# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
# BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Farmington District
Farmington Field Office
6251 N College Blvd., Ste. A
Farmington, NM 87402

# DECISION RECORD

**for the**

## *LyBrook 23-8-16 #201H*

***NEPA No. DOI-BLM-NM-F010-2013-0080***

## I. Decision

I have decided to select Alternative B for implementation as described in the LyBrook 23-8-16 #201H #1 M. Based on my review of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and project record, I have concluded that Alternative B was analyzed in sufficient detail to allow me to make an informed decision. I have selected this alternative because the proposed project would allow ConocoPhillips Company access to their proposed drilling site in order to drill for oil and gas within their valid existing lease.

## II. Finding of No Significant Impact

I have reviewed the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed activities documented in the EA for the LyBrook 23-8-16 #201H. I have also reviewed the project record for this analysis. The effects of the proposed action and alternatives are disclosed in the Alternatives and Environmental Consequences sections of the EA. I have determined that construction of a well pad and pipeline tie to allow ConocoPhillips Company reasonable access to the mineral lease in order to develop the existing lease as described in the EA will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, I have determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary.

## III. Other Alternatives Considered

Chapter 3Originally, WPX proposed to locate the Lybrook 23-8-16 No. 201H well head and well pad approximately 265 feet north of the current proposed location (Appendix A, Figure 5). The previous location was located within badland habitat and soil type, rather than open piñon-juniper woodlands. The number of trees within the previously proposed well pad site totaled approximately 50 piñon pines or oneseed junipers (95 percent mature, 4 percent juvenile, and 1 percent standing dead); whereas, the current proposed location will result in the removal of approximately 160 to 170 piñon pine or juniper trees (50 percent mature, 49 percent juvenile, and 1 percent standing dead). The proposed well pad was moved to the current proposed location because the soil material (not Badland soil) in the current proposed well pad site will be more suitable for drilling because there would be more soil stability, less erosion, and less difficulty for re-seeding the site during interim and final reclamation. Additionally, the new proposed access road will be shorter than the original, staked access road by approximately 334 feet. The new proposed well pad location and the shortened access road will have less drainage issues than the previously proposed location. The current proposed project area would result in fewer disturbances; therefore, the previous project area was not considered feasible.

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## IV. Rationale for the Decision

Regulations under 43 CFR 1610.5 requires the proposed action to be in conformance with the terms and the conditions of the RMP as approved by the ROD signed September 29, 2003 (BLM 2003b) and updated in December 2003. The proposed action area is located within the Ensenada Mesa Wildlife Specially Designated Area (SDA).

The proposed project was reviewed by the Farmington Field Office Multiple Resource Staff; there were no significant issues brought forward.

## IV. Public Involvement

The Environmental Assessment was posted on the Bureau of Land Management NEPA website for a period of 30 days to allow for public comment. No comments were received during this timeframe.

## V. Appeals

Under BLM regulations, this decision record is subject to administrative review in accordance with 43 CFR 3165. Any request for administrative review of this decision record must include information required under 43 CFR 3165.3(b) (State Director Review), including all supporting documentation. Such a request must be filed in writing with the State Director, Bureau of Land Management, 301 Dinosaur Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87508, no later than 20 business days after this Decision Record is received or considered to have been received.

Any party who is adversely affected by the State Director's decision may appeal that decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, as provided in 43 CFR 3165.4.

/S/ Maureen Joe
Maureen Joe
Assistant Field Manager

01/14/2013
Date