

SCOPING STATEMENT

Red Point 3-D Seismic Exploration

**Bill Barrett Corporation
and
Bureau of Land Management, Cody Field Office**

Description of Project

Bill Barrett Corporation has applied to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for authorization to conduct geophysical exploration operations on federal lands (28,587 acres) in the McCullough Peaks area east of Cody, Wyoming. There is also State (1,920 acres) and private lands (200 acres) involved in this project. The exploration would determine potential for the occurrence of oil and gas resources in underlying geologic formations. The results of the geophysical exploration are expected to provide the applicant with high resolution images of hydrocarbon bearing reservoirs underlying the project area. The proposed project area is 44 square miles, and is located 22 miles east of Cody, north of State Highway 14,16, 20, and occupying portions of Townships 52-53 North and Ranges 98-99 West, in Park County, Wyoming.

The proposed project would include laying out of “source lines” in a north-south array and receiver lines in an east-west array. A combination of vibroseis buggies and shot-hole detonation would be used to generate seismic data along the source lines. Shotholes would be drilled by buggy mounted and heli-portable drill rigs. A total of 2407 shotholes will be spaced 220 feet apart on public land. The project duration is estimated to be 75-85 days.

Known Resource Concerns

The proposed project area is located within the McCullough Peaks Travel Management Area and the McCullough Peaks Herd Management Area (HMA), covering approximately 26% of the HMA. Resources within the project area are: two sage grouse leks, a high potential for cultural and paleontological resources, two gravel pits, a Special Recreation Use Permit, and public safety issues with increased traffic and explosives.

Relationship to Existing Plans and Documents

The document which directs management of federal lands within the project area is the Cody Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision approved in 1990, which states “All parts of the planning area that are open to oil and gas exploration are open to geophysical exploration.”

National Environmental Policy Act

The BLM conducts environmental assessments in compliance with NEPA and regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality.

Environmental analyses serve several purposes: they provide information about potential environmental consequences of a project; identify means to minimize or avoid environmental harm resulting from a project; and provide information to make an informed decision regarding the project. The document will be reviewed by an Interdisciplinary Team of BLM resource specialists.

Public scoping is an element of the NEPA process. Scoping activities are initiated early in the process to:

- identify reasonable alternatives to be evaluated in the analysis;
- identify environmental issues of concern related to the proposed project; and
- determine the depth of analysis for issues addressed in the environmental assessment.

This scoping statement has been prepared to enable governmental agencies, the general public, and other interested parties to participate in the analysis. Public input is important in establishing the scope of analysis for a NEPA document, and the BLM encourages public participation.

Scoping Meeting

A public meeting will be held to provide further information on the proposed project. The meeting will be conducted in open-house format with BLM specialists and representatives of the project proponent in attendance. Maps and documents will be available for review and comment forms will be provided. Written comments will be accepted at the meeting, or may be mailed afterward.

The public meeting is planned for:

MONDAY, MARCH 19 4pm to 7 pm BIGHORN FEDERAL COMMUNITY ROOM 1701 STAMPEDE AVENUE CODY, WY
--

Timing Requirements

Comments are due by March 30, 2007 and should be submitted to:

Ann Perkins, Project Manager
BLM – Cody Field Office
PO Box 518
Cody, WY 82414

307.578.5928

E-mail: Ann_Perkins@blm.gov

Project documents and information can be found at: http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/field_offices/Cody.html

Initial Mailing List

The scoping notice initial mailing distribution includes the following agencies, officials, and organizations:

Government Offices

Office of the Governor
Wyoming Department of Environmental
Quality
Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation
Commission
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
City of Cody
City of Powell
Park County

Wyoming Outdoor Council
Wyoming Chapter – Sierra Club
Western Watersheds Project
Biodiversity Conservation Alliance
Wyoming Wilderness Association
Center for Native Ecosystems
Clark Resource Council
The National Outdoor Leadership
School
Trout Unlimited
The Wilderness Society
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Wyoming Wildlife Federation
Hoback Ranches Service and
Improvement District
Earthjustice
FOAL & Other Wild horse groups
Grazing Permittees
Citizens Proposal for Wilderness

Elected Officials

U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Cubin
(Chris Lyon, Field Representative)
U.S. Senator Mike Enzi
(Karen McCreery, Field
Representative)
U.S. Senator Craig Thomas
(Pam Buline, Field Representative)

Public Land Users and User Groups

Western Land Exchange Project

A media release regarding the project will be sent to media outlets.

Michael J. Blymyer
Field Manager, Cody

Bureau of Land Management
Cody Field Office
P.O. Box 518
Cody, WY 82414