

## SCOPING STATEMENT

Bud, Kimball, Tensleep Anticline 3-D Geophysical Project  
Koch Exploration and Bureau of Land Management, Worland Field Office

August 4, 2010

Dear Reader:

Koch Exploration Co. LLC has filed a Notice of Intent with the Worland Field Office to conduct a 3-D geophysical exploration project in a 33.27-square-mile area in T. 45 and 46 N., R. 88 and 89 W., in Washakie County, Wyoming. (See map.)

The project would use vibroseis methodology. The source lines would run parallel, 777.8 feet apart with a total of 90 source lines within the project area. No source lines would be within the Honeycombs WSA. A total of 101 parallel lines of receiver (geophone) stations would be laid out by foot-traffic, spaced approximately 1100 feet apart. Recording operations would begin upon approval and are expected to take approximately two weeks to complete.

The project area comprises approximately 18,545 acres public lands, 1120 acres of State of Wyoming lands, and 1627.8 acres private lands.

### **Relationship to Existing Plans and Documents**

The document which directs management of federal lands within the project area is the Washakie Resource Management Plan (WRMP) and Record of Decision approved September 1988.

The WRMP states that, "All proposals for geophysical exploration will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Suitable surface protection measures based on the guidance for mitigating surface-disturbing activities in the Wyoming BLM Standard Oil and Gas Lease Stipulations, and access restrictions will be applied. Generally, geophysical exploration will not be allowed on BLM administered surface that is closed to oil and gas leasing."

### **Land and Resource Management Issues and Concerns**

Land and resource management issues and concerns that would be considered as part of the EA include conformance of the proposed action to applicable BLM Resource Management Plans, and known and potential impacts to:

- BLM-sensitive plant and animal species
- Sage grouse, breeding, nesting, and wintering habitat
- Range resources
- Cultural resources (prehistoric and historic resources)
- Transportation impacts
- Surface and groundwater resources
- Air quality and air quality related values
- Visual resources
- Control of noxious weeds
- Lands with wilderness characteristics
- Wilderness Study Areas
- Paleontological Resources

## National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, which implement NEPA, the BLM is has chosen to prepare an environmental analysis. The environmental document will serve several purposes. It will provide both the public and governmental agencies with information about the potential environmental consequences of the project and alternatives; identify all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the project and alternatives; and provide the responsible official with information upon which to make an informed decision regarding the project. The document will be prepared by an Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) of BLM resource experts.

One opportunity of the NEPA process is scoping. Scoping activities are initiated early in the process to:

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

### Timing Requirements

This scoping statement has been prepared to describe means by which governmental agencies, the general public, and other interested parties may participate in and contribute to the analysis process. Public input can be used to establish the scope of analysis for any NEPA document, and the BLM encourages public participation.

The public is encouraged to participate throughout the environmental analysis process to help in identifying the level of analysis needed, alternatives to the proposed action, other issues or concerns that should be analyzed, mitigation opportunities, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure the completeness of the analysis process.

Please submit your comments postmarked by September 2, 2010 to:

Holly Elliott,

Project Manager BLM –

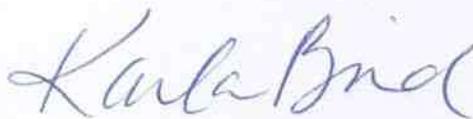
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E-mail: [worland\\_wymail@blm.gov](mailto:worland_wymail@blm.gov) (Please include “Bud, Kimball, & Tensleep Anticline 3D-- Scoping Comments” in the Subject line.)



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