

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-MT-C030-2015-0255-EA
October 2015**

**Proposed Oil Wells:
Raven 1-13H DWOA
Mountrail County, ND**

***Applicant/Address:** Slawson Exploration Company
1675 Broadway, Ste 1600, Denver CO 80202*

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Bureau of Land Management
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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared by the Bureau of Land Management North Dakota Field Office to analyze Slawson Exploration Company (Slawson) Application for Permit to Drill (APD). The surface of the proposed well location is privately owned. Mineral ownership directly below the proposed well location is privately held. A horizontal portion of the wells will penetrate Federal Minerals. The well information is as follows:

Well Identification	Legal Location	Lease Number	Mineral Ownership Beneath Pad
Raven 1-13H (DWOA)	SWSW of Sec 13 T157W R91W	NDM102148	Fee

The EA assists the BLM in project planning and ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in making a determination as to whether any “significant” impacts could result from the analyzed actions.

BACKGROUND

The oil and gas well was drilled from a single well pad and was drilled into Federal lease NDM102148. The description of the operator action and analysis contained in the EA depicts the well and the environmental effects available to the BLM at the time of this analysis.

CONFORMANCE WITH LAND USE PLAN

This action is subject to the decisions approved in the North Dakota Resource Management Plan, which was approved on April 22, 1988 and amended September 21, 2015. The plan has been reviewed to ensure that the proposed action is in conformance with the land use plan, terms, and conditions, as required by 43 CFR 1610.5. For reference, see page 9 of the Final RMP/EIS, Oil and Gas Lease Stipulations and Leasing Restrictions. See also, page 10 of the RMP/EIS Desk Document, Oil and Gas Plan Decisions.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The BLM decision to be made is whether or not to approve the APD. The purpose of the action is to allow the lessee to continue to produce oil from the Federal mineral leases indicated above. The need for the action is established by BLM Onshore Orders (43 CFR 3160), which require the BLM to review and approve APDs on Federal leases, including those leases with split estate lands. However, the BLM has no jurisdiction over surface impacts on private lands.

SCOPING AND PUBLIC INVOLVMENT AND ISSUES

The operator has provided certification that they have a surface owner’s agreement, which was received by the BLM on 10/01/14 for the proposed action. No issues were identified by the surface owners. The EA analyzes the proposed action and discloses potential impacts based upon existing data. The APD was posted in the North Dakota public room on 10/01/14, and no comments from the public were received.

CHAPTER 2 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

Well Site Construction

The pad is 4.38 acres, and is approximately 450’ x360’. The cuts range up to 4.8’ at the elevation across the pad, and the fills range up to 4.0’. The existing 24 ft. access road has a 14-18 foot running surface with a 16 foot sub-grade. A BLM right-of-way (ROW) will not be required. Surface and subsoil materials in the immediate project area were used for construction. Scoria was used to surface the well pad and access road, and was acquired off site from a private source. After the well was drilled, it was completed for production on the well pad.

The following table summarizes the maximum proposed site dimensions:

Well ID	Well Pad (ac)	Access Road (ac)	Total (ac)
Raven 1-13H DWOA	4.38	4.63	9.01

Well Site Drilling

The drilling operations for the new well has already taken place. Drilling took approximately 25 days, followed by additional time for well completion and installation of production facilities. The Raven 1-13H DWOA was horizontally drilled with a semi-closed loop system into the Bakken and Three Forks formations (13375 feet TMD). Surface casing (9 5/8”) was set to approximately 2,083 feet and cemented back to the surface. The well was then drilled below the casing. The operator has submitted an H₂S Contingency Plan for the well. An appropriately sized Blowout Preventer (BOP) was used to control the well and prevent an accidental release of hydrocarbons or salt water into the environment.

Fresh water based mud system was used while drilling down to surface casing setting depth, and an invert mud system (oil based) was used for drilling the remaining vertical section and the horizontal section of the well used a brine drilling fluid. The well was fracture stimulated and completed for production because economically recoverable quantities of oil was found.

Drilling locations utilized cuttings pits. Disposal of all solids and liquids (drilling fluids/cuttings, produced water, trash, sewage and chemicals) met all state, federal and county requirements. Produced fluids were placed in test tanks on location. A berm was provided around the test tanks to serve as secondary containment.

The well was not drilled and completed in full compliance with all applicable laws, regulation (43 CFR 3100), *Onshore Oil and Gas Orders*, the Application for Permit to Drill (APD), and any

Conditions of Approval. Well was drilled without approved Applications for Permit to Drill; thus, there wasn't any site-specific Conditions of Approval followed.

Well Site Completion

Three Forks and Bakken wells typically undergo fracture stimulation as part of the well completion process. Fracture stimulation (i.e., hydraulic fracturing or “fracing”) is a process used to maximize the extraction of underground resources by allowing oil or natural gas to move more freely from the rock pores to production wells that brings the oil or gas to the surface. The hydraulically created fracture acts as a conduit in the rock formation, allowing oil or gas to flow more freely through the fracture system, and to the wellbore where the oil or gas is produced to the surface.

To create or enlarge fractures, fluid comprised typically of water and additives is pumped into the productive formation at a gradually increasing rate and pressure. Hydraulic fracturing fluid is approximately 98 percent water and propping agents (proppant), such as sands with the remainder being chemical additives. Chemicals used in stimulation fluids include acids, friction reducers, surfactants, potassium chloride (KCl), gelling agents, scale inhibitors, corrosion inhibitors, antibacterial agents, and pH adjusting agents and typically comprise less than 2% of the total fluid. When the pressure exceeds the rock strength, the fluids create or enlarge fractures that can extend several hundred feet away from the well. As the fractures are created, a propping agent (usually sand) is pumped into the fractures to keep them from closing when the pressure is released. After fracturing is completed, the majority of the injected fracturing fluids returns to the wellbore and is reused or disposed of at an approved disposal facility.

A typical fracture stimulation technique involves 20-30 stages which partition the wellbore into segments which are each separately fracture stimulated. This allows for more efficient use of frac fluid and proppant and a more evenly distributed treatment of the full length of the wellbore. This multi-stage hydraulic fracturing has allowed development of the Bakken and Three Forks pool formation that was previously uneconomic due to low permeability.

Well Site Production

Production facilities required to operate each oil well include a pumping unit, oil and saltwater tanks, a flare stack and a heater treater. Recycle pumps, metering equipment, small sheds or enclosures and other miscellaneous equipment were also installed on the leveled working area of the well pads. Production facilities were spaced according to minimum safe operating distances. A dike was constructed completely around the production facilities designed to hold 100% capacity of the largest vessel plus one day production volume.

During the production phase, the operator would reduce the pad size to accommodate only the area that is needed for production. All slopes were re-contoured to gentler grades, stabilized; topsoil spread, grass seeded and drainage established. Upon well abandonment, the operator would reclaim the well pad and access road as directed by the surface owner or by the BLM AO if reclamation is inadequate.

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the no action alternative, the APDs would not be approved. The wells have already been drilled and associated facilities constructed so denying the APD would not prevent drilling and construction, but would only prevent royalties from being paid.

CHAPTER 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Mandatory Item	Present and Affected	Present Not Affected	Not Present
Threatened and Endangered Species			X
Floodplains			X
Wilderness Values			X
ACECs			X
Water Resources		X	
Air Quality		X	
Cultural or Historical Values		X	
Prime or Unique Farmlands			X
Wild & Scenic Rivers			X
Wetland/Riparian			X
Native American Religious Concerns			X
Wastes, Hazardous or Solids			X
Invasive, Nonnative Species		X	
Environmental Justice		X	

The following non-critical resources would not be impacted by this proposed action; therefore, they would not be analyzed in detail by this Environmental Assessment: Fire, Forestry, Geology, Lands/Realty, Recreation, Wetlands, Livestock Grazing, or Ecologically Critical Areas.

Air Quality: The project is located in a Class II air quality rating area, which is an area that allows moderate degradation above “baseline” including most of the United States. The air will contain some pollution from the oil and gas activities in the oil field within a few miles radius of the well, including very little hydrogen sulfide gas, some sulfur dioxide gas from venting and flaring activities, and dust particulates from surface-disturbing activities. The nearest Class I air shed is the northern portion of the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, which is approximately 50 miles southwest of the Raven 1-13H DWOA location. The dominate wind direction in this area is from the west.

Cultural Resources: A Class III cultural resources inventory (BLM # 15-MT030-292) was conducted and one cultural resource site was located in the project area or area of potential effect (APE).

Hydrology: The well site and access road are located within the Lake Sakakawea watershed. The project area is not located next to any mapped perennial or intermittent streams. However, unmapped streams and drainages may be present.

Soils: Soils affected by this action were identified from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) database for Dunn County, North Dakota. For the Official Series Description visit: <http://soils.usda.gov/technical/classification/osd/index.html>.

Soils in the area of the Raven 1-13H DWOA well pad are mostly Zahl-Williams-Bowbells loams (C154C). These soils are well drained on slopes of 3 to 9 percent. The ecological sites range from Thin Loamy to Limy Upland. These soils are found at elevations of 1,280 to 2560 feet, in areas with mean annual precipitation of 13 to 22 inches and a mean annual air temperature of 37 to 46 degrees F. The landforms are rises on terraces. The depth to a restrictive feature is more than 80 inches.

Wildlife: The majority of Mountrail County lies within the Missouri Slope or Missouri Coteau Region of North Dakota and has been largely influenced by glaciation. This heavily glaciated region contains a considerable variety of glacial land forms mostly characterized by knob-and-kettle topography, and innumerable shallow basin wetlands occur throughout. This region is generally represented by western mixed grass prairie and is typically grazed if it has not been converted by cultivation. Prior agricultural conversion areas generally result in cultivation for wheat. In general, wildlife species that may be found utilizing the project area include White-tailed deer, limited pronghorn & mule deer, sharp-tailed grouse and numerous migratory birds including – Western Meadowlark, Lark Bunting, Grasshopper Sparrow, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Golden Eagle, Rough legged Hawk and Swainson’s Hawk. The project area does lie within the migratory path of the Endangered Whooping Crane and is heavily marked with wetlands which are utilized nesting waterfowl as well as migrating shorebirds.

CHAPTER 4 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

PROPOSED ACTION DIRECT AND INDIRECT EFFECTS

While siting and construction of the private well pad and infrastructure is necessary for drilling the Federal well, the decision of where and how to construct and operate the well pad and infrastructure is beyond the BLM’s control. Therefore, most construction activities and mitigation measures applied for the protection of surface, environment and the interest of the surface owner, is primarily the obligation of the state permitting agencies, the mineral lessee/operator and the surface owner.

Air Quality: Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS) may be exceeded for a short time during the pad construction, drilling, and completion phases. This took an average of approximately 87 days per well. Hydrogen sulfide gas (H₂S) was not encountered during drilling but may be encountered during the production phase. The burning or flaring of H₂S results in the release of sulfur dioxide (SO₂). If H₂S or SO₂ were released into the atmosphere AAQS may be exceeded for a short time. There may have been a period of increased dust during the pad and road construction phase.

Impacts from SO₂ and H₂S are addressed in the Williston Basin Regional Air Quality Study. This study shows that ambient air quality and PSD Class II air quality are relatively good in the Williston Basin. An operator has the option to flare produced gas for a 30-day period. After that period, the well must be connected to a gas line or the operator must request permanent flaring. The requirement that all produced gas be either captured or flared should mitigate the impacts to air quality due to production operations or well testing. This flaring could be used to mitigate or lessen any impacts that may temporarily exceed local ambient air quality.

Cultural: A Class III cultural resources inventory (BLM # 15-MT030-292) was conducted and one cultural resource site (32MN1344) was located in the project area or APE. Site 32MN1344 has been recommended “Not Eligible” for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and no further research or evaluation of the site (32MN1344) will be required. SHPO concurrence was received on September 18, 2015. The BLM gives a finding of “No Historic Properties Affected” if the proposed project proceeds as currently planned. If any cultural resources are uncovered during project construction then all work must stop immediately, and the BLM archaeologist must be contacted.

Hydrology: Using a fresh water mud system and cementing the surface casing string from and 2,083 feet back to the surface protected shallow aquifers. Deeper aquifers and potentially productive hydrocarbon zones were protected through the use of production casing, and cementing. The producing fractured zone depth is 10,413 feet, well below the typical depth of usable ground water. Well bore construction isolates the Dakota and shallower formations with intermediate casing set below the base of the Dakota and cemented to surface. Production casing is set from the surface to the producing formation and is typically cemented to 4000 to 5000 feet above the producing formation. These factors combine to protect usable ground water from the fracking process. Approximately 20 to 30 stimulation stages (every 300 to 500 feet) would be needed for a typical horizontal well bore to fracture stimulate the formation. Each stage requires approximately 1400 barrels of fluid (an average of about 36,000 barrels per well). Stimulation fluid were disposed of at an approved disposal facility or recycled for reuse or a combination of both.

Surface soils were susceptible to wind and water erosion during road and well pad construction until placement of scoria or gravel. Surface soils are also susceptible to wind and water erosion in recontoured areas until vegetation is re-established. Erosion from water can be reduced by constructing matting, straw booms/wattles, and berms in the appropriate locations. Erosion rates will return to natural levels once vegetation is reestablished providing living and dead vegetation to protect the soil surface from wind and water. By installing runoff preventive measures and the presence of sediment filtering vegetation between the construction sites and live waters, effects to surface waters would be nearly unnoticeable.

Wildlife: Approximately 9.0 acres of native land was altered to construct the well pad and access route to the proposed project site. Construction, drilling, production and/or vehicle traffic resulted in permanently or temporary displacement of some wildlife species including migratory bird species. Mortality of some relatively small, immobile species may have occurred as a result of construction. On a landscape basis, new roads and well pads contribute to additional habitat fragmentation and dispersion of certain wildlife species. A loss of habitat for nesting, foraging, breeding, and cover for those species of wildlife associated with these habitat types would occur during the life of the well, which may include migratory bird species. The proposed project site is not considered prime habitat for whooping crane feeding or roosting. Because of the lack of T & E species in the proposed area, there was no known adverse effect to any known federally listed T & E wildlife species. There is a loss of wetland acres as the project site altered a wetland basin.

NO ACTION DIRECT AND INDIRECT EFFECTS

Under the no action alternative, the BLM would not approve the APDs. Since the wells are already drilled, not approving the APDs would not prevent any construction, drilling or production activities needed for the oil wells because that activity has already happened. Consequently, impacts to the environment have already taken place. There would be continuing impacts from existing disturbances from farming, ongoing reclamation, infrastructure construction and installation, and other related surface disturbing activities in the area.

Economics: Under this alternative, if BLM does not approve the APDs, the wells would be shut in, which would result in oil not being produced from the lease. No production from the Federal leases would result in the loss of additional oil being added to the market place, and loss of royalties to the Federal Government. An analysis of the oil production in the area indicates an average oil well would produce approximately 500,000 barrels of oil during the life of a well. By choosing this alternative, we would be denying the opportunity to produce approximately 1,000,000 barrels for the nation (from 2 federal wells). Also, it is possible that there would be a loss of subsurface information.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Development in the area was analyzed in this environmental assessment using a one-mile radius applied around the project to determine the potential cumulative impact upon the environment. Application of the one-mile radius indicates that there are three existing wells.

The Raven 1-13H DWOA well pad is located in an area of both perennial and annual vegetation, surrounded by cropland and grasslands at a much broader scale. The project sites and surrounding area serves as wildlife habitat for a variety of species. The construction of the well pad may have impacted individual wildlife species but will add negligible stress to the population level; however, the result of all past actions coupled with this action would increase the extent of stressors on the native fauna within the area.

Cumulative effects from implementing the projects are anticipated for air quality for a period of less than five years. If flaring of casing head gas is required to produce these wells, there could be long term minor impacts to air for the life of the wells (about 20 years). In addition, both short term (<5 years) and long term (>5 years) effects are expected for soils, range, vegetation, hydrology, and wildlife.

Water resources have been impacted by the cumulative effects of activities that occur, including agriculture, mineral exploration and development, and pollution. There would be continuing impacts from existing disturbances from oil wells, ongoing reclamation, pipeline installation, construction and other related surface disturbing activities in the area. As a result of the latter, existing activities, erosion, sedimentation, and run-off may persist to some degree. These impacts decrease watershed health and water quality.

Over the last 10 years, advances in multi-stage and multi-zone hydraulic fracturing has allowed development of oil and gas fields that previously were uneconomic. These drilling and fracturing completion techniques have resulted in a very large cumulative increase in oil and gas production from the Bakken and Three Forks formations in the Williston basin of North Dakota, Montana, and Canada.

Both existing and future energy development would continue to have direct and indirect habitat impacts. Existing development will continue to affect vegetation growth and seedling growth as a result of mechanical disturbance and possibly the introduction of invasive species into the area. Prairie habitat is increasingly being lost or fragmented in North Dakota. On a landscape scale, these small isolated areas of direct and indirect disturbance will further reduce connectivity of wildlife habitats. To prevent additional or limit habitat fragmentation, oil companies have proposed to install multiple wells at a single well pad location, accessed by one road. Commercial success at any new well might result in additional oil/gas exploration proposals. Cumulative impacts that are reasonably foreseen from existing and proposed activities include impacts from habitat fragmentation on a landscape scale and impacts from an improved economy for western North Dakota.

**CHAPTER 5
TRIBES, INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR AGENCIES
CONSULTED**

Table 2: Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted		
<i>Name/Agency</i>	<i>Authority</i>	<i>Result</i>
The surface ownership is fee/private.	BLM requires that the Operator engage the Surface Owner in negotiations for the purpose of obtaining a surface owner agreement or waiver for access.	Surface use agreement or certification received on 10/1/2014

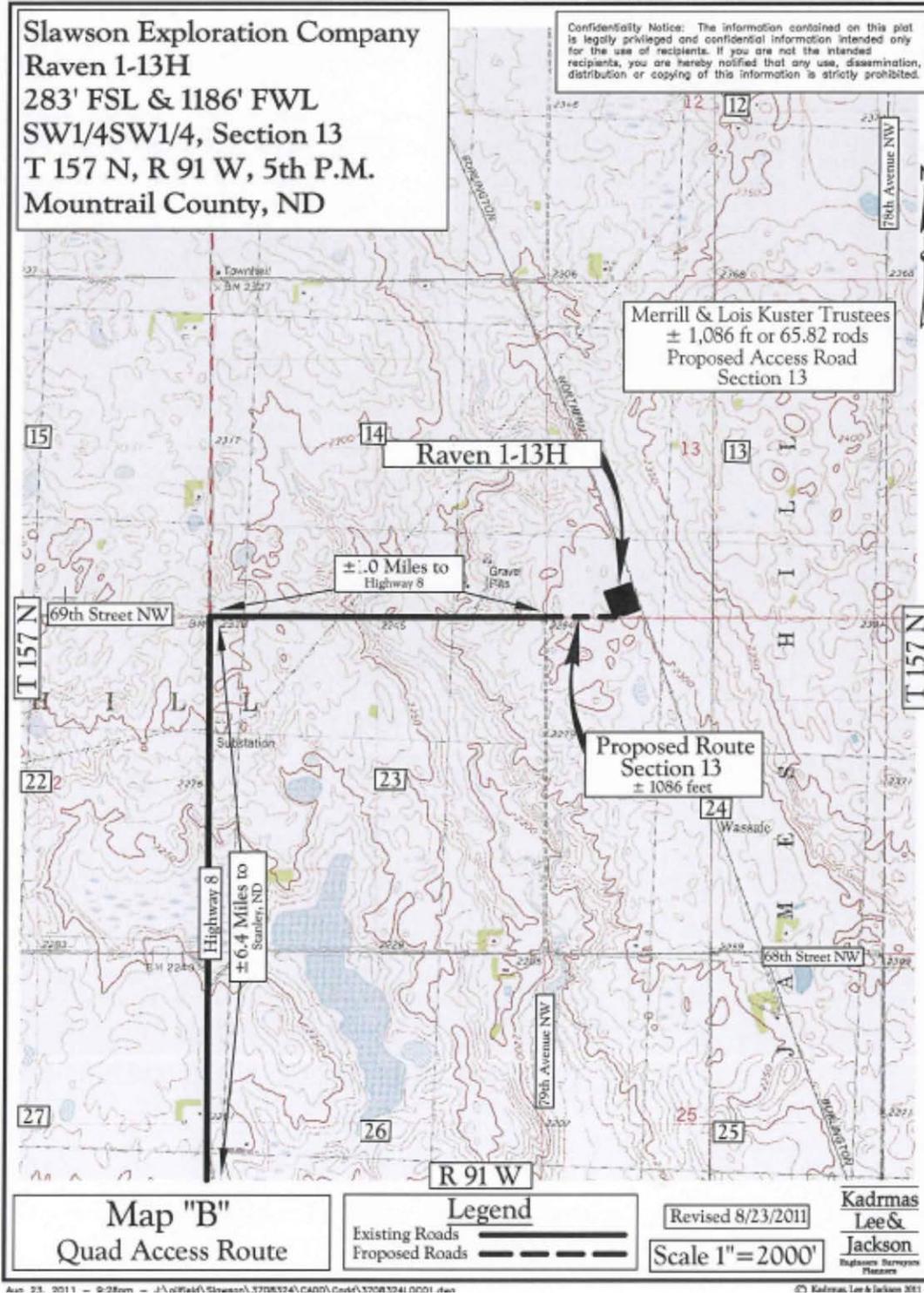
**CHAPTER 6
LIST OF PREPARERS**

Table 3: List of Preparers			
<i>Reviewer</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Date/Initials</i>
Paul Kelley	NRS	Minerals/NEPA/Recreation/Vegetation	PWK 10/22/15
Tim Zachmeier	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Resources	TPZ 10/2/15
Justin Peters	Archeologist	Cultural Resources	JWP 10/14/2015

Kathy Bockness
Environmental Coordinator

10/22/2015
Date

Attachment 1: Pad location



**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-MT-C030-2015-0255-EA

Finding of No Significant Impact

**Well Pad Construction for the Drilled Without Approval
Raven 1-13H DWOA**

INTRODUCTION

The post-drill APD to construct the Raven 1-13H DWOA well pad and access road would accommodate the collection of royalties for the already drilled oil wells that were drilled into Federal lease NDM102148. The description of the operator action and analysis contained in the EA depicts the well pad and access road construction and the environmental effects available to the BLM at the time of this analysis.

The EA assists the BLM in project planning and ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in making a determination as to whether any “significant” impacts could result from the analyzed actions.

PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CONSISTENCY:

This project is subject to the decisions approved in the North Dakota Resource Management Plan, which was approved on April 22, 1988 and amended September 21, 2015. The plan has been reviewed to ensure that the project is in conformance with the land use plan, terms, and conditions, as required by 43 CFR 1610.5. For reference, see page 9 of the Final RMP/EIS, Oil and Gas Lease Stipulations and Leasing Restrictions. See also, page 10 of the RMP/EIS Desk Document, Oil and Gas Plan Decisions.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT DETERMINATION:

Based upon a review of the EA and the supporting documents, I have determined that the project was not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity, as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27, and do not exceed those effects described in the North Dakota Resource Management Plan, which was approved on April 22, 1988 and amended September 21, 2015. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. This finding is based on the context and intensity of the projects as described:

Context: The project is a site-specific action directly involving a total of approximately 9.01 acres of new disturbance in Mountrail County, North Dakota, which by itself does not have

international, national, regional, or state-wide importance. The project areas include producing oil and gas wells.

Intensity: The following discussion is organized around the Ten Significance Criteria described in 40 CFR 1508.27 and incorporated into resources and issues considered (includes supplemental authorities Appendix 1 H-1790-1) and supplemental Instruction Memorandum, Acts, regulations and Executive Orders. The following have been considered in evaluating intensity for this proposal:

1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse. The proposed action impacted resources as described in the EA. Mitigation measures to minimize or eliminate adverse impacts were identified in the analysis and will be included as Conditions of Approval with the approved permits. The EA also disclosed beneficial impacts from the proposed project, such as the potential to bring additional oil and gas into the market place and provide revenues to the Federal Government, and to obtain scientific data of the local geology, and to increase the knowledge base of the mineral resources potential.

2. The degree to which the action affects public health and safety. No aspect of the action would have an effect on public health and safety. The selected alternative minimizes adverse impacts to public health and safety by project design and additional mitigation measures. No residences are located within a ¼ mile radius of the proposed wells. Implementation of H₂S Safety Measures was not necessary during drilling because H₂S was not encountered in excess of 100 ppm in the gas stream.

3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity of historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas. A BLM permitted archaeologist conducted a pedestrian inventory of the area of proposed ground disturbance and researched the area of potential effect. The North Dakota Field Office employed the results of the research and inventory to determine the severity of potential impacts. There are no effects on park lands, prime farm lands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas. Loss of wetland acres did occur as the project site altered a wetland basin.

4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial. No unique or appreciable scientific controversy has been identified regarding the effects of the Proposed Action. The environmental analysis did not show any highly controversial effects to the quality of the human environment.

5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks. The analysis did not show any unique or unknown risks to the human environment. The project is not unique or unusual because BLM and the State of North Dakota have approved similar actions in the same geographic area. The environmental effects to the human environment are analyzed in the environmental assessment. There are no known predicted effects on the human environment that are considered to be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration. The actions considered in the preferred alternative were considered by BLM within the context of

past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. The action would not establish a precedent, since the project area is in a developed oil and gas field.

7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts. The environmental assessment evaluated the possible actions in context of past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions. The analysis did not disclose any significant cumulative impacts. A disclosure of the effects of the project is contained in the environmental assessment.

8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources. If the conditions of approval are followed, the potential for proposed action to affect districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects listed on or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is negligible. In addition, the potential for the loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources is negligible.

9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. There are no threatened or endangered species or habitat in the area of the proposed action. There are no threatened or endangered plant species or habitat in the area.

10. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, Tribal or Local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. The proposed action does not threaten to violate any Federal, State, Tribal, or local law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. Furthermore, the project is consistent with applicable land management plans, policies, and programs.

/s/Loren Wickstrom

10/27/15

**Loren Wickstrom
Field Manager
North Dakota Field Office**

Date

DECISION RECORD
Raven 1-13H DWOA
Mountrail County, ND
DOI-BLM-MT-C030-2015-0255-EA

Decision: It is my decision to authorize Slawson Exploration to continue operations described in the proposed action of DOI-BLM-MT-C030-2015-0255-EA.

Well Identification	Legal Location	Lease Number	Mineral Ownership Beneath Pad
Raven 1-13H DWOA	SWSW of Sec. 13 T157N R91W	NDM102148	Fee

Summary of the Selected Alternative: This decision includes the following components:

Well ID	Well Pad (ac)	Access Road (ac)	Total (ac)
Raven 1-13H DWOA	4.38	4.63	9.01

Alternatives: In addition to the selected alternative, the EA considered the “No Action” alternative, which would carry out no management activities at this time.

Rationale for the Decision: The proposed action and related facilities meet the BLM’s purpose and need to allow the lessee to develop the subject mineral lease indicated above in an environmentally sound manner. The need for the action is established by BLM Onshore Orders (43 CFR 3160) which require BLM approval of APDs on a Federal or Indian trust lease, including those leases with split estate.

The operator has provided certification that they have a surface owner’s agreement, which was received by the BLM on 10/1/2014. No issues were identified by the surface owners.

The above factors and the analysis contained DOI-BLM-MT-C030-2015-0255-EA for Slawson’s proposed action was carefully considered and evaluated. In addition, the APDs and surface owner agreements were reviewed. All reports were read and the information contained weighed in determining the appropriateness of the decision stated above.

/s/ Loren Wickstrom
Loren Wickstrom
Field Manager
North Dakota Field Office

10/27/15
Date of signature

Appeals:

Under BLM regulation this decision is subject to administrative review in accordance with 43 CFR 3165. Any request for administrative review of the decision must include information required under 43 CFR 3165.3(b) (State Director Review), including all supporting documentation. Such a request must be filed in writing with the State Director, Bureau of Land Management, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101 within 20 business days of the date the decision is received, or considered to have been received.

Any party who is adversely affected by the State Director's decision may appeal that decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, as provided in 43 CFR 3165.4.