediately reported to the AO by telephone with written follow up within 48 hours.

Paleontology

- 26) The permittee is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.
- 27) If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the proponent or any of his agents must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.
- 28) If it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying rock formation to construct the well pad access road(s), bury the well tie pipelines, level the well pads or excavate the reserve/blooi/cuttings pits an approved paleontologist shall be present to monitor work before such excavations begin and throughout the excavation process.

Visual Resources

- 29) Above ground facilities will be painted Shadow Gray, consistent with the BLM Standard Environmental Color Chart.
- 30) All disturbed areas will be contoured to blend with the natural topography. Blending is defined as reducing form, line, shape and color contrast with the disturbing activity.

Wildlife

- 31) As a means of reducing inadvertent nest disruption by as much as 70 percent (e.g., less than 10 attempts versus up to 30), it is recommended that earthwork for the pad be conducted at a date after 15 July (outside the core nesting season).

Fire

- 32) When working on lands administered by WRFO BLM, notify Craig Interagency Dispatch (970-826-5037) in the event of any fire. The reporting party will inform the dispatch center of fire location, size, status, smoke color, aspect, fuel type and contact information. The reporting party, or a representative of, should remain nearby in order to make contact with incoming fire resources to expedite actions taken towards an appropriate management response. The applicant and contractors will not engage in any fire suppression activities outside the approved project area. Accidental ignitions caused by welding, cutting, grinding, etc. will be suppressed by the applicant only if employee safety is not endangered and if the fire can be safely contained using hand tools and portable hand pumps. If chemical fire extinguishers are used the applicant must notify incoming fire resources on extinguisher type and the location of use. Natural ignitions caused by lightning will be managed by federal fire personnel.

If a natural ignition occurs within the approved project area, the fire may be initially contained by the applicant only if employee safety is not endangered. The use of heavy equipment for fire suppression is prohibited, unless authorized by the Field Office Manager.

Realty

- 33) All activities shall comply with applicable local, state, and federal laws, statutes, regulations, standards, and implementation plans.

Rangeland Management

- 34) Any range improvement projects such as fences, water developments, or other livestock handling/distribution facilities that are damaged or destroyed as a result of implementation of the Proposed Action shall be promptly repaired or replaced by the applicant to restore pre-disturbance functionality.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS & CONFORMANCE WITH THE LAND USE PLAN

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the 1997 White River Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Internal scoping was initiated when the project was presented to the White River Field Office (WRFO) interdisciplinary team on 3/26/2012. External scoping was conducted by posting this project on the WRFO's on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register on 3/30/2012.

RATIONALE

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with Section 390 of the Energy Policy. Also, drilling from an existing pad enables the extraction of additional gas resource without additional surface disturbance.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

State Director Review

Under regulations addressed in 43 CFR 3165.3(b), any adversely affected party that contests a decision of the Authorized Officer may request an administrative review, before the State Director, either with or without oral presentation. Such request, including all supporting documentation, shall be filed in writing with the BLM Colorado State Office at 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215 within 20 business days of the date such decision was received or considered to have been received. Upon request and showing of good cause, an extension may be granted by the State Director. Such review shall include all factors or circumstances relevant to the particular case.

Appeal

Any party who is adversely affected by the decision of the State Director after State Director review, under 43 CFR 3165.3(b), of a decision may appeal that decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals pursuant to the regulations set out in 43 CFR Part 4.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

06/08/2012