

## **PAWG DFO Briefing 5/5/2011**

### **Project updates**

Riley Ridge Project - Cimarex has completed both pipelines from their Riley Ridge plant and has installed the power poles to the plant. They still need to install power lines and energize their substation at the plant. They also haven't installed the meteorological stations and fiber optic cables that will run from the plant to the met. stations. Work will resume in May. The plant should be operational by the end of 2011.

Lease Parcels - The Pinedale Field Office had four parcels nominated for the November, 2011 lease sale. Two tracts will be offered for lease. One nominated tract is being recommended for deferral awaiting Native American consultation and one tract was in an area that is unavailable for leasing as determined in the Resource Management Plan.

Electrification of the Anticline - Rocky Mountain Power is proposing to build electric distribution lines to provide power to eight distinct locations on the south end of the Anticline, both north and south of Highway 351. The BLM PFO has developed an interdisciplinary team and is working with the third-party contractor to initiate the development of the Environmental Assessment. Public scoping for the project will be in the near future. The distribution lines will tie into the sub-station at Paradise.

NPL EIS - Proposal to drill 3500 wells south and west of the Jonah Field. Public scoping period is open until May 12. Public meetings are being held in Pinedale, Big Piney, and Rock Springs on May 2, 3, and 4.

LaBarge EIS - Proposal to drill 838 wells in the Big Piney - LaBarge area. Draft EIS scheduled to be released in Fall of 2011.

Stewart Point 7-28 - This project has been in planning since 1999 and is located in DA1. Public scoping has been conducted several times and the project has been moved and revised in response to the comments received. An EA is being prepared and is planned for issuance in the near future. Project is located approximately ten miles Southeast of Pinedale.

Spill at Falcon Compressor Site - Enterprise Jonah Gas Gathering Company has entered into a Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) with Wyoming DEQ to address and clean up a plume of condensate at the Falcon Compressor site that originated when Jonah Gas Gathering owned the facility. The facility is on state land but the plume, discovered in 2008, has been delineated and soil investigations indicate that some of the eleven acre contaminated area extends onto BLM lands to the west of the facility. Monitoring wells have been installed. PFO will track the progress of the clean-up. WYDEQ is heading the effort.

JIO/PAPO Board of Directors met on May 2 and approved three project applications at a cost of \$525,000.00 for the PAPO and three projects at a cost of \$700,000.00 for the JIO. Twenty three applications were received during the Open Season.

The PAPO projects were: 250K for Wildlife Friendly Fencing, Phase 2 (Wind River Front), 60K for 3 year Bald Eagle Habitat use study, and 215K for Mesa Fertilization(1000 acres in 2011 and 2000 acres in 2012, subject to success with 2010 and 2011 treatments). The Board also released the final phase of the Pinedale Anticline Spatial Air Quality Assessment (PASQUA) study funding totaling 269K.

New Fork/East Fork confluence boat ramp will be completed by fall 2011.

### **Wildlife Habitat projects being planned for 2011 construction:**

Wyoming Range Aspen Regeneration Project – Aspen habitat for 2011 regeneration will occur in two phases,

1. Camp Creek underwent mechanical treatment in 2010 and will be broadcast burned in spring 2011 when weather and soil conditions permit. Allotment will be rested and monitored for 2 years post burn.
2. Miller Creek will undergo mechanical treatment in summer 2011. Treatment will consist of conifer removal and piling. Piles will be burned when conditions warrant.

Muddy Creek Vegetation Treatment – this proposal is targeted at treating vegetation to enhance Mule deer habitat. EA is in progress with an est. completion date of June 2011. This is a pilot project that if successful will progress up the Wyoming Range Front from year to year.

Wildlife Friendly Fencing Inventory – The PFO, JIO/PAPO, and Wyoming Land Trust will be continuing their partnership to inventory fencing on BLM lands for the purpose of modifying fences so that wildlife can migrate freely throughout PFO. Working this year on “phase 2” area, which involves the Wind River Front

### **Well spud report since 2/3/11**

The Pinedale Field Office, in February, approved the drilling plans for the Anticline Operators for the period between Feb 2011 and Feb 2012. Requests for development on a total of 29 well pads were received. The BLM approved occupancy for 17 and denied for 12 for construction in this period, and since February approximately 31 new wells have been drilled and 67 have been placed into production.

As of the end of March, a total of 2,113 wells have been spud on the Anticline, 911 since the signing of the ROD and 23 thus far this calendar year.

From the 2011 Annual Development Plans submitted by the operators on the Anticline it is projected that there will be 357 wells drilled, 21 new or expanded well pads, and 45 locations placed in interim reclamation, from February 2011 – February 2012.

2010 summary – A total of 9 new pads were constructed (this does not include pad expansions) and 303 new wells were drilled. During this time period operators also placed 151 locations into interim reclamation

### **2010 mitigation fund contributions**

From September 2010 to April 2011, 120 wells have been spud in the PAPA for an income of \$900,000 so far this year.

### **Anticline monitoring overview**

Monitoring for matrix species continues on an annual basis at a cost of about \$1M per year. Final reports are put on the JIO/PAPO website.

Team will be involved in habitat assessment on the Anticline this summer focusing on mule deer areas

**Sage grouse winter concentration** – PFO and JIO/PAPO conducted a number of flights this winter to identify and map new Sage grouse winter concentration areas. Mapping of new and existing Sage grouse concentrations are in progress.

**Aerial lek Searches** – Staff assisted WGF in sage grouse monitoring. Aerial lek searches were conducted for the NPL and the Labarge EIS project areas. Numerous previously undocumented leks were discovered during these flights. On the ground follow-up is being conducted to verify flight observations and map perimeters. Ground suveys were also conducted at known leks to monitor trends. Results of the lek surveys are being compiled and should be released in the fall by WYGF.

Reclamation monitoring for rollover continues in the Jonah with expanded work in the PAPA

### **Recent Additions to PAPO website**

February wildlife planning meeting minutes and presentations

Updated project status tables JIO and PAPA

Conservation plans for easements

Wildlife monitoring reports for JIO

Traffic report for PAPA

### **Staffing update**

Field Office Planning and Environmental Coordinator selectee declined our offer. We are readvertising

JIO/PAPO Project Coordinator position closed on April 29.

### **Minerals and Lands;**

Have made a selection for the Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist. Announcement will be made upon approval of selection.

Janet Bellis was selected as the PFO's geo-hydrologist. She will be responsible for air and groundwater issues within the Field Office.

Vacant positions that we are working to fill include; Petroleum Engineer, 2 Petroleum Engineering Technicians, Petroleum Accounting Technician, 2 Natural Resource Specialists

Resources:

Vice Casey Wildlife Biologist on Board – Josh Hemenway

IIO/PAPO:

Duane Bays recently came on board as the Jonah and PAPA and WLCI data manager. Duane will be working with databases developed by the USGS for tracking reclamation and other information management items.

**Calendar**

Comment period closes for NPL scoping 5/12

Comment period closes for HDD 2011 oil and gas lease sale EA 5/19

Annual planning meeting covering air, water, and socio-economics (date TBD in July)

Community Riparian Workshop 7/18 week

Anticline ROD overview workshop (date TBD in July or August)

PAWG meeting and field tour 8/2, 3

Field Riparian Workshop 8/23 week