

### **D-2/D-3. HISTORICAL SITES/ARCHAEOLOGY/PALEONTOLOGY**

This submission will constitute notification to the BLM's Worland Field Office regarding the proposed disturbances. No surface disturbances will occur on Federal lands until cultural resource clearance has been received from the Bureau nor will surface disturbances continue if cultural resources are discovered during operations until additional clearance has been issued by the Bureau as stated in their stipulated approval.

Three cultural resource studies were conducted for the proposed amendment area. Project number: WY-121-81 was completed by William Eckerle in 1981 and covered lands included in Wyo-Ben, Inc.'s proposed West Lucerne haul road and roads in the Red Hole area east of Thermopolis. Another survey was conducted by Western Wyoming Community College in 1979 and covered the proposed pits of this Amendment/Plan of Operations except pit 102T (included in Wyo-Ben's original A-6 submission). In November of 2008, Mike Bies of the Worland Field Office of BLM deemed this study to be invalid because it was conducted before 1981. A third survey was conducted by BLM in 1985 and covered small tracts of lands not covered in the Western Wyoming College study and lands proposed to be disturbed by proposed pit 75T. After discussions with Mike Bies, it was decided that those sites discovered during the BLM survey at proposed pit 75T that were considered at that time to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places will be reevaluated in 2009 for eligibility.

Wyo-Ben will contract another study to survey the proposed pits of this Amendment/Plan of Operations for cultural resources including pits 73T, parts of 75T, 98T, 102T, 104T, and 108T, and any proposed haul roads that had not been previously constructed. Any sites found that are considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places will be mitigated, which in most cases involves avoidance.

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