

1.0 OVERVIEW

TRC Mariah Associates Inc. (TRC Mariah) developed the socioeconomic profiles of the study area and the University of Wyoming, College of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Economics Department (UWAED) performed the input/output analysis used as the basis for impact estimates provided in this technical support document for the Jonah Infill Drilling Project (JIDP) and South Piney Natural Gas Development Project (SPP) environmental impact statements (EISs). The analysis was performed according to the requirements of the socioeconomic analysis protocol developed for this project (TRC Mariah 2003). At the direction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wyoming State Office, the analysis utilized information from existing documents (as appropriate), documents currently in preparation (provided by the authors or analysts as necessary), the Sonoran Institute Economic Profile System (EPS) software (Sonoran Institute 2003), and other extant data to develop economic profile baseline data. IMPLAN® PRO 2.0 (IMPLAN) software was used to conduct input/output analysis to determine potential impacts of the proposed projects and alternatives. UWAED has calibrated county-specific data sets for the study area under a contract with the State of Wyoming (personal communication, October 14 and 17, 2003, with Roy Allen, Economist, BLM Wyoming State Office) and the protocol mandated that the calibrated county-specific datasets be used in place of the nationalized county data provided by MIG, Inc. (the manufacturer of IMPLAN). Cumulative impacts were estimated based on the information developed for the JIDP and SPP Proposed Actions and alternatives and reasonable foreseeable development information.

The proposed economic study area included the counties and communities most likely to be impacted by the JIDP/SPP, including the following:

- Lincoln County and the community of LaBarge;
- Sublette County and the communities of Pinedale, Big Piney, Marbleton, and Boulder;
- Sweetwater County and the communities of Eden, Farson, and Rock Springs;
- Wyoming, and
- the U.S. (for selected items, as appropriate).

Existing documents and documents in preparation that were utilized to develop economic profile baseline data and to estimate potential and cumulative impacts for the study area included the following reports:

- *Southwest Wyoming Resource Evaluation Socio/Economic Evaluation (SWREE), Final Report, Parts I and II* (UWAED 1997);
- the economic effect analysis developed for the *Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan (JMHCAP)* (UWAED 2003);
- the JMHCAP supplemental draft EIS (BLM 2003a);
- BLM's *Socioeconomic Profile-Pinedale* (BLM 2003b);
- the economic impact analysis currently being prepared for the Pinedale Resource Management Plan (RMP) (UWAED [2004]);
- *Sublette County Comprehensive Plan: County Vision, Goals and Policies* (Sublette County Board of Commissioners and Sublette County Planning Commission [SCBC and SCPC] 2003).

The following socioeconomic factors were profiled using either the EPS or other sources mentioned above:

- population and demography;
- employment and personal income;
- quality of living (i.e., the degree to which a person enjoys the important possibilities of his or her life);
- industry and economy;
- tax and revenue;
- grazing; and
- recreation.