

Moneta Divide



Natural Gas and Oil Development Project Environmental Impact Statement

W E L C O M E

TO THE

Public Scoping Meetings

FOR THE

Moneta Divide

**Natural Gas and Oil Development Project
Environmental Impact Statement**



February 2013

What is the National Environmental Policy Act?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that considers the following factors when a proposed project could result in significant effects:

- Input from public, agency, tribal, and other affected parties
- A reasonable range of alternatives
- Environmental consequences
- Social, economic, and human health consequences
- Mitigation to reduce adverse impacts and monitoring to evaluate mitigation effectiveness



Casper Resource Management Plan Amendment

- This project may require an amendment to the 2007 Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP)
- Certain management actions and stipulations in the Casper RMP that would affect oil and gas development do not match the Lander RMP (1987)
- To maintain a consistent management approach within the project area, a plan amendment may be required
- The amendment process would occur simultaneously with preparation of the Moneta Divide EIS



Making Effective Comments

- State specific concerns instead of making broad statements
- Focus your comments on specific issues and provide supporting details
- Identify important environmental and community concerns

What is Scoping?

Scoping provides members of the public, agencies, and other affected parties an opportunity to:

- Learn more about the project
- Provide comments on the project
- Identify issues to be analyzed in the EIS

You are encouraged to provide comments at this meeting or mail your comments prior to the close of the public comment period (March 4, 2013). Your comments will become part of the official public record and will be considered in the development of the EIS.

PROJECT TIMELINE



* 90-day public comment period if a RMP amendment is required

† 30-day protest period and 60-day Governor's consistency review if a RMP amendment is required



What is the Project?

Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. and Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP (the Companies) propose to develop natural gas and oil wells in the Moneta Divide area on federal, state, and private lands in Fremont and Natrona counties, Wyoming.

- Natural gas and oil development project
- Project area includes 265,000 acres of land, of which 169,500 acres are public lands administered by the BLM
- Project area and proposed pipelines intersect three BLM field offices; the Lander Field Office will lead preparation of the EIS
- The project may require a land use plan amendment for the Casper Field Office
- The towns of Lysite and Lost Cabin, Wyoming are located within the project area
- Drill 4,250 new natural gas and oil wells
- Constructed over a 10 to 15-year period at the rate of approximately 280-300 wells per year
- Average life of 40 years per well
- Estimated initial surface disturbance of 13,500 acres (5 percent of the project area)



What are the Project Components?

The project proposed by the Companies includes the following components:

- Directional, vertical, and other drilling techniques
- Water wells, water treatment, water injection, and evaporation facilities
- Electric power lines, access roads, gas flow lines, and pipelines
- Gas gathering system
- Gas processing facilities to separate natural gas liquids from the natural gas stream
- Gas compression and treatment facilities
- New pipeline to transport and deliver natural gas to market
- New pipeline to deliver treated water to Boysen Reservoir
- Reclamation would commence at well location after production equipment is installed

Environmental Impacts

Air Quality

- Expansion of natural gas and oil development may impact local and regional air quality
- Project-specific emissions inventory will be developed, including greenhouse gases
- The EIS will quantify, through modeling, potential impacts to air quality
- The project will evaluate potential air emissions reduction strategies and mitigation measures

Water

- Impacts to ground water and surface water will be analyzed including hydrology and sedimentation, water quality and use, reservoir management, and water treatment
- Methods proposed for disposal of produced water include underground injection and surface discharge of treated water into Boysen Reservoir
- Water resources considered for analysis:
 - **Shallow aquifers** Wind River and Indian Meadows Formations
 - **Oil and gas production** Shotgun, Waltman, Lower Fort Union, Lance, Cody, Mesaverde, Frontier, and Madison Formations
 - **Injection zones** Fort Union, Lance, Tensleep, Nugget, and Madison Formations
 - **Surface waters** Badwater Creek drainage, Poison Creek drainage, and Boysen Reservoir

Biological Resources

- Wildlife associated with sagebrush and sagebrush steppe habitats, as well as low-elevation woodlands, buttes, rock outcrops, and large draws
- Big game crucial winter-yearlong range has been identified in the project area
- Sensitive plant, bird, and mammal species including Endangered Species Act listed and candidate species
- Raptor species include Prairie Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, and Golden Eagle
- Project area overlaps Greater Sage-Grouse core population area and encompasses several occupied leks



Surface Disturbance

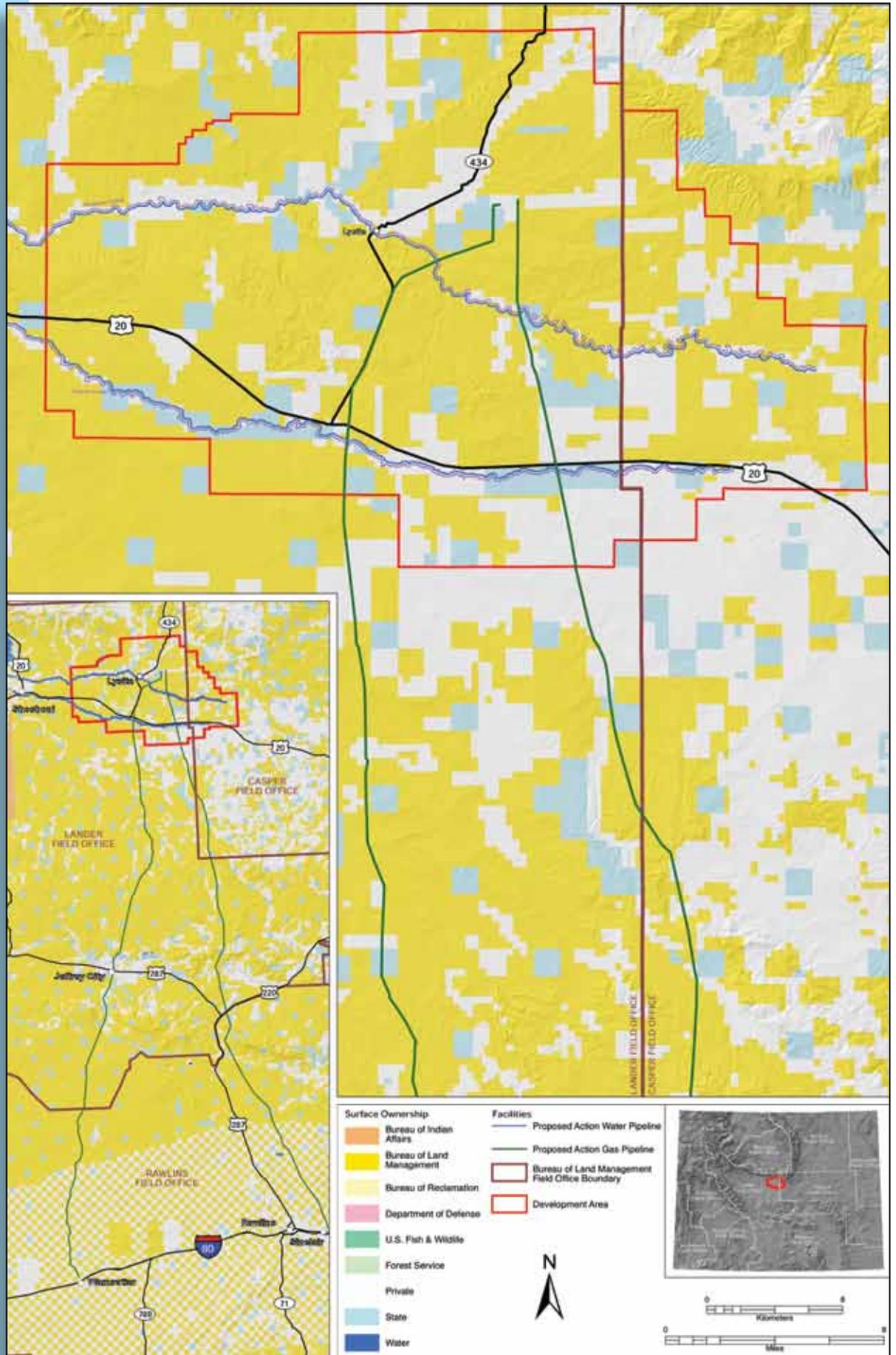
- Existing disturbance includes approximately 820 oil and gas wells and associated infrastructure
- Approximately 13,500 acres of new initial short-term surface disturbance (5 percent of project area)
- Approximately 5,500 acres of new long-term surface disturbance after reclamation (2 percent of project area)

Cultural Resources

- The Cedar Ridge Site is a large, complex prehistoric site identified as a traditional cultural property within the project area
- Several National Historic Trails and Regional Trails pass through the project area or cross proposed pipeline routes including Bridger Trail, Casper to Lander Road, National Park to Park Highway, and Oregon-Mormon-California Trail



Project Area Map





FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project EIS

BLM Lander Field Office

Chris Krassin, Project Manager

1335 Main St.

Lander, Wyoming 82520

307-332-8400

E-mail: BLM_WY_LD_Moneta_Divide_EIS@blm.gov

Website: www.blm.gov/wy/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/moneta-divide.html

**While comments will be accepted throughout the process,
they can be best utilized if received during the public scoping period,
January 17, 2013 to March 4, 2013.**