

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

Project Title: Wild Horse Bench Infill Project

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2013-0211

Project Leader: Melissa Wardle

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: (Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)				
PI	Air Quality & Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Emissions from the project have the potential to affect air quality in the area.	Mark Wimmer	5/17/2013
NP	BLM Natural Areas	None Present as per GIS and RMP review	Jason R. West	5/20/2013
PI	Cultural: Archaeological Resources	Cultural resources are identified within the proposed project area. The entire project area has not been covered by cultural resource inventories. Class III cultural resource inventories as well as consultation and coordination with the Utah SHPO will be conducted prior to any surface disturbing activities.	Jimmie McKenzie	6/10/2013
NP	Cultural: Native American Religious Concerns	Consultations with Native American Tribes were initiated on July 11th, 2012. Responses were received from the Hopi Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, and the Pueblo of Laguna. The Hopi Tribe requested to review future cultural resource inventories associated with the proposed development. No other concerns were brought forth.	Jimmie McKenzie	6/10/2013
NP	Designated Areas: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	None Present as per GIS and RMP review	Jason R. West	5/20/2013
NP	Designated Areas: Wild and Scenic Rivers	None Present as per GIS and RMP review	Jason R. West	5/20/2013
NP	Designated Areas: Wilderness Study Areas	None Present as per GIS and RMP review	Jason R. West	5/20/2013
NP	Environmental Justice	No minority or economically disadvantaged communities or populations would be disproportionately adversely affected by the Proposed Action or alternatives since there are none in the project area.	Mark Wimmer	5/17/2013
NP	Farmlands (prime/unique)	Prime or unique farmlands must be irrigated by definition. The project area is not located in an area where irrigation is occurring; therefore there are no prime or unique farmlands in the project area.	Mark Wimmer	5/17/2013
NI	Fuels/Fire Management	There are no planned fuels projects in the immediate area. Disturbance in this vegetation type could increase the amount of invasive plants, specifically Bromus tectorum. The increase of Bromus tectorum could lead to a change of ecosystem dynamics and an	Blaine Tarbell	5/28/2013

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		increase in fire frequency. Applying the Green River District Reclamation Guidelines should prevent additional hazardous fuels.		
NI	Geology/Minerals/Energy Production	<p>Gilsonite is present in Sections 34 and 35. Encounters with gilsonite during any surface or drilling operation must be reported to the BLM Vernal Field Office. Please provide location and depth encountered.</p> <p>Natural gas, oil, gilsonite, oil shale, and tar sand are the only mineral resources that could be impacted by the project. Production of natural gas or oil would deplete reserves, but the proposed project allows for the recovery of natural gas and oil per 43 CFR 3162.1(a), under the existing Federal lease. Compliance with "Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 2, Drilling Operations" will assure that the project will not adversely affect gilsonite, oil shale, or tar sand deposits. Due to the state-of-the-art drilling and well completion techniques, the possibility of adverse degradation of tar sand or oil shale deposits by the proposed action will be negligible.</p> <p>Well completion must be accomplished in compliance with "Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 2, Drilling Operations". These guidelines specify the following: <i>... proposed casing and cementing programs shall be conducted as approved to protect and/or isolate all usable water zones, potentially productive zones, lost circulation zones, abnormally pressured zones, and any prospectively valuable deposits of minerals. Any isolating medium other than cement shall receive approval prior to use.</i>³</p>	Betty Gamber	5/22/2013
PI	Invasive Plants/Noxious Weeds, Soils & Vegetation	The proposed project will result in disturbance to the native vegetation and soils within the project area, including forest/woodland species. This disturbance will also result in the establishment and spread of non-native plant species.	Melissa Wardle	6/10/2013
NI	Lands/Access	The proposed area is located within the VFO RMP/ROD area, which allows for oil and gas development with associated right-of-ways. All APDs for this project area would be reviewed on a site-specific basis and other right-of-way holders in the area would be notified, as per regulations.	Katie White Bull	5/20/2013
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)	Two inventory unites were identified, the Wild Horse Bench E unit (excluded for size limitation) found to have no wilderness character, and the Desolation Canyon Unit. The Desolation canyon unit does have wilderness character in it, but the portion that the proposed project area covers does not (approximately 7 thousand acres without wilderness character. All findings were based on existing GIS layer review.	Jason R. West	5/20/2013
PI	Livestock Grazing & Rangeland Health Standards	The proposed project may impact the livestock grazing operation on the Wild Horse Bench Allotment as well as vegetative and soil resources in a manner that cannot be mitigated. These potential impacts may affect the short term and long term viability of the livestock operation.	Dusty Carpenter	6/17/2013

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PI	Paleontology	<p>The Uinta Formation is at the surface in these locations. This formation has a general classification of PYFC 5 which has a high potential for vertebrate fossils. Paleontology localities are currently present in Sections 34 and 34. Paleontology surveys will be required for each well location before any ground disturbance takes place.</p>	Betty Gamber	5/22/2013
PI	Plants: BLM Sensitive	<p>The following UT BLM sensitive plant species are present or expected in the same or an adjacent sub-watershed as the proposed project: Graham's catseye (<i>Cryptantha grahamii</i>) and <i>Yucca sterilis</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no oil shale outcrops in the vicinity of the proposed project, therefore there is no potential habitat for Graham's catseye. • Sandy soils in the vicinity of the proposed project may provide suitable habitat for <i>Yucca sterilis</i>. <p>Survey for <i>Yucca sterilis</i> was completed in May, 2014 and no plants were observed.</p>	Aaron Roe Updated M. Marston	6/10/2013 6/09/2014
PI	Plants: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate	<p>The following federally listed, proposed, or candidate plant species are present or expected in the same or an adjacent sub-watershed as the proposed project: Graham's penstemon (<i>Penstemon grahamii</i>), clay reed-mustard (<i>Schoenocrambe argillacea</i>), shrubby reed-mustard (<i>Schoenocrambe suffrutescens</i>), Pariette cactus (<i>Sclerocactus brevispinus</i>), and Uinta Basin hookless cactus (<i>Sclerocactus wetlandicus</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no oil shale outcrops in the vicinity of the proposed project. Therefore, there is no potential habitat for Graham's penstemon. • There are no calcareous shale outcrops of the Green River formation in the vicinity of the proposed project. Therefore, there is no potential habitat for shrubby reed-mustard. • If there are pipelines that are replaced to the west of the identified project map as shown on the current map, there may be impacts to habitat for clay reed-mustard • As currently understood, Pariette cactus is restricted to Pariette and Castle Peak Washes and the surrounding benches. Therefore, there is no potential habitat for Pariette cactus. • A portion of the proposed project is located within the potential habitat polygon for Uinta Basin hookless cactus. <p>Survey for Uinta Basin hookless cactus and clay reed-mustard was completed in May 2014 on three well pads that were noted to have buffers within cactus and clay-reed modeled GIS habitats. (Old Squaws Crossing 125-34, Old Squaws Crossing 126-34, Wild Horse Federal 107-34.) No plants were observed under standard USFWS survey protocols, although moderately suitable habitat did occur where expected.</p>	Aaron Roe Update M. Marston	6/10/2013 6/09/2014

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		USFWS informal consultation is pending for a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” concurrence for both listed species.		
NP	Plants: Wetlands/Riparian Zones	Riparian habitat is not inventoried or known within the project area and the development would not be expected to negatively impact riparian of the Green River directly, but could indirectly if tons of sediment from the proposed project area gets into the wetland and riparian functions and limits those.	Melissa Wardle Updated: James Hereford II	6/10/2013 6/11/2013
NI	Recreation	The proposed location is within the Vernal Extensive recreation management area (ERMA) General ERMAs are managed for a more primitive form of recreation with less infrastructure. Historically low recreation use is seen within the proposed project area. Recreationists primarily use roads for access to hunting in the fall/winter. Some OHV and ATV traffic occurs during Antler Shed hunting season in the spring. The primary use in this area is for minerals extraction. Recreation impacts are expected to be negligible.	Jason R. West	5/20/2013
NI	Socio-Economics	There would be relatively minor social or economic impacts from this project. This determination is based on the scale of the project when compared to the level of the oil and gas development/production in the Uinta Basin. Consequently, this resource will not be carried forward for a detailed analysis.	Mark Wimmer	5/17/2013
NI	Visual Resources	Baseline quality scenic rating during inventory was a Class C (lowest) with the Highest rating (Most Scenic) being an A. The 2008 Resource management plan assigned the area Management Class IV. Class IV objectives state: “To provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high.” The proposed action meets class IV objectives, however, every effort should be made to utilize best management practices such as low profile tanks, vegetative screening, avoidance of straight line construction, use of approved paint colors on sites, and avoiding skylines, or high spots in the environment for location selection.	Jason R. West	5/20/2013
NI	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	Hazardous Waste: No chemicals subject to reporting under SARA Title III in an amount equal to or greater than 10,000 pounds will be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of annually in association with the project. Furthermore, no extremely hazardous substances, as defined in 40 CFR 355, in threshold planning quantities, will be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of in association with the project. Solid Wastes: Trash would be confined in a covered container and hauled to an approved landfill. Burning of waste or oil would not be done. Human waste would be contained and be disposed of at an approved sewage treatment facility.	Mark Wimmer	6/10/2013
NI	Water: Floodplains	The proposed project does not cross any mapped 100 year flood plains. However, since the area is prone to	James Hereford II	6/11/2013

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		flood type events and has thin slow to develop soils that are very low in permeability, it is recommended that the company applies good applicant committed measures to help prevent soils from being eroded and then affecting active floodplains further down gradient. If it is observed that tons of new soils are reaching the Green river or another down gradient floodplain, then further analysis may be necessary.		
NI	Water: Groundwater Quality	Groundwater: Compliance with "Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 1, will assure that the project will not adversely affect groundwater quality. Due to the state-of-the-art drilling and wells completion techniques, the possibility of adverse degradation of groundwater quality or prospectively valuable mineral deposits by the proposed action will be negligible	Betty Gamber	5/22/2013
NI	Water: Hydrologic Conditions (stormwater)	The proposed action is within an area that has many ephemeral washes present which are very prone to flood events since the main soils in the area are clay type soils, which are very low in permeability. During these flood events in these ephemeral washes exhibit flash tendencies and often time get well above bank full status. As long stormwater controls are in place to reduce erosion especially during the flood type events, further analysis is not necessary.	James Hereford II	6/11/2013
PI	Water: Surface Water Quality	The proposed project does not directly affect any mapped perennial waters. However as discussed above the area is inundated with dry ephemeral type drainages that exhibit flash flood tendencies during storm events. There is a potential for erosion of sediments into adjacent drainages during and following construction, it is recommended to apply the proper applicant committed measures to help reduce the amount of sediment reaching perennial waters in the area. In addition, there is a potential for leaks to run into adjacent perennial drainages. Proper ACMs should be applied to reduce the chance of hydrocarbons from reaching active waters.	Melissa Wardle Update: James Hereford II	6/3/2013 6/11/2013
NI	Water: Waters of the U.S.	Impacts would be minimal considering the location of the project and that all stream channel crossings would be constructed in accordance to "Hydraulic Considerations for Pipelines Crossing Stream Channels" (Technical Note 423 April 2007).	Melissa Wardle	6/3/2013
PI	Wild Horses	The project falls within the Hill Creek HA boundary. The HC HA boundary is no longer definitive as the historic fence has been removed and damaged during the last 6 years of energy extraction activities. Although the HA is no longer managed as an HMA, the Bureau has a due diligence to manage the forage , soil and water resources in a manner that will not harm or cause foreseen mortality to the existing horses until such time that they can be gathered.	Dusty Carpenter	6/17/2013
PI	Wildlife: BLM Sensitive Species	Potential to impact white-tailed prairie dogs, burrowing owls, and ferruginous hawks. Water Depletion would occur therefore, BLM sensitive (CAS) fish need to be analyzed	Dixie Sadlier	6/10/2013
PI	Wildlife: Migratory Birds (including raptors)	Potential to impact nesting birds during the nesting season. The BLM raptor database did not identify any known raptor nests.	Dixie Sadlier	6/10/2013

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PI	Wildlife: Non-USFWS Designated	UDWR identifies pronghorn habitat, bison habitat, and Rocky Mountain big horn sheep habitat. Loss of habitat would be minimal because the proposed action is to drill from existing pads.	Dixie Sadlier	6/10/2013
PI	Wildlife: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate	Office files were reviewed along with a field visit, and no T&E species or habitat was identified. Water Depletion would occur; therefore, T&E fish need to be analyzed.	Dixie Sadlier	6/10/2013
NP	Woodland / Forestry	Not present in project area as per GIS review.	David Palmer	6/11/13

FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator			
Authorized Officer			