

**DECISION RECORD**

**Bill Barrett Corporation BBC, Ruby Federal Wells, Ruby Federal 31-20-4375SH,  
Ruby Federal 34-17-4375SH, Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs)  
Categorical Exclusion 1 (CX1), WY-070-390CX1-14-43, WY-070-390CX1-14-44  
Bureau of Land Management, Buffalo Field Office, Wyoming**

**DECISION.** The BLM approves the proposal from Bill Barrett Corporation (BBC) for the drilling of 2 horizontal oil and gas wells, and construct their associated infrastructure as described in the Section 390, Energy Policy Act of 2005 Categorical Exclusion 1 (CX1), WY-070-390CX1-14-43 and WY-070-390CX1-14-44, which BLM incorporates here by reference.

**Compliance.** This decision complies with:

- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) (43 USC 1701); DOI Order 3310.
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 USC 4321).
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470).
- Endangered Species Act of 1974 (16 USC 1531).
- Buffalo and Powder River Basin Final Environmental Impact Statements (FEISs), 1985, 2003 (2011).
- Buffalo Resource Management Plan (RMP) 1985, Amendments 2001, 2003, 2011.

**A summary of the details of the approval follows.** The CX1, WY-070-390CX1-14-43 and WY-070-390CX1-14-44 includes the project description, including site-specific mitigation measures. Mitigation measures will include the conditions of approval (COAs) in Appendix A.

**Approvals.** BLM approves the following APDs and associated infrastructure:

#	Well Name/ Well #	Qtr	Sec	Twp	Rng	Lease	CX Number
1	Ruby Federal 31-20-4375SH	SWSE	17	43N	75W	WYW153067	WY-070-390CX1-14-43
	WYW72459						
2	Ruby Federal 34-17-4375SH					WYW153067	WY-070-390CX1-14-44

**Limitations.** See conditions of approval (COAs).

**THE FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI).** The US Congress, Department of Interior, and BLM affirmed there was no significant impact of a like-structured project when they created this CX1 and its limiting parameters. Thus a FONSI and an EIS is not required.

**Summary of New Information.** BLM posted the APDs for 30 days and received no public comments. Since BLM received these APDs it also received a clarified policy on determination of bond adequacy.

**DECISION RATIONALE.** The approval of this project is because:

1. The project will not adversely affect public safety and does not involve any unique or unknown risks.
2. The project will not result in a violation of any federal or known state or local law, statute or ordinance, or other requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.
3. The approved project conditioned by its design features and COAs, will not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. The Powder River Basin (PRB) FEIS analyzed and predicted that the PRB oil and gas development would have significant impacts to the region’s Greater Sage-Grouse (GSG) population. The impact of this development cumulatively contributes to the potential for local GSG extirpation yet its effect is acceptable because it is outside priority habitats and is within the parameters of the PRB FEIS/ROD and current BLM and Wyoming GSG conservation strategies. There are no conflicts anticipated or demonstrated with current uses in the area. This



**Categorical Exclusion 1 (CX1), WY-070-390CX1-14-43 & WY-070-390CX1-14-44**  
**Section 390, Energy Policy Act of 2005, Bill Barrett Corporation (BBC), Ruby Federal Wells**  
**Applications for Permit to Drill (APD), Ruby Federal 31-20-4375SH & Ruby Federal 34-17-4375SH**  
**Bureau of Land Management, Buffalo Field Office, Wyoming**

**Description of the Proposal**

Bill Barrett Corporation (BBC) requests BLM’s approval for 2 applications for permit to drill (APDs). BLM incorporates the APDs here by reference; see the administrative record (AR). BBC proposes to drill the horizontal oil and gas wells and construct associated infrastructure at the locations in Table 1.1. The wells will be drilled from one pad on a non-federal surface, into underlying federal minerals on lease numbers listed below – resulting in standard split jurisdiction. The proposal is to explore for, and possibly develop, oil and gas reserves in the Shannon Formation; depths found in the AR.

The project area is 53 miles southwest of Gillette, Campbell County, Wyoming. The proposed surface holes (drill sites) are in Table 1.1. Well elevations 5,290 feet and 5,289 feet, respectively. The topography has gently sloped draws rising to mixed sagebrush and grassland uplands. Ephemeral tributaries of Dry Fork of the Powder River drain the area. The area climate is semi-arid, averaging 10-14 inches of precipitation annually, about 60% of which occurs between April and September. Jesse Dale Ruby Trust and Max L. Ruby Revocable Trust are the surface owners.

**Table 1.1. Proposed Well**

#	Well Name/ Well #	Qtr	Sec	Twp	Rng	Lease	CX Number
1	Ruby Federal 31-20-4375SH	SWSE	17	43N	75W	WYW153067	WY-070-390CX1-14-43
	WYW72459						
2	Ruby Federal 34-17-4375SH					WYW153067	WY-070-390CX1-14-44

BBC submitted notices of staking (NOSs) on December 12, 2012. BBC and BFO completed onsite inspections on May 3, 2013. BBC converted its NOSs to applications for permit to drill (APDs) which BLM received on June 28, 2013. The onsites evaluated the proposal and modified it to mitigate environmental impacts. The BLM sent a post-onsite deficiency letter to BBC on July 17, 2013. BBC responded on August 19, 2013. After subsequent correspondence, the BLM considered the deficiencies complete on September 3, 2013.

The BLM’s need for this project is to determine whether, and if so, and under what conditions to support the Buffalo Resource Management Plan’s (RMP) goals, objectives, and management actions (2003 Amendment) with permitting the operator’s exercising of conditional lease rights to develop federal fluid minerals. APD information is an integral part of this EA, which BLM incorporates here by reference. Conditional fluid mineral development supports the RMP, the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), and other laws and regulations.

Full effects of the action and recommended mitigation measures are in the Ruby Federal wells surface use plan (SUP), North Tree 1 POD Environmental Assessment (EA), WY-070-EA13-77, Ruby Federal wells CX1, WY-070-390CX1-14-43 and -14-44, and BLM Conditions of Approval (COAs) for Conventional Application for Permit to Drill, Appendix A.

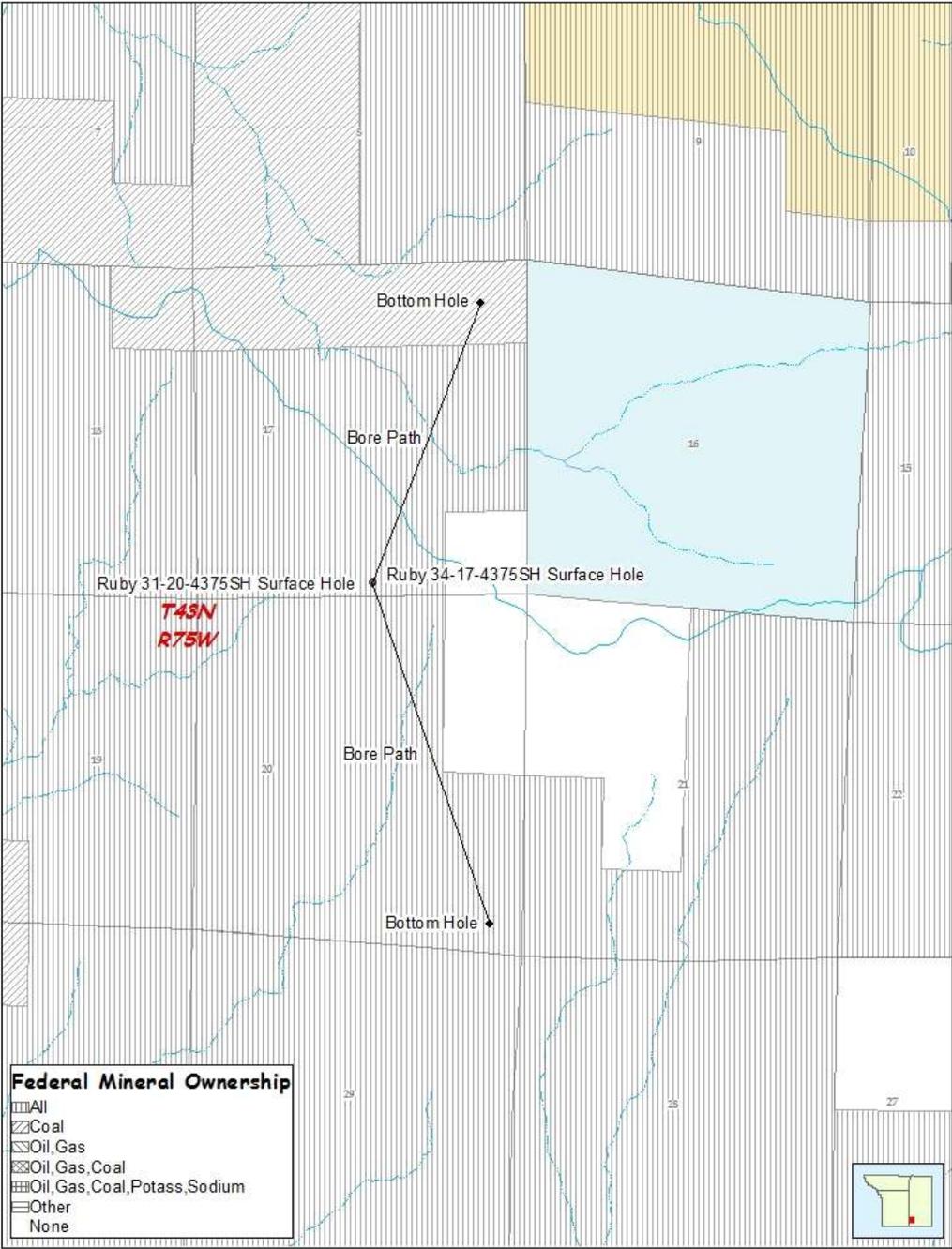
**Drilling, Construction & Production design features include:**

**Access**

- Primary Access for the proposed well locations is provided by Van Buggenum Road via WY Highway 50 or Highway 387.

- A road network will consist of existing improved all-weather roads, approximately 1200 feet of existing access to be upgraded, and approximately 704 feet of new crown and ditch template access will be constructed. Disturbances are listed in Table 1.3.
- The access road will be surfaced with a material that does not create a visual contrast with the surrounding area.

**Figure 1.1. Ruby Federal Wells Top & Bottom Hole Locations**



## Well Location

- The well pad cuts slopes will be constructed at 1.5:1 and the fill slopes will be constructed at 2:1.
- Well pad disturbances are outlined in Table 1.3.
- The Ruby Federal wells will be drilled with a semi-closed loop system. There will be a cuttings collection pit on the location during drilling and completion operations.
- If the wells become producers, the production facilities will be located off the well pad, on an adjacent location, where the production facilities are located for the adjacent R2 11-21XH well.
- Production facilities will include a pumping unit, storage tanks, buildings, oil-water separator (heater-treater).
- Water for drilling and completion operations will be trucked onto location from a permitted source listed in the SUP (p. 5).
- For a detailed description of the proposal's design features and construction practices, refer to the Ruby Federal well SUP, Reclamation, and Drilling plans included with the APD. Also see the APDs for maps showing the proposed well locations and associated facilities.
- The well location is within 2 miles of the Pumpkin Buttes Tribal Cultural Property and is subject to mitigation measures in Appendix A of the Programmatic Agreement between the BLM and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

## Drilling and Completion Operations

- Hydraulic fracturing (HF) operations are planned as a 'plug & perf' operation done in stages. The process is anticipated require 14 days. Water used for HF will come from municipal water supplies from Wright or Gillette, Wyoming or permitted wells listed in the SUP. All fresh water will be contained in 400-500 bbl rental HF tanks and no surface pits will be used to hold this water. No additional well pad disturbance is anticipated for HF operations. Completion flowback water will be held in tanks on location and trucked offsite to a disposal facility permitted by Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ).
- It is anticipated that 60,000 bbls of water will be needed for drilling and completion operations. The fresh water for drilling operations will be trucked from multiple permitted sources; p. 5 of the respective SUP the for listed water sources.
- For completion (HF) phase, the operator intends use above ground tanks for onsite water storage at the pad. The above-ground tanks do not require a separate location or additional disturbance.
- Typically 170 500-bbl fracturing tanks are spotted, taking 2 weeks to fill, prior to pumping the stimulation. All fracturing water, including excess, is present before starting.
- Produced water during the production phase will be stored in a permanent storage tank. A third party will haul the flowback water, produced water, and oil from the reserve pit (if any) to permitted disposal facilities: one of 6 permitted facilities which are outlined in the SUP.
- Peak truck traffic to fill HF tanks during completion operations is estimated to be approximately 500 roundtrips per well.

**Table 1.2. Anticipated Drilling and Completion Sequence and Timing (per well)**

Drilling and Completion Step	Approximate Duration
Build Location (roads, pad, and other initial infrastructure)	30 days
Mob Rig	2-4 days <sup>1</sup>
Drilling (24/7)	30 days <sup>2</sup>
Schedule/logistics	30 days
Completion (setup, completion, demobilization)	5-8 days
<sup>1</sup> Depending on distance and needed to add supplemental drilling equipment, such as skidding plates.	
<sup>2</sup> By comparison, approximately 2 days are required to drill a CBNG well. ICF 2012	

All locations require extensive earthwork for creating sufficient area to complete the well. BBC will then reduce the initial well site with interim reclamation. Individual well designs are in the individual APDs.

While this pad is larger than most to date it is more similar than different in that the pad hosts multiple wells; the construction surface disturbance footprint is larger than the operational footprint; the construction footprint is quickly followed with interim reclamation; and the totality of the pad contribution to surface disturbance in the upper Powder River remains well within the totality of the surface disturbance envisioned and analyzed in the PRB FEIS. The proposed size is necessary to safely accommodate the equipment necessary for an effective well completion.

**Table 1.3. Disturbance Summary Ruby Federal Wells:**

Facility	Dimension	Square Feet	Disturbance
Engineered Pad including Cut/Fill and Topsoil/Spoil Piles	1 @ 420 ft x 550 ft	231,000 sq ft	5.30 acres (pad surface) 6.11 (total)
Proposed Access	704 ft x 50 ft	35,200 sq ft	0.81 acres
Buried Utility Corridor	2,300 ft x 15 ft	34,500 sq ft	0.79 acres
<b>Total Surface Disturbance</b>			<b>7.71 acres</b>

During interim reclamation the well pad will be reduced by approximately 4.71 acres, reducing the pad disturbance to approximately 1.4 acres. The access road will be reduced to approximately 0.32 acres.

**Plan Conformance.** The proposal conforms to the terms and the conditions of the Buffalo Resource Management Plan (RMP), 1985, amended 2001, 2003, and 2011. The development area is clearly lacking wilderness characteristics as it is in the midst of extensive oil and gas development. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 subjects oil or gas exploration or development to a rebuttable presumption that the use of a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) applies. Thus BLM must use an Energy Policy Act CX unless BLM shows such CX is inapplicable. This consolidated CX1 analysis is a form of NEPA compliance categorically excluded from the analysis that occurs in an EA or EIS. BLM H-1790, p. 17. BLM finds that the conditions and environmental effects found in the senior EA and Powder River Basin Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRB FEIS), 2003 (2011), remain valid.

The applicable categorical exclusion from the Energy Policy Act of 2005 is exclusion number (b)(1) which is *individual surface disturbances of less than 5 acres so long as the total surface disturbance on the lease is not greater than 150 acres and site-specific analysis in a document prepared pursuant to NEPA has been previously completed.*

There are 3 requirements for a Section 390 CX1 (BLM NEPA Handbook, Appendix. 2):

- 1) The project must disturb less than 5 acres on the site. If more than 1 action is proposed for a lease (for example 2 or more wells), each activity is counted separately, and each may disturb up to 5 acres. Similarly, the 5-acre limit applies separately to each activity requiring discrete BLM action, such as each APD, even though for processing efficiency purposes the operator submits for BLM review a large master development plan addressing many wells.

BBC submitted the proposal in which the disturbance for all federal actions is 7.71 acres or 3.86 acres per lease. Disturbances are listed in Table 1.3. The 3.86 acres per lease is less than the 5 acre limit, which applies separately to each activity requiring discrete BLM action. The long term disturbance for all leases combined for the proposed pad will be approximately 1.72 acres total for all leases combined.

- 2) The current unreclaimed surface disturbance readily visible on the entire leasehold must not be greater than 150 acres, including this proposed project. This includes previous disturbances

supporting lease development. The 150-acre limit applies separately to each federal lease supporting the development.

There are approximately 4.05 miles of existing access roads on leases WYW153067 and WYW072459 combined. Using a 60 foot width of disturbance, the existing disturbance on the leases is approximately 30 acres. The disturbances consist of existing primitive and crown and ditch template roads. No well locations have been constructed on these leases.

The 30 acres of disturbance is less than the overall 150 acre limit which applies separately to each federal lease, supporting the development.

- 3) There must be a site-specific NEPA analysis (not just leasing) covering the proposal area. This NEPA analysis may be exploratory or development; it may be part of a specific master development plan, a multi-well analysis, or an individual permit approval. The NEPA analysis must have analyzed the type of activity or project being considered (i.e., a well, infrastructure); yet it need not have addressed the specific permit or application being considered.

**Table 1.4. Overlapping Oil & Gas Well NEPA Analyses Tiered to by Decision Date**

#	POD / Well Name	NEPA Analysis #	# / Type Wells	Decision Mo/Yr
1	Samson North Tree 1	WY-070-EA13-77	18 Oil	3/2013
2	BBC South Butte	WY-070-390CX3-12-236 to -250	15 CBNG	9/2012
3	YPC All Day POD	WY-070-EA08-026	35 CBNG	4/2011 & 8/2009
4	APC Dry Willow Phase 5	WY-070-EA10-186	38 CBNG	8/2010
5	APC Dry Willow Phase 3	WY-070-EA08-036	43 CBNG	8/2009

In summary the EAs in Table 1.4. analyzed in detail the anticipated direct, indirect, residual, and cumulative effects that would result from the approval of these APDs and associated support structure in Ruby Federal wells is similar to both the qualitative and quantitative analysis in the above mentioned EAs. The BFO reviewed the EA and found that the EA considered potential environmental effects associated with the proposal at a site specific level. The APD's surface use and drilling plans are incorporated here by reference and show adequate protection of surface lands and ground water, including the Fox Hills formation.

This agrees with the PRB FEIS which analyzed the reasonably foreseeable development rolling across the PRB of 51,000 CBNG and 3,200 natural gas and oil wells.

**Plan of Operations.**

The proposal conforms to all Bureau standards and incorporates appropriate best management practices, required and designed mitigation measures determined to reduce the effects on the environment. BLM reviewed and approved a surface use plan of operations describing all proposed surface-disturbing activities pursuant to Section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act, as amended. This CX1 analysis also incorporates and analyzes the implementation of committed mitigation measures contained in the SUP, drilling plan, in addition to the Standard COAs found in the PRB FEIS ROD, Appendix A.

**Soil, Ecological Sites, and Vegetation**

Soils, ecological sites, and vegetation found at the Ruby Federal wells are similar to those occurring in North Tree 1 POD EA, WY-070-EA13-77. Impacts anticipated occurring and mitigation considered with the implementation of the proposal will be similar to those analyzed in the following EA which is adjacent, overlapping, or have similar characteristics to the Ruby Federal wells and are incorporated here

by reference: North Tree 1 POD EA, WY-070-EA13-77, Description of Affected Environment, pp. 9-12; and Direct and Indirect, Cumulative, Residual Effects, pp. 22-24.

**Table 1.5. Dominant Soils by Map Unit Symbol (MUS)**

MUS	Map Unit Name	Ecological Site
217	Theedle-Shingle Loams	Loamy
146	Forwood-Cushman Loams	Loamy

**Water Resources**

The historical use for groundwater in this area was for stock or domestic water. A search of the WSEO Ground Water Rights Database showed 2 registered stock and domestic water wells within 1 mile of the proposed wells in the project area with depths ranging from 252 to 703 feet. For additional information on groundwater, refer to the PRB FEIS, Affected Environment, pp. 3-1 to 3-36.

Adherence to the drilling COAs, the setting of casing at appropriate depths, following safe remedial procedures in the event of casing failure, and using proper cementing procedures should protect any fresh water aquifers above the target coal zone. The operator will run surface casing to 3,000 feet, total vertical depth (TVD) to protect shallow aquifers. The top of cement for the intermediate casing string will be calculated to isolate at a minimum 100 feet above to a minimum of approximately 3,000 feet below the Fox Hills formation, located at 7,400 feet TVD. This will ensure that ground water will not be adversely impacted by well drilling and completion operations.

At the time of permitting, the volume of water that will be produced in association with these federal minerals is unknown. The operator will have to produce the wells for a time to be able to estimate the water production. In order to comply with the requirements of Onshore Oil and Gas Order #7, Disposal of Produced Water, the operator will submit a Sundry to the BLM within 90 days of first production which includes a representative water analysis as well as the proposal for water management.

Historically, the quality of water produced in association with conventional oil and gas has been such that surface discharge would not be possible without treatment. Initial water production is quite low in most cases. There are three common alternatives for water management: Re-injection, deep disposal or disposal into pits. All alternatives would be protective of groundwater resources when performed in compliance with state and federal regulations.

**Locatable Minerals**

There are 32 individual mining claims located in the sections of the 2 proposed oil wells. Although mining claimants are not required to list the minerals they are locating their claims for, given the number of uranium projects in this area, these mining claims were likely located for uranium.

Direct and Indirect Effects, Cumulative Effects, Mitigation Measures, and Residual Effects are found in the Iberlin 1-9H and Iberlin 1-9TH EA, WY-070-EA13-224, pp. 28-29, incorporated here by reference.

**Wildlife**

A BLM wildlife biologist reviewed the proposed APDs and determined that, combined with the COAs (and design features), are: (1) consistent with the FEIS and its supplements, the RMP and the above tiered EAs; and (2) consistent with the programmatic biological opinion (ES-6-WY-02-F006), which is an update from the PRB FEIS, Appendix K. The biologist performed onsite visits to the project area on May 5, 2013. The affected environment and environmental consequences for wildlife are discussed in, and anticipated to be similar to the Sahara POD EA, WY-070-EA13-72. Site specific information is described below for known species suspected to occur within the project area as depicted in Table W.1.(Summary

of Sensitive Species Habitat and Project Effects) and Table W.2.(Summary of Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat and Project Effects) located in the project file.

**Ruby Federal 31-20-4375SH and Ruby Federal 34-17-4375SH (both wells share a pad)**

**GSG**

Four known leks (Pumpkin, South Butte, Hines, and Hines Northwest) are within 2 miles of the proposed project. BLM analyzed and considered mitigation for two leks in the Sahara POD EA, WY-070-EA13-72 and this analysis is incorporated here by reference: Affected Environment (Section 3.7.4.1 (p.18-19)); Direct and Indirect Effects (Section 4.6.4.1.1.( p. 34-39) ); Cumulative Effects (Section 4.6.4.1.2. (pp.49-50)); Mitigation (Section 4.6.4.1.3. (p. 37); Residual Effects (Section 4.6.4.1.4. (p. 37).

To reduce the likelihood that noise, construction, and human disturbance impact nesting GSG, BLM will implement a timing limitation on all surface-disturbing activities (March 15-June 30) within 2 miles of an occupied lek. The intent of this timing restriction is to decrease the likelihood that GSG will avoid these areas and increase habitat quality by reducing noise and human activities during the breeding season. The proposals will cumulatively contribute to the potential for local GSG extirpation, yet this impact is acceptable because it occurs outside preliminary priority habitats (core, focus and connectivity), is within the parameters of the PRB FEIS/ROD, and is consistent with the coordinated BLM and State of Wyoming GSG conservation strategies, BLM WY-2012-19 and WY Executive Order 2011-5, respectively.

**Migratory Birds**

The proposed well pad is within migratory bird habitat for sage-brush obligate species. Nesting season for Brewer's sparrows (a BLM Special Status (Sensitive) Species (SSS)) typically occurs mid-May to mid-July. Some young fledge in late July. Sage thrashers (BLM sensitive species) may lay a second clutch of eggs as late as mid-July. Lark sparrows in northern latitudes lay eggs from early May to mid-July. GSG timing limitations on surface disturbing activities will mitigate impacts to nesting migratory birds from March 15 to June 30. However, several species of birds, listed above, are likely to still have eggs or nestlings into July. BLM biologists have observed active Brewer's sparrow nests containing eggs during the last week of June. Only a percentage of known nests are active any given year, so the protections for migratory birds from June 30 to July 31 will depend on how many raptor and mountain plover nests are active. The least restrictive measures (in this case only applying GSG timing limitations) are inadequate to protect all nesting migratory birds that may inhabit the project area.

To reduce the likelihood of a "take" under the MBTA, the BLM biologist recommends that pad construction (vegetation removal) occur outside of the breeding season for the greatest quantity of BLM sensitive passerines (May 1- July 31) where suitable nesting habitat for sagebrush obligates is present. This restriction would apply to habitat removal, unless a pre-construction nest search (within approximately 10 days of construction planned May 1-July 31) is completed. If surveys will be conducted, the operator will coordinate with BLM biologists to determine protocol. The nest search will consist of in areas where vegetation will be removed or destroyed. The BLM recommends the well pad and associated infrastructure have timing limitations applied for well pad construction during the nesting season for sagebrush obligate passerines (May 1 to July 31).

Effects to migratory birds from surface disturbing and disruptive activities associated with development of the proposed well are similar to the wells previously analyzed in the CX3, Covering Bonita Federal Com. 11H-WY-070-390CX3-13-41, Lone Moose Federal Com. 13H-WY-070-390CX3-13-73, Cousins Federal Com. 22H-WY-070-390CX3-13-74 and Rocky Butte Federal Com. 29H-WY-070-390CX3-13-75 on pp. 6-9 (approved under one NEPA document) referenced in Table W1.1, below. The wildlife biologist has determined that the proposal is in compliance with Instruction Memorandum No. WY-2013-005 Interim Management Guidance for Migratory Bird Conservation Policy on Wyoming Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Administered Public Lands Including the Federal Mineral Estate.

BLM recommends taking measures to ensure excluding migratory birds from facilities posing a mortality risk, including, but not limited to, heater treaters, flare stacks, secondary containment, and standing water or chemicals where escape may be difficult or hydrocarbons or toxic substances are present.

**Table W1.1. NEPA Analyses, Incorporated by Reference Here, for Wildlife Analysis**

#	Well Name & #	Qtr	Sec	Twp	Rng	CX Number
1	Bonita Federal Com 11H	NENE	10	43N	73W	WY-070-390CX3-13-41
2	Cousins Federal Com 22H	SWSE	2	43N	74W	WY-070-390CX3-13-74
3	Lone Moose Federal Com 13H	NWNW	26	44N	74W	WY-070-390CX3-13-73
4	Rocky Butte Federal Com 29H	NENW	4	43N	73W	WY-070-390CX3-13-75

**Cultural**

A paleontology survey was completed; no site or objects were found. The proposals’ proponent completed a level III cultural resources survey in the project area. The survey revealed no cultural properties and the project affects no heritage sites. This project will have no effect on any property eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The Forest Service consulted with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and received concurrence to proceed. The Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO) for the project area is low. The effect of the project on scenery management and attaining the Grassland Plan scenery objective will be negligible. No above ground power lines will be built, and constructed gas well site will appear subordinate in the landscape. Facilities and landscape modifications are visible but are reasonably mitigated to blend and harmonize with natural features. Reclamation activities will restore the area to a reasonable level of its pre-development condition.

The effects on the soil, vegetation, and watershed components will be minimal with the application of mitigation measures, of the Surface Use Plan of Operation and Forest Service Conditions of Approval.

**List of Preparers: Persons and Agencies Consulted (BFO unless otherwise noted)**

Position/Organization	Name	Position/Organization	Name
NRS/Team Lead	Dustin Hill	Archaeologist	Georges “Buck” Damone
Supr NRS	Casey Freise	Wildlife Biologist	Scott Jawors
Petroleum Engineer	Mark Thomason	Geologist	Warren “Mike” Garrett
LIE	Kristine Phillips	Supr NRS	Kathy Brus
NEPA Coordinator	John Kelley	Assistant Field Manager	Clark Bennett
Assistant Field Manager	Chris Durham	WY SHPO	

This consolidated CX1 analysis also tiers to and incorporated by reference the following – either as senior NEPA analysis or as substantially similar analysis in the semi-arid sage-brush, short grass prairie:

#	POD / Well Name	NEPA Document #	# / Type Wells	Decision Date
1 <sup>a</sup>	Mufasa Fed 11-31H Well	WY-070-EA12-062	1 Oil	3/2012
3 <sup>b</sup>	Crazy Cat East	WY-070-EA13-028	36 Oil	2/2013

- a. Those sections describing and analyzing hydraulic fracturing, its supporting analysis, and the Greater Sage-grouse Section 3.7.12 and 4.8.2.
- b. Those sections describing and analyzing hydraulic fracturing and its supporting analysis to include but not limited to traffic, water, and air quality.

**Decision and Rationale on the Proposal.**

The COAs provide mitigation and further the justification for this decision and may not be segregated from project implementation without further NEPA review. I reviewed the plan conformance statement and determined that the proposed Ruby Federal wells CX1 proposal and infrastructure conform to the applicable land use plan, 43 CFR 1610.5, 40 CFR 1508.4, and 43 CFR 46.215. I reviewed the proposal to

ensure the appropriate exclusion category as described in Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 is correct. I determined that there is no requirement for further environmental analysis.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Field Manager

2/7/14  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date

Contact Person, Dustin Hill, Natural Resource Specialist, Buffalo Field Office, 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo WY 82834, 307-684-1100