

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 for Oil and Gas Development

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0024-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC60733

PROJECT NAME: WPX's request to drill an additional 10 wells on the existing RGU 33-24-198 well pad (10 APDs)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Well ID	NEPA Document ID	Legal Description
RGU 323-24-198	DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0024-CX ^A	T. 1 S., R. 98 W., Sec. 24, 6 th P.M.
RGU 333-24-198	DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0037-CX	
RGU 43-24-198	DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0038-CX	
RGU 442-24-198	DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0039-CX	
RGU 44-24-298	DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0040-CX	
RGU 443-24-198	DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0041-CX	
RGU 522-24-198	DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0042-CX	
RGU 523-24-198	DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0043-CX	
RGU 533-24-198	DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0044-CX	
RGU 534-24-198	DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0045-CX	

^A This is the parent document. An individual CX number was created for each well.

APPLICANT: WPX Energy Rocky Mountain, LLC.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: WPX Energy is proposing to drill 10 additional wells on the existing RGU 33-24-198 well pad (Figure 1). The existing well pad footprint occupies approximately 6.3 acres, and the operator has confirmed that the existing site will accommodate the additional 10 wells without having to expand the location. In addition, the operator has confirmed that this action will not require the construction of road or pipeline corridors; the existing road and pipelines will be used to service the 10 proposed wells. There are 8 producing natural gas wells on the location.

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 categorical exclusions (CX) 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, #1: “*Individual surface disturbances of less than five acres so long as the total surface disturbance on the lease is not greater than 150 acres and site-specific analysis in a document prepared pursuant to the NEPA has been previously completed.*”

Documentation

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

1) Is surface disturbance associated with the Proposed Action less than five acres?

No additional disturbance will result from implementing the Proposed Action. The operator has confirmed that the existing site will accommodate the additional 10 wells without having to expand the location. In addition, the operator has confirmed that this action will not require the construction of road or pipeline corridors; the existing road and pipelines will be used to service the 10 proposed wells.

2) Is there less than 150 acres of surface disturbance, including the Proposed Action, on the entire leasehold?

Estimates of surface disturbance within the lease (COC60733 at the surface location) that are most likely attributed to oil and gas activities equal approximately 106 acres. This area represents 9 percent of the total area of the lease, which is approximately 1,240 acres in size and 71 percent of the total allowable acres (e.g., 150 acres) to comply with BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1).

3) Is the Proposed Action within the boundaries of an area included in a site-specific NEPA document? (The NEPA document must have analyzed the exploration and/or development of oil and gas (not just leasing) and the action/activity being considered must be within the boundaries of the area analyzed in the environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement

(EIS). The NEPA document need not have addressed the specific permit or application being considered.)

Yes. Potential impacts associated with drilling natural gas wells were reviewed in BLM-CO-110-2006-252-EA (signed on 1/5/2007).

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: Internal scoping was initiated when the project was presented to the White River Field Office (WRFO) interdisciplinary team on 11/19/2013. External scoping was conducted by posting this project on the WRFO's on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register on 12/22/2013.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	12/16/2013
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	12/10/2013
Heather Woodruff	Range Management Specialist/Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	11/22/2013
Mary Taylor	Rangeland Management Specialist	Vegetation, Invasive, non-Native Species	11/25/2013

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The existing well pad has been inventoried at the Class III (100 percent pedestrian) level (Conner and Davenport 2006 compliance dated 9/18/2006, Martin 2013 compliance dated 12/16/2013). These inventories have not identified any cultural resources on the surface. There are no known cultural resources within 305 meters (1,000 feet) of the proposed well pad expansion area. However there is a slight potential for previously unidentified subsurface remains in the proposed project area. Should previously unrecorded subsurface remains be impacted by construction there is a potential for permanent, long term irreversible and irretrievable loss of data to the regional archaeological database.

There would be no new potential impacts to any cultural resources under the No Action Alternative.

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 well pad is located in an area generally mapped as the Uinta Formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM has categorized as a Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 5 formation indicating that it is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources (Armstrong and Wolny 1989). Should it become necessary to excavate into the underlying sedimentary rock formation to construct rat holes, cellars for drill rigs, reserve/cuttings/blooiie pits or bury well tie pipelines there is a potential to impact

scientifically noteworthy fossil resources. Any impacts to fossil resources as a result of development of additional wells would represent a long term permanent, irreversible and irretrievable loss of scientific data from the regional paleontological database.

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: There are no threatened or endangered animal species that are known to inhabit or derive important use from the project area. The project lies in mule deer severe winter range, a specialized component of winter range that supports nearly all of a herd in the most extreme winters (snowfall, temperatures etc.). In November 2009 an agreement was reached by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), Williams, and BLM that supports CPW's research that is designed to better define deer response to applied BMPs and increased, but spatially confined natural gas development. To provide the necessary contrast in experimental design, gas development projects within a pre-defined area of Williams' Ryan Gulch Unit have been excepted from big game winter timing limitations through the year 2015. The exception area encompasses about 11% of the deer severe winter range encompassed by Williams' lease-holdings in Piceance Basin or about 1% of the total severe winter range available within Game Management Unit (GMU) 22. The well is located in this exception area.

Threatened and Endangered Plant Species: There are no special status plant species issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

Vegetation and Invasive and Non-native Species: Impacts to vegetation communities are largely the same as analyzed in BLM-CO-110-2006-252-EA. However, reclamation practices have been modified to better reduce impacts and risks to affected vegetation communities from invasive or non-native plant species. Updated mitigation practices are listed below.

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., and Barbara J. Davenport

2006 Class III Cultural Resource Inventory Report for Seven proposed Ryan Gulch Unit Well Locations and Related Access Routes in Rio Blanco County, Colorado for Williams Production RMT. Grand River Institute, Grand Junction, Colorado. (06-11-39: OAHP # RB.LM.R1029)

Martin, Curtis

2013 Class III Cultural Resources Inventory for the RGUY 33-24-198 Frac Line in Rio Blanco County, Colorado for WPX Energy Rocky Mountain LLC. Grand River Institute, Grand Junction, Colorado.)13-11-33: OAHP # RB.LM.NR2390)

Tweto, Ogden

1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

MITIGATION: The following mitigation is based on that found in BLM-CO-110-2006-252-EA and applies to drilling and maintenance activities associated with the proposed 10 natural gas wells:

1. The operator will be responsible for complying with all local, state, and federal air quality regulations as well as providing documentation to the BLM that they have done so. To minimize production of fugitive particulate matter (fugitive dust) from associated access roads, vehicle speeds must not exceed 15 mph *or* dust plume must not be visible at appropriate designated speeds for road design. In addition, the application of a BLM approved dust suppressant (e.g., water or chemical stabilization methods) will be required during dry periods when dust plumes are visible at speeds less than or equal to 15 mph. Surfacing access roads with gravels will also help mitigate production of fugitive particulate matter. Land clearing, grading, earth moving or excavation activities will be suspended when wind speeds exceed a sustained velocity of 20 miles per hour. Disturbed areas will be restored to original contours, and revegetated with a BLM preferred seed mixture. Following seeding, woody debris cleared from the ROW will be pulled back over the pipeline to increase effective ground cover and help retain soil moisture.
2. The Operator will be responsible for implementing mitigation measures that minimize bird injuries or mortality as a result of contact with produced water in the reserve pit. The most common measure being used is netting of reserve pits, or using plastic balls that float on the surface and reduce the area that might be perceived by waterfowl as a place to rest and/or forage. Plastic flagging has proven to be ineffective at deterring migratory waterfowl from using reserve pits for foraging, resting or as a source of free water. The Operator will notify the BLM via Sundry Notice of the method that will be used to prevent impacts to birds two weeks prior to the date when completion activities are expected to begin. The BLM-approved method will be applied within 24 hours after completion activities have begun. All lethal and non-lethal events that involve migratory birds will be reported to the Petroleum Engineer Technician immediately.
3. Upon final abandonment of the well pads, new access roads, and completion of pipelines, 100% of all disturbed surfaces will be restored to pre-construction contours, and revegetated with a BLM preferred seed mixture. Natural drainage patterns will be restored and stabilized with a combination of vegetative (seeding) and non-vegetative (straw bails, woody debris, straw waddles, biodegradable fabrics) techniques. All available woody debris will be pulled back over recontoured areas (woody debris will not account for more than 20% of total surface cover) to help stabilize soils, trap moisture, and provide cover for vegetation. Monitoring and additional reclamation efforts will persist until reclamation is proven successful (as determined by the BLM).
4. Ground Water: Shallow aquifers shall be protected from hydrofracturing and the production of oil and gas by installation and cementing of surface and intermediate casing. Any groundwater produced from the Fort Union or Mesaverde Formations will be hauled off and disposed of due to poor water quality and therefore preventing adverse impacts to valuable surface and ground water resources. Environmentally unfriendly substances (e.g., diesel) must not be allowed to contact soils. The use of spill-guards (or equivalent spill prevention

equipment) under and around pumping equipment will be required for all locations to intercept contaminants prior to contacting soils and infiltrating into groundwater. Furthermore, all pits shall be lined to protect shallow ground water from pit contents. All wastes associated with construction and drilling will be properly treated and disposed of.

5. Mud blading will be prohibited and all activity shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless otherwise approved by the BLM. All disturbed surfaces will be restored to natural contours and revegetated with a BLM approved seed mixture. All pits shall be lined to prevent contents from reserve pits from seeping into surrounding soils, contaminating local ground water, reducing soil productivity and compromising reclamation success.
6. If construction/development occurs between April 15 and November 15, the operator will be required to water or surface access roads to reduce airborne dust and damage to roadside vegetation communities.
7. Because of potential cumulative local and regional impacts to big game dispersal and seasonal movement patterns as a result of increased oil and gas activity in areas identified as critical big game habitat, as directed by the White River ROD/RMP (1997) the stipulation developed specifically for big game critical winter habitat will apply. As such, no development activity is allowed from December 1 through April 30 for the RGU 33-24-198 location. Development is allowed from May 1 through November 30. This stipulation applies to all surface disturbing activities.
8. To prove ownership of any aquifer contamination or drilling influence a fluorescent dye other than Rhodamin WT, will be added to all drilling fluids used through the Green River formation.
9. Reserve pit fencing will comply with BLM specifications as described in the BLM Gold Book (Fourth Edition, 2005).

The following mitigation also applies to the Proposed Action:

10. The operator 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.
11. 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. The operator 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. The operator, 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.

12. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the operator must notify the AO, by telephone and 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), the operator must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
13. The operator 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.
14. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the operator 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.
15. Any excavations into the underlying native sedimentary stone must be monitored by a permitted paleontologist. The monitoring paleontologist must be present before the start of excavations that may impact bedrock.
16. The holder will implement an integrated weed management plan according to BLM Manual 9015-Integrated Weed Management (BLM 1992) and maintain this treatment through approval of final reclamation of the project. Prior to the season of construction, the holder should submit Pesticide Use Proposals for the use of herbicides appropriate for control/eradication of the known noxious and invasive nonnative species.
17. To reduce erosion and minimize noxious weed establishment, all areas of the disturbance where it is not necessary to keep the area free of vegetation shall be seeded with the recommended seed mix below.
18. All seed used must be certified and free of noxious weeds. All seed tags will be submitted to the designated NRS within 14 calendar days from the time the seeding activities have ended. Documentation shall be provided with the seed tags to address the purpose of the seeding activity (i.e., seeding of re-contoured areas) and, if applicable, the name and contact

information of the contractor who performed the work, the seeding method (e.g., broadcast, hydro-seeded, drilled), an as-built shape-file of the area seeded, an attached map that clearly identifies all disturbed areas that were seeded, and the date the seed was applied.

19. The BLM recommends Standard Seed Mix 3 for current reclamation activities. Seeding rates are shown for drill seeding rates (Table 5) and should be doubled for broadcast application. Seed should be applied anytime between mid-September and mid-March. If an alternate date of seeding is requested, contact the designated NRS prior to seeding for approval. Seed mixture rates are Pure Live Seed (PLS) pounds per acre. Topsoil stockpiles must be seeded immediately as part of Phase I interim reclamation.

Table 5. Native Seed Mix 3

Variety	Common Name	Scientific Name	Rate (Lbs. PLS/acre)
Rosana	Western Wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	4
Whitmar	Bluebunch Wheatgrass	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i> ssp. <i>inermis</i>	3.5
Rimrock	Indian Ricegrass	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	3
	Needle and Thread Grass	<i>Hesperostipa comata</i> ssp. <i>comata</i>	2.5
Maple Grove	Lewis Flax	<i>Linum lewisii</i>	1
	Scarlet Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	0.5

20. If, after three growing seasons, the following success criteria are not achieved then the steps will be reassessed in consultation with the BLM WRFO and additional seeding at an appropriate seeding window will occur. Success criteria to achieve:
 - a) Vegetation monitoring (method approved by the BLM) reveals vegetation with eighty percent similarity of desired foliar cover, bare ground, and shrub and or forb density in relation to the identified DPC. In the absence of specified DPC data, an agreed upon reference site or AIM data would serve as the DPC. Vegetative cover values for woodland or shrubland sites are based on the capability of those sites in an herbaceous state.
 - b) The resulting plant community must have composition of at least five desirable plant species, and no one species may exceed 70 percent relative cover to ensure that site species diversity is achieved. Desirable species include native species from the surrounding site, species listed in the range/ecological site description, or species from the BLM approved seed mix.
21. A Reclamation Status Report will be submitted electronically to the WRFO annually (due January 1st) until it is determined that reclamation of the site has met all required objectives of that particular reclamation phase. Every third year, a vegetation monitoring report should accompany the status report. The reclamation status report will be submitted electronically via the most current data management system. Contact your WRFO project lead (NRS) with

any questions. Any changes to the project status or related information can also be provided through the most current data management system.

22. The Reclamation Status Report will include the ROW number, legal description, UTM coordinates, project description, date seeded, photos of the reclaimed site taken from permanent photo points, estimate of acres seeded, seeding method (e.g., broadcast, drilled, hydro-seeded, etc.), a diagram showing where reclamation has occurred with photo points identified and noted, additional notes as needed, and contact information for the person responsible for developing the report.
23. Final reclamation for abandonment of the site will use the seed mix and reclamation practices recommended by BLM at that time.

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: Brett Smithers

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.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 01/21/2014

ATTACHMENTS:

Figure 1. Project area map.

Figure 2. Aerial photo that shows the geographic location for the existing RGU 33-24-198 well pad, and existing pipeline and road corridors.



Figure 2. The image above illustrates the geographic location of the existing well pad where the proposed 10 wells will be drilled. The image also illustrates the existing proposed travel route and pipeline corridor that will be used.

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

DECISION

PROJECT NAME: WPX's request to drill an additional 10 wells on the existing RGU 33-24-198 well pad (10 APDs)

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0024-CX

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RGU 534-24-198	DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0045-CX	

^A This is the parent document. An individual CX number was created for each well.

DECISION: It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0024-CX, authorizing drilling and maintenance activities for the proposed 10 natural gas wells on the existing RGU 33-24-198 location.

MITIGATION: The following mitigation is based on that found in BLM-CO-110-2006-252-EA and applies to drilling and maintenance activities associated with the proposed 10 natural gas wells:

1. The operator will be responsible for complying with all local, state, and federal air quality regulations as well as providing documentation to the BLM that they have done so. To minimize production of fugitive particulate matter (fugitive dust) from associated access roads, vehicle speeds must not exceed 15 mph *or* dust plume must not be visible at appropriate designated speeds for road design. In addition, the application of a BLM approved dust suppressant (e.g., water or chemical stabilization methods) will be required during dry periods when dust plumes are visible at speeds less than or equal to 15 mph. Surfacing access roads with gravels will also help mitigate production of fugitive particulate matter. Land clearing, grading, earth moving or excavation activities will be suspended when

wind speeds exceed a sustained velocity of 20 miles per hour. Disturbed areas will be restored to original contours, and revegetated with a BLM preferred seed mixture. Following seeding, woody debris cleared from the ROW will be pulled back over the pipeline to increase effective ground cover and help retain soil moisture.

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3. Upon final abandonment of the well pads, new access roads, and completion of pipelines, 100% of all disturbed surfaces will be restored to pre-construction contours, and revegetated with a BLM preferred seed mixture. Natural drainage patterns will be restored and stabilized with a combination of vegetative (seeding) and non-vegetative (straw bails, woody debris, straw waddles, biodegradable fabrics) techniques. All available woody debris will be pulled back over recontoured areas (woody debris will not account for more than 20% of total surface cover) to help stabilize soils, trap moisture, and provide cover for vegetation. Monitoring and additional reclamation efforts will persist until reclamation is proven successful (as determined by the BLM).
4. Ground Water: Shallow aquifers shall be protected from hydrofracturing and the production of oil and gas by installation and cementing of surface and intermediate casing. Any groundwater produced from the Fort Union or Mesaverde Formations will be hauled off and disposed of due to poor water quality and therefore preventing adverse impacts to valuable surface and ground water resources. Environmentally unfriendly substances (e.g., diesel) must not be allowed to contact soils. The use of spill-guards (or equivalent spill prevention equipment) under and around pumping equipment will be required for all locations to intercept contaminants prior to contacting soils and infiltrating into groundwater. Furthermore, all pits shall be lined to protect shallow ground water from pit contents. All wastes associated with construction and drilling will be properly treated and disposed of.
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The following mitigation also applies to the Proposed Action:

10. The operator 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.
11. 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. The operator 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. The operator, 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.
12. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the operator must notify the AO, by telephone and 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), the operator must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
13. The operator 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.

14. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the operator 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.
15. Any excavations into the underlying native sedimentary stone must be monitored by a permitted paleontologist. The monitoring paleontologist must be present before the start of excavations that may impact bedrock.
16. The holder will implement an integrated weed management plan according to BLM Manual 9015-Integrated Weed Management (BLM 1992) and maintain this treatment through approval of final reclamation of the project. Prior to the season of construction, the holder should submit Pesticide Use Proposals for the use of herbicides appropriate for control/eradication of the known noxious and invasive nonnative species.
17. To reduce erosion and minimize noxious weed establishment, all areas of the disturbance where it is not necessary to keep the area free of vegetation shall be seeded with the recommended seed mix below.
18. All seed used must be certified and free of noxious weeds. All seed tags will be submitted to the designated NRS within 14 calendar days from the time the seeding activities have ended. Documentation shall be provided with the seed tags to address the purpose of the seeding activity (i.e., seeding of re-contoured areas) and, if applicable, the name and contact information of the contractor who performed the work, the seeding method (e.g., broadcast, hydro-seeded, drilled), an as-built shape-file of the area seeded, an attached map that clearly identifies all disturbed areas that were seeded, and the date the seed was applied.
19. The BLM recommends Standard Seed Mix 3 for current reclamation activities. Seeding rates are shown for drill seeding rates (Table 5) and should be doubled for broadcast application. Seed should be applied anytime between mid-September and mid-March. If an alternate date of seeding is requested, contact the designated NRS prior to seeding for approval. Seed mixture rates are Pure Live Seed (PLS) pounds per acre. Topsoil stockpiles must be seeded immediately as part of Phase I interim reclamation.

Table 5. Native Seed Mix 3

Variety	Common Name	Scientific Name	Rate (Lbs. PLS/acre)
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Whitmar	Bluebunch Wheatgrass	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i> ssp. <i>inermis</i>	3.5
Rimrock	Indian Ricegrass	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	3
	Needle and Thread Grass	<i>Hesperostipa comata</i> ssp. <i>comata</i>	2.5
Maple Grove	Lewis Flax	<i>Linum lewisii</i>	1
	Scarlet Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	0.5

20. If, after three growing seasons, the following success criteria are not achieved then the steps will be reassessed in consultation with the BLM WRFO and additional seeding at an appropriate seeding window will occur. Success criteria to achieve:
- a) Vegetation monitoring (method approved by the BLM) reveals vegetation with eighty percent similarity of desired foliar cover, bare ground, and shrub and or forb density in relation to the identified DPC. In the absence of specified DPC data, an agreed upon reference site or AIM data would serve as the DPC. Vegetative cover values for woodland or shrubland sites are based on the capability of those sites in an herbaceous state.
 - b) The resulting plant community must have composition of at least five desirable plant species, and no one species may exceed 70 percent relative cover to ensure that site species diversity is achieved. Desirable species include native species from the surrounding site, species listed in the range/ecological site description, or species from the BLM approved seed mix.
21. A Reclamation Status Report will be submitted electronically to the WRFO annually (due January 1st) until it is determined that reclamation of the site has met all required objectives of that particular reclamation phase. Every third year, a vegetation monitoring report should accompany the status report. The reclamation status report will be submitted electronically via the most current data management system. Contact your WRFO project lead (NRS) with any questions. Any changes to the project status or related information can also be provided through the most current data management system.
22. The Reclamation Status Report will include the ROW number, legal description, UTM coordinates, project description, date seeded, photos of the reclaimed site taken from permanent photo points, estimate of acres seeded, seeding method (e.g., broadcast, drilled, hydro-seeded, etc.), a diagram showing where reclamation has occurred with photo points identified and noted, additional notes as needed, and contact information for the person responsible for developing the report.

23. Final reclamation for abandonment of the site will use the seed mix and reclamation practices recommended by BLM at that time.

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 11/19/2013. External scoping was conducted by posting this project on the WRFO's on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register on 12/22/2013.

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 Act. Drilling additional wells from the existing well pad location allows for further development of the oil and gas resource with reduced surface disturbance compared to new locations.

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 CRF Part 4.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 01/21/2014

