

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-N05-2014-0051-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC21764
COC76424 (Well pad ROW)
COC76425 (Access road ROW)

PROJECT NAME: WPX's request to drill an additional well (RG 41-12-398) on the existing RG 11-7-397 well pad

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 3 S., R. 97 W., SEC. 7, 6th Principle Meridian (surface location)

APPLICANT: WPX Energy Rocky Mountain, LLC.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: WPX Energy is proposing to drill an additional well on the existing RGU 11-7-397 well pad (Figure 1). The existing well pad would be enlarged approximately 2.8 acres. Post construction, total disturbance for the well pad footprint would equal approximately 7.8 acres. The working surface of the location would occupy approximately 3.9 acres. 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 proposed well. There is one producing natural gas well 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?

The existing well pad would be enlarged approximately 2.8 acres. Post construction, total disturbance for the well pad footprint would equal approximately 7.8 acres. The working surface of the location would occupy approximately 3.9 acres. 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 proposed well.

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 (COC21764 at the bottom hole location) that are most likely attributed to oil and gas activities equal approximately 0.8 acres. This area represents less than one percent of the total area of the lease, which is approximately 2,243 acres in size and less than one 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-110-2007-175-EA (signed on 9/5/2007).

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: Internal scoping was initiated when the project was presented to the White River Field Office (WRFO) interdisciplinary team on 1/28/2014. External scoping was conducted by posting this project on the WRFO’s on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register on 1/29/2014.

| Name | Title | Resource | Date |
|------------------|---|--|----------|
| Michael Selle | Archaeologist | Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources, Native American Religious Concerns | 3/6/2014 |
| Lisa Belmonte | Wildlife Biologist | Special Status Wildlife Species | 2/3/2014 |
| Heather Woodruff | Range Management Specialist/ Acting Ecologist | Special Status Plant Species | 2/3/2014 |

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The well pad location and immediately surrounding is covered by at least four Class III (100 percent pedestrian) inventories Conner and Davenport 2005 compliance dated 7/21/2005, 2012 compliance dated 4/27/2012; Conner et al 2001 compliance dated 9/12/2011; Selle 2005 compliance dated 5/27/2005) that have not identified any surface archaeological manifestations within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of the proposed work. There should be no impact to any known cultural resources as a result of this project.

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 proposed new well on the existing well pad is located in an area generally mapped as the Uinta Formation (Tweto 1979) which has been classified by the BLM as a Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 5 formation indicating that it is known for producing scientifically important fossil resources. If it should become necessary to excavate additional pits for drilling or completion of the new well there is the potential to impact important fossil resources. Any impacts to fossil resources that result from the new excavations would constitute a permanent, long term, irreversible and irretrievable loss of scientific data from the regional paleontological database.

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: There are no threatened or endangered wildlife species that are known to inhabit or derive important use from the project area. The location is located in big game severe winter range, a specialized component of winter range that supports virtually and entire herd during the most extreme winters. Activities that may disrupt big game behavior or habitat utility during sensitive time frames are subject to timing limitations (December 1 through April 30) on severe winter ranges, as directed by the White River ROD/RMP.

There is a known raptor nest (last active in 2008) within 0.25 miles of the location. Activities associated with well pad development (construction, drilling, vehicle traffic, etc.) have the

potential to disrupt nesting activities and indirectly influence nesting outcomes if they take place during the breeding season (typically May through mid-August).

Special Status Plant Species: There is potential for BLM sensitive plant species to occur in the vicinity of the Proposed Action area. However, all new and existing disturbances occur inside the 100 meter buffer area that is required for BLM sensitive plant surveys. The closest threatened plant species occupied population is located approximately 5 miles to the northeast of the Proposed Action area. There are no special status plant species issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action at this time. In the future if more disturbances occur then plant surveys may be required prior to disturbance activities.

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

2005 Class III Cultural Resource Inventory Report for Six Proposed Well Locations and Related Access Routes South of Black Sulphur Creek in Rio Blanco County, Colorado for Williams Production RMT. Grand River Institute, Grand Junction, Colorado. (05-11-14: OAH # RB.LM.R869)

2012 Class III Cultural Resource Inventory Report for the Extra Work Areas, 9EWA) Associated with the Little Dry gulch/Yankee Gulch Pipelines in Rio Blanco County, Colorado for Williams Midstream Services, LLC. Grand River Institute, Grand Junction, Colorado. (12-11-08: SHPO #RB.LM.R1283)

Conner, Carl E., Barbara J. Davenport, Dakota Kramer, and Hannah Mills

2011 Class III Cultural Resource Inventory Report for the Little Dry Gulch/Yankee Gulch Pipelines and the Yankee Gulch Compressor Station in Rio Blanco County, Colorado for Williams Midstream Services, LLC. Grand River Institute, grand Junction, Colorado. (11-11-26: SHPO #RB.LM.R1261)

Selle, Michael

2005 Cultural Resource Inventory of the Proposed Dry Ridge Fire Safety Zone in the Dry Ridge Area of the Piceance Basin, Colorado. (05-10-03: BLM #

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-110-2007-175-EA and applies to drilling and maintenance activities associated with the proposed natural gas wells:

1. All activities will be required to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal air quality laws, statutes, regulations, standards, and implementation plans. Documentation of this compliance will be provided to the BLM. Further mitigation of air quality impacts will also be required, including:
 - the limitation of vehicle speeds on associated access roads to 15 miles per hour (mph) or speeds such that a dust plume is not visible at the appropriate designated speed for that road;
 - application of a BLM-approved dust suppressant will be required during dry periods when dust plumes are visible at speeds less than or equal to 15 mph;
 - surfacing of access roads constructed on soils susceptible to wind erosion with gravel or other appropriate material;
 - suspension of land clearing, grading, earth moving, and excavation activities when wind speed exceeds 20 mph;
 - restoration of disturbed areas including regrading to original contours, revegetation with a BLM-approved seed mixture, and post-seeding placement of woody debris in appropriate areas to increase effective ground cover and retain soil moisture;
 - maintenance of construction equipment in good operating condition to ensure engines run efficiently; and
 - maintenance of emission controls on vehicles and construction equipment to ensure effective pollutant emission reductions.
2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (g) the holder of the authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, followed by written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 I and (d), activities in the vicinity of the discovery must stop and the discovery must be protected for 30 days or until the AO provides notice to proceed.
3. Reserve pits should be appropriately fenced, as shown in the Gold Book (BLM 2006a) to prevent access by persons, wildlife, or livestock. Netting or other methods may be required in order to prevent access and mortality of birds and other animals.
4. All lethal and non-lethal events involving migratory birds will be reported to the WRFO Petroleum Engineer Technician immediately.
5. Nest status of the know nest location will be determined and the results reported to BLM staff biologists prior to initiation of drilling or construction activities. Should the nest be found active, all disruptive activities (construction, drilling etc.) will be prohibited from

February 1 through August 15 or until young have fledged and left the area (TL-04 WRFO ROD).

6. Construction sites will be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials at those sites will 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. The Operator will be responsible for assuring that all waste is properly disposed of at the appropriate regulated disposal facility.
7. No hazardous materials will be used during any phase of the operations unless prior approval has been obtained from the BLM AO. All onsite drilling materials and chemicals will be properly stored to ensure the prevention of spills. No environmentally harmful additives will be used.
8. No hazardous chemicals, fuels, oils, lubricants, or noxious fluids will be disposed of at the drill sites, in the reserve pits, or down hole.
9. If any hazardous chemicals, fuels, oils, lubricants, and/or noxious fluids are spilled during drilling operations, they will be cleaned up immediately. The lessee/Operator will have absorbent on site for spill containment. After clean up, the chemicals, fuels, oil, lubricants and/or noxious fluids and any contaminated material will be removed from the drill site and disposed of at an approved disposal facility.
10. A release of any chemical, oil, petroleum product, produced water, or sewage (regardless of quantity) must be reported to the BLM – WRFO Hazardous Materials Coordinator at (970) 878-3800. The CDPHE should be notified, if applicable, through the 24-hour spill reporting line at 1 (877) 518-5608.
11. All activities will be required to comply with applicable local, state, and federal water quality laws, statutes, regulations, standards, and implementation plans. This compliance includes, but is not limited, to the following:
 - As required of all surface disturbing activities on BLM land, activities will strictly adhere to "Gold Book" (BLM 2006a) surface operating standards for oil and gas exploration and development.
 - Prior to commencing construction activities the Operator will consult with the State of Colorado Water Quality Control Division regarding applicable stormwater discharge permits. Permit requirements may include development of a Stormwater Management Plan outlining how Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used to control runoff and sediment transport. Written documentation that the appropriate permits have been obtained will be provided to the BLM AO. Acceptable forms of this documentation include a copy of the permit or an official verification letter from the State of Colorado Water Quality Control Division including the permit certification number.

12. To mitigate water being channelized down the roadway, all activity will stop when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of 3 inches. Mud blading will be prohibited (unless otherwise approved by the BLM).
13. A **Reclamation Status Report** will be submitted to the WRFO biannually for all actions that require disturbance of surface soils on BLM-administered lands as a result of the Proposed Action. Actions may include, but are not limited to, well pad and road construction, construction of ancillary facilities, or power line and pipeline construction. The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted by **15 April** and **15 August** of each calendar year, and will include the well number, API number, legal description, UTM coordinates (for well pad and recorded using the NAD83, Zone 12 datum), project description (e.g., well pad, pipeline, etc.), reclamation status (e.g., interim or final), whether the well pad or pipeline has been re-vegetated and/or re-contoured, date seeded, photos of the reclaimed site, estimate of acres seeded, seeding method (e.g., broadcast, drilled, etc.), and contact information for the person(s) responsible for developing the report. The report will be accompanied with maps showing each point (i.e., well pad), polygon, or polyline (i.e., pipeline) feature that was included in the report. In addition, scanned copies of seed tags that accompanied the seed bags will be included with the report. Internal and external review of the WRFO Reclamation Status Report, and the process used to acquire the necessary information will be conducted annually, and new information or changes in the reporting process will be incorporated into the report. The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted electronically via email and as a hard-copy to Natural Resource Specialist, Brett Smithers (brett_smithers@blm.gov) at the following address:

BLM, White River Field Office
220 East Market Street
Meeker, Colorado 81641
Attn: Brett Smithers

14. In an attempt to track interim and final reclamation of land use authorizations related to the development of federal mineral resources, the Operator is asked to submit Geographic Information System (GIS) data to the WRFO for any **post construction** point, polyline, or polygon feature that was included in the APD and associated with the Proposed Action. GIS point, polyline, and polygon features may include, but are not limited to, proposed access roads to be constructed, existing roads to be upgraded, pipeline ROW corridors, ancillary facilities (e.g., compressor stations, produced water treatment and evaporation facilities, etc.), and well pad footprint (i.e., a polygon that shows the total area disturbed for the working surface of the pad and the overburden) for each APD. Geospatial data should be submitted as ArcView feature datasets (i.e., shapefiles), ArcInfo coverages, or as ArcView compatible data files. GIS point, polyline, and polygon feature data will be submitted for each APD submitted for review that includes new disturbance. GIS data will be submitted electronically to BLM, WRFO Natural Resource Specialist, Brett Smithers (brett_smithers@blm.gov; Phone: [970] 878-3818) in the UTM, NAD83, Zone 13 projection. If the Operator is unable to send the data electronically, the Operator will submit the data on compact disk(s) to:

BLM, White River Field Office
 220 East Market Street
 Meeker, Colorado 81641
 Attn: Brett Smithers

15. If for any reason the location or orientation of the geographic feature associated with the Proposed Action changes, the Operator is asked to submit updated GIS data to BLM, WRFO within 2 weeks of the change, and this information should accompany the Sundry Notice.
16. Surface casing and cementing will be installed in wells to protect aquifers from contamination due to hydraulic fracturing or contact with oil and gas products. Any groundwater produced from the Fort Union or Mesaverde Formations will be removed from the site and disposed of due to poor water quality.
17. The use of spill-guards (or equivalent spill prevention equipment) under and around pumping equipment will be required for the well location to intercept contaminants prior to contacting soils and infiltrating into groundwater. All pits will be lined to protect willow groundwater from pit contents. All wastes associated with construction and drilling will be properly treated and disposed of. Efforts will be taken to avoid direct soil contact with diesel fuels or other pollutants which could be leached into the groundwater.
18. All reserve pits will be lined to prevent contents of reserve pits from seeping into surrounding soils, contaminating local groundwater, reducing soil productivity, and compromising reclamation success.
19. For the well location, access road, and pipeline, the Operator will promptly revegetate all disturbed areas not necessary for production, including roadside and pad cut and fill slopes with Native Seed Mix #3 (BLM 1997a). Seed mixture rates are Pure Live Seed (PLS) pounds per acre. Seeding will occur at the first appropriate seeding window after construction (September 1 – March 31). Drill seeding is the preferred method of application. Debris will not be scattered on the pipeline until after seeding operations are completed and will not exceed 20% ground cover.

| Cultivar | Common Name | Scientific Name | Application 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. Where livestock grazing use will impede reclamation success they should generally be excluded from reclaimed areas until successful reclamation is achieved. Fences, cattleguards, and gates (all built to BLM specifications per BLM manual H-1741-1) will be installed, maintained, and removed by the operator upon approval by the AO. A BLM- specified cattleguard will be placed at the time of fence construction where the well access road bisects the fence line. A wire gate will also be installed adjacent to the cattleguard.
21. Self-sustaining desirable vegetative groundcover consistent with the site DPC (as defined by the range site, WRFO AIM protocol site data (BLM TN 440), or an associated approved reference site) is adequately established as described below on disturbed surfaces to stabilize soils through the life of the project. As ESDs are developed those cover values may replace range site, AIM data, or reference site values.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - If non-prescribed or unauthorized plant species (e.g. yellow sweetclover, *Melilotus officinalis*) appear in the reclamation site BLM may require their removal.
22. If construction/development occurs between 15 April and 15 November, the Operator will be required to water or surface access roads to reduce airborne dust and damage to roadside vegetation communities.
23. Activities associated with well pad development (construction, drilling and completion-related etc. activities) will be prohibited from December 1 – April 30 to avoid big game sensitive time frames.
24. All activities will be required to comply with applicable local, state, and federal transportation laws, statutes, regulations, standards, and plans. The access road will be constructed to address all on-the-ground conditions with the goal of minimizing surface disturbance and will conform with generally accepted BLM practices for the area. Activities will strictly adhere to “Gold Book” (BLM 2006a) surface operating standards for oil and gas exploration and development. Further mitigation of impacts to access and transportation will be achieved through management practices including:
 - encouragement and/or arrangement for employees and contractors to carpool to and from the site;
 - requiring contractors and employees to comply with all posted speed limits;

- compliance with county and state weight restrictions and limitations;
 - controlling dust along unsurfaced access roads and minimizing the tracking of mud onto paved roads; and
 - post-construction restoration of unsurfaced roads to equal or better conditions than existed before construction.
25. All non-county roads used to access the well will be maintained in their current condition or better. Continuous inspection will be performed, and preventative maintenance measures will be taken on a biannual basis. These measures may include grading, cleaning of drainage structures, erosion control and slope stabilization, and road closures during periods of excessive soil moisture.
26. Potential adverse impacts on paleontological resources could be mitigated to below the level of significance by implementation of the following mitigation measures:
- Museum record searches will be conducted to (1) determine whether any known fossil localities occur within the study area; (2) assess the potential for disturbance of these localities during construction; and (3) further evaluate the paleontological sensitivity of the Uinta Formation within the study area.
 - A paleontological monitor will be on site during all construction activities to systematically inspect the high volume of bedrock exposed during ground disturbance, permitting fossil discovery and salvage.
 - All fossils collected will be cleaned, prepared, identified, and transferred to an approved repository.
 - The results of the paleontological monitoring/mitigation program will be analyzed and presented in a paleontological report prepared using BLM guidelines.
27. Reserve pit fencing will comply with BLM specification as described in the BLM Gold Book (BLM 2006a). Reserve pit fence specification would be included as part of the Conditions of Approval.
28. All permanent (onsite for 6 months or longer) structures, facilities and equipment placed onsite would be painted Munsell Soil Color Chart Juniper Green or equivalent within six months of installation.

The following mitigation also applies to the Proposed Action:

1. 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.

2. 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/holder/applicant, 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.

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:

06/30/14

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.

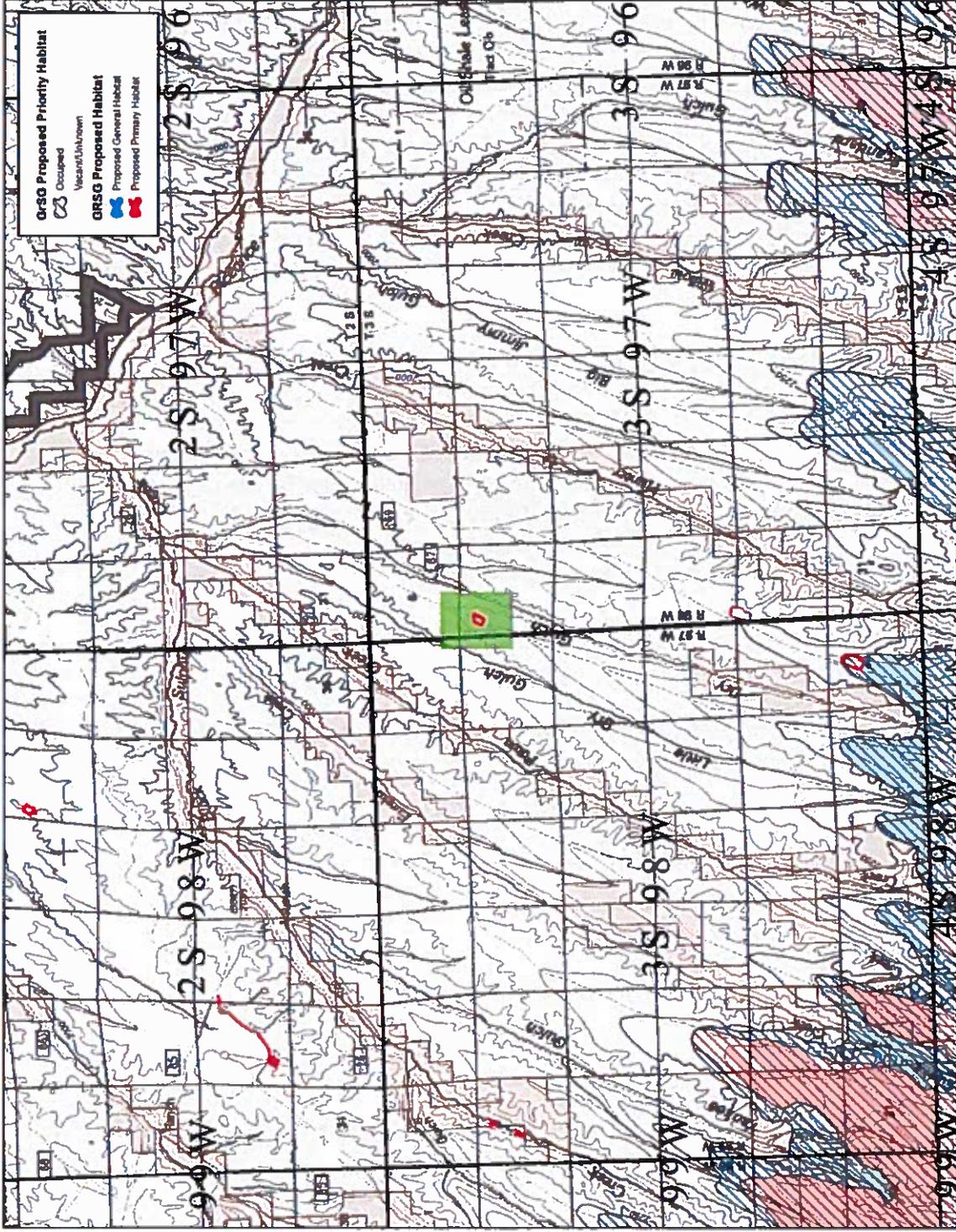


Figure 1. The image above illustrates the geographic location of the existing well pad (within the green rectangle) where the proposed natural gas well will be drilled.

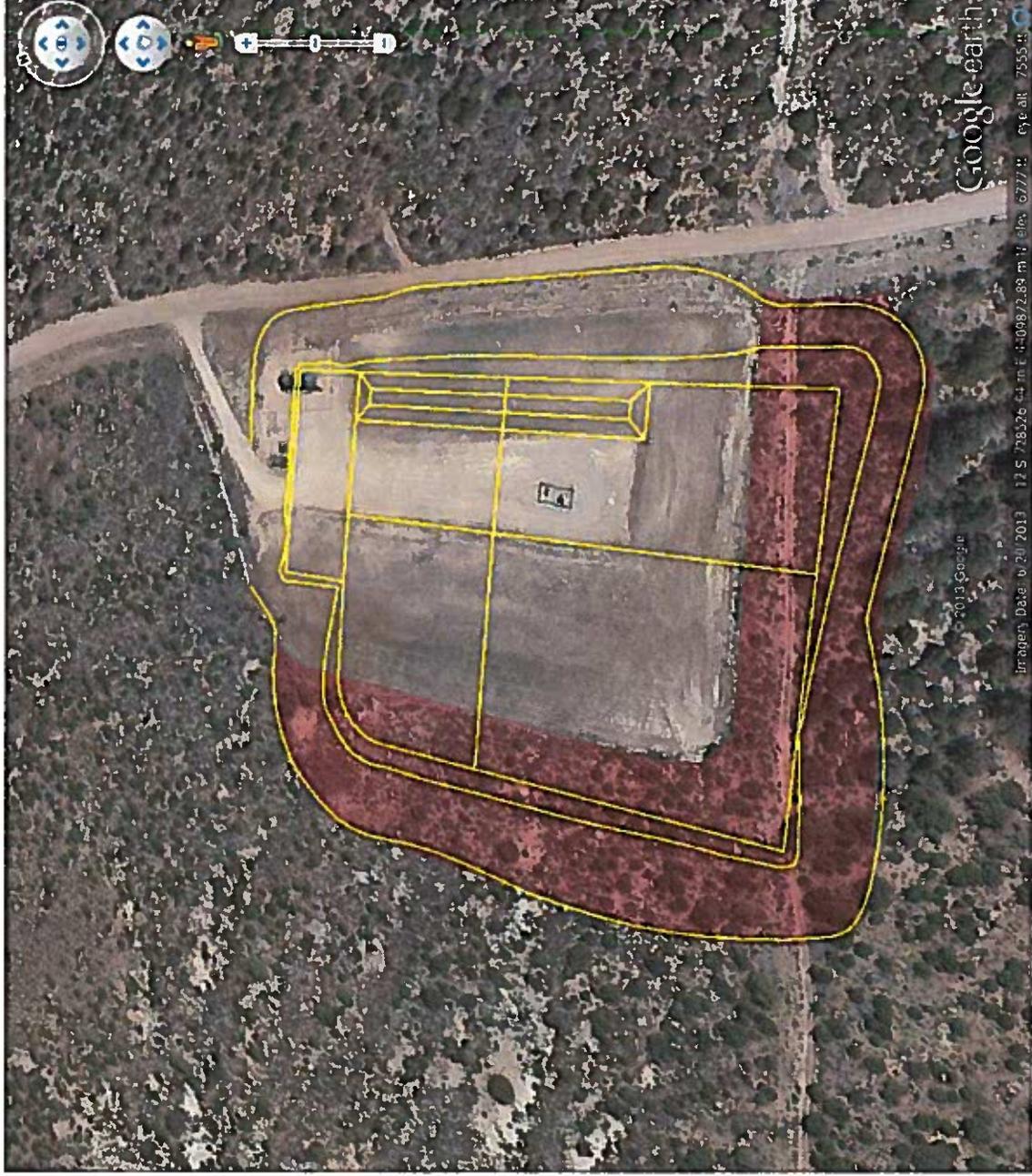


Figure 2. The image above illustrates the geographic location of the existing well pad where the proposed natural gas well will be drilled and the disturbance footprint. The shaded red polygon represents new disturbance.

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DECISION

PROJECT NAME: WPX's request to drill an additional well (RG 41-12-398) on the existing RG 11-7-397 well pad

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0051-CX

DECISION: It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2014-0051-CX, authorizing drilling and maintenance activities for the proposed natural gas well on the existing RG 11-7-397 location.

MITIGATION: The following mitigation is based on that found in BLM-CO-110-2007-175-EA and applies to drilling and maintenance activities associated with the proposed natural gas wells:

1. All activities will be required to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal air quality laws, statutes, regulations, standards, and implementation plans. Documentation of this compliance will be provided to the BLM. Further mitigation of air quality impacts will also be required, including:
 - the limitation of vehicle speeds on associated access roads to 15 miles per hour (mph) or speeds such that a dust plume is not visible at the appropriate designated speed for that road;
 - application of a BLM-approved dust suppressant will be required during dry periods when dust plumes are visible at speeds less than or equal to 15 mph;
 - surfacing of access roads constructed on soils susceptible to wind erosion with gravel or other appropriate material;
 - suspension of land clearing, grading, earth moving, and excavation activities when wind speed exceeds 20 mph;
 - restoration of disturbed areas including regrading to original contours, revegetation with a BLM-approved seed mixture, and post-seeding placement of woody debris in appropriate areas to increase effective ground cover and retain soil moisture;
 - maintenance of construction equipment in good operating condition to ensure engines run efficiently; and
 - maintenance of emission controls on vehicles and construction equipment to ensure effective pollutant emission reductions.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (g) the holder of the authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, followed by written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 I and (d), activities in the vicinity of the discovery must stop and the discovery must be protected for 30 days or until the AO provides notice to proceed.
3. Reserve pits should be appropriately fenced, as shown in the Gold Book (BLM 2006a) to prevent access by persons, wildlife, or livestock. Netting or other methods may be required in order to prevent access and mortality of birds and other animals.
4. All lethal and non-lethal events involving migratory birds will be reported to the WRFO Petroleum Engineer Technician immediately.
5. Nest status of the know nest location will be determined and the results reported to BLM staff biologists prior to initiation of drilling or construction activities. Should the nest be found active, all disruptive activities (construction, drilling etc.) will be prohibited from February 1 through August 15 or until young have fledged and left the area (TL-04 WRFO ROD).
6. Construction sites will be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials at those sites will 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. The Operator will be responsible for assuring that all waste is properly disposed of at the appropriate regulated disposal facility.
7. No hazardous materials will be used during any phase of the operations unless prior approval has been obtained from the BLM AO. All onsite drilling materials and chemicals will be properly stored to ensure the prevention of spills. No environmentally harmful additives will be used.
8. No hazardous chemicals, fuels, oils, lubricants, or noxious fluids will be disposed of at the drill sites, in the reserve pits, or down hole.
9. If any hazardous chemicals, fuels, oils, lubricants, and/or noxious fluids are spilled during drilling operations, they will be cleaned up immediately. The lessee/Operator will have absorbent on site for spill containment. After clean up, the chemicals, fuels, oil, lubricants and/or noxious fluids and any contaminated material will be removed from the drill site and disposed of at an approved disposal facility.
10. A release of any chemical, oil, petroleum product, produced water, or sewage (regardless of quantity) must be reported to the BLM – WRFO Hazardous Materials Coordinator at (970) 878-3800. The CDPHE should be notified, if applicable, through the 24-hour spill reporting line at 1 (877) 518-5608.

11. All activities will be required to comply with applicable local, state, and federal water quality laws, statutes, regulations, standards, and implementation plans. This compliance includes, but is not limited, to the following:
- As required of all surface disturbing activities on BLM land, activities will strictly adhere to “Gold Book” (BLM 2006a) surface operating standards for oil and gas exploration and development.
 - Prior to commencing construction activities the Operator will consult with the State of Colorado Water Quality Control Division regarding applicable stormwater discharge permits. Permit requirements may include development of a Stormwater Management Plan outlining how Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used to control runoff and sediment transport. Written documentation that the appropriate permits have been obtained will be provided to the BLM AO. Acceptable forms of this documentation include a copy of the permit or an official verification letter from the State of Colorado Water Quality Control Division including the permit certification number.
12. To mitigate water being channelized down the roadway, all activity will stop when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of 3 inches. Mud blading will be prohibited (unless otherwise approved by the BLM).
13. A **Reclamation Status Report** will be submitted to the WRFO biannually for all actions that require disturbance of surface soils on BLM-administered lands as a result of the Proposed Action. Actions may include, but are not limited to, well pad and road construction, construction of ancillary facilities, or power line and pipeline construction. The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted by **15 April** and **15 August** of each calendar year, and will include the well number, API number, legal description, UTM coordinates (for well pad and recorded using the NAD83, Zone 12 datum), project description (e.g., well pad, pipeline, etc.), reclamation status (e.g., interim or final), whether the well pad or pipeline has been re-vegetated and/or re-contoured, date seeded, photos of the reclaimed site, estimate of acres seeded, seeding method (e.g., broadcast, drilled, etc.), and contact information for the person(s) responsible for developing the report. The report will be accompanied with maps showing each point (i.e., well pad), polygon, or polyline (i.e., pipeline) feature that was included in the report. In addition, scanned copies of seed tags that accompanied the seed bags will be included with the report. Internal and external review of the WRFO Reclamation Status Report, and the process used to acquire the necessary information will be conducted annually, and new information or changes in the reporting process will be incorporated into the report. The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted electronically via email and as a hard-copy to Natural Resource Specialist, Brett Smithers (brett_smithers@blm.gov) at the following address:

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Meeker, Colorado 81641
Attn: Brett Smithers

14. In an attempt to track interim and final reclamation of land use authorizations related to the development of federal mineral resources, the Operator is asked to submit Geographic Information System (GIS) data to the WRFO for any **post construction** point, polyline, or polygon feature that was included in the APD and associated with the Proposed Action. GIS point, polyline, and polygon features may include, but are not limited to, proposed access roads to be constructed, existing roads to be upgraded, pipeline ROW corridors, ancillary facilities (e.g., compressor stations, produced water treatment and evaporation facilities, etc.), and well pad footprint (i.e., a polygon that shows the total area disturbed for the working surface of the pad and the overburden) for each APD. Geospatial data should be submitted as ArcView feature datasets (i.e., shapefiles), ArcInfo coverages, or as ArcView compatible data files. GIS point, polyline, and polygon feature data will be submitted for each APD submitted for review that includes new disturbance. GIS data will be submitted electronically to BLM, WRFO Natural Resource Specialist, Brett Smithers (brett_smithers@blm.gov; Phone: [970] 878-3818) in the UTM, NAD83, Zone 13 projection. If the Operator is unable to send the data electronically, the Operator will submit the data on compact disk(s) to:

BLM, White River Field Office
220 East Market Street
Meeker, Colorado 81641
Attn: Brett Smithers

15. If for any reason the location or orientation of the geographic feature associated with the Proposed Action changes, the Operator is asked to submit updated GIS data to BLM, WRFO within 2 weeks of the change, and this information should accompany the Sundry Notice.
16. Surface casing and cementing will be installed in wells to protect aquifers from contamination due to hydraulic fracturing or contact with oil and gas products. Any groundwater produced from the Fort Union or Mesaverde Formations will be removed from the site and disposed of due to poor water quality.
17. The use of spill-guards (or equivalent spill prevention equipment) under and around pumping equipment will be required for the well location to intercept contaminants prior to contacting soils and infiltrating into groundwater. All pits will be lined to protect willow groundwater from pit contents. All wastes associated with construction and drilling will be properly treated and disposed of. Efforts will be taken to avoid direct soil contact with diesel fuels or other pollutants which could be leached into the groundwater.
18. All reserve pits will be lined to prevent contents of reserve pits from seeping into surrounding soils, contaminating local groundwater, reducing soil productivity, and compromising reclamation success.
19. For the well location, access road, and pipeline, the Operator will promptly revegetate all disturbed areas not necessary for production, including roadside and pad cut and fill slopes with Native Seed Mix #3 (BLM 1997a). Seed mixture rates are Pure Live Seed (PLS) pounds per acre. Seeding will occur at the first appropriate seeding window after construction (September 1 – March 31). Drill seeding is the preferred method of application. Debris will

not be scattered on the pipeline until after seeding operations are completed and will not exceed 20% ground cover.

| Cultivar | Common Name | Scientific Name | Application 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. Where livestock grazing use will impede reclamation success they should generally be excluded from reclaimed areas until successful reclamation is achieved. Fences, cattleguards, and gates (all built to BLM specifications per BLM manual H-1741-1) will be installed, maintained, and removed by the operator upon approval by the AO. A BLM- specified cattleguard will be placed at the time of fence construction where the well access road bisects the fence line. A wire gate will also be installed adjacent to the cattleguard.

21. Self-sustaining desirable vegetative groundcover consistent with the site DPC (as defined by the range site, WRFO AIM protocol site data (BLM TN 440), or an associated approved reference site) is adequately established as described below on disturbed surfaces to stabilize soils through the life of the project. As ESDs are developed those cover values may replace range site, AIM data, or reference site values.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - If non-prescribed or unauthorized plant species (e.g. yellow sweetclover, *Melilotus officinalis*) appear in the reclamation site BLM may require their removal.

22. If construction/development occurs between 15 April and 15 November, the Operator will be required to water or surface access roads to reduce airborne dust and damage to roadside vegetation communities.

23. Activities associated with well pad development (construction, drilling and completion-related etc. activities) will be prohibited from December 1 – April 30 to avoid big game sensitive time frames.
24. All activities will be required to comply with applicable local, state, and federal transportation laws, statutes, regulations, standards, and plans. The access road will be constructed to address all on-the-ground conditions with the goal of minimizing surface disturbance and will conform with generally accepted BLM practices for the area. Activities will strictly adhere to “Gold Book” (BLM 2006a) surface operating standards for oil and gas exploration and development. Further mitigation of impacts to access and transportation will be achieved through management practices including:
- encouragement and/or arrangement for employees and contractors to carpool to and from the site;
 - requiring contractors and employees to comply with all posted speed limits;
 - compliance with county and state weight restrictions and limitations;
 - controlling dust along unsurfaced access roads and minimizing the tracking of mud onto paved roads; and
 - post-construction restoration of unsurfaced roads to equal or better conditions than existed before construction.
25. All non-county roads used to access the well will be maintained in their current condition or better. Continuous inspection will be performed, and preventative maintenance measures will be taken on a biannual basis. These measures may include grading, cleaning of drainage structures, erosion control and slope stabilization, and road closures during periods of excessive soil moisture.
26. Potential adverse impacts on paleontological resources could be mitigated to below the level of significance by implementation of the following mitigation measures:
- Museum record searches will be conducted to (1) determine whether any known fossil localities occur within the study area; (2) assess the potential for disturbance of these localities during construction; and (3) further evaluate the paleontological sensitivity of the Uinta Formation within the study area.
 - A paleontological monitor will be on site during all construction activities to systematically inspect the high volume of bedrock exposed during ground disturbance, permitting fossil discovery and salvage.
 - All fossils collected will be cleaned, prepared, identified, and transferred to an approved repository.

- The results of the paleontological monitoring/mitigation program will be analyzed and presented in a paleontological report prepared using BLM guidelines.
27. Reserve pit fencing will comply with BLM specification as described in the BLM Gold Book (BLM 2006a). Reserve pit fence specification would be included as part of the Conditions of Approval.
28. All permanent (onsite for 6 months or longer) structures, facilities and equipment placed onsite would be painted Munsell Soil Color Chart Juniper Green or equivalent within six months of installation.

The following mitigation also applies to the Proposed Action:

1. 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.
2. 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/holder/applicant, 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.

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 1/28/2014. External scoping was conducted by posting this project on the WRFO's on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register on 1/29/2014.

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 an additional well 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:

06/30/14

