



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Rawlins Field Office
P.O. Box 2407 (1300 North Third Street)
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301-2407

In Reply Refer To:
1790

May 21, 2004

Re: Scoping Notice - Hanna Draw Coalbed
Natural Gas Pilot Project
Environmental Assessment

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is planning to prepare an Environmental Analysis (EA) for a proposed natural gas project to be known as the Hanna Draw Coalbed Natural Gas Pilot Project (HDCBNGPP).

This project is planned for an area approximately 10 miles northeast of the town of Hanna in Carbon County, Wyoming. The proposal includes the drilling and development of up to 16 coalbed natural gas wells. Appurtenant facilities include roads, gas and water collection pipelines, a water disposal system, a gas transportation pipeline and a powerline.

A scoping notice has been prepared for your review and information, both as an introduction to the proposed project and as a review of the basic procedures we intend to follow in the preparation of the EA.

The scoping process is an opportunity for you to participate in the earliest phase of environmental assessment for the HDCBNGPP. We encourage your input and comments on the project. Information and comments you provide will enable us to assess alternatives for consideration in the environmental assessment.

We are conducting scoping for 30 days. If you are interested in participating in the scoping process, we request that you respond by supplying your written or e-mailed comments or concerns about the proposed activity by June 21, 2004. Please submit your comments to:

Travis Bargsten, Natural Resource Specialist
Bureau of Land Management
Rawlins Field Office
P.O. Box 2407
1300 North Third Street
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301
E-mail: rawlins_wymail@blm.gov

A link to the Scoping Notice will be posted on the Wyoming BLM Rawlins Field Office homepage at www.wy.blm.gov/rfo/. Your response is important and will be considered in the environmental analysis process. If you do respond, we will consider your comments in the analysis for the project. Please note that public comments submitted for this scoping review, including names, e-mail addresses, and street addresses of the respondents, will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentially. If you wish to withhold your name, e-mail address, or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this plainly at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Thank you again for your interest in this process. If you have any questions regarding the project, your role, or our responsibilities, please contact Travis Bargsten at the address shown above or phone (307) 328-4387.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kent J. Kotter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "K" and "J".

Field Manager

**PUBLIC SCOPING STATEMENT
HANNA DRAW COALBED NATURAL GAS PILOT PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE**

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation (APC) has notified the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rawlins Field Office that APC is proposing to explore and develop natural gas wells in the Hanna Draw vicinity, located within the administrative boundaries of the BLM's Rawlins Field Office. The pilot project area is located in section 2 of Township 23 North, Range 81 West, Sixth Principal Meridian, in Carbon County, Wyoming. The analysis area for the project encompasses approximately 5,682 acres, of which approximately 2,642 acres is located on BLM-administered federal surface and mineral estate (Figure 1). The project is located approximately 10 miles northeast of Hanna, Wyoming. Access to the project area is provided from Hanna by Carbon County Road 291 (Hanna Draw Road).

The project entails the construction, drilling, completing, and producing of up to a maximum of 16 coalbed natural gas wells within the project area and the construction, utilization, and maintenance of appurtenant access roads, pipelines, and production facilities. Produced water from the coalbed natural gas wells would be disposed of by discharge to the Medicine Bow River above Seminoe Reservoir. If the pilot project proves to be economically feasible, production facilities (including a gas sales pipeline) would be constructed. In addition, if the pilot project provides evidence that coalbed natural gas production in this area is economically feasible, additional development may eventually be proposed. Any additional development would require further environmental analysis. The proposed powerline route is shown on Figure 2 and the proposed gas transportation pipeline is shown on Figure 3.

It is anticipated that initial drilling operations would begin as soon as practicable in 2004.

Approximately eight days would be required to drill each well, including logging and setting production casing. Drilling would utilize a conventional rotary drilling rig and associated rig equipment. Up to two wells may be drilled horizontally, to evaluate the feasibility of this technology for coalbed natural gas development at this location. Production operations would require the use and maintenance of roads on a year-round basis.

The approximate size of each well pad for drilling would be 250 feet by 200 feet. A reserve pit would be excavated on the well pad to hold drilling fluids and cuttings. It is anticipated that total maximum surface disturbance for each well pad will be approximately 1.2 acres, not including stockpiles and cut/fill slopes. Once completed, the well pad would be reduced to that area necessary for production operations, the remainder being reclaimed and revegetated for the duration of production operations. The approximate size of the area for production operations would be 120 feet by 120 feet (0.3 acres).

Powerlines would be constructed to provide energy to power water pumps (see Figure 2). Where feasible, the powerlines would be buried along their routes. Each producing well will require a water discharge pipeline and a gas gathering line. All pipeline corridors would be located, where feasible, adjacent to access roads. A gas transportation line would be constructed in the event the pilot project produces marketable quantities of gas (see Figure 3).

Each well would be production tested for a duration of 6 to 12 months. Production testing would evaluate the feasibility of coalbed natural gas production from the pilot project.

The proposed project area would be accessed by the use of existing public roads, and by the construction of new access roads. All roads associated with this project would be upgraded/constructed to BLM standards for resource roads.

At the end of the project, all remaining disturbances would be reclaimed to their original topography and revegetated.

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING PLANS AND DOCUMENTS

Great Divide Resource Management Plan (GDRMP) - The GDRMP (November 8, 1990) directs the management of BLM-administered lands within the analysis area. The objective for management of oil and gas resources, as stated in the GDRMP, is “to provide opportunity for leasing, exploration, and development of oil and gas while protecting other resource values.” The development of natural gas reserves within the Hanna Draw Coalbed Natural Gas Pilot Project area would be in conformance with the GDRMP. The Environmental Assessment (EA) that will be prepared for the Cabot/GMT proposal will incorporate the appropriate decisions, terms, and conditions of use described in the GDRMP.

Use Authorizations - Use authorizations (i.e., rights-of-way, permits) for well pads, roads, pipelines, and well site facilities will be processed through the BLM Application for Permit to Drill (APD) and Sundry Notice when located on-lease. Any activity located off-lease would require an approved right-of-way.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

On reviewing the APC proposal, the BLM has determined that an EA will be prepared. The impact analysis presented in the EA will allow for one of two outcomes, as determined by the BLM, either: 1) the proposed project would not result in significant impacts and a Decision Record with a Finding of No Significant Impact (DR/FONSI) could be signed (which would allow the project to be implemented), or 2) the project, as proposed, would result in significant impacts and would require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

One element of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is scoping. Scoping activities are conducted prior to the preparation of an EA:

- to determine reasonable development alternatives to be considered in the document
- to identify environmental and socioeconomic issues of concern related to the proposed project
- to determine the depth and range of analyses for issues addressed in the document

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

IDENTIFIED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS

The following issues and concerns have been identified to-date. This list is not meant to be all-inclusive, but rather to serve as a starting point for public input. Once all issues and concerns have been gathered through scoping and BLM consideration of the project, corresponding resource disciplines will be identified to conduct analysis for individual issues and concerns.

- potential effects upon wildlife and their habitats within the analysis area
- increased traffic and associated impacts upon county, state, and BLM roads and highways
- social and economic impacts to local communities
- impacts to ground water resources
- potential impacts to sensitive soils within the project area

- impacts from emissions resulting from drilling and production activities associated with the project
- reclamation of disturbed areas and control of nonnative plants
- potential impacts to cultural and historical resources within the analysis area
- cumulative effects of natural gas development activities when combined with other ongoing and proposed developments on lands within the BLM Rawlins Field Office area
- potential conflicts between mineral development activities and recreational activities

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM

Based upon current understanding of issues, concerns, and opportunities, an interdisciplinary team (IDT) made up of the following specialists within the BLM Rawlins Field Office has been identified:

- Archaeologist
- Realty Specialist
- NEPA Specialist
- Civil Engineer (roads and surface activities)
- Petroleum Engineer
- Wildlife Biologist
- Natural Resource Specialist (surface protection)
- Hydrologist
- Recreation Planner
- Soil Scientist
- Geologist
- Range Management Specialist

TIMING NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS

Government agencies, the public, and other interested parties are encouraged to participate throughout the environmental analysis process to help in identifying the level of analysis needed, alternatives to be considered, issues or concerns that should be assessed, mitigation opportunities, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure that the analysis process is comprehensive.

After a 30-day scoping period is completed and the EA is prepared, the EA will be released to the public for review and comment.

The scoping period for this project ends on June 21, 2004. Please submit your comments to:

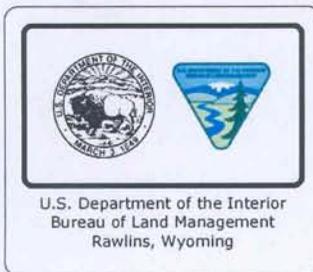
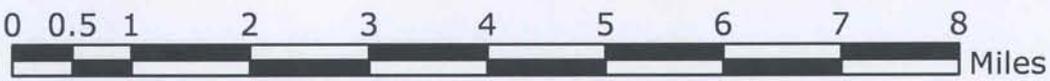
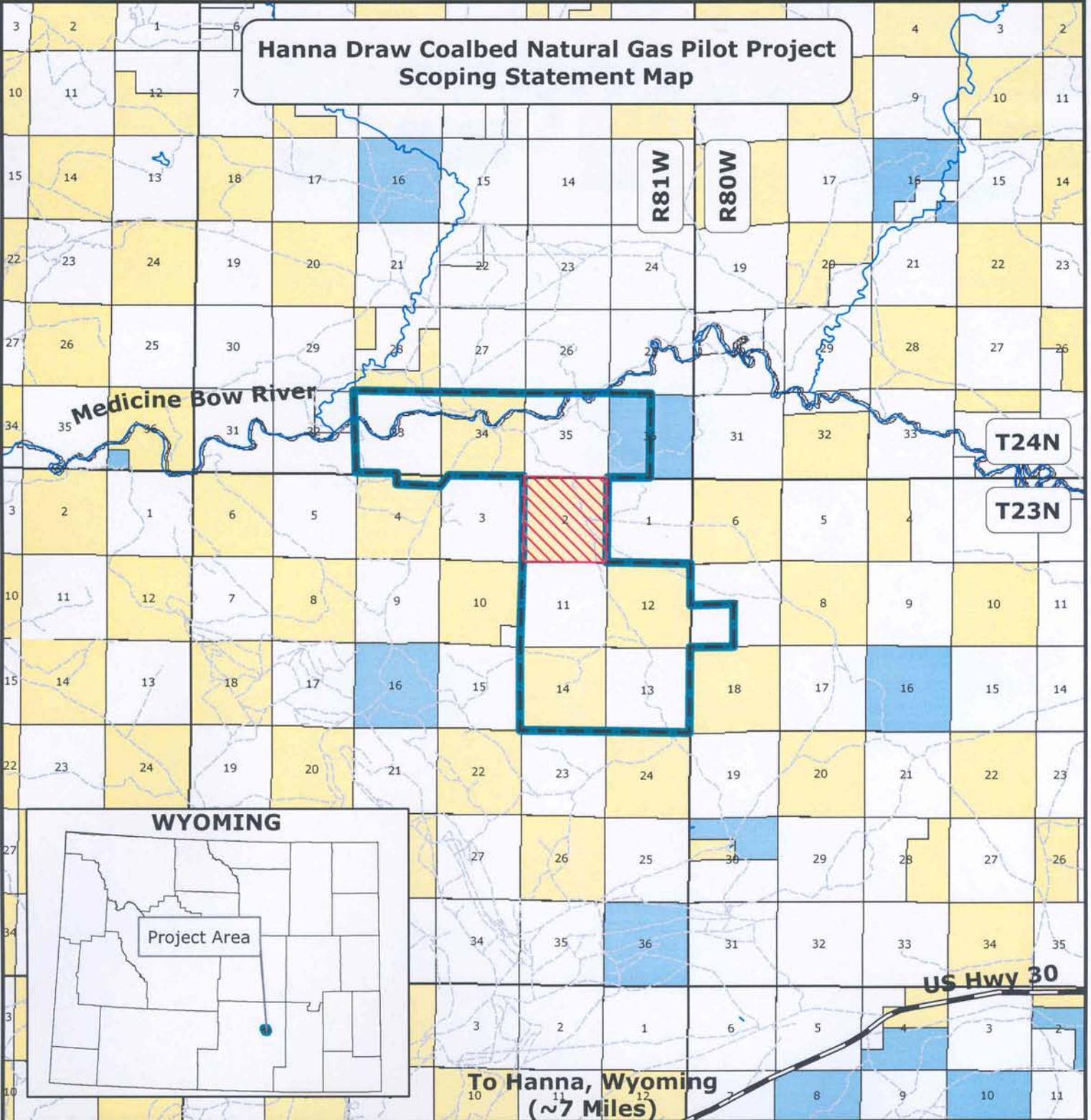
Travis Bargsten, Natural Resource Specialist
Bureau of Land Management
Rawlins Field Office
1300 North Third Street
P.O. Box 2407
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301
E-mail: rawlins_wymail@blm.gov

Please refer to the Hanna Draw Coalbed Natural Gas Pilot Project in your response.

REFERENCE CITED

U.S. Bureau of Land Management. 1990. Great Divide Resource Area Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan. Prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Rawlins Field Office, Rawlins, Wyoming. BLM-WY-PT-91-010-4410. 74 pp.

Hanna Draw Coalbed Natural Gas Pilot Project Scoping Statement Map



1 inch equals 8,333 feet
1:100,000

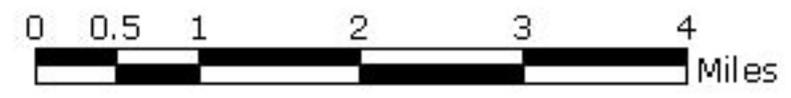
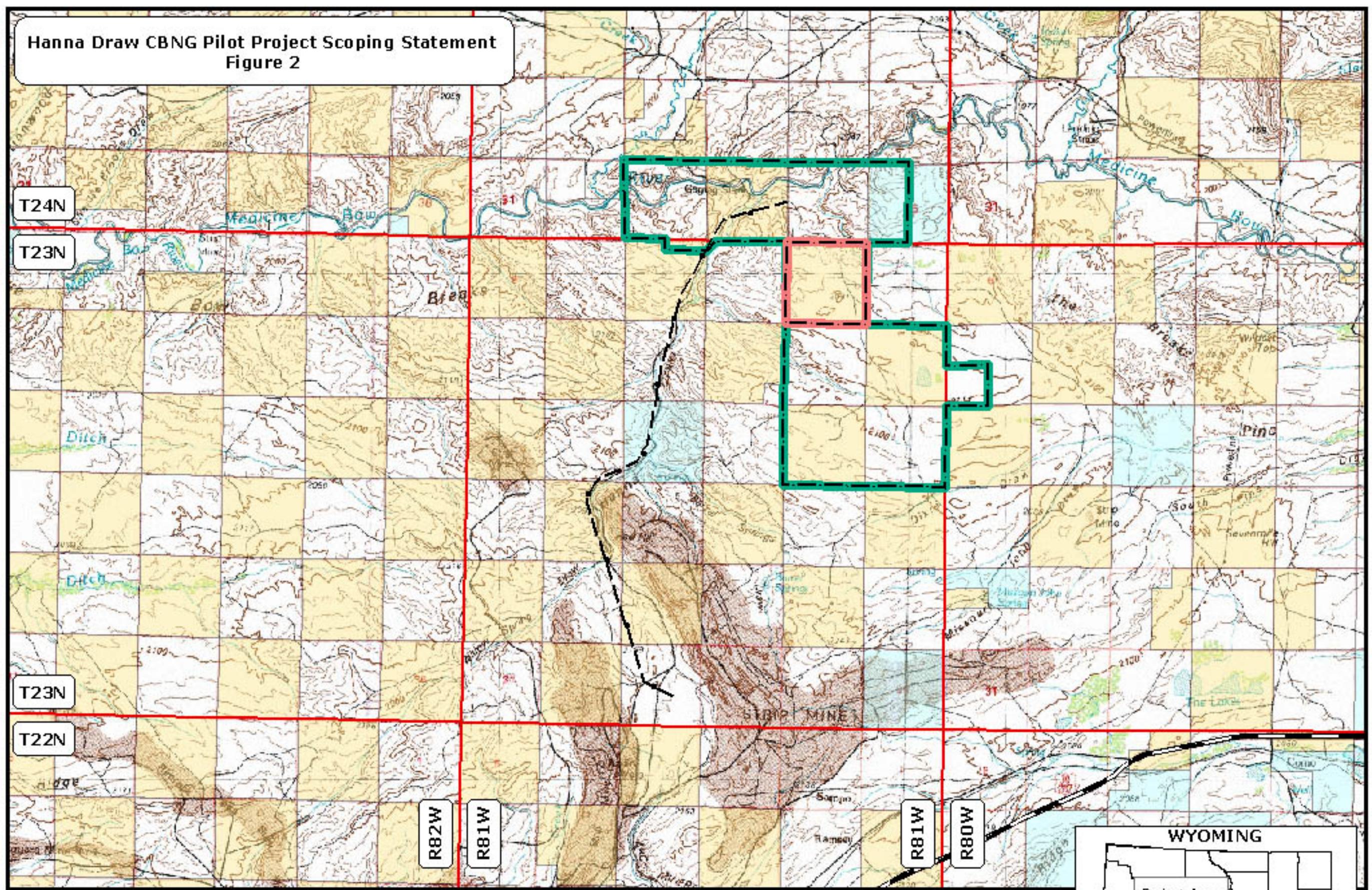
Drafted By: TDB 02/27/2004

The BLM can not guarantee the accuracy of these data.

LEGEND

- HannaDraw EA Study Area
- Hanna Draw Exploratory Pod
- Surface Ownership**
- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- Private
- State

Hanna Draw CBNG Pilot Project Scoping Statement
Figure 2



1 inch equals 8,333 feet
 1:100,000

Drafted By: TDB 05/10/2004

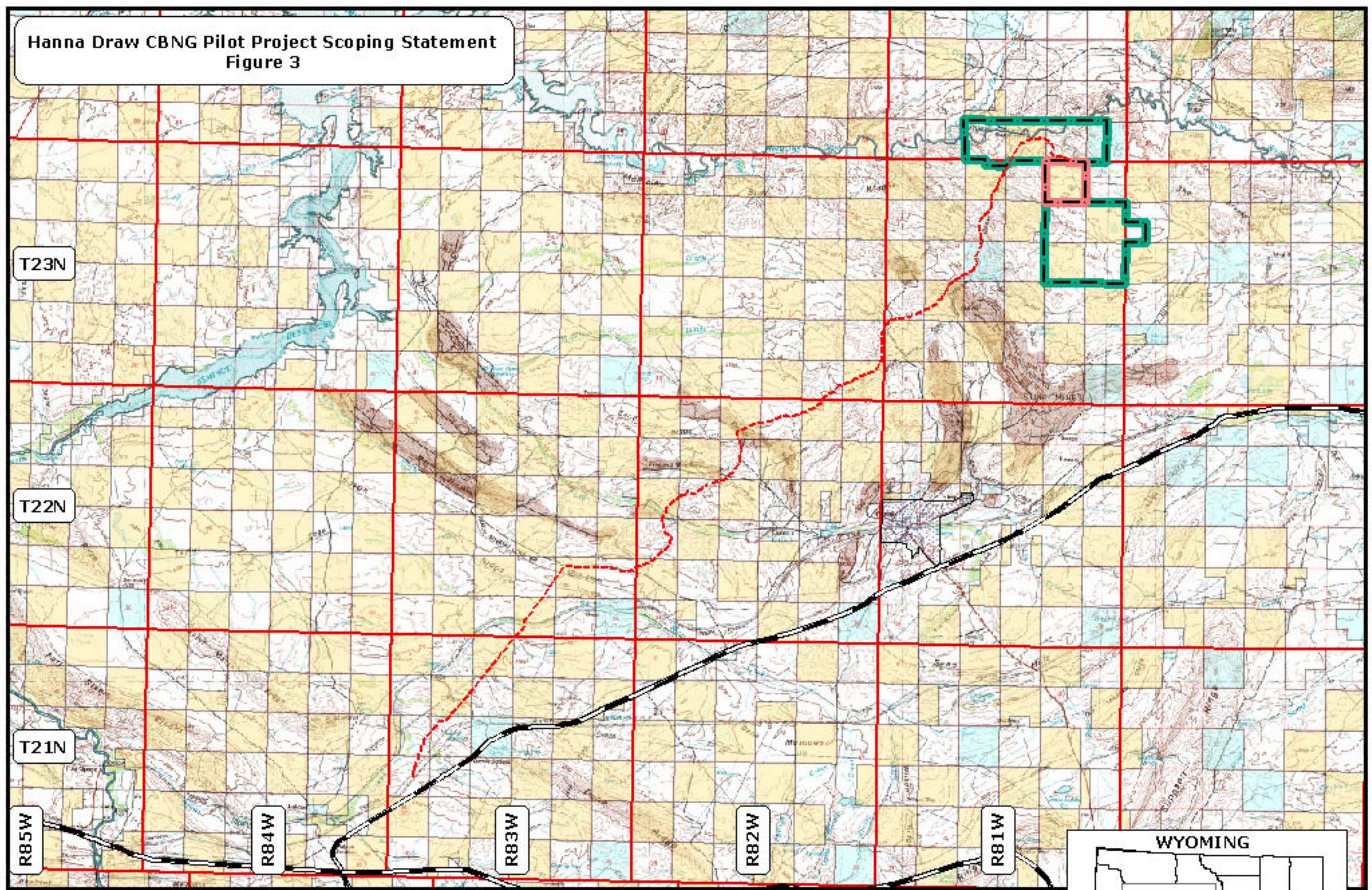
The BLM can not guarantee the accuracy of these data.

LEGEND

-  HannaDraw_EA_StudyArea
-  Hanna Draw Exploratory Pod
-  Proposed Powerline



Hanna Draw CBNG Pilot Project Scoping Statement
Figure 3



1 inch equals 16,667 feet
1:200,000

Drafted By: TDB 05/10/2004

The BLM can not guarantee the accuracy of these data.

LEGEND

- HannaDraw_EA_StudyArea
- Hanna Draw Exploratory Pod
- Proposed Gas Transportation Pipeline

