

SCOPING NOTICE

Jonah 3D Geophysical Survey Environmental Assessment

Bureau of Land Management Pinedale Field Office

Global Geophysical Services, Inc. (Global) has applied to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for authorization to conduct geophysical exploration operations on approximately 170 square miles (108,800 acres) of federal lands located in Townships 28, 29 and 30 North and Ranges 106, 107, 108 and 109 West in Sublette County, Wyoming. The project area includes federal lands administered by the BLM Pinedale and Rock Springs Field Offices. The survey would provide data to develop a 3D image of the geologic structure and stratigraphy underlying the project area. The data generated from this survey would facilitate the evaluation of the mineral resource under federal leases, reducing the potential for non-productive wells and maximizing the positioning of wells to be drilled in the future. Approximately three quarters of the proposed project area is located west of U.S. Highway 191, while the remaining quarter is located on the east side. The proposed project area is just south of State Highway 351 in southern Sublette County, Wyoming. A map depicting the proposed project area is attached at the end of this notice.

This notice is to inform the public that the BLM will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) which will include analyses of Global's proposed action. This Scoping Notice seeks public input on issues, alternatives, the proposed action, and other management aspects in the project area.

Description of Proposed Action

The receiver lines would be positioned in a northwest to southeast direction. Source lines would be oriented northeast to southwest, at approximately 45 degree angles to receiver lines. The receivers would be placed at an interval of 110 feet and a line separation of 1,320 feet for a total of 32,725 receiver points (192.5 per square mile). The source arrays would be deployed in a linear array at a 110 foot interval and a distance of 1,320 feet between lines for a total of 32,759 source-points (192.5 per square mile). The ideal configuration may be marginally modified due to topographic constraints, biological issues or cultural resource obstacles.

The recording of seismic information would involve a total of 81 parallel lines of source points and 72 parallel lines of receiver (geophone) stations. A total of 22 lines of 432 stations (1 string of 6 geophones per station) would be active for recording each individual source-point.

Methods of generating sonic energy sources would primarily be Vibroseis All Terrain vehicles. Approximately 95 percent of the project would use Buggy Type Vibrators. Articulated buggy drills or heli-drills could be used to drill approximately 5 percent of the source-points should environmental conditions dictate this. The exact number of each type of energy source would be determined once the source-point survey phase of the job has been completed.

Land and Resource Management Issues and Concerns

Land and resource management issues and concerns associated with the Jonah 3D Geophysical Survey EA that would be considered include:

- known and potential impacts to federally-listed threatened and endangered species;
- known and potential impacts to BLM-sensitive plant and animal species;
- known and potential impacts to sage grouse, breeding, nesting, and wintering habitat;
- known and potential impacts to range resources;
- known and potential impacts on cultural resources (prehistoric and historic resources);
- known and potential social and economic effects to the local communities;
- known and potential transportation impacts;
- known and potential impacts to surface and groundwater resources;
- known and potential impacts to air quality and air quality related values;
- known and potential impacts to visual resources;
- control of noxious weeds; and
- conformance of the proposed action to BLM's Resource Management Plan for the Pinedale Field Office and the Rock Springs Field Office.

Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act

The BLM conducts EA's 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; identify alternative ways of completing the 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.

BLM has initiated a Memorandum of Understanding with Global to begin preparation of the EA using a third-party contractor.

Public Participation

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 Notice 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.

We invite you to review Global's proposal for the Jonah 3D Geophysical Survey project. All issues raised in written comments submitted by mail or email will aid BLM in identifying alternatives and assuring all issues are analyzed in the EA. Your comments, questions or concerns are encouraged and welcomed. The purpose of the scoping process is to assist federal agencies in identifying issues and concerns with the proposed action. Your input will help the agency to identify reasonable alternatives and complete the analyses of those alternatives.

We ask that your comments be constructive, relate directly to this proposal and impending EA, that you be as specific as possible, and that you cite any data or other information that you believe would assist BLM in developing the most realistic range of alternative actions and the best-informed environmental impact analysis.

To be fully considered, comments **must be postmarked by May 9, 2009.** Written comments may be delivered to the BLM-Pinedale Field Office at 1625 W. Pine Street, Pinedale, Wyoming, or sent by U. S Mail or email to the addresses below. **Faxes will not be accepted.** Please send your comments to:

Jonah 3D Geophysical Survey EA
Bureau of Land Management
Pinedale Field Office
P.O. Box 768
Pinedale, WY 82941

or

pinedale_wymail@blm.gov (Be sure to include the phrase "Jonah 3D project" in the subject line.)

For more information, contact Tim Zebulske at 307-367-5336 or at the above email address.

This notice has been sent to individuals, industries, organizations, media, and federal, state, and local government entities and individuals or groups who have previously expressed a desire to be included in any notifications.