

PAWG DFO Briefing August, 2012

Project updates

Electrification of the Anticline – Final EA is prepared, and we are conducting a conformity analysis per the Clean Air Act.

NPL EIS – Recent meetings with DEQ have provided additional clarifications regarding planning and alternatives in consideration of the non-attainment designation. We are finalizing the alternatives we will be analyzing and anticipate a restart of significant planning work in the next few weeks.

LaBarge EIS – Similar to the NPL project, we are continuing to clarify alternatives.

Annual Drilling Plans, Anticline

At the annual planning meeting BLM approved approximately 220 wells for the February – February period. The approved development plans also include building or expanding 15 new pads and placing 52 pads into interim reclamation.

Well spud report as of July 1, 2012

As of July 1 a total of ?? wells have been spud on the Anticline, ?? since the signing of the ROD in September 2008 and ?? thus far in 2012.

PAPO Reclamation Update

The PAPO is monitoring reclamation and working with operators to identify and initiate additional reclamation activities where necessary.

2012 Resource Projects

Landscape Planning – This process includes Range and Transportation management planning and is directed at the Boulder, North LaBarge and Ryegrass landscapes. Status is as follows:

1. Boulder – Rangeland Health Determinations were issued in Late July, and scoping is underway for completion of a fully processed permit renewal. Transportation planning is a part of this effort and a recent public meeting gathered public input towards this portion of the planning effort. We were planning to release this EA by the end of September, however we now anticipate release of this EA during the winter of 2012.
2. North LaBarge – Riparian Proper Functioning Condition Assessments were completed and rangeland health indicators monitoring was completed in July.
3. Ryegrass – Staff are collecting upland habitat and riparian monitoring data as well as grazing utilization information.

Muddy Creek Vegetation Treatment – EA and Decision Record signed in September of 2011. This 300 acre herbicide (Spike) treatment will be conducted in fall of 2012 to improve mule deer habitat by removing sagebrush and promoting grass and forb growth.

Anticline Mesa Fertilization Project - Phase I, which involved the treatment of 1000 acres on the Mesa, was completed in November 2011. Application was at a 40 pounds/acre rate of nitrogen. To respond to various concerns regarding the validation of effects of this treatment

method, data collection efforts will be expanded during the next two field seasons and may be contracted to a third party. PAPO is reviewing proposals and a selection will be made soon.

LaBarge Mule Deer Habitat Enhancement Project – The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has proposed a series of on-the-ground vegetation treatments designed to improve the quality of mule deer habitat across more than 20,000 acres in the LaBarge area over a ten-year period. Proposed treatments include fertilization, herbicide, mowing, aerating, burning, and controlled grazing. An environmental assessment will be prepared for the proposed project. Implementation of the project is expected to begin in 2014

Lander Road Interpretive Signs – Four interpretive signs will be installed at the existing Lander Road interpretive site on Highway 191. One sign will be located adjacent to the existing sign and will include a map with highlights of the Lander Road through the Pinedale Anticline and directions to local museums and the New Fork Crossing Park. A 200-foot walking path will be created from the turn-out to a viewpoint from which the historic trail is clearly visible. Three interpretive signs will be installed at the viewpoint. Topics on those signs include: history of Frederick Lander and the Lander Road, a description of life on the emigrant trails, and energy development in the Pinedale Anticline. Installation is expected in the next few weeks. This will mark the completion of the mitigation requirements of the Lander Road Programmatic Agreement. (Signs will be displayed at the PAWG meeting.)

Staffing Update

- Three staff members have left Pinedale for other assignments (NRS, LE Ranger, Planner, OA Clerk) We are in the process of replacing these individuals.

Calendar

- October 24 Wildlife Annual Planning Meeting for the Pinedale Anticline
- October 25 PAWG fall meeting.
- December 6; PAPO Board Meeting, Cheyenne