



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



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In Reply Refer To:  
3150 (LLIDI02000)P  
DOI-BLM-ID-I020-2014-0014-CX

April 1, 2014

Dear Interested Parties:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Pocatello Field Office, is asking for comments, concerns, or issues for inclusion in the environmental review of an application for a two dimensional seismic survey within Bonneville County, Idaho. CPC Mineral LLC submitted a Notice of Intent to Conduct Oil and Gas Geophysical Exploration Operations on May 16, 2013 pursuant to BLM Regulations at 43 CFR 3150. Pursuant to the BLM regulations and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), the BLM is soliciting your comments regarding this application. The application area occurs within federal oil and gas lease IDI-35687 on split estate lands (private surface/federal mineral estate) patented by the Stock Raising Homestead Act.

The Scoping/Information package for this project can also be found at the following website: [https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa\\_register.do](https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do). Comments made on this proposal would be most helpful if received before April 30, 2014. Feedback will be accepted beyond this date, however, such comments may be considered secondary to comments received in a timely manner.

If you have any questions and concerns, please contact Bryce Anderson, Geologist, Pocatello Field Office, at (208) 478-6353 or via email at [banderson@blm.gov](mailto:banderson@blm.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/ David A. Pacioretty

David A. Pacioretty  
Field Manager

Attachments:  
Scoping/Information Package (5 p)

## SCOPING/INFORMATION PACKAGE

### NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONDUCT OIL AND GAS GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION OPERATIONS – CARIBOU TWO DIMENSIONAL SEISMIC SURVEY

#### NEPA # DOI-BLM-ID-I020-2014-0014-CX

The information in this package summarizes a Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Pocatello Field Office action in response to a Notice of Intent to Conduct Oil and Gas Geophysical Exploration Operations which was submitted in accordance with 43 CFR 3150 and the Pocatello Resource Management Plan (April 2012).

The application area involves a federal oil and gas lease that contains split estate ownership where the surface is privately owned and the entire mineral estate was reserved to the federal government under the Stock Raising Homestead Act. In the case of geophysical exploration operations on split estate land it is the responsibility of the lessee to make a good faith effort to reach an access/use arrangement with the surface owner of such lands prior to entry. If a satisfactory agreement is made with the surface owner the BLM does not need to be involved in authorizing geophysical exploration. If good faith efforts to obtain a surface access/use agreement fail, BLM requires the lessee to submit a Notice of Intent to conduct oil and gas geophysical exploration operations. CPC Mineral LLC was unable to negotiate a surface owner agreement on split estate lands within oil and gas lease IDI-35687 and submitted a Notice of Intent to conduct oil and gas geophysical exploration operations to the BLM Pocatello Field Office on May 16, 2013.

The purpose of this document is to inform you and other interested parties of the proposed geophysical exploration project and to solicit your comments which will assist in the analysis of potential environmental impacts. Comments received in response to this solicitation will be used to identify issues or constraints for this project.

#### **Introduction**

A Notice of Intent to conduct oil and gas geophysical exploration operations was submitted by CPC Mineral LLC to the BLM Pocatello Field Office on May 16, 2013. The application area is located within Bonneville County approximately 35 miles southeast of Idaho Falls, Idaho (see **Figure 1**). The legal description of the application area is as follows:

Township 3 South, Range 43 East, Boise Meridian  
Section 20: S½NW

CPC Minerals LLC proposes to conduct a two dimensional seismic survey on split estate lands patented under the Stock Raising Homestead Act where a surface owner agreement has not been obtained to conduct geophysical exploration within Federal Oil and Gas Lease IDI-35687. The surface estate involved is owned by the EP Ranch Trust (see **Figures 1 and 2**). The proposal would involve approximately 0.26 miles of seismic survey line on the private surface.

Equipment required for the project would include four ATVs, a four and one half ton thumper buggy, a one ton survey truck, a one ton field data recording truck, and a one ton cable truck.

The ATVs and thumper buggy would be the only equipment needed to access the application area. The proposal would involve overland travel to access the seismic line. The proposed access route within the EP Ranch Trust property is demonstrated in **Figure 2**. The design would require the deployment of motion sensing devices (receivers) at intervals of 55 feet. A buggy mounted accelerated weigh drop system would be the primary energy source within the project area. The buggy would drive to each point location and drop a weight simulating an energy wave. The resulting energy wave would be recorded by the receivers providing a high resolution image of subsurface geological features. Data collected from the project would allow the applicant to evaluate hydrocarbon resources within the project area. The geophysical exploration project is proposed to occur in the summer of 2014 and is estimated to require approximately 20 days for completion.

Stipulations for Federal Oil and Gas Lease IDI-35687 require that within the specific leased lands no occupancy or other surface disturbance be allowed within 500 feet of live water. The distance may be modified when specifically approved in writing by the authorized office of the BLM. CPC Mineral LLC submitted a stipulation waiver request on January 6, 2014 to modify the oil and gas stipulation to allow for equipment to cross an intermittent stream channel that is utilized as an irrigation ditch as well as modify the distance allowed to live water from 500 feet to 300 feet. CPC Mineral LLC is proposing to utilize a temporary portable bridge for crossing the stream channel.

### **Purpose of and Need for Proposed Action**

On May 16, 2013, CPC Mineral LLC submitted a Notice of Intent under the 43 CFR 3150 regulations to conduct geophysical oil and gas exploration. The proposed geophysical exploration project occurs within Federal Oil and Gas Lease IDI-35687. The application was submitted to conduct geophysical exploration under the rights granted by the oil and gas lease. In accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 3150, BLM needs to review the Notice of Intent and notify the applicant whether the Notice of Intent is approved or denied and any conditions of approval.

On January 6, 2014, CPC Mineral LLC submitted an oil and gas lease stipulation waiver request to accommodate geophysical activities proposed by the Notice of Intent. In accordance with the regulations 43 CFR 3101, BLM needs to review the oil and gas stipulation waiver request and notify the applicant whether the request is approved or denied.

### **Proposed Action**

The BLM would approve the Notice of Intent to Conduct Oil and Gas Geophysical Exploration Operations, stipulation waiver request for Federal Oil and Gas Lease IDI-35687, and environmental and operational Conditions of Approval as developed during the review and analysis process.

## **Preliminary Issues**

Issues are generated through the public scoping process, a review of the Pocatello Resource Management Plan (April 2012), and/or generated from a need for compliance with laws or regulations. Preliminary issues identified include split estate ownership, Preliminary General Habitat for Sage Grouse, and migratory bird habitat.

## **Public Input Needed**

The BLM is requesting your comments, concerns, or issues, for inclusion in the environmental review of the Notice of Intent to conduct oil and gas geophysical exploration which involves a portion of the EP Ranch Trust property within Federal Oil and Gas Lease IDI-35687. Comments made on this proposal would be most helpful if received before April 30, 2014. The BLM will accept public feedback outside of established public involvement timeframes. However, such comments may be considered secondary to comments received in a timely manner.

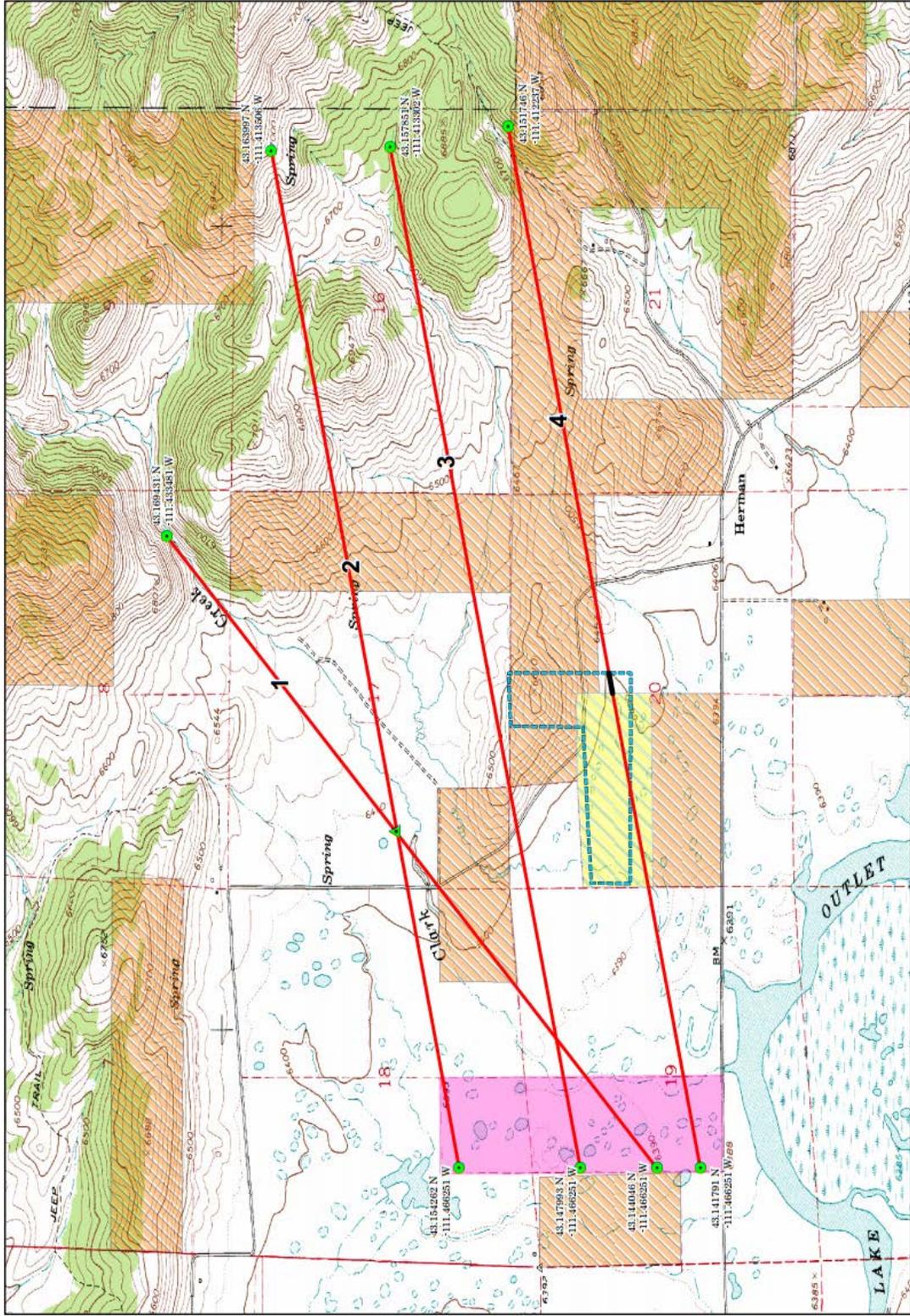
Written comments must be submitted to the BLM, Pocatello Field Office, 4350 Cliffs Drive, Pocatello, ID, 83204. The office business hours for submitting hand-delivered comments are 7:45 am through 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc), or portable document format (.pdf) to [BLM\\_ID\\_PocatelloOffice@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_ID_PocatelloOffice@blm.gov). E-mails submitted to e-mail addresses other than the one listed, in other formats than those listed, or containing viruses will be rejected. To be most helpful, comments sent electronically should include the title of this project in the subject line. Please identify whether you are submitting comments as an individual or as the designated spokesperson on behalf of an organization. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

The primary contact for questions and comments is Bryce Anderson, Geologist, Pocatello Field Office, at (208) 478-6353 or via email at [bdanderson@blm.gov](mailto:bdanderson@blm.gov).

## **Figures**

Figure 1 – Federal Mineral Ownership

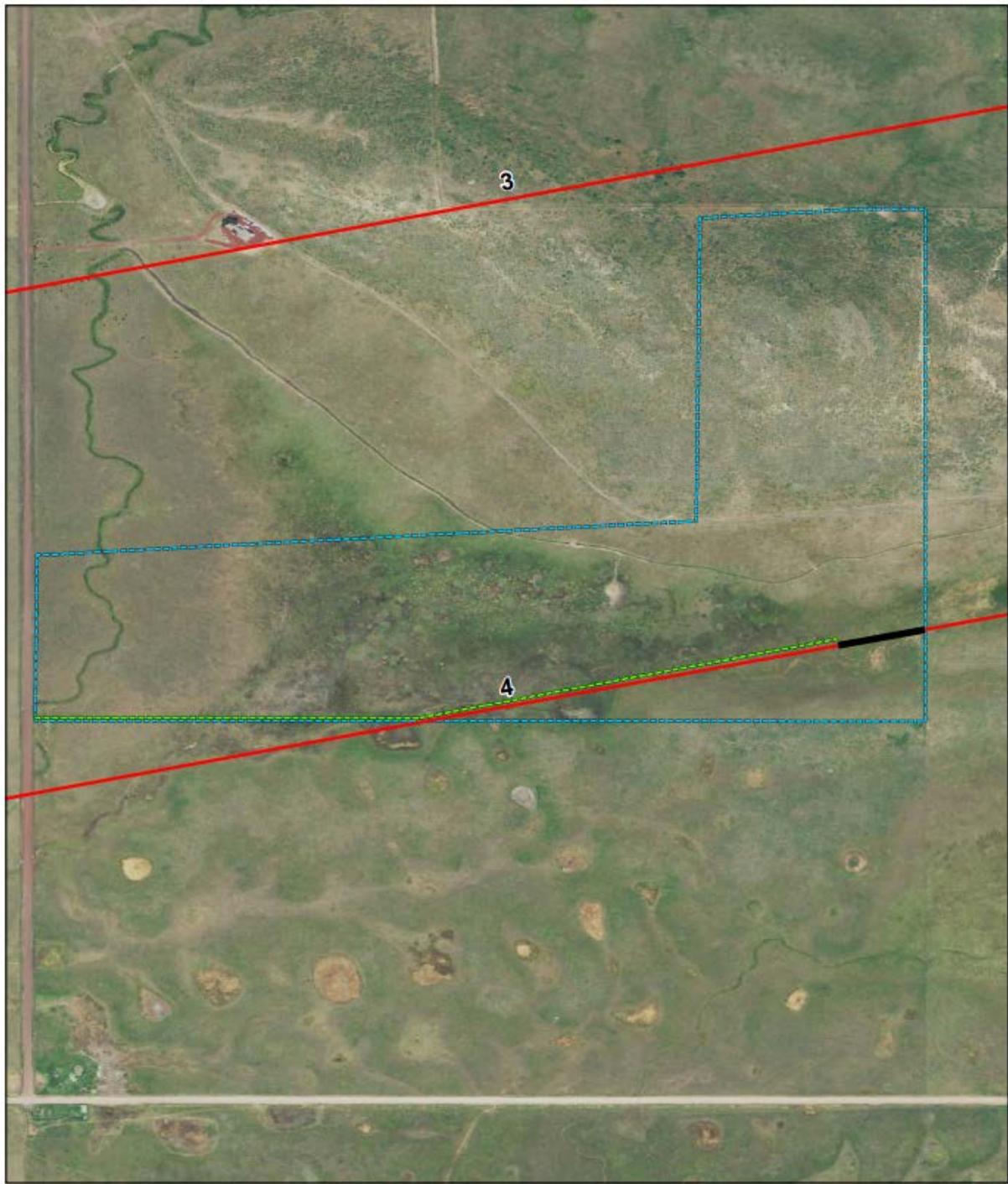
Figure 2 – Aerial Photograph of the EP Ranch Trust Property



**Legend**

- Corner Coordinates
- ▲ CPC 17-1
- Proposed 2D Lines
- Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge
- ▨ Application Area
- ▨ Federal Oil & Gas Mineral Leases
- Avoidance Area on EP Ranch
- ▨ EP Ranch Surface Boundary

**Caribou 2D**  
**Figure 1: Federal Mineral Ownership**  
 Bonneville County, Idaho  
 Map Date: 12/16/2017 from <http://blm.bonneville.gov/data/ownership/>  
 © DESCO  
 Map Date: 12/16/2017



<p><b>Legend</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green;">●</span> Corner Coordinates</li> <li><span style="color: red;">—</span> Proposed 2D Lines</li> <li><span style="color: green; border-bottom: 1px dashed green;">—</span> Proposed Access Area</li> <li><span style="background-color: black; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> Avoidance Area on EP Ranch</li> <li><span style="border-bottom: 2px dashed blue;">—</span> EP Ranch Surface Boundary</li> </ul>	<p><b>Caribou 2D</b>  <b>Figure 2: Aerial Photograph of EP Ranch Trust Property</b>          Bonneville County, Idaho</p> <p><small>Map Date: 2012 NAD Aerial Imagery from <a href="http://bluelightmap.com/usa/idaho/">http://bluelightmap.com/usa/idaho/</a>          Map Datum: NAD 83          Coordinates Displayed in Universal Transverse Mercator</small></p> <p>0      250      500      1,000          Feet</p>	<p><small>DES-001 Map Date: March 16, 2014</small></p>
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