

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641**

DECISION RECORD

Amoco Larson 8 Pad Expansion **DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0032-CX**

Decision

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action as described in DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0032-CX, authorizing the construction of the Amoco Larson 8 pad expansion and moving of the tank from the Amoco Larson 4 pad to the Amoco Larson 8 pad.

BLM Required Conditions of Approval to Mitigate Impacts to Cultural and Paleontological Resources

1. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
2. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The applicant will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The applicant, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the applicant must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the operator must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.

4. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate or other scientifically-important fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.
5. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the applicant or any of his agents must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.

Mitigation Measures

For interim reclamation on the AL 8 and for final reclamation on AL 4 the BLM recommends Seed Mix #8 outlined in

Table

1. **Table** . It is recommended that seeding occur between September 1 and March 31. If an alternate date of seeding is requested, contact the designated Natural Resource Specialist prior to seeding for approval. Drill seeding is the preferred method of application and drill seeding depth must be no greater than ½ inch. If drill seeding cannot be accomplished, seed should be broadcast at double the rate used for drill seeding, and harrowed into the soil. Final reclamation on AL 8 will be completed using the reclamation practices and seed mixes recommended at that time.

Table 1. Seed Mix 8 for Interim Reclamation of the Amoco Larson 8 well pad and Final Reclamation on Amoco Larson 4.

Cultivar	Common Name	Scientific Name	Application Rate (lbs/PLS/acre)
Viva Florets	Galleta Grass	<i>Pleuraphis jamesii</i>	3
Rimrock	Indian Ricegrass	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	3
Toe Jam Creek	Bottlebrush Squirreltail	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	2.5
Rosana	Western Wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	4
	Scarlet Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	0.25
	Annual Sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	2.5
	Mat Saltbush	<i>Atriplex corrugata</i>	2

2. To reduce erosion and reduce the risk of weed establishment, interim reclamation will be initiated within six of when approved activities are completed on the AL 8 well pad.
3. All seed tags will be submitted via Sundry Notice (SN) to the designated Natural Resource Specialist within 14 calendar days from the time the seeding activities have ended. The SN will include the purpose of the seeding activity (i.e., seeding well pad, cut and fill slopes, seeding pipeline corridor, etc.). In addition, the SN will include the well or well pad number associated with the seeding activity, if applicable, the name of the contractor that performed the work, his/her phone number, the method used to apply the seed (e.g., broadcast, hydro-seeded, drilled), whether the seeding activity represents interim or final reclamation, the total acres seeded, an attached map that clearly identifies all disturbed areas that were seeded, and the date the seed was applied.
4. Each year by January 31st Rio Mesa Resource will contact the Natural Resource Specialist about reclamation status on the AL 4 and 8 well pads. Initial discussions should include reclamation status (e.g., interim or final), whether the well pad and/or pipeline has been re-vegetated and/or re-contoured, date seeded, photos of the reclaimed site, acres seeded, seeding method (e.g., broadcast, drilled, hydro-seeded, etc.).
5. The operator shall meet the following reclamation success criteria, and these standards apply to both interim and final reclamation:
 - a) Self-sustaining desirable vegetative groundcover consistent with the site Desired Plant Community (DPC) (as defined by the range site, WRFO Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) protocol site data (BLM TN 440), ecological site or an associated approved reference site) is adequately established as described below on disturbed surfaces to stabilize soils through the life of the project.
 - b) Vegetation with eighty percent similarity of desired foliar cover, bare ground, and shrub and/or forb density in relation to the identified DPC. Vegetative cover values for woodland or shrubland sites are based on the capability of those sites in an herbaceous state.
 - c) The resulting plant community must have composition of at least five desirable plant species, and no one species may exceed 70 percent relative cover to ensure that site species diversity is achieved. Desirable species may include native species from the surrounding site, species listed in the range/ecological site description, AIM data, reference site, or species from the BLM approved seed mix. If non-prescribed or unauthorized plant species (e.g., yellow sweetclover, *Melilotus officinalis*) appear in the reclamation site BLM may require their removal.
 - d) Bare ground does not exceed the AIM data, range site description or if not described, bare ground will not exceed that of a representative undisturbed DPC meeting the Colorado Public Land Health Standards.
6. All equipment that may act as a vector for weeds shall be cleaned before entering the project area.
7. Application of herbicides must comply with the *Vegetation Treatments on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environments Impact Statement* (EIS), and the WRFO Integrated Weed Management Plan (DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA).
8. All seed, straw, mulch, or other vegetative material to be used on BLM lands will comply with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) state noxious weed seed requirements and must be certified by a qualified Federal, State, or county office as free of noxious weeds. Any seed lot with test results showing presence of State of Colorado A

or B list species will be rejected in its entirety and a new tested lot will be used instead. All areas identified to be disturbed under this proposal will be monitored and treated for noxious weeds on an annual basis for the life of the project until Final Abandonment has been approved by the Authorized Officer.

9. Pesticide Use Proposals (PUPs) must be submitted to and approved by the BLM before applying herbicides on BLM lands. The PUP will include target weed species, the herbicides to be used, application rates and timeframes, estimated acres to be treated, as well as maps depicting the areas to be treated and known locations of weeds. The WRFO recommends that all PUPs be submitted no later than March 1st of the year anticipating herbicide application.
10. If the operator damages any range improvement project(s) (e.g. fences, gates, water development, cattleguards) the operator will notify the Authorized Officer through Sundry Notice (Form 3160-5) and identify the actions taken to repair the feature(s) promptly. Repairs must be prior to the livestock grazing permittee's need to utilize the range improvement.
11. It is recommended by BLM to fence the maximum extent of disturbance of the well pad (i.e., the well pad footprint). Fencing should remain in place through successful interim reclamation and again through successful final reclamation to promote re-vegetation and reduce weeds. Fences and gates (all built to BLM specification per BLM manual H-1741-1 (see below)) will be installed, maintained, and removed by the operator upon approval by the AO. As part of final abandonment the fence around this pad will be removed. The fence constructed around the well pad will be a 36 inch height fence with the following specifications:
 - a) 2 inches from ground a woven 24 inch wire.
 - b) 2 inches above woven wire a single strand of barbed wire
 - c) 8 inches from single strand wire another strand of barbed wire.

Compliance with Laws & Conformance with the Land Use Plan

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the 1997 White River Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan.

Public Involvement

This project was posted on the WRFO's on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register on January 23, 2015. No comments or inquiries have been received.

Rationale

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with Section 390 of the Energy Policy of 2005.

The Proposed Action would allow for the Amoco Larson 4 location to undergo final reclamation with the removal of the tank from that location and moving it to the Amoco Larson 8. Also, it allows for the existing surface pipeline to be removed. Although the Proposed Action involves the 0.25 acres of expansion, more acreage would undergo final reclamation.

Monitoring and Compliance

On-going compliance inspections and monitoring of drilling, production, and post-production activities will be conducted by White River Field Office staff during construction of well pads, access roads, and pipelines. Specific mitigation developed in the associated Categorical Exclusion and the lease terms and conditions will be followed. The Operator will be notified of compliance related issues in writing, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), will be provided 30 days to resolve such issues.

Administrative Remedies

There are different administrative remedy processes for authorizations issued under the authority of 43 CFR 3100 (on-lease oil and gas development) or 43 CFR 2800 (rights-of-way).

State Director Review

Under regulations addressed in 43 CFR 3165.3(b), any adversely affected party that contests a decision of the Authorized Officer may request an administrative review, before the State Director, either with or without oral presentation. Such request, including all supporting documentation, shall be filed in writing with the BLM Colorado State Office at 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215 within 20 business days of the date such decision was received or considered to have been received. Upon request and showing of good cause, an extension may be granted by the State Director. Such review shall include all factors or circumstances relevant to the particular case.

Appeal

Any party who is adversely affected by the decision of the State Director after State Director review, under 43 CFR 3165.3(b), of a decision may appeal that decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals pursuant to the regulations set out in 43 CFR Part 4.

Signature of Authorized Official



Field Manager



Date