

PUBLIC SCOPING STATEMENT
TENDROY 2D SEISMIC SURVEY

U.S. FOREST SERVICE – BEAVERHEAD DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT – DILLON FIELD OFFICE
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION

Description of Project

Green River Energy Resources, Inc. has filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Conduct Geophysical Operations with the U.S. Forest Service (FS) – Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest, Bureau of Land Management – Dillon Field Office (BLM) and the Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) for a geophysical project on public, state and private lands within Beaverhead County, Montana. The proposed project is located in multiple Sections within Townships T. 13 S. R. 9 W., T. 14 S. R. 10 W., T. 14 S. R. 9 W., T. 14 S. R. 8 W. and T. 15 S. R. 10 W., 6th Principle Meridian directly west of the town of Lima, Montana (see attached map).

The three land management agencies involved (FS, BLM, and MT DNRC) will be participating in the development of alternatives, completion of the analysis, and decision making.

Three separate seismic lines have been proposed for a total of 35.9 linear miles. These three lines will traverse approximately 13.4 miles of FS, 6.8 miles of BLM, 5.9 miles of state land and 9.8 miles of private land.

The proposed project would utilize a number of vehicles including trucks, a helicopter, ATVs and support equipment.

The proposal is to drill a shot hole every 220 feet along each line to a total depth of 60 feet. Each hole will be loaded with a 40 pound seismic grade explosive. The drilling buggy would be used in flat terrain while the heliportable drills would be used on steep (> 15%) slopes and be transported by helicopter. Heliportable drill operators would walk or be flown between holes. All shot holes would be plugged according to Montana Oil and Gas Commission standards.

Recording will be conducted with helicopter support for deployment of equipment and personnel. Trucks (pickups) will be limited to existing roads and trails. ATV's will be utilized in areas of the project where terrain allows for such access and will be limited to troubleshooting of buggies and other ground equipment. There will be no off road traffic with the exception of buggy drills and ATVs.

Upon completion of recording, all materials used for the project will be removed and the project area will be left as it was found.

The project is expected to take place during the spring and summer of 2008.

Relationship to Existing Plans and Documents

BLM - The document that directs management of the BLM administered lands within the analysis area is the Dillon Resource Management Plan (February 2006). The objective for management of geophysical exploration is to provide opportunity for exploration of mineral resources and collection of geophysical data, while protecting resources values.

Forest Service – The proposal is consistent with the Forest-wide goal to ensure that opportunities for mineral exploration and development are provided; and with the Forest-wide standard the geophysical prospecting permit applications will be evaluated in a timely manner. Permits will be issued with appropriate stipulations to mitigate the impacts on other resources and uses.

Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation – Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation has the regulatory authority over seismic exploration activities on both state and private lands.

Use Authorization – An approved Notice of Intent to Conduct Geophysical Operations is subject to Terms and Conditions for Notice of Intent to Conduct Geophysical Exploration. Other conditions of approval to protect important resources may be added to the authorization if analysis proves such measures would further reduce environmental impact.

National Environmental Policy Act and Montana Environmental Policy Act

The agencies have reviewed the proposal from Green River Energies Resources, Inc. and after considering comments from the public scoping will determine the appropriate level of environmental review required to determine whether impacts for the Proposed Action would be considered significant. Additionally, NEPA/MEPA requires that a No Action alternative be considered in all environmental documents. This will allow a comparison of the economic and environmental consequences of all alternatives. Under the No Action alternative, geophysical operations would not occur in the project area.

Identified Resource Management Issues, Concerns and Opportunities

The following issues and concerns have been identified to date. It is not meant to be an all-inclusive list, but rather a starting point for public input and a means of identifying the resource disciplines needed to conduct the analysis.

- Impacts to special status species habitat (animals and plants)
- Big game calving/fawning/lambing habitat
- Hunting, fishing and other recreation
- Big Sheep Creek high value fishery
- Grazing
- Westslope Cutthroat Trout
- Steep Slopes

Riparian areas
Cultural resources
Paleontological resources
Traffic
Native American religious sites
Big Sheep Back Country Scenic Byway

Timing Needs or Requirements

Public input is important in establishing the level and scope of the analysis. The public is encouraged to participate in the environmental analysis process to help identify the level of analysis needed, alternatives to the proposed action, other issues or concerns that should be analyzed, mitigation opportunities, and other comments or ideas to help ensure the completeness of the analysis.

Please submit your comments by March 30, 2008. Written comments should be mailed to:

Address: Robert Gunderson
Bureau of Land Management, Dillon Field Office
1005 Selway Drive
Dillon, MT 59725

Email: MT_Dillon_FO@blm.gov
(Please reference the Green River Energy project in the subject field.)