

Appendix A

Federal Register Notice of Intent

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The OFR/GPO partnership is committed to presenting accurate and reliable regulatory information on FederalRegister.gov with the objective of establishing the XML-based Federal Register as an ACFR-sanctioned publication in the future. While every effort has been made to ensure that the material on FederalRegister.gov is accurately displayed, consistent with the official SGML-based PDF version on FDsys.gov, those relying on it for legal research should verify their results against an official edition of the Federal Register. Until the ACFR grants it official status, the XML rendition of the daily Federal Register on FederalRegister.gov does not provide legal notice to the public or judicial notice to the courts.

The Federal Register

The Daily Journal of the United States Government

Notice

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Amendments to the Casper Resource Management Plan and Thunder Basin National Grasslands Land and Resource Management Plan, Converse County, WY

A Notice by the [Land Management Bureau](#) on [05/16/2014](#)

This document has a comment period that ends in 45 days (06/30/2014) [Submit a formal comment](#)

Action

Notice.

Summary

The Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Converse County Oil and Gas Project; We may

also prepare land-use plan amendments to the Casper Resource Management Plan and the Thunder Basin National Grassland Land Resource Management Plan. We are announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues. The Bureau of Land Management is the lead agency for the Environmental Impact Statement and the United States Forest Service is participating as a cooperating agency.

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DATES:

Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until June 30, 2014. In order to be included in the analysis, all comments must be received prior to the close of the 30-day scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. The BLM will provide additional opportunities for public participation as appropriate. The dates and locations of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through the local news media, newspapers, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Web site at: http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/field_offices/Casper.html.

ADDRESSES:

You may submit written comments by any of the following methods:

- *Web site:* www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/field_offices/Casper.html.
- *Email:* blm_wy_casper_wymail@blm.gov.
- *Fax:* 307-261-7587 .
- *Mail:* Converse County Oil and Gas Project, BLM Casper Field Office, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604.

Documents pertinent to this proposal are available for public review at the BLM Casper Field Office or the United States Forest Service (USFS) Douglas Ranger District Office, 2250 East Richards Street, Douglas, Wyoming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kathleen Lacko, Assistant Field Manager, telephone: 307-261-7530; address: 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604; email: blm_wy_casper_wymail@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact Ms. Lacko during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours. You can call either of these numbers to have your name added to our mailing list.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

This notice initiates the public scoping process for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and land-use plan amendments. The BLM Casper Field Office and USFS Thunder Basin National Grasslands intend to:

- Prepare an EIS to support decision making for the proposed Converse County Oil and Gas Project; and
- Begin the public scoping period to seek input on the preliminary issues identified with respect to this Project. In submitting comments during the scoping period, you should be aware that:
- Authorization of this proposal may require amendments of the 2007 Casper resource management plan or the 2001 Thunder Bay land and resources management plan because resource impacts will likely exceed those analyzed in the existing plans; and .
- A change in circumstances or a proposed action may result in a change in the scope of resources uses or a change in terms, conditions, and decisions of the approved plans for surface disturbance, wildlife, cultural resources, air quality and water quality.

By this notice, the BLM is complying with requirements in [43 CFR 1610.2\(c\)](#). If land use plan amendments are necessary, the BLM and USFS will integrate the land-use planning processes with the NEPA process for this project.

Where is the proposed project located?

The proposed development project area is located in Converse County and encompasses approximately 1.5 million acres of land, of which approximately 88,000 surface acres (6 percent of the project area) and approximately 965,000 subsurface mineral estate acres (64 percent of the

project area) are public lands administered by BLM while USFS manages approximately 64,000 acres of surface (4 percent of the project area) within the project area. The remainder of the project area consists of lands owned by the State of Wyoming and private owners.

What would the project do?

The companies involved propose to develop approximately 5,000 oil and natural gas wells on 1,500 new multi-well pads within the proposed Converse County Oil and Gas Project area over a 10-year period. The companies propose to:

- Develop the project area using directional, vertical, horizontal and other drilling techniques;
- Develop infrastructure to support oil and gas production in the project area including: well pads, roads, pipelines, power lines, compressor and electrical substations, and ancillary facilities, such as water supply wells and water disposal facilities; and
- Request exceptions to multiple timing-limitation restrictions, which serve to protect several wildlife species, in an effort to drill year-round.

Surface disturbance associated with the Converse County Oil and Gas Project proposal is estimated to include 50,000 acres of initial surface disturbance for the construction of new roads, well pads, pipelines and associated facilities, of which approximately 20,000 acres could remain for the life of the project.

How will BLM and USFS evaluate the project?

BLM and USFS will evaluate any authorizations and actions proposed in the EIS to determine if they conform to the decisions in the 2007 Casper resources management plan (RMP) or 2001 Thunder Basin land resources management plan (LRMP). Any proposed actions that would change the scope of resource uses, terms and conditions, and decisions of either plan would require amendment of the affected plan. If we determine that a plan amendment is required, the necessary analysis would occur simultaneously with preparation of the Converse County Oil and Gas Project EIS. The preliminary planning criteria for a necessary plan amendment would include all of the following:

- The amendments will comply with all applicable laws, executive orders, regulations and be consistent with applicable policy.
- The amendments will recognize valid existing rights.
- Lands addressed in the amendments will be public lands (including split estate lands) managed by the BLM and National Forest Service System lands managed by the USFS, respectively.
- Any decisions in the amendments will apply only to Federal lands administered by either the BLM or the USFS.

- A collaborative and multi-jurisdictional approach will be used, where possible, to jointly determine the desired future condition and management direction for the public lands.
- To the extent possible within legal and regulatory parameters, BLM and USFS decisions will complement decisions of other agencies and of State and local governments with jurisdictions intermingled with, and adjacent to, the planning area.

When will public meetings be held?

To provide the public with an opportunity to review the proposed project and the project information, as well as the proposed plan amendments, the BLM will host meetings in Casper, Douglas and Glenrock before June 30, 2014. The BLM will notify the public of meetings and any other opportunities for the public to be involved in the process for this proposal at least 15 days prior to the event. Meeting dates, locations and times will be announced by a news release to the media, individual mailings and postings on the project Web site.

What happens during the scoping process?

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EIS. At present, BLM and USFS have identified the following preliminary issues:

- Potential effects on air quality; historic trails; socioeconomic; vegetation; water resources; wildlife habitat, including Greater Sage-Grouse and Greater Sage-Grouse Core Habitat Areas.
- Possible use of hierarchical mitigation strategies, if applicable and appropriate to the project and potential amendment. Mitigation strategies include avoidance, minimization or compensation, for on-site, regional, and other mitigation strategies.
- Identification of areas appropriate for landscape-level conservation and management actions to achieve regional mitigation objectives (e.g. ACECs, priority habitat, etc.).

The project will incorporate all elements of the present Greater Sage-Grouse planning efforts and decisions and look to further mitigate impacts of the project by monitoring and evaluations as the project is implemented.

How will the comment process work?

BLM and USFS will use and coordinate the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) commenting process to help fulfill the public involvement process under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. 470f), as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). The information about historic and cultural resources within the area potentially affected by the proposed

action will assist BLM and USFS in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources in the context of both NEPA and section 106 of the NHPA.

Native American tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with policy, and tribal concerns will be given due consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested or affected by the BLM's or USFS's decisions on this project, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency.

How will comments be evaluated?

The Forest Service will be operating under the new requirements in 36 CFR part 218 Subparts A and B for this project. Per these regulations, anyone submitting timely, specific written comments regarding a proposed project or activity during any designated opportunity for public comments will have standing to file an objection. This includes requests for comments during this initial scoping period as well as comments submitted during the 45-day comment period for the Draft EIS.

It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of established comment periods. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments will have eligibility (36 CFR 218.5) to file an objection under 36 CFR 218.8. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments must either sign the comment or verify identity upon request. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements in § 218.25(a)(3).

Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority:

40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2.

Larry Claypool,

Acting State Director, Bureau of Land Management Wyoming State Office.

Phil Cruz,

Forest Supervisor, United States Forest Service.

[FR Doc. [2014-11423](#) Filed 5-15-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

Appendix B

Scoping Advertising and Media Outlets

News Release 1



Release Date: 05/16/14
Contacts: Lesley A. Elser
 307-261-7603

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT NEWS RELEASE**
 Casper Field Office

BLM to Initiate Environmental Impact Statement for Converse County Oil and Gas Project

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Casper Field Office (CFO) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Douglas Ranger District (DRD) are seeking public comment on a proposed oil and natural gas development project in Converse County, Wyoming. The BLM published a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) in the *Federal Register* on May 16, 2014, which opens a 45-day public scoping period.

The BLM is the lead agency to prepare the EIS. The USFS is participating as a cooperating agency. Amendments to the BLM Casper Resource Management Plan and the USFS Thunder Basin National Grasslands Land and Resource Management Plan may be necessary. Impacts are expected to exceed analysis thresholds set within the current planning documents.

Anadarko Petroleum Company, Chesapeake Energy Corporation, RKI Exploration and Production, Samson Resources, and SM Energy propose to drill approximately 5,000 oil and natural gas wells in Converse County in an area encompassing approximately 1.5 million acres over a 10-year period. The proposed project area is located on approximately 88,000 surface acres (six percent of the project area) and 965,000 subsurface mineral acres (64 percent of the project area) which are public lands administered by the BLM CFO. The USFS DRD manages approximately 64,000 acres of surface (four percent of the project area). The remainder of the project area consists of State of Wyoming (seven percent) and private surface (83 percent) and mineral ownership (36 percent or 537,000 acres).

The project would be developed using directional, vertical, horizontal and other drilling techniques, as well as oil and gas production infrastructure including: well pads, roads, pipelines, power lines, compressor and electrical substations, and ancillary facilities such as water supply wells and water disposal facilities. The project proponents have requested full-season exceptions (year-round drilling) to multiple timing limitation restrictions which serve to protect several wildlife species in the area.

Project information and documents will be posted on the website at: http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/cfo/Converse_County_Oil_and_Gas.html.

To provide an opportunity to review the proposal and project information, the BLM will host public meetings in Casper, Douglas and Glenrock, Wyoming. Meeting dates, times and locations will be announced at least 15 calendar days prior to any scheduled meeting through the press and on the BLM project website.

Public input is valuable early in the process and will enable the BLM to develop a well-informed EIS. Comments should be received by June 30, 2014. Written comments may be emailed to: blm_wy_casper_wymail@blm.gov or mailed to: Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, and Attn: Mike Robinson, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. For more information, contact Mike Robinson at 307-261-7520.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2013, the BLM generated \$4.7 billion in receipts from public lands.

--BLM--

Casper Field Office 2987 Prospector Drive Casper, WY 82604

Last updated: 05-16-2014

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News Release 2



Release Date: 05/23/14
Contacts: Lesley A. Elser
 307-261-7603

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT NEWS RELEASE**
 Casper Field Office

Casper Field Office Announces Public Meetings for Converse County Oil and Gas Project

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Casper Field Office and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Douglas Ranger District are seeking public comment on a proposed oil and natural gas development project in Converse County, Wyoming. The BLM published a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) in the *Federal Register* on May 16, 2014, which opens a 45-day public scoping period.

The BLM is hosting three public meetings to seek input on the Converse County Oil and Gas Project. In addition, the BLM and USFS are initiating the Section 106 process for the National Historic Preservation Act.

The project consists of drilling up to 5,000 new oil and gas wells on 1,500 well pads over a 10-year period. The BLM is preparing an environmental impact statement to analyze the impacts associated with the project.

You are invited to attend one of the following public scoping meetings to learn more about the proposed project and to provide your written comments:

Tuesday, June 10, 2014 Clarion Inn 1450 Riverbend Drive Douglas, WY	Wednesday, June 11, 2014 Best Western Ramkota Hotel 800 N. Poplar Casper, WY	Thursday, June 12, 2014 Glenrock Recreation Center 412 S 4th St. Glenrock, WY
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All meetings will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. with a presentation being given at 6 p.m.

Your involvement is important. We hope you will attend and provide your comments on the proposed project. You can view the proposed project details on the BLM's website at: http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/cfo/Converse_County_Oil_and_Gas.html

For more information, contact Mike Robinson at 307-261-7520.

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--BLM--

Casper Field Office 2987 Prospector Drive Casper, WY 82604

Last updated: 05-23-2014

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[Privacy Policy](#) | [FOIA](#) | [Kids Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Home](#)

News Release 3



Release Date: 06/24/14
Contacts: Lesley A. Elser
307-261-7603

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT NEWS RELEASE**
CasperField Office

Comment Period for Converse County Oil and Gas Project Set to Close

The comment period for the Converse County Oil and Gas Project is set to close on June 30, 2014. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) encourages interested individuals to review and comment on the project.

The BLM Casper Field Office (CFO) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Douglas Ranger District (DRD) are seeking public comment on a proposed oil and natural gas development project in Converse County, Wyo. The BLM published a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) in the Federal Register on May 16, 2014, which opened a 45-day public scoping period.

BLM hosted public scoping meetings June 10-12 to give the public the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on the project. More than 120 people attended the meetings in Casper, Glenrock and Douglas.

The BLM is the lead agency to prepare the EIS. The USFS is participating as a cooperating agency. Amendments to the BLM Casper Resource Management Plan and the USFS Thunder Basin National Grasslands Land and Resource Management Plan may be necessary. Impacts are expected to exceed analysis thresholds set within the current planning documents.

Anadarko Petroleum Company, Chesapeake Energy Corporation, EOG Resources, RKI Exploration and Production, Samson Resources, and SM Energy propose to drill approximately 5,000 oil and natural gas wells in Converse County in an area encompassing approximately 1.5 million acres over a 10-year period. The proposed project area is located on approximately 88,000 surface acres (six percent of the project area) and 965,000 subsurface mineral acres (64 percent of the project area) which are public lands administered by the BLM CFO. The USFS DRD manages approximately 64,000 acres of surface (four percent of the project area). The remainder of the project area consists of State of Wyoming (seven percent) and private surface (83 percent) and mineral ownership (36 percent or 537,000 acres).

The project would be developed using directional, vertical, horizontal and other drilling techniques, as well as oil and gas production infrastructure including: well pads, roads, pipelines, power lines, compressor and electrical substations, and ancillary facilities such as water supply wells and water disposal facilities. The project proponents have requested full-season exceptions (year-round drilling) to multiple timing limitation restrictions which serve to protect several wildlife species in the area.

Project information and documents are posted on the website at: http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/cfo/Converse_County_Oil_and_Gas.html.

Public input is valuable early in the process and will enable the BLM to develop a well-informed EIS. Written comments may be emailed to: blm_wy_casper_wymail@blm.gov or mailed to: Bureau of Land Management, Casper Field Office, and Attn: Mike Robinson, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604. For more information, contact Mike Robinson at 307-261-7520.

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--BLM--

CasperField Office 2987 Prospector Drive Casper, WY 82604

Last updated: 06-24-2014

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Public Service Announcement

Bureau of Land Management
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, WY 82604-2968
Telephone: 307-261-7600

Public Meetings – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Time: 1 minute

THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT IS HOSTING A SERIES OF THREE PUBLIC MEETINGS TO SEEK INPUT ON THE CONVERSE COUNTY OIL AND GAS PROJECT.

THE PROJECT PROPOSES A MAXIMUM OF 5,000 NEW OIL AND GAS WELLS ON 1,500 WELL PADS OVER A TEN-YEAR PERIOD. THE BLM WILL BE PREPARING AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT TO ANALYZE THE IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECT.

TO LEARN MORE LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENTS, THE BLM INVITES YOU TO ATTEND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS:

- TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2014 IN DOUGLAS, WYOMING AT THE CLARION INN (NOW THE DOUGLAS INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER), LOCATED AT 1450 RIVERBEND DRIVE
- WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2014 IN CASPER, WYOMING AT THE BEST WESTERN RAMKOTA HOTEL, LOCATED AT 800 N. POPLAR STREET.
- THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2014 IN GLENROCK, WYOMING AT THE GLENROCK RECREATION CENTER, LOCATED AT 412 S 4TH STREET.

ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD FROM 5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM. THERE WILL BE A PRESENTATION AT 6:00 PM.

YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT. WE HOPE YOU WILL ATTEND AND PROVIDE YOUR INPUT ON THE PROPOSED PROJECT. YOU CAN VIEW THE PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING MATERIALS AT THE BLM CASPER FIELD OFFICE'S WEBSITE.

###

Media Outlet Table

AECOM PSA and Media Outlet Table

PSA Submittals	Submittal Date
Associated Press	
Cheyenne: (307) 632-9351; apcheyanne@ap.org	Emailed 6/3/14
Colorado: (303) 825-0123; apdenver@ap.org	mailed 6/3/14
Radio	
KDUW 91.7 FM. University of Wyoming public radio station serving the Douglas area Phone: 307-766-6624; Fax: 307-766-6184; see email at WY public media, below	Emailed 6/3/14, see below
KUWC 91.3. University of Wyoming public radio station serving the Casper area Phone: 307-766-4240; Fax: 307-766-6184 (same fax as above; see email at WY public media, below)	Emailed 6/3/14, see below
KUWG 90.9 University of Wyoming public radio station serving the Gillette area Phone: 307-766-4240; Fax: 307-766-6184 (same as above; see email at WY public media, below)	Emailed 6/3/14, see below
Wyoming Public Media website/community calendar. Bob Beck (News Director) btwo@uwyo.edu ; Stephanie Joyce: Energy and Natural Resources Reporter: Phone: 307-766-0809; Email: sjoyce3@uwyo.edu	Emailed 6/3/14
K2 Radio (KTWO-AM / KRNK-FM / KWYY-FM) Email: caspernews@gapbroadcasting.com ; tom.morton@townsquaremedia.com News: http://k2radio.com/submit-a-news-tip/	Emailed 6/3/14; submitted to NewsTip site 6/3/14
KKTY-AM / KYOD- FM Email: KKTY@Netcommander.com ; kyod@netcommander.com	Emailed 6/3/14
Television	
Wyoming PBS (KCWC-Lander/ KPTW (Casper)/ KWYP (Laramie): General Manager Ruby Calvert rcalvert@cw.edu ; gogara@cw.edu	Emailed 6/3/14
KTWO Casper: Fax: (307) 234-9866; Community Calendar: http://k2tv.com/calendar.php ; hcorson@k2tv.com ; production@k2tv.com ; info@k2tv.com	Emailed 6/3/14
KCWY_TV(13) (NBC) Casper: News tip: jehrhart@kcwy13.com Calendar: http://www.kcwy13.com/community	Emailed 6/3/14; sent to calendar 6/3/14
KSGW-TV(12)/KOTA-TV(ABC) Rapid City: Email: KOTACalendar@kotatv.com	Emailed 6/3/14

PSA Submittals	Submittal Date
Newspapers	
Casper Star-Tribune Email news tips to editors@trib.com Event Calendar: http://trib.com/calendar/	Emailed 6/3/14
Casper Journal Email news to editor@casperjournal.com	Emailed 6/3/14
Douglas Budget E-mail: publisher@douglas-budget.com News Tips: https://douglas-budget-dot-com.bloxcms.com/site/forms/online_services/submit_news/	Emailed 6/3/14, submitted to NewsTip 6/3/14
The Glenrock Independent E-mail: independent@netcommander.com News tips: http://www.douglas-budget.com/glenrock/	Emailed 6/3/14; submitted to NewsTip 6/3/14
Oil City News (http://www.oilcitywyo.com/) Calendar: http://c10posts.pitchengine.com/	Submitted to calendar 6/3/143
Gillette News Record News email: news@gillettenewsrecord.com Calendar: http://www.gillettenewsrecord.com/calendar/	Emailed 6/3/14
Wyoming Tribune Eagle Email: bmartin@wyomingnews.com Press releases: http://www.wyomingnews.com/our_services/letter_to_the_editor/	Emailed 6/3/14
OurTown Casper Email: publisher@ourtowncasper.com	Emailed 6/3/14
Laramie Boomerang (TBNG newspaper of record) News email: news@laramieboomerang.com	Emailed 6/3/14

Appendix C

Scoping Meeting Displays and Presentation Materials

Display Boards



Welcome

Welcome to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) public scoping meeting for the **Converse County Oil and Gas Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**.

While you are here, please take time to learn about the proposed project, ask questions, and discuss your concerns with the BLM project manager and resource specialists involved with this project.

Written comments may be submitted tonight or at any point until **June 30, 2014**.

Thank you for joining us.



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) EIS Process and Schedule



During **Public Scoping**, the public provides input regarding project and resource concerns. This input is used to identify issues to be addressed through alternatives development or EIS analysis.

The **Draft EIS** identifies Project Purpose and Need, describes alternatives that meet purpose and need while resolving resource conflicts, discloses effects of each alternative on the natural and human environment, and identifies mitigations that may reduce impacts.

There will be a **Public Comment** period after releasing the Draft EIS to allow for public comment on the document.

The **Final EIS** will disclose all public comments and responses to those comments.

Following release of the Final EIS, the BLM and the USFS will publish separate **Records of Decision** disclosing which Alternative (analyzed in the EIS) will be implemented, as well as any other Conditions of Approval.





Lead and Cooperating Agencies

Lead Agency

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the Lead Agency with responsibility for preparing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

- Approve the Proposed Action, a different alternative, or a combination of alternatives
- Determine Conditions of Approval that may be attached to the Record of Decision (ROD).

Responsibilities and Decisions

- Determine if Proposed Action/alternatives conform with the BLM Casper Field Office Resource Management Plan
- Determine if the EIS is adequate in order to reach an informed decision on the Proposed Action/alternatives

If the BLM decides to authorize the project, it will be required to review and act on Applications for Permits to Drill and right-of-way applications. Although the EIS analysis includes private lands, the BLM decision will only apply to public lands and minerals.

Cooperating Agencies are government agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise on issues addressed in the EIS. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Douglas Ranger District of the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grasslands (TBNG) is a cooperating agency on the EIS. USFS cooperating agency responsibilities and decisions include selecting alternatives for the USFS ROD, determining conditions of any Surface Use Plans of Operation and Special Use authorizations, and determining conformance with the TBNG Land and Resource Management Plan. If the FS decides to authorize the project, it will be required to review and act on Surface Use Plans of Operation for APDs and Special Use Authorization applications. Although the EIS analysis includes private lands, the USFS decision will only apply to National Forest System lands.





Land Use Plan Amendments

The 2007 BLM Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP) and the 2001 Thunder Basin National Grassland (TBNG) Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) may need to be amended because:

- The Project impacts may exceed the analysis for surface disturbance, wildlife, cultural resources, air quality and water quality

- Additional historic trail protections may be needed
- Resource stipulations may need to be updated based on the Project

If a land use plan amendment is necessary, analysis would be conducted as part of the EIS process. Any decisions in the RMP and LRMP amendments would apply only to Federal lands and minerals administered by either the BLM or the USFS.





Proposed Action

The Converse County Oil and Gas Project is proposed by a group of operators comprised of Anadarko Petroleum Company, Chesapeake Energy Corporation, EOG Resources, Inc., RKI Exploration and Production, Samson Resources and SM Energy, as well as other smaller operators within the project area.

Key Project Components

- 5,000 new oil and gas wells on 1,500 well pads, 50 water source well pads, 25 disposal well pads, and 375 production pads
- 1,890 miles of roads, with 750 miles of gathering pipeline and 1,350 miles of overhead electrical distribution lines within road disturbance areas
- Additional cross-country disturbance: 750 miles of gathering pipelines, 500 miles of main truck pipeline, 900 miles of surface water pipelines, and 150 miles of overhead electrical distribution

- Electrical substation, gas plant, compression facilities, and thirty 20-acre fresh water makeup ponds

Water Use

50,000-80,000 barrels of water per well, of which 2,000 to 4,000 barrels would be fresh water. Water would be obtained from approved, permitted surface water and groundwater sources

Project Timeframe

2017 to 2027





Wildlife/Threatened and Endangered Species

Key wildlife resource issues to be examined in the EIS include:

- How would wildlife resources, threatened and endangered species, sensitive species, and habitat be protected?
- How should the project be designed to achieve objectives for Greater Sage-Grouse conservation and management?
- How would impacts to migratory birds be minimized?
- How would changes to raptor protections (timing stipulations) affect raptor populations?



Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act directs federal agencies to ensure authorized actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of threatened or endangered species or result in destruction of critical habitat. A biological assessment will be prepared to examine impacts to federally listed wildlife and plant species (anticipated to include Preble's meadow jumping mouse and Ute ladies'-tresses).

Are there other issues regarding wildlife or Threatened and Endangered Species that should be considered during alternatives development or impact analysis? Do you have proposed mitigation that would help address impacts to these or other resource issues?



Soils, Geology, and Vegetation

Soils/Geology Issues

- How would long-term impacts to soils, including runoff and erosion, be mitigated? How would reclamation address areas that are prone to wind and water erosion?
- How would the project affect development of other minerals, such as coal, coal bed natural gas and geothermal (leasable minerals), uranium (locatable minerals) and aggregate (saleable minerals)?



Vegetation Resources Issues

- How would vegetation resources be protected, maintained, or restored?
- How would impacts to Ute-ladies'-tresses, a federally listed plant species, be minimized?
- How would the spread of noxious weeds be mitigated?

Are there other resource issues that should be considered during alternatives development or impact analysis?

Do you have proposed mitigation that would help reduce impacts to these or other resource issues?



Air Resources

Air Resources issues to be examined in the EIS include:

- What are the direct and indirect local impacts created by each alternative?
- How would the project impact locations a significant distance away from the project area?
- How would the impacts of increased airborne dust, industrial particulates, magnesium chloride, and other dust-abating chemicals be mitigated?
- How would the project contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?

The air quality analysis for the project will be performed using Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved models to assess both near-field and far-field impacts. The CAMx photochemical grid model will be used to assess both project and cumulative regional impacts for criteria pollutants, visibility, and deposition. AERMOD will be utilized to address near-field impacts for criteria pollutants and hazardous air pollutants.

The air analysis is developed in coordination with an inter-agency team that includes air quality technical experts from the EPA, USFS, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality-Air Quality Division.



Water Resources

Water resource issues to be examined in the EIS include:

- How would water resources be managed to protect and maintain ground and surface water quality and quantity?
- What would be the effects on water resources from hydraulic fracturing?
- How would aquifers be affected by water use?

The BLM may conduct groundwater modeling to estimate cumulative drawdowns from existing and future oil and gas operations.

Other EIS considerations:

- Examine variations in water usage and/or sources by alternative
- Assess impacts to ground and surface water quality, including identifying areas where surface and groundwater quality are linked (such as recharge/discharge areas) and assess impacts
- Develop appropriate mitigations, including a water quality monitoring plan with adaptive management components





Historic Trails

The National Trails System Act states that national scenic and historic trails “will be extended trails so located as to provide for maximum outdoor recreation potential and for the conservation and enjoyment of nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, and cultural qualities of the area through which such trails may pass”.

There are two trails of high national, regional and local significance situated within the project area: the ***Child’s Route of the Oregon Trail*** and the ***Bozeman Trail***.

EIS considerations include:

- Trail locations relative to oil and gas infrastructure placement by alternative
- Contribution of visual resources/soundscape to the historic trail’s eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places
- Impacts to heritage tourism





Other Resource Issues

Other resource issues to be examined in the EIS include:

Cultural Resources

How would prehistoric and historic cultural resources be protected? How would consultation with cultural preservation groups be incorporated? What cultural importance do local tribes place on the project area?

Socioeconomics

How would the direct and indirect impacts to social and economic resources be balanced with the positive impacts brought by the extraction industry?

Human Health and Safety

How would public health and safety issues resulting from increased travel, potential chemical spills or fires, and increased access in the project area be minimized?

Noise

How would noise from construction and operation be minimized?

Transportation

How would direct and indirect impacts from traffic be minimized?

Recreation and Visual

How would the effects of the extraction industry on recreational resources and opportunities be mitigated? How would visual impacts in the project area be reduced?

Are there other resource issues that should be considered during development of alternatives or impact analysis?

Do you have proposed mitigation that would help reduce impacts to these or other resources?





Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts are resource impacts resulting from the proposed project when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions not associated with the project, but which affect the same resources as the proposed project.

What else is planned in this area that could affect the same resources as this project?

Cumulative Impact Analysis Steps

1

Identify resource-specific spatial and temporal boundaries (analysis areas)

2

Assemble a list of all past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions (RFFAs). Reasonably foreseeable means actively proposed, planned or funded.

3

Describe the effects of past actions, present actions, and RFFAs on each resource

4

Describe the incremental addition of the proposed project and alternatives. Impacts may be **additive**, **countervailing** (balance/mitigate other effects) or **synergistic** (greater than the sum of individual effects).





How to Comment

You may submit written scoping comments by any of the following methods:

By email

blm_wy_casper_wymail@blm.gov

By fax

307-261-7587

Via the BLM project website

http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/cfo/Converse_County_Oil_and_Gas.html

By U.S. Postal Service (USPS) mail

Converse County Oil and Gas Project
BLM Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, WY 82604

At this meeting

Comment forms are available to fill out and leave with the BLM tonight, or take with you and mail via USPS at a later date.



**ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED
BY JUNE 30, 2014.**

Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal-identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment — including your personal identifying information — may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.



Presentation

CONVERSE COUNTY OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

BLM
Wyoming High Plains District – Casper Field Office

Public Scoping Meetings
June 2014



Presentation Ground Rules

- This is an overview of the NEPA Process and Proposed Plan of Development.
- We are not collecting comments during the presentation. If you have comments after the presentation please make sure to follow the comment process.
- I will take questions at the end of the presentation.



Agenda

- Introduce the Planning Process
- Why is BLM Preparing an EIS?
- Explain the Proposed Plan of Development
- Answer Questions

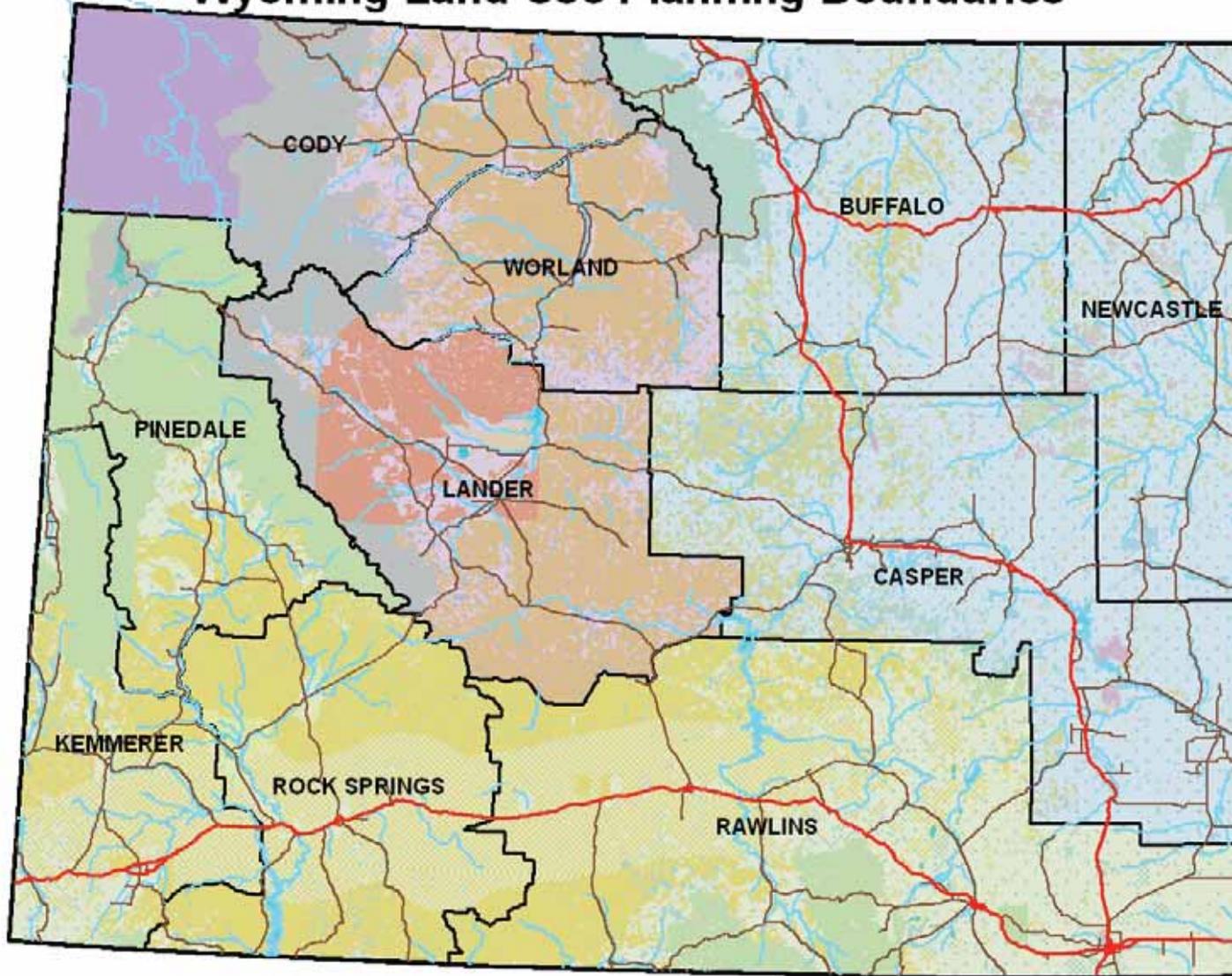


Agenda

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Wyoming Land Use Planning Boundaries



Planning and Regulations

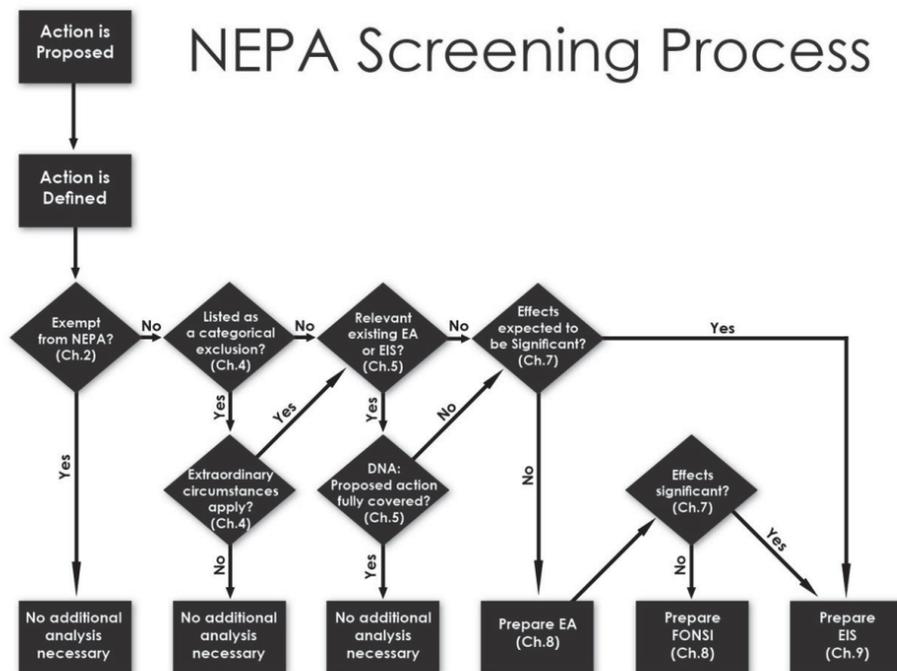
- **Two Over-arching Acts**
 - Federal Land Policy & Management Act (1976)
 - National Environmental Policy Act (1969)
- **Resource Specific Acts**
 - Clean Air Act (1963)
 - Clean Water Act (1972)
 - Endangered Species Act (1973)
 - National Historic Preservation Act (1966)
 - Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918)
 - Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (1940)



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Purpose:

- **Declare a national policy which will encourage productive & enjoyable harmony between man and his environment;**
- **Promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment & stimulate the health and welfare of man.**



* See Chapters 4 and 5 for documentation requirements



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) EIS Process and Projected Schedule

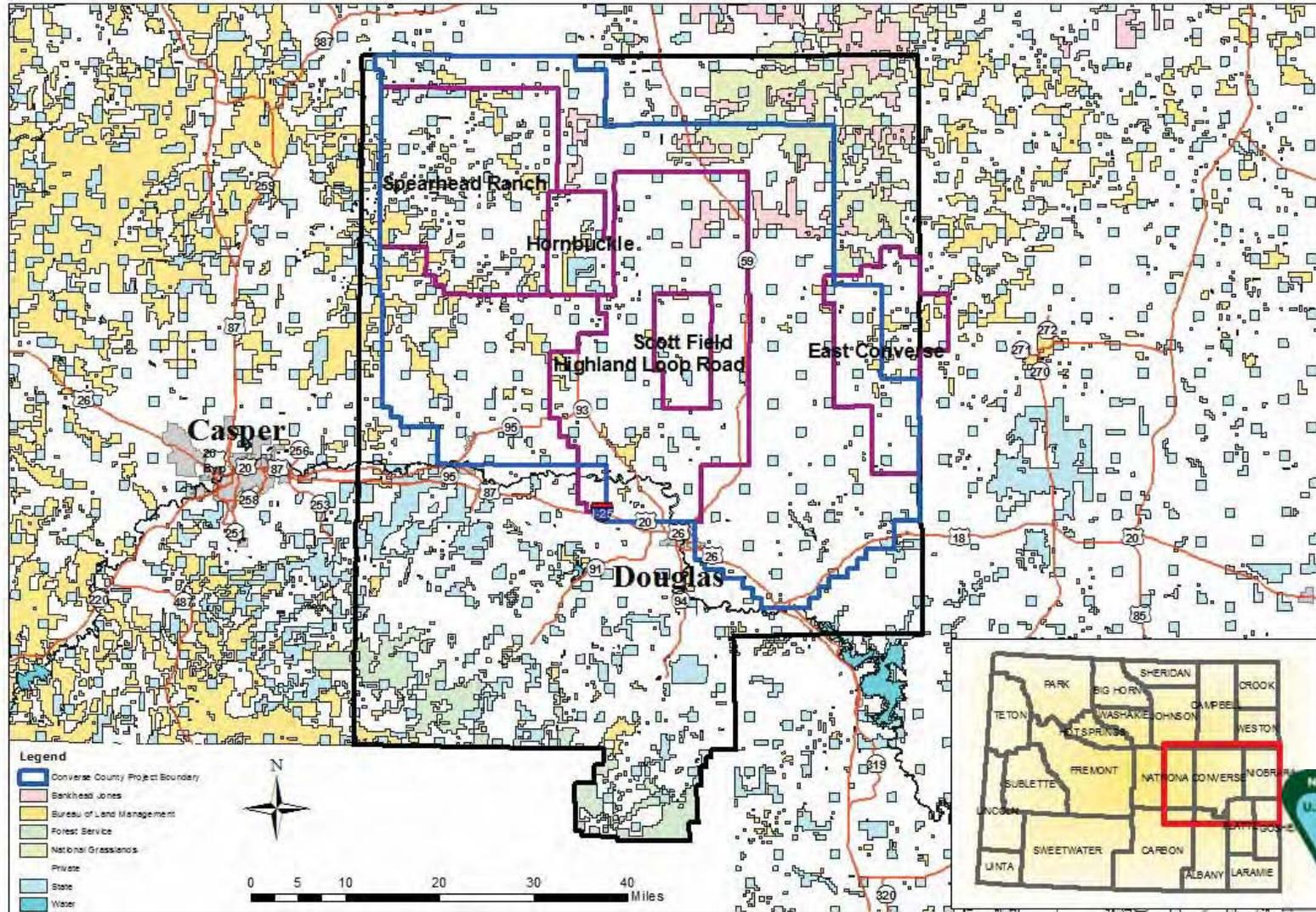


Ongoing and Approved NEPA and Planning Documents

- Casper Resource Management Plan (2007)
- Sage Grouse Amendments (December 2014)
- Several Environmental Assessments
 - East Converse
 - Highland Loop Road
 - Hornbuckle (2 versions)
 - Scott Field
 - Spearhead Ranch



EAs within the Converse County EIS

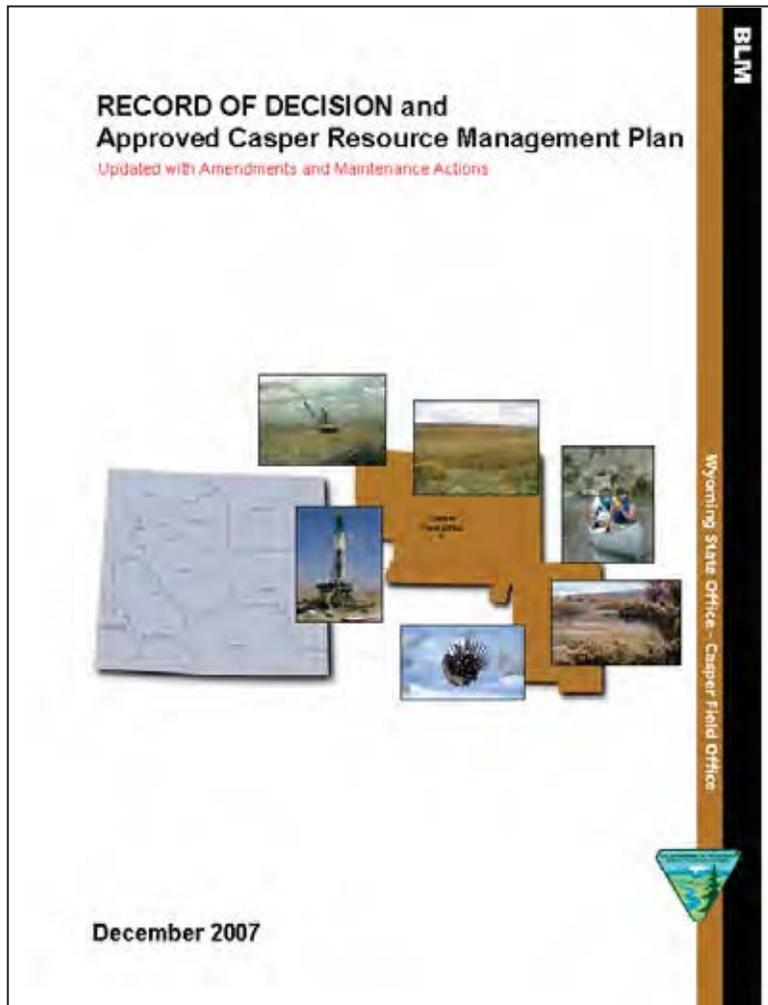


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2007 Casper RMP Projected Development



The 2007 Casper RMP Anticipated Drilling up to 1813 New Federal Oil and Gas Wells over 20 Years

The Projected Number of Wells Forms the Basis for Analysis Of Other Resource Programs



Oil and Gas Permitting in the Casper Field Office

Calendar Year	Total Approved Wells	Approved Wells by County			
		Converse	Natrona	Goshen	Platte
2008	119	4	115		
2009	91	7	84		
2010	60	21	39		
2011	178	49	129		
2012	83	32	51		
2013	151	93	58		
TOTAL	682	206	476	0	0

682 New Federal Wells Approved in Six Years
Represents 38% of the Projected Well Total

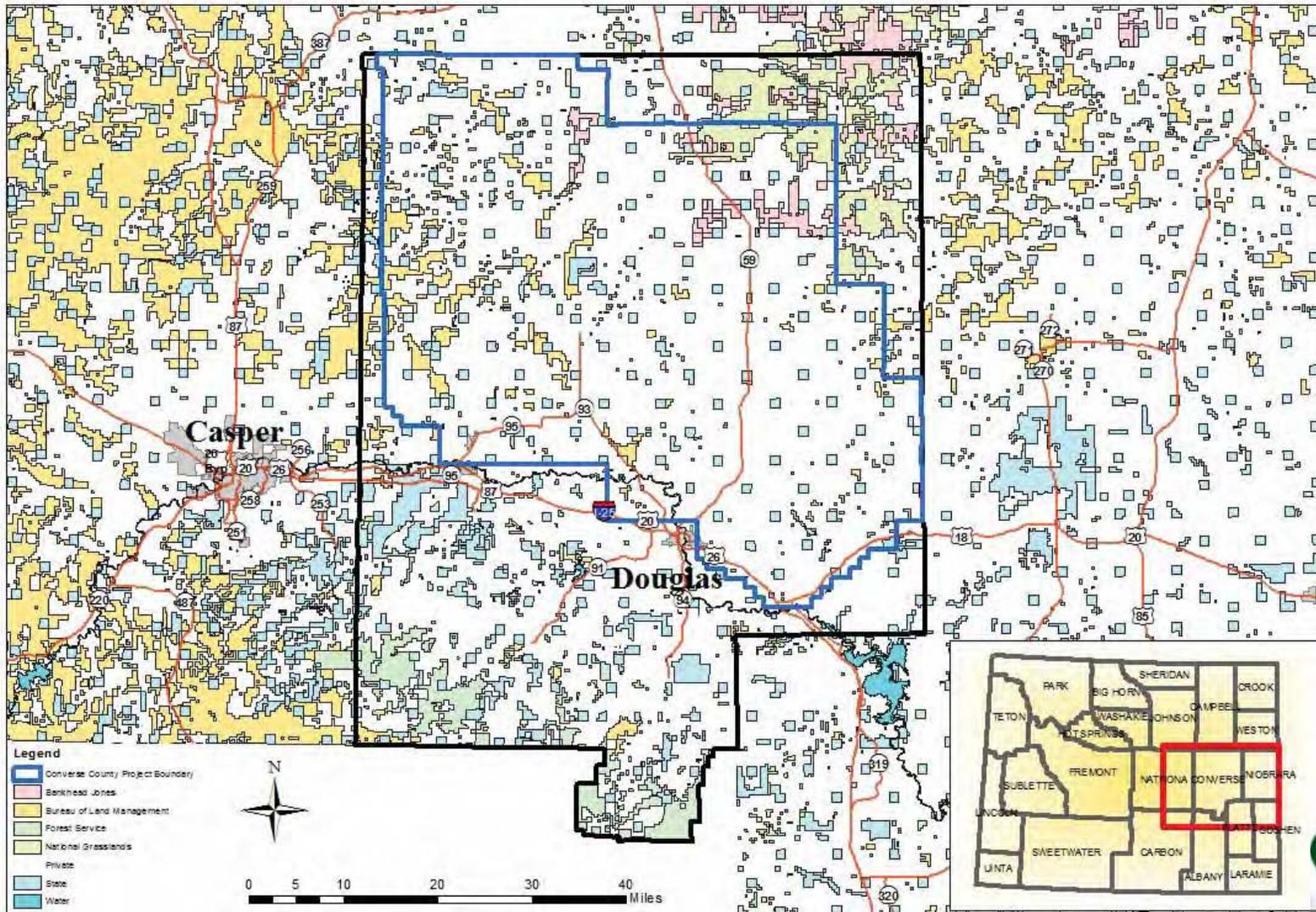


Proposed Action

- Operator Group consisting of six major and several minor companies.
- Drill up to 5,000 oil and gas wells over 10 years.
- 1,500 new well pads.
- 1 to 16 wells per well pad.
- Up to 50 drill rigs could be operating concurrently at the peak of drilling.
- Includes construction of a gathering system for oil, gas and water.
- Year-round drilling as a project component.



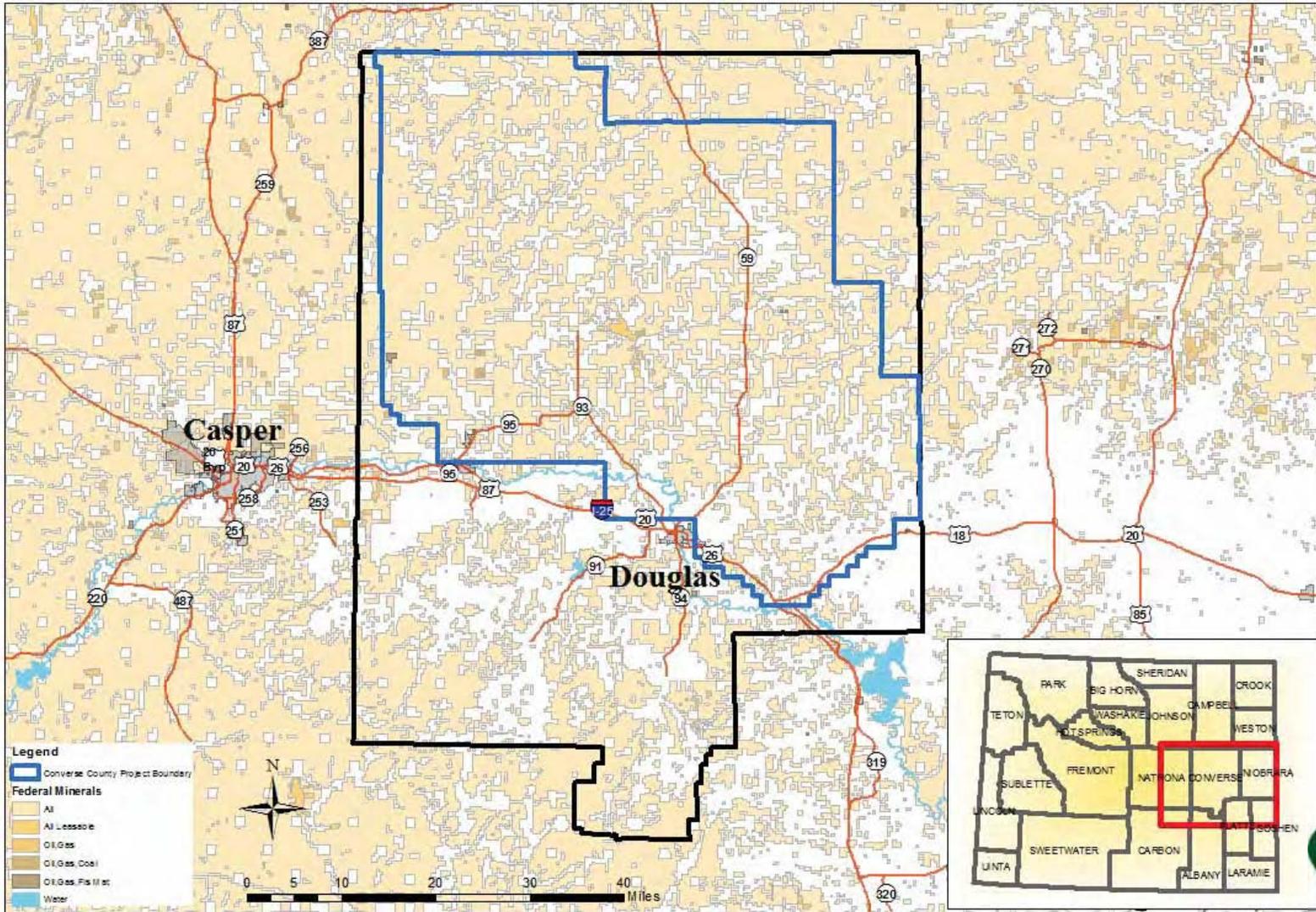
Project Area Surface Ownership



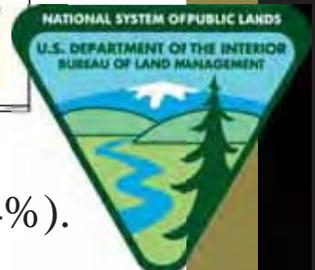
**Project Area ~ 1.5 Million Acres. 101,012 Acres of State of Wyoming (6.7%)
88,500 Acres BLM Surface (6%). 63,912 Acres of National Grasslands (4.3%)**



Project Area Mineral Ownership



Project Area ~ 1.5 Million Acres. 965,000 Acres Federal Minerals (64%).



Proposed Action

Surface Disturbance

Facility	Short Term Disturbance (Acres)	Long Term Disturbance (Acres)
Well Pads	21,350	12,300
Roads	11,727	6,728
Production Facilities	854	604
Pipelines and Electric Lines	19,545	1,636
	53,476	21,268

Short Term Disturbance = 3.5% of the Project Area

Long Term Disturbance = 1.4% of the Project Area



Proposed Action

Water Use

Water is used for:

- Drilling Mud
- Well Completion / Hydraulic Fracturing
- Dust Abatement

Total water use is 50,000 to 80,000 Barrels of Water per Well
= 6 to 10 Acre Feet of Water Per Well



Proposed Action

Produced Water

Average well will produce 30 to 50 barrels per day
= 1.4 to 2.4 Acre Feet per Year

Produced water is stored in tanks and transported to
Disposal Wells for re-injection

Recycling and re-use of produced water will be analyzed



Proposed Action

Traffic

	Trips / Day / Well	Total Trips / Well
Drilling	44	1,112
Completion	160	1,778
	Total	2,890
Production	4	Depends on Well Life

Approximately 30 Days to Drill. 10-15 Days to Complete

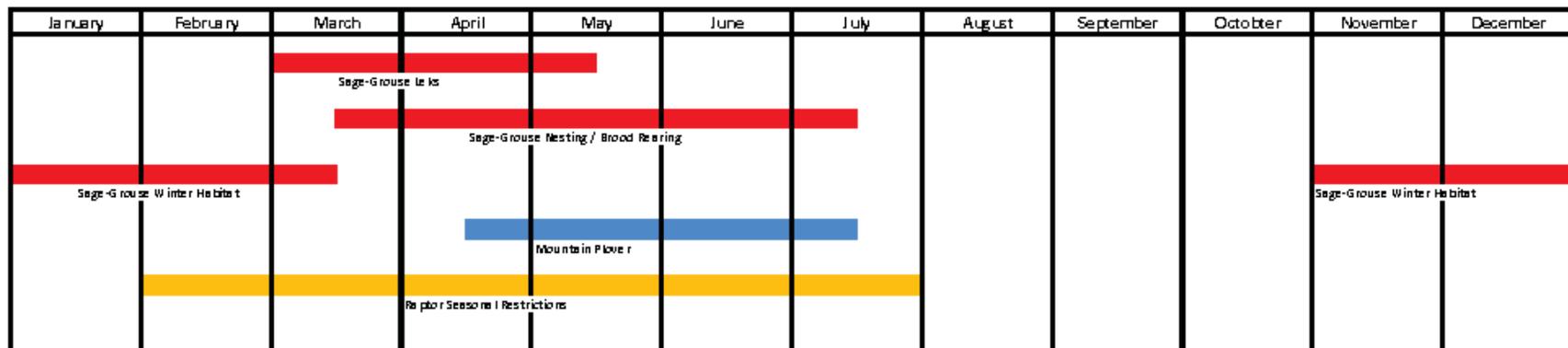


Proposed Action

Year-Round Drilling

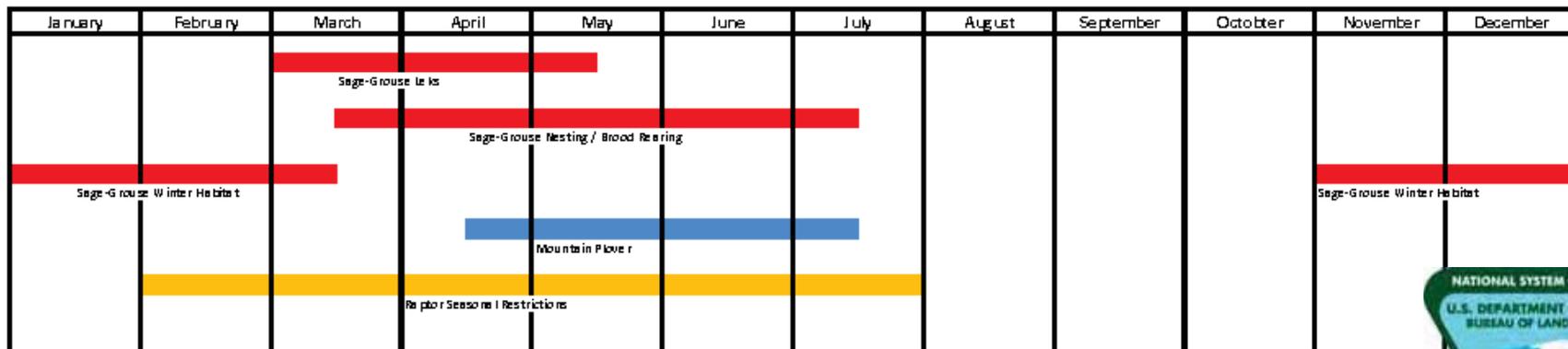
Proposal includes drilling up to 16 wells per pad.

Year-round drilling would be required to drill and complete 16 wells at a single location.



Seasonal Timing Limitations – 2007 Casper RMP

Decision Number	Action	Start Date	End Date
4054	Seasonal Restriction within 1/4 mile of Occupied Sage-grouse Leks	3/1	5/15
4055	Seasonal Restriction in suitable sage-grouse nesting / early brood-rearing habitats	3/15	7/15
4056	Seasonal Restriction in sage-grouse winter habitats	11/15	3/14
4015	Seasonal Restriction Mountain Plover Nesting	4/10	7/10
4047	Seasonal Restriction 1/2 mile of raptor nests	2/1	7/31

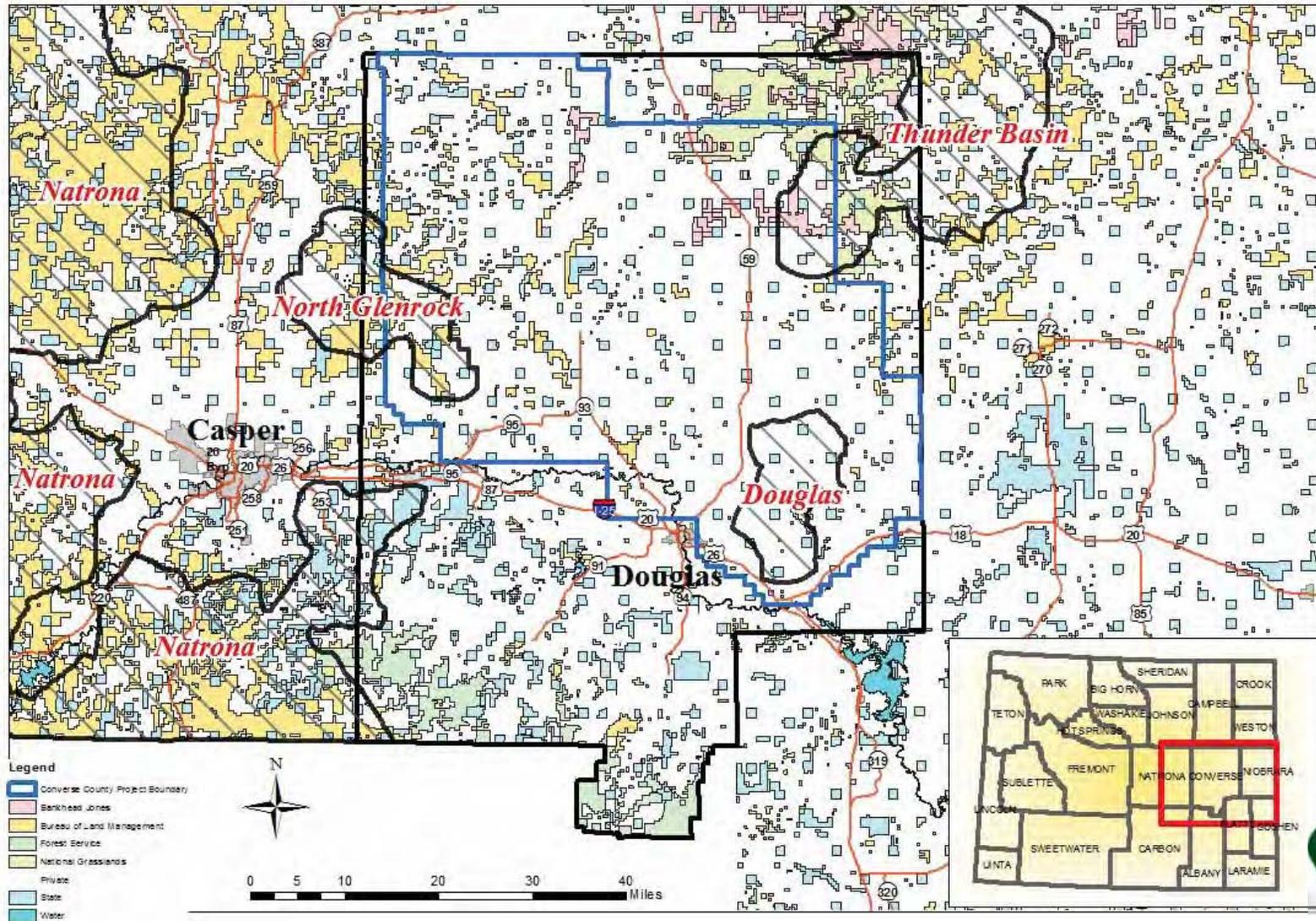


Resources

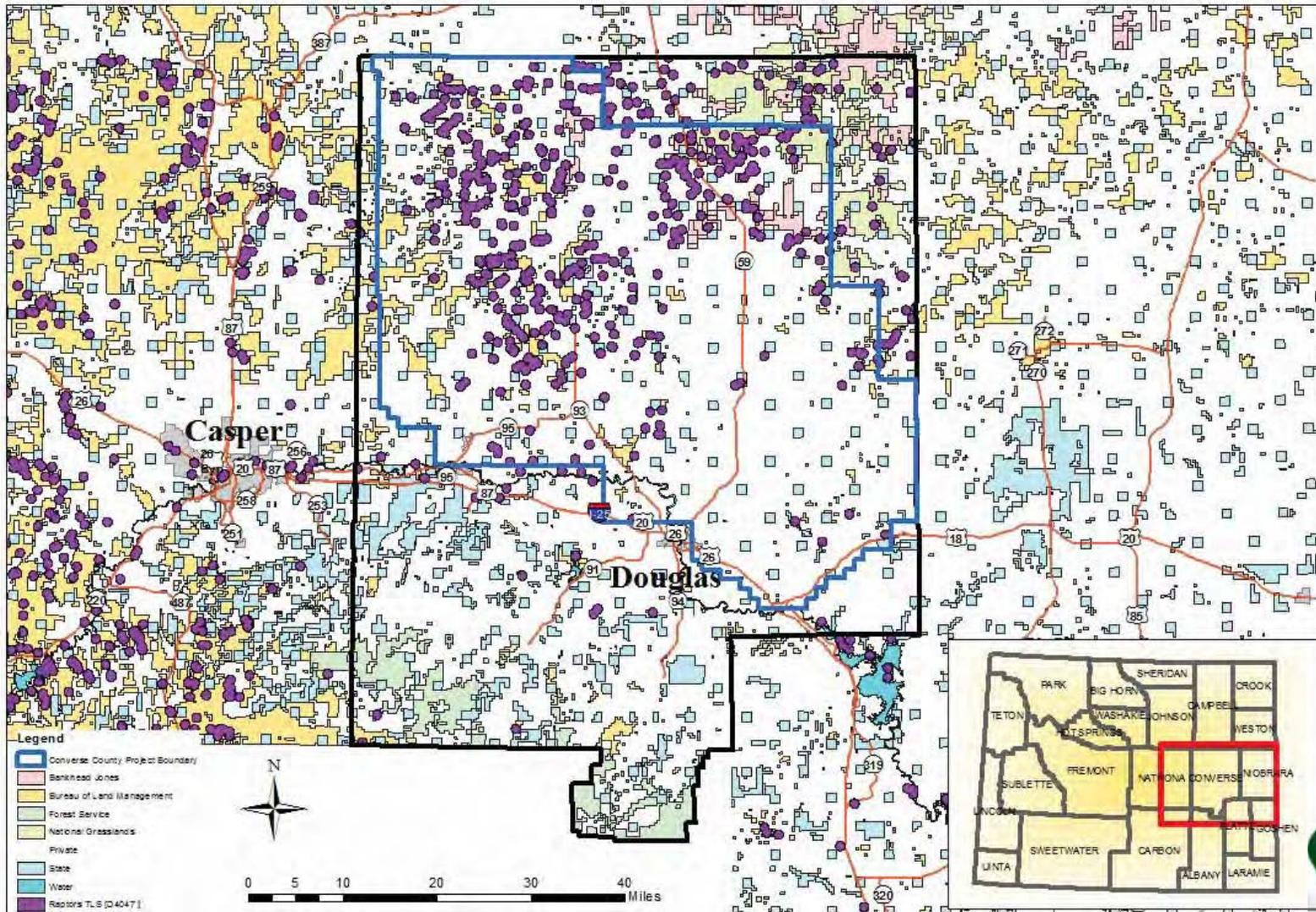
- Greater Sage-grouse
- Raptors
- Historic Trails
- Air Resources



Greater Sage-Grouse Core Habitat



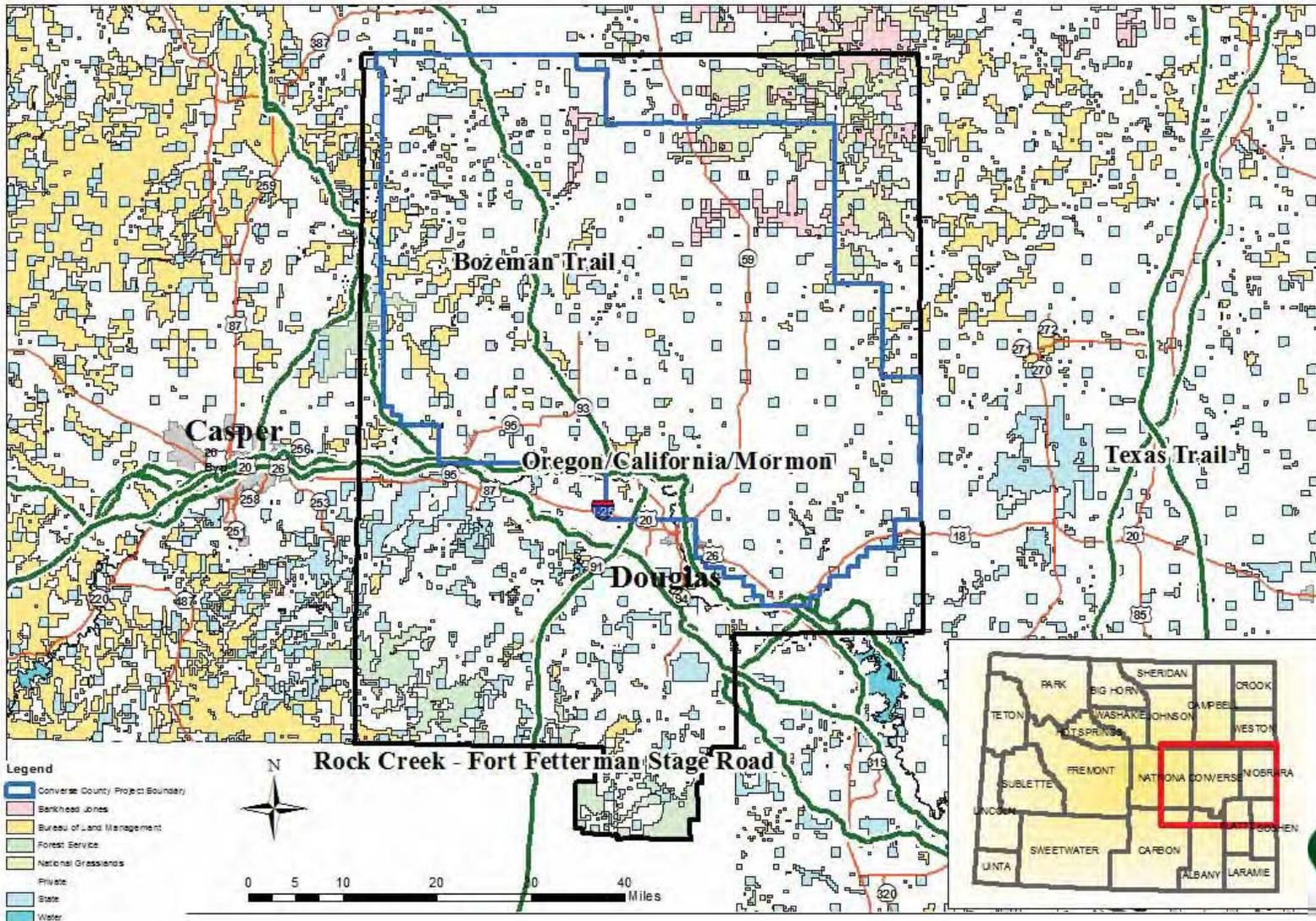
Raptors



Seasonal Raptor Restrictions Feb. 1 to July 31. ¼ to ½ mile activity buffer from nest.



Historic Trails



Initiating Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act Process



Air Resources

- Fugitive Dust
- Fugitive Emissions
- Engine Emissions
- Flaring



Agenda

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Stay Informed

http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/field_offices/Casper.html

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wyoming

BLM Wyoming Field Office Casper

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Casper Field Office

The Casper Field Office manages 32,531 square miles and has administrative responsibility for 17,347 square miles of public land. The area has a rich history and a variety of recreational opportunities.

Connect with BLM Wyoming

Casper FO Links

Coal
Energy & Minerals » ADP Tracking - 4/20/14
Fire & Fuels » Fire Restrictions
Grazing
Links
NHTIC
NHTIC Documents
NHTIC Register
PRB Restoration
Recreation
Resource Advisory Council
EIS Projects
Converse County Oil and Gas Project
Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Project

In the Spotlight

- BLM Casper Releases EA for Black Beauty Mine
- Muddy Mountain Road Opens May 30
- CFO Announces Public Meetings for Converse County O&G Project
» BLM to Initiate EIS for Converse County O&G Project
- BLM CFO Opens Firewood Sales on Laramie Range in Esterbrook
- BLM Reminds Public of Wildfire Danger
- Wyoming Resource Advisory Council Meeting Set for June
- Proposed Parcels for August 2014 USG Lease Sale Posted
- BLM Reminds the Public to Respect Cultural Resources on Your Public Lands

NHTIC Activities:

- NHTIC Celebrates Pioneer Days: Annual Reenactment Brings Pioneer History to Life
- Trail Center Returns to Seasonal Hours
- Trails Center to Host Smithsonian Exhibition
- Trails Center Remains Open during Roof Replacement Project
- Attention all Kids: Trails Center is Free!

Casper Field Office | 2987 Prospector Drive | Casper, WY 82604
307-261-7600 | Fax: 307-261-7587 | Office hours: 7:45am - 4:30pm, M-F



Comment Form

fold 2

affix stamp

**Converse County Oil and Gas Project
BLM Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, WY 82604**

fold 2

Converse County Oil and Gas Project mailing list

To have your name added or removed from our mailing list for this project, please check the appropriate box. Be sure to fill out the contact information on the reverse side. If you do not ask us to remove your name from our mailing list, we will send you future EIS-related announcements.

- Yes, add my name to the mailing list to receive future information
- No, please remove my name from your mailing list

Appendix D

List of Commenters

List of Commenters for the Converse County Oil and Gas EIS Scoping Period

Name (s)	Entity	Entity Type	No. Submittals
	Jerry's Welding Service	Business	1
Adams, Ellis		individual	1
Ades, Ronnie		individual	1
Allen, Matthew		individual	1
Bartow, Ed		individual	1
Batton, Liz		individual	1
Baxter, Rusty		individual	1
Berry, Mark		individual	1
Bischoff, Karl		individual	1
Bloom, Kelly		individual	1
Bolles, Randy	Devon Energy Corporation	Business	1
Bohan, Susan	USEPA	Federal agency	1
Boner, Rob	Boner Bros. Partnership	Business	1
Buelt, Jeanette		individual	1
Callender, Sherman		individual	1
Capozzelli, J.		individual	1
Carter, Jason		individual	1
Chapman, Curtis		individual	1
Clark, John		individual	1
Collins, Mary Ann	Jona, Inc.	Business	1
Cook, Edith		individual	1
Cooper, Doug		individual	1
Dennis, Mark		individual	1
Ducello, Darrick		individual	1
Eckert, Susan	Santarella & Eckert, LLC, representing Western Ranchers Alliance	NGO	1
Ellis, Dennis	Anadarko Petroleum Corp.	Business	1
Erickson, Dustin		individual	1
Evers, Michael	WWC Engineering	Business	1
Farmer, Doug		individual	1
Fearneyhough, Jason	Wyoming Department of Agriculture	Stage agency	1
Fox, Brian		individual	1
Gabrielson, John	Pathfinder Directional Driller	Business	1

Name (s)	Entity	Entity Type	No. Submittals
Garcia, Jon		individual	1
Garrett, Milt	Garrett Group Internationals	Business	1
Gemlo, Lynn	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Federal agency	1
Grilley, Kevin and Nena		individual	1
Grossman, Dan	Environmental Defense Fund	NGO	1
Hansen, Kristiana	University of Wyoming	Stage agency	1
Heimer, Connie	Water System Drilling, Inc.	Business	1
Henderson, Terry		individual	1
Hendricks, Ken	Anadarko Petroleum Corp.	Business	1
Justus, David	Midwest Industrial Supply, Inc.	Business	1
Kennedy, John	WY Game and Fish Dept.	Stage agency	1
Kilsdonk, Kathleen		individual	1
King, Brandon		individual	1
LaFountain, Pat	Warrior Energy Svcs. Corp.	Business	1
Lax, Wayne	Powder River Basin Resources Council	NGO	1
Leinonen, Jennifer	Anadarko Petroleum Corp.	Business	1
Lillegraven, Jason		individual	1
Lund, Fred and Betty	Shorteared Livestock and Water	Business	1
Malone, Gilliam and Mogen, Kristi	Powder River Basin Resource Council	NGO	1
Melgaard, John	Melgaard Construction Co., Inc.	Business	1
Miller, Tyler		individual	1
Mogen, Peter and Kristi		individual	1
Molvar, Erik	WildEarth Guardians	NGO	2
Moriarty, Kathy		individual	1
Munn, Donita		individual	1
Nicolaysen, Peter	Canyon Isle Holdings, LLC	Business	1
Nicolaysen, Jon	Cole Creek Sheep Company	Business	1
Nicolaysen, Peter	Parkerton Ranch Inc & Canyon Isle Holding	Business	1
Oaberg, Sarah		individual	1
Pendry, Bruce	Wyoming Outdoor Council	NGO	1
Petterson, Kylin		individual	1
Public, Jean		individual	1
Rabenberg, Mark		individual	1

Name (s)	Entity	Entity Type	No. Submittals
Redden, Matt		individual	1
Rodell, Kim	Upstream Petroleum Management/RKI	Business	1
Roland, Jacob		individual	1
Rolison, Justin		individual	1
Simpson, Kaleb		individual	1
Smith, Todd		individual	1
Taylor, Crosby		individual	1
Taylor, Josh		individual	1
Taylor, Renee		individual	1
TeBeest, Kendall	Nerd Gas Co, ltd	Business	1
unknown1: Jan Cath		individual	1
unknown2: William Williams		individual	1
unknown3: ERF		individual	1
unknown4: Stuart McClinth		individual	1
Van Delinder, Steve		individual	1
Wagner, Esther	Petroleum Associates of Wyoming	NGO	1
Walker, David and Wahilomi, Sam		individual	1
Westbrook, Shay	Gene R. George & Associates, Inc.	Business	1
Willox, James	Converse County Board of Commissioners	County/Local Agency	1
Wischmann, Lesley	Alliance for Historic Wyoming	NGO	2
Wittenhaue, Timothy		individual	1
Wyatt, Angela		individual	1