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

Gallo Canyon Unit H33-2306

NEPA No. DOI-BLM-NM-F010-2014-0178

I. Decision

I have decided to select the **Proposed Action** for implementation as described in the ***Gallo Canyon Unit H33-2306***. Based on my review of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and project record, I have concluded that the **Proposed Action** was analyzed in sufficient detail to allow me to make an informed decision. I have selected this alternative because the proposed **project would allow Encana O&G (USA) access to their proposed drilling site in order to horizontally drill for oil and gas within their valid existing lease.**

II. Conformance and Compliance

The proposed action is in conformance with the 2003 BLM-FFO Resource Management Plan (RMP). Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 and 1502.21, this site-specific Environmental Assessment (EA) tiers into and incorporates by reference the information and analysis contained in the BLM-FFO Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) (BLM 2003a). The RMP was approved by the September 29, 2003 Record of Decision (ROD) (BLM 2003b), and updated in December 2003.

It is the policy of the BLM to make mineral resources available for disposal and to encourage development of mineral resources to meet national, regional, and local needs, consistent with national objectives of an adequate supply of minerals at reasonable market prices. At the same time, the BLM strives to ensure that mineral development is carried out in a manner that minimizes environmental damage and provides for the rehabilitation of affected lands. (BLM 2003b, 2-2 – 2-3)

III. Finding of No Significant Impact

I have reviewed the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed activities documented in the EA for the ***Gallo Canyon Unit H33-2306***. 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, pipeline tie and access road to allow Encana O&G (USA) reasonable access to BLM managed lands to develop their mineral lease. The Proposed Project** 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.

IV. Other Alternatives Considered

The applicant analyzed several scenarios to determine how to best develop Sections 35 and 36, Township 23 North, Range 6 West. Rough topography, visual and safety concerns, and cultural sites make this area challenging to develop. The proposed pipeline and access road alignment for Gallo Canyon Unit H33-2306 were redesigned to avoid impacts to a traditional cultural property (TCP).

V. Rationale for the Decision

Pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1508.28 and 1502.21, this EA incorporates the information and analysis contained in the 2003 Farmington Proposed Resource Management Plan (PRMP)/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (USDI/BLM 2003a). The proposed action would be in conformance with the oil and gas leasing and development management actions in the Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Record of Decision (ROD) signed December 2003 and updated in December 2003 (USDI/BLM 2003b). The proposed action would be in conformance with the 2003 RMP/ROD that states, to the extent possible, new ROWs will be located within or parallel to existing ROWs or corridors to minimize resource impacts (USDI/BLM 2003b, page 2-11).

The PRMP/FEIS and ROD are available for review at the FFO in Farmington, New Mexico or electronically at http://www.nm.blm.gov/ffo/ffo_home.html.

I have determined that the activities described in the proposed action will not adversely affect or cause loss or destruction of scientific, cultural, or historical resources, including those listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)). **Cultural resource surveys were completed (BLM report Number 2014(I)043.1F). Cultural resources were identified within the project area, and will be protected by site barrier fencing and archaeological monitoring. The project is within the Water Placed on Cliff Traditional Cultural Property, but is more than three hundred feet from the sacred spring. The reroute was staked in close consultation with a representative of the Counselor Chapter House, Navajo Nation, and approved by a Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department representative on 12 March 2014. The project is not within an ACEC.**

The proposed activities are not likely to adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)). **The project area is not within any Sensitive species or Threaten and Endangered habitat.**

VI. Public Involvement

The Notice of Staking was made available for the public to review at the Farmington Field Office. No comments were received. The project was posted on the Farmington Field Office NEPA log. No comments were received.

VII. Administrative Review and Appeal

Under BLM regulations, this Decision Record (DR) is subject to administrative review in accordance with 43 CFR 3165. Any request for administrative review of this DR, with or without oral presentation, 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 DR 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_____ _6/16/2014_____

Maureen Joe
Assistant Field Manager
Farmington Field Office

Date