

Greater Crossbow Project Environmental Impact Statement

Scoping Report

March 2016



Buffalo Field Office



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Acronyms

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
APD	Application for Permit to Drill
AQRV	air quality related value
BFO	Buffalo Field Office
BGEPA	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	best management practice
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFO	Casper Field Office
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
COA	condition of approval
Crossbow Project	Greater Crossbow Project
CWA	Clean Water Act
DOI	Department of Interior
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EOG	EOG Resources, Inc.
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy Management Act
FR	Federal Register
GHG	greenhouse gas
GWUDISW	groundwater under the direct influence of surface water
HAP	hazardous air pollutant
ID Team	Interdisciplinary Team
LDAR	leak detection and repair
LRMP	Land and Resource Management Plan
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NCA	National Climate Assessment
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NFMA	National Forest Management Act
NGO	Non-governmental organization

NOA	Notice of Availability
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NSO	No Surface Occupancy
P-BACT	Presumptive Best Available Control Technology
PHMA	priority habitat management area
P.L.	Public Law
POD	Plan of Development
Project	Greater Crossbow Project
PSD	prevention of significant deterioration
RFD	Reasonably Foreseeable Development
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RMPA	Resource Management Plan Amendment
ROD	Record of Decision
SGCN	Species of Greatest Conservation Need
SGIT	Sage-Grouse Implementation Team
TBNG	Thunder Basin National Grassland
UIC	underground injection control
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USDW	Underground Sources of Drinking Water
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USPS	U.S. Postal Service
VOC	volatile organic compound
WEPP	Water Erosion Prediction Project
WGFD	Wyoming Game and Fish Department
WOGCC	Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
WDEQ	Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

1 INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed development of the Greater Crossbow Project (Crossbow Project, also Project). The BLM Buffalo Field Office (BFO) is the lead agency for the proposed Project; however, the BLM Casper Field Office (CFO) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (USFS) Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland, Douglas Ranger District are part of the BLM Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team) along with BFO staff. Additionally, the USFS is a cooperating agency for this EIS.

The Crossbow Project is located in Converse and Campbell counties in Wyoming, between the towns of Wright and Bill, primarily west of State Highway 59. The proposed Project includes approximately 107,000 acres, a portion of which is located on lands managed by USFS on National Forest System lands—the Thunder Basin National Grassland (TBNG).

This Scoping Report has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (Public Law [P.L.] 91-190). NEPA requirements for public involvement are set forth in Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) requirements (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508). Additional BLM guidance and direction for public involvement is provided in the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (BLM Handbook H-1601-1) and the BLM NEPA Handbook (BLM Handbook H-1790-1). USFS guidance and direction for public involvement is provided in the Forest Service Manual (Chapter 1950 – Environmental Policy and Procedures) and Forest Service Handbook (1909.15 – National Environmental Policy Act Handbook, Chapter 10 – Environmental Analysis and Chapter 20 – Environmental Impact Statements and Related Documents).

This Scoping Report provides an overview of the public scoping process and a summary of the scoping comments, issues, and concerns identified during public scoping.

1.1 Project Description

EOG Resources, Inc. (EOG) submitted a Plan of Development (POD) for the Crossbow Project to the BLM in September 2015 to develop approximately 1,500 new oil and gas wells in Campbell and Converse counties, Wyoming. The Crossbow Project would use a “spine and rib” approach for oil and gas development that includes a primary corridor system for oil, gas, condensate, and water pipelines as well as transmission lines.

The surface land ownership consists of approximately 5% public lands managed by the USFS, 8% managed by the State of Wyoming, and 87% privately owned. Approximately 62% of the minerals are owned by the federal government and managed by BLM. BLM is responsible for managing federal lands and resources based upon the principles of multiple use and sustained yield that take into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources.

1.2 Purpose of Scoping

The purpose of the public scoping process is to identify issues that should be considered in the EIS and to initiate public participation in the planning process. The CEQ regulations state, “there should be an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed.”

The scoping process is open to all interested agencies and the public. The intent is to solicit comments and identify the issues that help direct the approach and depth of the environmental studies and analysis needed to prepare the EIS. Other objectives of scoping include:

- Identifying and inviting agencies with jurisdiction or special expertise relevant to the project to participate in the preparation of the EIS as cooperating agencies;
- Identifying other environmental review and consultation requirements;
- Identifying the relevant and substantive issues that need to be addressed during the EIS analyses;
- Determining the range of alternatives to be evaluated; and
- Developing the environmental analysis criteria and systematic planning process, and allocating EIS assignments among agencies, as appropriate.

1.3 Document Organization

This document contains summary descriptions of the:

- Scoping process, including scoping meetings, advertising leading up to the meetings, and opportunities for public comment during the scoping period (Chapter 2);
- Scoping content analysis process, including how individual letters and comments were coded and tabulated (Chapter 3);
- Comments organized by resource (Chapter 4);
- Issues raised by public comment (Chapter 5); and
- Next steps in the EIS process (Chapter 6).

The report also includes a summary of all submittals received during the scoping period (Appendix D).

All comments were given equal consideration, regardless of method of transmittal.

2 SCOPING PROCESS

2.1 Federal Register Notice of Intent

The BLM initiated the NEPA process by publishing the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS in the Federal Register on October 26, 2015. The NOI included a Project description, BLM contact information, and notice of public scoping meetings.

The scoping comment period began on October 26, 2015, with the publication of the NOI to prepare an EIS in the Federal Register (Vol. 80, No. 206/Monday, October 26, 2015), a copy of which is provided in Appendix A. The NOI notified the public of the BLM's intent to prepare an EIS to support decision making for the proposed Crossbow Project and the beginning of the scoping period, which ended on December 31, 2015.

The BLM also posted the NOI on the Project website:

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/bfo/GC/Docs.html>

2.2 Public Notification of Scoping

Concurrent with the issuance of the Federal Register notice, the BLM issued a press release to local media announcing the release of the NOI and posted the news release on the BFO Project website. The BLM also announced the location and timing of scoping meetings in six local newspapers. These announcements and press releases are provided in Appendix B. Table 2-1 lists the announcement run times in the six local newspapers.

Table 2-1 Newspaper Announcement Run Dates	
Newspaper	Quarter Page Ad Size/ Run Date
Buffalo Bulletin Thursday weekly publication	Size: 3" x 5" Display ad run dates: 1st Run – Thursday, November 19, 2015 2nd Run – Thursday, December 3, 2015
Gillette News Record Daily publication (except Saturday)	Size: 5.75" x 10.5" Display ad run dates: 1st Run – Monday, November 23, 2015 2nd Run – Monday, December 7, 2015
Casper Star Tribune Daily publication	Size: 4.9" x 10.75" Display ad run dates: 1st Run – Monday, November 16, 2015 2nd Run – Monday, November 30, 2015
Douglas Budget Wednesday weekly publication	Size: 5.75" x 10.5" Display ad run dates: 1st Run – Wednesday, November 18, 2015 2nd Run – Wednesday, December 2, 2015
Glenrock Independent Thursday weekly publication	Size: 5.75" x 10.5" Display ad run dates: 1st Run – Thursday, November 19, 2015 2nd Run – Thursday, December 3, 2015
Converse County Merchant Thursday weekly publication	Size: 5.75" x 10.5" Display ad run dates: 1st Run – Thursday, November 19, 2015 2nd Run – Thursday, December 3, 2015

2.3 Scoping Meetings

The BLM hosted two scoping meetings in December 2015; one in Douglas, Wyoming, and one in Gillette, Wyoming. Thirty-six people attended the meeting in Douglas, and 30 people attended the meeting in Gillette (Table 2-2).

The meetings were an opportunity for the BLM to inform those in attendance about the Crossbow Project and the EIS process and to solicit input on the scope of the Project and potential issues. An open house/ presentation format was used for the meetings.

The Douglas meeting was held at Eastern Wyoming College, 800 South Wind River Drive, Douglas, Wyoming. The Gillette meeting was held at the Campbell County Public Library, 2101 4-J Road, Gillette, Wyoming. Meetings in both locations began at 4:00 p.m. and ended at 8:00 p.m., with presentations at 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Date	Location	Attendance
December 9, 2015	Douglas, Wyoming	36
December 10, 2015	Gillette, Wyoming	30

Attendees were greeted, asked to sign in, and given a comment form. Attendees were informed about the open house meeting/presentation format, the general flow of information (display boards) in the room, and ways to submit a completed comment form to the BLM. Informational display stations positioned around the meeting room outlined the EIS process and timeline, provided a description of the Project, key resource issues to be addressed in the EIS, and provided methods and deadlines for comment submittal, including an area where attendees could fill out and submit comment forms at the meeting.

The BLM presented a PowerPoint slideshow with information regarding the NEPA Process, the need for an EIS, EOG's proposed POD, and potential resource issues. Representatives from the BLM, EOG, and the BLM's third-party EIS consultant, Ecology & Environment, Inc., were present and available to explain Project information and answer questions.

Copies of the scoping meeting materials are provided in Appendix C, including meeting display boards, the BLM presentation, and Project newsletter. Public scoping meeting information, including meeting materials, was posted on the BLM BFO Project website.

2.4 Opportunities for Public Comment

Opportunities for comment included written comments provided at the public meetings, letters, and email accepted at the locations listed below:

- Comment Form: at a public meeting
- E-mail: BLM_WY_BuffaloGCEIS@blm.gov
- FAX: 307-684-1122
- Mail: Greater Crossbow Project, Attn: Tom Bills, 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, Wyoming 82834

3 SCOPING CONTENT ANALYSIS

3.1 Submittal-level Coding

The BLM received a total of 25 comment submittals, mainly via hardcopy letter delivered by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) or via email. The submittal method summary is shown in Table 3-1. All comments were labeled with a numeric identifier and reviewed for specific comments.

Table 3-1 Submittal Method Summary		
Code	Submittal Method	Number of Submittals
E	Email/Electronic	3
M	Meeting	0
L	Letter	21
F	FAX	0
W	Website	1
O	Other	0
Total		25

Table 3-2 shows the affiliation of the commenters for each submittal. Companies (i.e., businesses and corporations) provided the largest number of comment documents during the scoping period.

Table 3-2 Submittal Summary by Affiliation	
Organization Type	Number of Submittals
Non-governmental organization (NGO)	4
County	4
Federal Agency	3
State Agency	3
Company	7
Tribe	2
Individual	2
Total	25

Table 3-3 lists the number of submittals by location of origin. Of the 25 submittals received, 19 originated in the state of Wyoming.

Table 3-3 Submittal by Location	
Location of Origin	Number of Submittals
Wyoming	19
Colorado	4
Oklahoma	1
Utah	1
Total	25

4 SUBSTANTIVE PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Substantive public comments were classified according to EIS issue. A total of 285 comments were classified as substantive. The issues and number of responses are listed in Table 4-1 and shown graphically on Figure 4-1. These substantive comments were further classified into the larger categories of NEPA Process, Purpose and Need, Alternatives, and Affected Environment and Impact Analysis. Comments are summarized in the following sections. Some comments span more than one category, but are only summarized once.

Table 4-1 Public Comment Summary by Issue	
Issue	Number of Comments
Adaptive Management	1
Air Quality	37
Alternatives	9
Climate Change and Greenhouse Gasses	8
Coal Resources Conflicts	18
Cultural Resources	2
Cumulative Impacts	9
Environmental Justice	1
Geologic Resources	1
Livestock Grazing	4
Greater Sage-Grouse	13
Hazardous Materials and Human Health and Safety	18
Land Use and Split Estate	12
Mitigation	5
NEPA Procedure	30
Proposed Project/Project Design	2
Purpose and Need	2
Raptors and Timing Limitations	16
Reclamation	7
Socioeconomics	10
Special Status Species	9
Transportation	2
Vegetation	4

Table 4-1 Public Comment Summary by Issue	
Issue	Number of Comments
Visual	1
Water Quality and Hydrology	43
Wildlife	21
Total	285

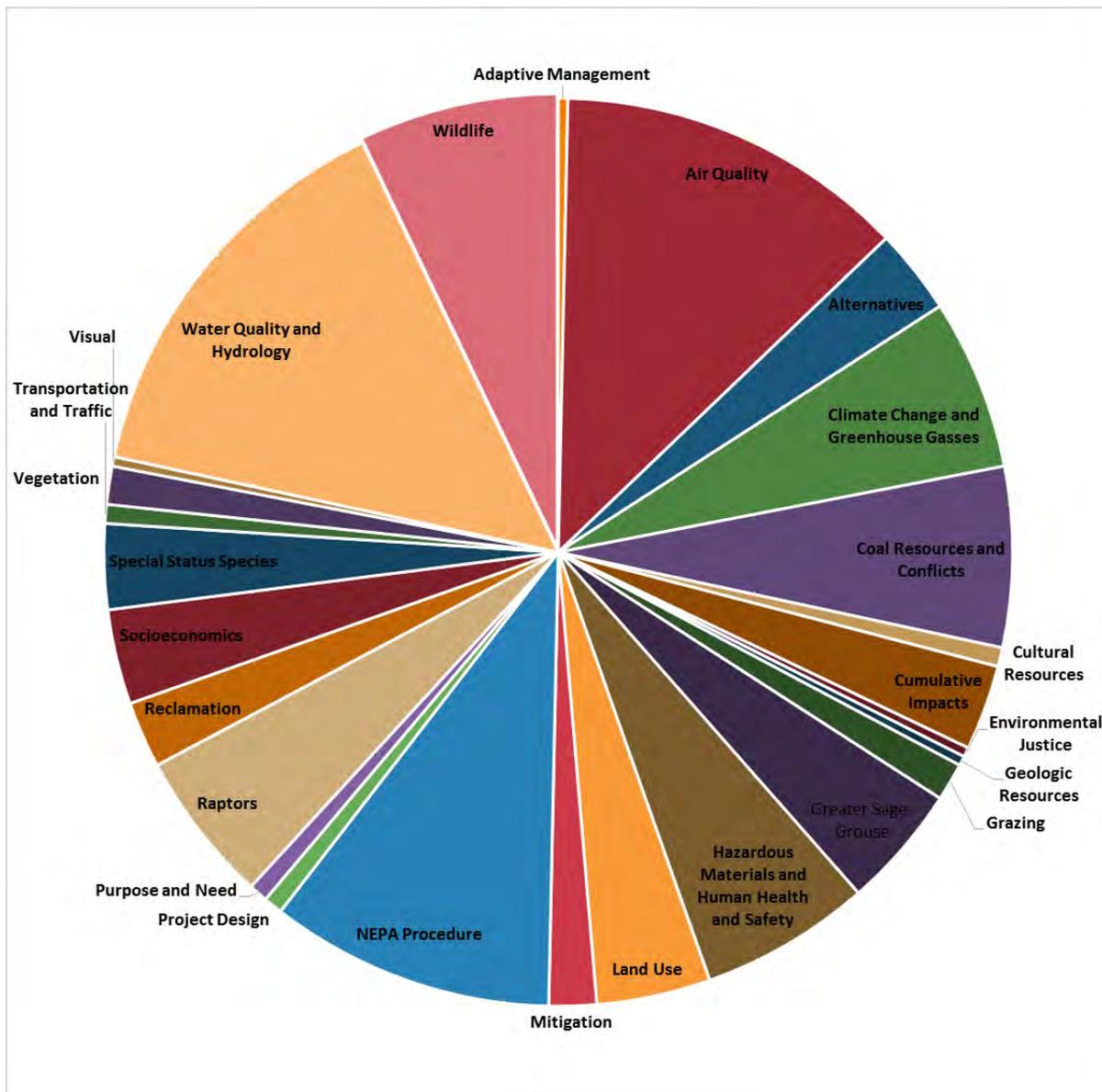


Figure 4-1 Scoping Comment Distribution by Issue

4.1 NEPA Process

4.1.1 Programmatic EIS

Several comments were received that questioned the BLM's ability to evaluate the impacts of the Crossbow Project with a programmatic EIS. Commenters expressed the desire for site-specific locations for all Project components, site-specific impacts, and mitigation measures. Others commented that site-specific analyses would be conducted during the Application for Permit to Drill (APD) and associated NEPA process. Specific CEQ guidance was cited that supported a programmatic and non-programmatic EIS process.

Comments also stated that the scoping information did not include a reference to a programmatic EIS on the BLM Project website or in scoping notices. It was stated that more Project-specific information from the BLM would have allowed the public to comment on the Project specifics. Additionally, concern was expressed that the proponent would be allowed to drill wells prior to completion of the EIS.

4.1.2 Regulatory Authority and Land Use Plans

In several instances, commenters noted the regulatory authorities and regulations for this EIS including:

- CEQ;
- NEPA;
- Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA);
- Endangered Species Act (ESA);
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA);
- Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA);
- Clean Water Act (CWA);
- Fish and Wildlife Act;
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act;
- Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act;
- Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretarial Order on landscape-scale mitigation 20015-4; and
- Executive Orders 11990 (Wetlands), 11988 (Floodplain Management), and 13186 (Migratory Birds),

State regulatory authorities were noted, including the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ), Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), and the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (WOGCC).

Commenters asked that the authority of the BLM BFO and CFO Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and USFS TBNG Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) be clearly defined. Recent greater sage-grouse RMP amendments were cited along with the Wyoming Governor's Executive Order on greater sage-grouse.

4.1.3 Consultation and Coordination

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) provided a list of Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, and Candidate Species and habitat that may occur in the Project area. Tribes expressed an interest in continued coordination with the BLM and provided data, as necessary.

Comments mentioned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), USDA, and DOI have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding Air Quality Analyses and Mitigation for Federal Oil and Gas Decisions. The BLM and USFWS signed an MOU to promote the conservation of migratory birds.

Commenters stated that the Crossbow Project alternatives should be developed in coordination with the cooperating agencies and that all APDs resulting from the EIS should be open to public comment.

4.1.4 Scope of the Analysis

Many comments regarded the scope of the NEPA analysis. Comments noted that the NEPA analysis should disclose the full extent of proposed development. This includes the direct and indirect effects of all aspects of the Project (pre-construction, construction, pipelines, access roads, water wells/storage ponds, utility lines, drilling, completion operations, production facilities, workovers, and reclamation) and the cumulative impacts of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of who is responsible for those actions. Additional comment on this subject stated that the BLM should assure that all environmental analysis documents are consistent, thorough, and meet all of the program requirements of the various leasing programs.

Several comments suggested that the Greater Crossbow EIS Project and the Converse County EIS Project should be combined into one EIS because they both address oil and gas development in the same region and that analyzing 6,500 wells in one EIS would lead to a more accurate and complete disclosure of impacts.

4.1.5 Resource Conflicts

Comments reflected a concern regarding resource conflicts between coal mining and oil and gas development. Commenters stated that it was critical that resource development conflicts are actively managed by the U.S. Government as the owner of the solid and fluid minerals. The BLM should evaluate how each of the two existing BLM RMPs will deal with resource development conflicts and propose a clear and unambiguous strategy for actively resolving all conflicts between solid and fluid minerals leased by the federal government in overlapping areas.

4.1.6 RMP Amendments

Commenters stated that the Reasonably Foreseeable Development (RFD) scenarios, used in the BFO and CFO RMPs, and the TBNG LRMP are not limits or thresholds on future development, but are tools used by the agencies to estimate the potential impacts of oil and gas development.

Comments included that the BLM needs to evaluate whether the RMPs are equivalent in their treatment of resource and environmental protection, remediation, and reclamation to determine whether RMP Amendments (RMPAs) are needed.

4.2 Purpose and Need

Comments indicated that consideration of year-round drilling should not be included in the Purpose and Need statement because it would preclude development of reasonable alternatives containing seasonal restrictions. Others considered that the Purpose and Need statement was consistent with the multiple-use mission.

4.3 Alternatives

Many comments addressed or suggested alternatives to the operator's proposed Project that focused on wildlife protection and timing limitations, mitigation methods, and other development options and configurations.

4.3.1 Proposed Project/Project Design

Comments requested a detailed description of how the Proposed Action was developed, including the size and number of wells and well pads.

4.3.2 Range of Alternatives to be Examined in the EIS

It was recommended that consideration be given to developing a resource protection alternative that minimizes the amount of surface disturbance in the Project area, avoids sensitive habitats, and applies all appropriate seasonal and distance limitations for wildlife. Other comments suggested an alternative that may reduce the footprint and impact of the Project even further, and would consider:

- Centralized fracking facilities, which would serve several well pads and reduce their size;
- Running all pipelines along roads to reduce long-term surface disturbance; and
- Maximizing water recycling.

Commenters also suggested evaluating an alternative that includes a more traditional exploratory development layout, such as a “spider web” design.

Comments stated that the BLM should consider a multi-year phased development alternative that requires reclamation of drilled areas before drilling in new areas can proceed, and which could reduce the impacts of the Crossbow Project. Other commenters stated that phased development would unreasonably constrain oil and gas development.

4.3.3 Timing Limitations

Timing limitations for raptors and other species was of interest to several commenters. Comments cited the sensitive nature of raptors and the extent of habitat fragmentation in the Project area as reasons to not allow area-wide or blanket exceptions to timing limitations. Suggestions were put forward to use existing processes to use modifications for case-by-case exceptions. One commenter stated that year-round drilling would avoid unnecessary construction and rig moves. Commenters also requested that timing limitations be addressed in Project planning, as no permits will be issued for the removal of an active nest unless it is needed for cases of human safety.

4.3.4 Mitigation

Compliance with the DOI Mitigation Strategy and President Obama’s Mitigation Memorandum were cited along with their strategy to incorporate landscape-scale approaches to development and conservation planning and mitigation. A number of specific mitigation measures were suggested for consideration to prevent degradation of federal land and mineral resources and undesirable social and economic impacts, including:

- Interconnections and value-added resource impact mitigation potential from using Best Management Practices (BMPs), limitations, and requirements provided in the Converse County EIS process in the Crossbow Project EIS;
- Phased development and concurrent reclamation to reduce impacts to water, air, land, and wildlife;
- Adequate bonding tied to the true cost of reclamation;
- Expanded buffers around greater sage-grouse core and connectivity areas; ferruginous hawk, mountain plover, and bald and golden eagle nests; and a review of additional critical wildlife habitat that should be protected, including areas used by migratory birds;

- Requirements for recycling of drilling and fracking water and measures to ensure tracking of flowback water disposal to help eliminate the impacts of wastewater disposal and limit illegal dumping of flowback water;
- Measures to implement increased inspection and enforcement in the field;
- Assurances that orphaned, abandoned, or permanently idle oil and gas wells are properly plugged and reclaimed prior to new drilling in the area;
- Additional bonding for oil facilities, including pits and tank farms, to ensure reclamation on private and public surface when federal minerals are developed;
- Reclamation standards and enforceable goals that must be met before industry can proceed to another area;
- Groundwater quantity and quality monitoring;
- Measures to prevent flaring and venting of gas resources;
- Minimizing the amount and distance of access roads and other associated surface impacts; and
- Increased air quality monitoring and emissions reduction plans.

4.4 Affected Environment and Impact Analysis

4.4.1 Adaptive Management

Adaptive management comments included that conditions in and around the Project area will continue to change in the future as a result of development, reclamation, and unforeseen events. These programs cannot be effective without adaptive management.

4.4.2 Air Quality and Climate Change

Numerous comments on air quality and climate change were submitted to the BLM. Concerns were expressed that the EIS should include an analysis of Project impacts on climate change, air quality, and air quality related values (ARQVs), especially at the Badlands and Wind Cave National Parks.

It was stated that the Greater Crossbow EIS must fully evaluate the methane and volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions associated with the Project and consider and put in place available and adequate measures to eliminate or minimize such emissions. It was also stated that the BLM should model the air quality impacts associated with the Project and undertake a comprehensive cumulative impacts analysis that considers the impacts from the Project as well as other nearby oil and gas projects. Oil and gas activities associated with the Crossbow Project must comply with EPA and any other federal air or waste requirements.

Specific issues raised include the following:

- Federal and state agencies are considering requirements to reduce methane (natural gas) leaks from oil and gas field equipment and infrastructure (leak detection and repair [LDAR]). The BLM should ensure the Crossbow Project fully complies with upcoming LDAR requirements, and the Record of Decision(s) (ROD[s]) for this EIS should reflect this compliance;
- The BLM should seek to eliminate venting and reduce flaring of natural gas from oil and natural gas development activities in the Crossbow Project area. The State of Wyoming is currently reviewing and updating the WOGCC rules on flaring and venting. The BLM should be sure to consider public concerns regarding flaring and venting, and should make a provision in the Crossbow Project and the ROD(s) for public hearings to address means to reduce impacts from venting and flaring on nearby residents;

- The BLM/USFS/EPA MOU requires modeling of air quality impacts if a proposed action will cause a substantial increase in emissions or will materially contribute to potential adverse cumulative air quality impacts, and the project is in close proximity to a Class I area or an area where compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) is threatened. Some responders expressed that the BLM conduct quantitative modeling of air quality impacts in the Crossbow Project area;
- The BLM is obliged to fully evaluate particulate emissions from the proposed activities in conjunction with existing permitted and unpermitted emission sources in the area. Modeling should include evaluation of peak concentrations of air pollutants, including particulates, nitrogen oxides, and ozone. The EIS needs to include an evaluation of emission control strategies with the WDEQ, including requirements and enforcement for best practices and standard emission control activities. Modeling should include an evaluation of the additional vehicular traffic associated with the initial drilling and development of the Project, anticipated flaring, and all other emissions, such as those from compressors, separators, tanks, ponds, and engines;
- The EIS for the Crossbow ROD(s) should put in place conditions of approval (COAs) or BMP measures, as necessary, to mitigate emissions from oil and gas development;
- The BLM should ensure full compliance with Wyoming Presumptive Best Available Control Technology (P-BACT) requirements;
- Careful attention should be paid to establishing baseline levels and include methods by which air quality may be monitored and mitigated;
- Assess current air quality conditions, disclosing the most recent air emissions inventories for Converse and Campbell counties and results of any site-specific monitoring in and near the Project area;
- Include air quality impacts from transportation (dust and exhaust);
- The MOU issued by the DOI, USDA, and the EPA, indicates that BLM should model prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) increment consumption for informational purposes only;
- The region does not want to be in “non-attainment” for air quality, so cumulative sources need to be identified;
- The Draft EIS should include an evaluation of the current air quality conditions and trends, as well as the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts from potential activities for:
 - Each of the criteria pollutants relevant to the Project and their appropriate NAAQS (i.e., ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and sulfur dioxide),
 - AQRVs in potentially impacted Class I areas and sensitive Class II areas,
 - PSD increment at potentially impacted Class I and sensitive Class II areas,
 - Hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) and relevant health-based risk thresholds for HAPs, including acetaldehyde, benzene, ethyl benzene, ethylene glycol, formaldehyde, methanol, n-hexane, toluene, xylene (mixture), and any other compounds that the BLM identifies as potential HAPs in the Project area,
 - Expected HAP concentrations during the drilling, completion, and operational phases using best available Project-specific information about the equipment and processes that will be used;

- There was support for the BLM to address the components of the analysis with quantitative impact assessment techniques, including near-field modeling and far-field photochemical grid modeling;
- Identify the mitigation measures (including control measures and design features) that the BLM would apply in the event that potential adverse impacts to air quality or AQRVs on affected lands are predicted for this Project. These measures could include equipment type or design requirements, emission standards or limitations, BMPs, dust suppression measures for unpaved roads and construction areas, add-on control technologies, and limitations on the density and/or pace of development. The BLM should identify the regulatory mechanisms it will use to ensure implementation of these measures, including lease stipulations, COAs, and notices to lessees.
- Identify and implement an oil and gas surface occupancy buffer from occupied structures such as homes, schools, and office buildings. The buffer or "setback" distance should be sufficient to minimize the potential for public health impacts associated with exposure to the following: near-field criteria pollutants and HAPs emissions; any other potential toxic emissions such as hydrogen sulfide releases; and emissions associated with drill cuttings and flow back, well blowout, or other explosive events. The buffers could also provide extra time to warn residents of any unintended releases or emissions. Setback distances should be informed by the following factors:
 - The relevant near-field modeling results for this EIS. The setback buffer should ensure that people are not exposed to air pollution levels exceeding the NAAQS or other health based thresholds,
 - Mitigation measures and BMPs to reduce risks to nearby residents and other building occupants. Examples of risk reduction mitigation may include: requiring closed-loop drilling and completion; prohibiting reserve pits or produced water ponds; using lower emitting engine technology; capturing emissions from tanks, separators, and glycol dehydrators; and implementing stringent fugitive vapor controls,
 - The composition of the area's oil and gas resource. For example, certain resource conditions may indicate the need for a larger setback buffer, including those with high HAPs content, higher explosive potential, or high sulfur or hydrogen sulfide content;
- Document whether the minimum setback distance is likely to be protective of residents in the area from an air quality perspective, and discuss the factors (e.g., model results, required mitigation measures, resource composition) leading to that conclusion; and
- Disclose whether the operator will have a process to monitor air and minimize odors. The Draft EIS should consider and analyze BMPs and disclose notification processes for nearby residents in the case of a release.

Climate Change

Comments on climate change ranged from what to include in a climate change and greenhouse gas (GHG) impact evaluation to the evaluation of the social cost of carbon. Commenters suggested that the BLM integrate the latest and best climate change science into its impacts analysis for the EIS and include a quantitative and qualitative assessment of GHG emissions and impacts. Specifically, it was suggested that the BLM should consider how climate change will impact BLM-related activities, such as increased difficulty for reclamation of lands disturbed for energy development, a greater need for wildfire management on BLM lands, and decreased revenues from a dwindling domestic coal industry. It was also recommended that the BLM consider mitigation measures to reduce methane emissions and alternatives related to reducing the impacts of climate change.

It was recommended that the BLM use the CEQ's December 2014 revised draft guidance for federal agencies' consideration of GHG emissions and climate change impacts in NEPA to help outline the framework for its analysis of these issues. It was recommended the Draft EIS include an estimate of the GHG emissions associated with the Crossbow Project, qualitatively describe relevant climate change impacts, and analyze reasonable alternatives and/or practicable mitigation measures (energy efficiency, consideration of renewable energy resources to address energy needs for compressor stations, and other facilities) to reduce Project-related GHG emissions, locally and downstream, and where the produced energy is consumed. It was also recommended that the NEPA analysis address the appropriateness of considering changes to the design of the proposal to incorporate GHG reduction measures and resilience to foreseeable climate change. Commenters suggested that the EIS should make clear whether commitments have been made to ensure implementation of design or other measures to reduce GHG emissions or to adapt to climate change impacts. Comparing GHG emissions from a proposed action to global emissions was not recommended.

Comments also included the recommendation that the Draft EIS describe potential changes to the affected environment that may result from climate change, including future climate scenarios that would help decision makers and the public consider whether the environmental impacts of the alternatives would be exacerbated by climate change. Commenters recommended that if impacts may be exacerbated by climate change, additional mitigation measures may be warranted. It was also recommended to consider climate adaptation measures based on how future climate scenarios may impact the Project. Commenters referenced the National Climate Assessment (NCA), released by the U.S. Global Change Resource Program, which contains scenarios for regions and sectors, including energy and transportation. Commenters stated that using this or other peer reviewed climate scenarios to inform alternatives analysis and possible changes to the proposal could improve resilience and preparedness for climate change.

4.4.3 Geology

Impacts to cave and karst resources at national parks from the Crossbow Project was mentioned as a potential concern.

4.4.4 Water Resources

Water resources, both groundwater and surface water quantity and quality, were frequently mentioned in scoping comments. Comments included general water quality and quantity concerns and issues regarding water availability.

Groundwater comments requested descriptions and analysis of the following:

- All aquifers in the study area, noting which aquifers are Underground Sources of Drinking Water (USDWs);
- Available water quality and water yield information from each aquifer;
- Maps depicting the location of sensitive groundwater resources, such as municipal watersheds, source water protection areas, sensitive aquifers, and recharge areas;
- Locations of groundwater use (e.g., public water supply wells, domestic wells, springs, and agricultural and stock wells) and a map and discussion of proposed production wells, existing producing wells, and nonproducing wells in the area, including their status (e.g., idle, shut-in, plugged, and abandoned), if available;
- How the current produced water and production fluids are managed for disposal;
- Range and average volume of water being produced from production wells and, if possible, the volume of water produced from the different production horizons;

- Water infrastructure located relative to groundwater resources, and any potential for groundwater impacts associated with the use and management of water facilities;
- BMPs and measures, such as water reuse, closed-loop drilling, lining of evaporation ponds, water quality, and water level monitoring, reserve pits, and evaporation ponds;
- Water that will be applied to roads for dust suppression;
- Setbacks, such as a No Surface Occupancy (NSO), to minimize the risk for impacts to potential drinking water resources, including domestic water wells and public water supply wells, with a minimum 500-foot NSO setback from private wells;
- Water usage, including water sources, aquifers that will be used for drilling, hydraulic fracturing, and oil production activities, availability of water sources, and impacts including depletion;
- Source water protection areas delineated by the WDEQ;
- A mitigation plan for remediating future unanticipated impacts to drinking water wells, such as requiring the operator to remedy those impacts through treatment, replacement, or other appropriate means (e.g., supplying drinking water until impacts are remediated or mitigated);
- A general production well schematic that depicts the following: casing strings; cement outside and between the various casing strings; and the relationship of the well casing and cementing design to potentially important hydrogeological features, such as confining zones and aquifers or aquifer systems that meet the definition of a USDW. Discuss how the generalized design will achieve effective isolation of USDWs from production activities and prevent the migration of fluids of poorer quality into zones with better water quality;
- Abandonment procedures for sealing production wells no longer in use;
- Impacts to groundwater quality and quantity related to resource extraction, such as mining and oil and gas production, including: those associated with leaks and spills; production and disposal of produced water or processing waters; use of pits, underground injection control (UIC) wells, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharges; infiltration basins and evaporation ponds; well construction and well bore integrity; well closure; pipeline use; and impacts associated with re-stimulation and abandonment of existing wells;
- Impacts related to the Project's projected water usage, including water sources, aquifers that will be used for drilling, hydraulic fracturing, and oil production activities, availability of water sources, and impacts including depletion;
- Impacts to water quality from hydraulic fracturing, drilling operations, drilling and production pits, chemical storage, spills, leaks, and other activities associated with oil drilling and production, along with produced water storage, transportation, and disposal; and
- Disposal formations, communication between fluids, and aquifer protection.

Other comments on groundwater included that a groundwater monitoring plan should be required; spacing, drilling units, and hydraulic fracturing hits should be evaluated; produced water should be tested for radiation; and BLM should ensure proper storage and disposal protocols are in place.

One commenter stated that the concentration of the development in the "spine and rib" approach would result in concentrating water use in a smaller area and impact the water table. This concentration would also increase the likelihood that produced water would be disposed of in the Project area and could result in leaks.

Management of flow back and produced water from development operations was requested, including volume per well, locations for managing produced water (i.e., UIC wells, evaporation ponds, and surface

discharges), target injection formations and their depths and characteristics, and the impact of this management.

Surface water comments included many of the same topics as groundwater. Comments are summarized below.

Current water quality conditions for surface water bodies within the Project area, including intermittent, perennial, and ephemeral streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and surface water drinking water resources, should be disclosed and evaluated. The BLM should include maps of water bodies within and/or downstream of the Project area that include perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral water bodies; water body segments classified by the WDEQ as water quality impaired or threatened under the CWA Section 303(d), water bodies considered not impaired by WDEQ, and water bodies that have not yet been assessed by the WDEQ for impairment status. Include designated uses of water bodies and the specific pollutants of concern.

Maps and descriptions of topography and soils, specifically steep slopes and fragile or erodible soils, especially near surface waters and intermittent/ephemeral channels should be included in the EIS. Additionally, develop a baseline survey and ongoing monitoring of surface water quality, evaluate surface water runoff on water in streams and other water bodies, evaluate water availability to downstream users, and notification of and protection from spills and leaks,

One commenter suggested that the BLM analyze sediment and impacts to surface water from loading in streams and rivers, particularly Antelope and Bates creeks, and use a standard modeling estimate of erosion rates and resulting impacts to water quality using the Water Erosion Prediction Project (WEPP) model or another appropriate model.

Comments indicated that the BLM should include an evaluation of setback distances identified through leasing stipulations, such as NSO setbacks for perennial waters, including lakes and reservoirs, intermittent and ephemeral streams, steep slopes, and impaired waters, including the following:

- Minimum 100-foot NSO setback from slopes greater than 30%;
- Minimum 500-foot NSO setback for flowing waters (rivers and streams) or 100-year floodplain, whichever is greater;
- Minimum 500-foot NSO setback for lakes, ponds, reservoirs, wetland and riparian areas, and springs;
- Minimum 750-foot NSO setback for 303(d) impaired waters;
- Minimum 1,000-foot NSO setback for special or significant waters;
- Minimum 100-foot NSO setback for intermittent and ephemeral streams; and
- Designation of an NSO within Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), or other valued areas where important water resources may be impacted.

One commenter suggested that source water assessments for public drinking water supply sources (e.g., surface water sources, groundwater under the direct influence of surface water [GWUDISW], and source water protection areas) be identified and evaluated. NSO protections should include a 1,000-foot setback for 10 miles upstream of surface water, and 0.5-mile setbacks around GWUDISW sources should be considered and analyzed

It was recommended by one commenter that the BLM include a commitment in the EIS and ROD(s) to provide notice to lessees of any existing Source Water Protection Areas in and near the Project area.

For wetlands and riparian areas, comments included providing information on acreages and channel lengths, habitat types, values, and functions of these waters and to describe impacts due to:

- Stream structure and channel stability;
- Streambed substrate, including spawning habitats; and
- Stream bank vegetation, riparian habitats, and aquatic biota.

Wetland mitigation methods that were suggested include prohibiting surface-disturbing activities within 500 feet of surface water and riparian/wetland areas, applying a NSO restriction on wetland areas greater than 20 acres and on designated 100-year flood plains, leasing stipulations to protect floodplains, such as an NSO within the 100-year floodplain; and delineation and marking of perennial seeps, springs, and wetlands on maps and on the ground prior to Project-level development and BMPs.

4.4.5 Minerals

Please see Section 4.1.5.

4.4.6 Vegetation

A weed prevention and control plan was requested to be developed and implemented during all stages of the proposed development. It was requested that loss of sagebrush habitat should be analyzed as a long-term disturbance, despite interim reclamation. It was also requested that the BLM focus on avoiding invasive species introduction and spread by requiring all equipment to be cleaned before entering new areas.

4.4.7 Fish and Wildlife

Fish and wildlife resources were frequently mentioned in scoping comments. Comments included concerns regarding aquatic resources, big game, non-game, impacts of roads, and traffic noise, including the following recommendations and requests:

- Protocols that encourage new disturbances within existing disturbance to reduce habitat loss and fragmentation;
- Consideration of avoidance actions, compensatory mitigation, and emphasis of conservation benefits for migratory birds related to Project impacts;
- Incorporating existing wildlife data for the Project area;
- Incorporating ongoing conservation and mitigation measures in the Project area, including protection of wildlife resources when waivers of protection measures are requested and accounting of limited alternative nesting areas for certain species;
- Consideration of wildlife corridors and openings in gates and fences to allow wildlife to move freely;
- Clearly explaining intentions to protect wildlife resources while concurrently seeking waivers from existing protective measures, as well as addressing issues of take;
- Consideration of planning construction in high-use wildlife areas prior to the onset of breeding season, and construction in low use areas during the breeding season;
- Benefits of proposed development to wildlife where existing development occurs in the Project area;
- Burying of powerlines in areas determined to have high avian use; and
- Consideration of protective measures to prevent the attraction of birds to wastewater pits.

4.4.8 Special Status Species

Special status species were frequently mentioned in scoping comments. Comments included the following recommendations and requests:

- Avoiding perch discouragers on powerlines to discourage the predation on special status species;
- Minimizing avian predation on sensitive prey species, by:
 - Siting power lines outside of sensitive prey species' habitat,
 - Designing structures to minimize perching and nesting (such as tubular instead of lattice structures), especially in areas of high resource value, and/or
 - Burying lines, where appropriate and feasible;
- Updating the status all USFWS ESA listed species within the proposed Project area;
- Analyzing impacts to shrubland and grassland species of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and development of appropriate mitigation measures; and
- Evaluating impacts of the Project in regards to reintroduction of black-footed ferret.

Greater Sage-Grouse

The greater sage-grouse and its habitat elicited a number of comments. Comments requested that the BLM acknowledge Governor Mead's new Executive Order 2015-4, which addresses greater sage-grouse mitigation, and the BLM should consider implementing buffers around greater sage-grouse connectivity areas and critical winter range.

Comments requested consideration and analysis of NSO buffers and seasonal use limitations and to prohibit development in core areas in excess of established policies.

Comments requested that the BLM implement effective compensatory mitigation to offset impacts to greater sage-grouse and other special status species at the landscape scale, consistent with Regional Mitigation Strategies being designed by the BLM.

Comments recommended that, if there are permitted impacts to greater sage-grouse habitat or to the habitat of other critical species that cannot be avoided or further minimized, the BLM and the Project proponents evaluate and look for opportunities to mitigate those impacts with offsite projects using a compensatory mitigation program, such as an exchange.

Comments requested that the Project EIS specifically describe a process for processing exceptions, modifications, and waivers that includes the following safeguards and checks and balances:

- Any request for an exception, modification, or waiver of a protective stipulation within a priority habitat management area (PHMA) should automatically be treated as an issue of major concern to the public and, therefore, be subject to a 30-day public review under 43 CFR 3101.1-4. In addition, such requests should be reviewed by the Wyoming Sage-Grouse Implementation Team (SGIT);
- All requests seeking an exception, modification, or waiver should be reviewed by qualified personnel within the WGFD, including requests for modification of lease stipulations;
- All approvals of exceptions, modifications, or waivers of a stipulation should be reported quarterly to the BLM State Office, WGFD, and the SGIT; and
- A central, publically accessible database of final agency action taken on requests for exceptions, modifications, or waivers should be maintained by the BLM or WGFD.

Comments requested that recommendations based on best available science to protect greater sage-grouse from noise are incorporated into APDs and other land use authorizations.

Raptors

Comments on raptors included comments on timing limitations, which are further discussed in Section 4.3.3. Comments recommended that the EIS incorporate Campbell County resource data on the impacts of energy development on raptor nesting and populations.

Commenters recommended implementing voluntary spatial and seasonal buffer zones to protect individual nest sites. These include:

- Keeping a distance between the activity and the nest (distance buffers);
- Maintaining natural areas between the activity and around nest trees (landscape buffers); and
- Avoiding certain activities during the breeding season.

Commenters recommended implementing protective measures for the ferruginous hawk (SGCN), and golden eagle to preclude the need for additional protections in the future.

Commenters recommended that, where power lines are constructed overhead, bird flight diverters be used in all areas identified as having high potential use of migratory birds and eagles. The diverters should be placed at 5-meter intervals to reduce collision potential and should meet or exceed the recommendations contained in Suggested Practices for Raptor Protections on Power Lines: The State of the Art 2006.

Commenters requested an analysis of Project impacts on raptor populations onsite and secondary impacts to nearby raptors populations and territories and mitigation measures.

4.4.9 Cultural Resources

Two tribes provided comments on the BLM NOI. One tribe indicated that there were no known properties identified in the Project area.

4.4.10 Visual Resources

Scoping comments regarding visual resources included the impact of the Project on night sky.

4.4.11 Land Use and Split Estate

A number of comments related to resource conflicts, which are also pertinent to Land Use and Split Estate, are found in Section 4.1.5.

Private property rights and values, especially because of the split estate in the Project area, is a concern. Access fees are more desirable than “bonding on.” Respondents were also concerned that the proponent does not have surface use agreements in place. One commenter asked how permit conditions, requirements, and BMPs would be applied to each ownership scenario. Comments suggested that impacts address all area users in the Project area and that additional mitigation measures might be needed to reduce impacts to private surface property. Property owners were concerned that the proposed Project could change their land use and, consequently, their taxes.

4.4.12 Transportation

Traffic on State Highway 59 is a concern to local residents, the regional energy industry companies, and county and state governments. The BLM should assess whether this additional development will increase traffic on State Highway 59 now and in the future. The evaluation needs to consider current and longer-range plans by the state for addressing this traffic.

Comments stated that the increased road traffic and noise would have impacts on wildlife species and habitats. A traffic plan should be developed with approved routes and speed limits, and mitigation for road impacts.

4.4.13 Recreation

Comments requested that the EIS analyze impacts to big game and their habitat, hunting access, and the WGFD's ability to meet population objectives. Comments communicated concern that additional roads will result in more oil field-related poaching and recommended the inclusion of measures to minimize poaching and trespassing concerns.

4.4.14 Livestock Grazing

There were several comments related to grazing, such as the following:

- If any BLM or USFS livestock grazing allotments are affected by the Project, the agencies should explore ways in which to limit or mitigate impacts;
- Project infrastructure will generate large amounts of dust, which will cause dust pneumonia in livestock and wildlife and cut down the carrying capacity for livestock;
- The Project will devastate the lamb crop and sheep business; and
- The inability to control the dust on Project roads will ruin the forage for both livestock and wildlife, as well as cause dust pneumonia in both livestock and wildlife.

4.4.15 Socioeconomic Resources

There were several comments on socioeconomics, most supporting including an analysis in the EIS. Suggestions for the analysis included how an influx of workers would impact traffic, crime, emergency response, fires, health care, domestic violence, and housing (affordability and availability). Property values were a concern, as well any liability that landowners may need to take on.

Other comments suggested that a historical perspective and how oil and gas development has facilitated economic growth along with the impacts to public services and local and regional economies should be evaluated. Additionally, the adverse economic effects of overly restrictive management may lead to decreased development, decreased royalty revenue and tax revenue, and the creation of fewer jobs. Project development would generate business for many locals and could result in new families moving into the region. The impact on the community from more income spending locally will mean more jobs and financial security, additional revenue for local and state governments, and will support public works.

Comments stated that because neither the BLM nor the DOI were among the agencies that developed or adopted the Social Cost of Carbon Protocol Technical Support Document: Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis Under Executive Order 12866 (Feb. 2010) ("Social Cost of Carbon Protocol"), the BLM and USFS should avoid using this academically and economically controversial tool in the Crossbow Project EIS. Based on court decisions, the BLM and USFS should explain their reasoning for not using the Social Cost of Carbon Protocol.

4.4.16 Public Health and Safety/Hazardous Waste

Comments that addressed public health and safety and hazardous wastes included the potential dangers from larger pipelines resulting in more and larger explosions, the lack of hazardous waste facilities in the area, and increased accidents and roll over spills on roads because of increased speeds. It was suggested that there be a 0.25-mile buffer between oil and gas facilities and occupied residences. Additionally, the ROD(s) should specify adequate measures to protect the health of people living in the area, including oil and gas field workers. A specific comment asked whether produced and flowback water would be used

for dust abatement and what the potential impacts would be. The issue of the potential hazards of hydraulic fracturing was brought out in one scoping comment.

4.4.17 Environmental Justice

One comment concerning Environmental Justice was received. This comment stated that the NEPA analysis should include the following:

- Identification of any minority, low-income, and tribal communities within the geographic scope of the impact area, including the sources of data and a description of the methodology and criteria utilized. Census block group percentages (if available, or, at a minimum, census tract data) for below poverty and minority populations with the state average should be compared, and if a block group percentage is greater than the state average, the EIS should consider:
 - A discussion of the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of potential activities on the health of these communities, including air quality and water quality and quantity impacts,
 - An evaluation of the socioeconomic impacts to the local communities, including the potential for any additional loading placed on local communities' abilities to provide necessary public services and amenities,
 - A determination of whether there may be disproportionately high and adverse impacts, including cumulative impacts, on the identified communities, and
 - Mitigation measures to reduce any disproportionate adverse impacts.

4.4.18 Cumulative Impacts

Comments on cumulative impacts included the importance of including a cumulative impacts analysis in the EIS, especially considering the number of other oil and gas projects currently ongoing or in the planning stages. One commenter suggested that the cumulative impacts analysis area for wildlife be expanded. Others asked that the cumulative impacts analysis consider private activities, such as fee estate drilling and production, coal mining, gas and oil facilities, and rail and pipeline infrastructure. One specific comment requested that EOG interim drilling be included in the cumulative impact analysis.

5 ISSUE SUMMARY

The BLM developed resource issue statements summarizing the issues and concerns raised by public comment for 17 issue categories. These issue statements are in the form of questions and describe the general issues and concerns identified during scoping. Not all comments resulted in questions. Revisions to the resource issues will be made, as needed, during the NEPA process as the BLM receives additional input from the public, cooperating agencies, Native American tribes, and other affected parties.

5.1 EIS Process

- 1) How will the Project be managed considering two BLM Field Office RMPs and a USFS LRMP?
- 2) How will coal and oil and gas resource conflicts be addressed in the EIS?
- 3) How will non-site-specific Project information be analyzed in the EIS?
- 4) How will the EOG interim drilling requests be accommodated in the EIS?
- 5) Will RMPAs be needed?

- 6) How will the DOI Mitigation Strategy and President Obama's Mitigation Memorandum be addressed in the EIS?
- 7) How will the Project consider and comply with applicable federal land use plans?

5.2 Alternatives

- 8) What alternatives should be evaluated in the EIS?
- 9) What alternatives or mitigations are technically and/or economically feasible?
- 10) What mitigation equipment, techniques, and design features will be considered in the EIS for resources?
- 11) What off-site mitigation opportunities or other compensatory mitigation management options should be considered?
- 12) How will mitigations be applied to private property?

5.3 Adaptive Management

- 13) How will BLM include adaptive management in the Project?

5.4 Air Quality and Climate Change

- 14) What will be included in quantitative air modeling?
- 15) How will the Project affect GHGs and contribute to climate change?
- 16) What measures will be used to prevent flaring and venting of gas resources?
- 17) What other methods or actions can minimize or mitigate air quality impacts?
- 18) How are Class I and Class II areas impacted?
- 19) What regulatory mechanisms will be used to ensure implementation of mitigations, stipulations, COAs, and notices to lessees?
- 20) How will the Project comply with applicable policies, regulations, and permitting, including air quality?

5.5 Geology

- 21) What are the impacts to caves in the National Parks?

5.6 Water Resources

- 22) What water sources will be used for drilling, hydraulic fracturing, and oil production activities?
- 23) How will the projected water use affect availability of these sources for other uses?
- 24) Will a groundwater mitigation plan include a process for remediating future unanticipated impacts to drinking water wells, such as requiring the operator to remedy those impacts through treatment, replacement, or other appropriate means?
- 25) How will the characteristics of the oil/gas formations, aquifer formations, and their interconnectedness affect water quality during Project activities, such as drilling, hydraulic fracturing, injection of produced water, or other Project activities?
- 26) How does the Project's "spine and rib" configuration condense water source and wastewater impacts?

- 27) How will collection, storage, treatment, and disposal of produced water be managed?
- 28) What design features, BMPs, mitigation measures, and COAs can be incorporated into the Project to reduce risk to water resources?
- 29) What are appropriate setbacks for protection of public and private wells, lakes and streams, impaired waters, floodplains, or other water resources?
- 30) How should water quantity and quality be monitored over the life of the Project?
- 31) What is the impact of erosive soils on water quality?
- 32) What is the potential for the Project to affect water quality and quantity in watersheds?
- 33) How will surface water resources be protected?
- 34) How will surface disturbance or changes in hydrology affect wetland or riparian areas and how will these areas be protected?

5.7 Minerals

Please see Section 5.1.

5.8 Vegetation

- 35) How will sagebrush habitat be protected, maintained, or restored?
- 36) How will the spread of noxious weeds be mitigated?
- 37) How will special status plant species be protected?

5.9 Wildlife/Threatened and Endangered Species

- 38) How will waiving timing limitations affect species, especially raptors?
- 39) What raptor mitigation techniques will be used?
- 40) How will raptor mitigation techniques from this Project affect other development projects in the area?
- 41) What kind of buffers for wildlife will be used?
- 42) How will impacts to wildlife habitat be analyzed?
- 43) How will planned habitat disturbance, construction and production, vehicle use, and other Project elements affect wildlife, special status species, and their habitat?
- 44) What design features, BMPs, mitigation measures, and COAs can be incorporated into the Project to reduce risk to wildlife and special status species?
- 45) How will the Project affect big game, including effects on habitat fragmentation and connectivity and the potential for additional human disturbance?
- 46) What are the direct and cumulative impacts to greater sage-grouse leks and surrounding nesting and brood-rearing habitats, with consideration of habitat restoration and other mitigation measures?
- 47) How will the Project comply with existing regulations and policies associated with special status species, including the Governor's Greater Sage-Grouse Core Area Protection Executive Order?

5.10 Public Health and Safety/Hazardous Materials

- 48) What are the types and amounts of hazardous materials that will be used for this Project?
- 49) What methods will be used for hazardous materials transport and storage to reduce the risk of adverse impact to ranches and property values?
- 50) How will contaminants be disposed of and can planned disposal facilities accommodate the projected waste levels?
- 51) How can waste disposal on private lands be regulated and managed?
- 52) How will the BLM protect public health and safety in and around the Project area?
- 53) What are appropriate setbacks for residences, towns, and other areas where people live or work?
- 54) How will the Project impact local or regional services?
- 55) How will the public be informed about potential hazards?

5.11 Recreation and Visual

- 56) How will the Project affect access to recreational resources?
- 57) How will hunting opportunities be affected?
- 58) How will night skies and other visual resources be impacted by the Project?

5.12 Transportation

- 59) How will the Project affect traffic on local and regional levels on a daily and annual basis?
- 60) How will the Project affect the local road system in terms of existing road standards, usage, condition, dust abatement, maintenance, noise, and traffic safety?
- 61) How will the Project minimize adverse impacts to traffic and the local transportation network?

5.13 Land Use

- 62) How will development in the Project area affect access to federal, state, and private lands?
- 63) How will private property rights and property values be protected?

5.14 Livestock Grazing

- 64) How will the EIS analyze the impacts to livestock grazing, including the health of the animals?
- 65) What mitigation measures should be used to reduce the impacts to livestock grazing?

5.15 Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

- 66) How will the Project affect social and economic conditions on local and regional levels?
- 67) How will resource conservation measures and other actions that would restrict or limit oil and gas development affect social and economic conditions?
- 68) How can impacts to less tangible social issues, such as quality of life, be analyzed?
- 69) What mitigation strategies can be used to minimize adverse social or economic impacts?

- 70) How can the direct and indirect impacts to social and economic resources be balanced with the positive impacts brought by the extraction industry?

5.16 Cumulative Impacts

- 71) How will the cumulative impacts from oil and gas and other regional development affect air quality, visibility, water resources, raptors, greater sage-grouse, and other wildlife?
- 72) Along with the Converse County EIS project, what other reasonable foreseeable actions will be included in resource-specific cumulative impact analyses?

5.17 Reclamation

- 73) What elements should be required as part of a comprehensive reclamation plan that addresses post-reclamation monitoring, annual reporting, and bonding?
- 74) How will the BLM ensure that reclamation requirements are being met?

6 NEXT STEPS

Alternatives Development: The BLM will consider the comments submitted during scoping and the issues identified during the scoping process when developing alternatives to the Proposed Action.

Draft EIS: The BLM will analyze and document potential impacts that could result from implementing the Proposed Action and the alternatives in a Draft EIS. The Draft EIS is currently scheduled for publication in the summer of 2017. A Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft EIS will be published in the Federal Register announcing availability of the Draft EIS for review and comment. Publication of the NOA for the Draft EIS will initiate a public comment period during which the BLM will invite the public and other interested parties to provide comments on the Draft EIS.

Public Comment: The BLM will hold public meetings during the public comment period and will advertise meetings through mailings to contacts on the Project mailing list and through other notification methods. The BLM will review and consider all comments received on the Draft EIS during the public comment period. The BLM will revise the Draft EIS, as appropriate, based on public comments, and all substantive comments and responses will be incorporated into the Final EIS.

Final EIS: A NOA for the Final EIS will be published in the Federal Register announcing the availability of the Final EIS. The Final EIS is scheduled to be released in the winter of 2018.

Record of Decision: The BLM and USFS will prepare RODs to document their selected alternative and identify any accompanying mitigation measures. The agencies will issue their respective RODs no sooner than 30 days after the NOA for the Final EIS is published in the Federal Register. The RODs are scheduled to be released in the winter of 2018.

Appendix A – Federal Register Notice of Intent

Estimated Total Annual Non-Hour Dollar Cost: \$0.

Elizabeth K. Appel,

Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2015–27135 Filed 10–23–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4337–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

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LXSSA225000.241A**

Notice of Filing of Plats of Survey; Arizona

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Filing of Plats of Survey; Arizona.

SUMMARY: The plats of survey of the described lands were officially filed in the Arizona State Office, Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix, Arizona, on dates indicated.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona

The plat representing the dependent resurvey and subdivision of section 4, Township 22 North, Range 6 East, accepted September 28, 2015, and officially filed September 30, 2015, for Group 1123, Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the United States Forest Service.

The plat, in seven sheets, representing the dependent resurvey, subdivision of certain sections, metes-and-bounds surveys in section 27 and 35, and recovery of certain corners, Township 23 North, Range 6 East, accepted September 28, 2015, and officially filed September 30, 2015, for Group 1123, Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the United States Forest Service.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey and subdivision of section 18, Township 23 North, Range 7 East, accepted September 28, 2015, and officially filed September 30, 2015, for Group 1123, Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the United States Forest Service.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey, corrective resurvey, independent resurvey and subdivision of certain sections, Township 21 North, Range 30 East, accepted September 29, 2015, and officially filed September 30, 2015, for Group 957, Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the exterior boundary of the Gila River Indian Reservation in section 5, Township 5 South, Range 8 East, accepted April 7, 2015, and officially filed April 8, 2015, for Group 1135, Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

A person or party who wishes to protest against any of these surveys must file a written protest with the Arizona State Director, Bureau of Land Management, stating that they wish to protest.

A statement of reasons for a protest may be filed with the notice of protest to the State Director, or the statement of reasons must be filed with the State Director within thirty (30) days after the protest is filed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

These plats will be available for inspection in the Arizona State Office, Bureau of Land Management, One North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, Arizona 85004–4427. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

Gerald T. Davis,

Chief Cadastral Surveyor of Arizona.

[FR Doc. 2015–27125 Filed 10–23–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–32–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLWYP07000.LL13100000.DB0000]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Greater Crossbow Oil and Gas Project and Possible Amendments to the Casper Resource Management Plan, Wyoming

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), and the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), as lead agency, through the Buffalo Field Office, Buffalo, Wyoming, intends to prepare an

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for EOG Resources Inc.'s (EOG's) proposed Greater Crossbow Oil and Gas Project (Project). The proposal area includes Federal lands administered by the BLM's Buffalo and Casper Field Offices and the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) Thunder Basin National Grasslands. This notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS and potential land use plan amendments. The purpose of the public scoping process is to seek input and identify issues regarding the Project.

DATES: Comments may be submitted in writing until December 10, 2015. In order to be considered in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the 45-day scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. The BLM will provide additional opportunities for public participation as appropriate. The dates and locations of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through the local news media, newspapers, and the BLM Web site at: http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/field_offices/Bufallo.html.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by any of the following methods:

- *Web site:* <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/bfo/GC.html>.

- *Email:*

BLM_WY_BuffaloGCEIS@blm.gov.

- *Fax:* 307–684–1122.

- *Mail:* Greater Crossbow Oil and Gas Project, BLM Buffalo Field Office, 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, Wyoming 82834.

Documents pertinent to this proposal are available for public review at the BLM Buffalo Field Office or the USFS Douglas Ranger District Office, 2250 E. Richards Street, Douglas, Wyoming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas Bills, NEPA Coordinator, telephone: 307–684–1133; address: 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, Wyoming 82834; email:

BLM_WY_BuffaloGCEIS@blm.gov.

Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to contact Mr. Bills during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours. You may call either of these numbers to have your name added to our mailing list.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

EOG proposes to develop 1,500 oil and natural gas wells on 100 multi-well

pads over a 10-year period. As part of this development, EOG proposes to:

- Use directional, vertical, horizontal, and other drilling techniques;
- Develop area infrastructure to support oil and gas production, including well pads, roads, pipelines, power lines, compressor and electrical substations, and support facilities, such as water supply wells and water disposal facilities;
- Conduct year-round drilling where seasonal raptor restrictions may otherwise apply.

Surface disturbance associated with the proposal is estimated to include 7,000 acres of initial surface disturbance for the construction of new roads, well pads, pipelines, and support facilities, of which approximately 3,700 acres of surface disturbance may remain for the life of the project.

The proposal area lies between the towns of Wright and Bill, primarily west of Wyoming Highway 59, and includes approximately 120,000 acres. The USFS manages about 5,700 surface acres, or 5 percent of the Project area surface. The remainder of surface area affected by the proposal is privately owned (88 percent) or held by the State of Wyoming (7 percent). The BLM does not manage any of the surface area potentially affected by the Project. The proposal area includes about 74,000 acres (62 percent of the area) of BLM-administered Federal mineral estate. The remainder of the mineral estate in the Project area is privately owned (30 percent) or held by the State of Wyoming (8 percent). The BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: Greater sage-grouse and raptor conservation, especially ferruginous hawks; year-round drilling where seasonal raptor restrictions may otherwise apply; potential conflicts with coal mining and other area resource uses; air quality; ground and surface waters and water injection sites affected by the proposal; area transportation; the level of anticipated development of oil and gas resources in the planning area; and, the identification of opportunities to apply mitigation hierarchy strategies for on-site, regional, and compensatory mitigation, and, as appropriate, landscape-level conservation and management actions to achieve resource objectives.

Authorization of this proposal may require amendment of the Casper Field Office, Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP). Similarly, the USFS, as cooperating agency, may use the EIS analysis to support preparation of a land use plan amendment for the Thunder Basin National Grassland, Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), if appropriate. By this notice, the BLM is

complying with the requirements in 43 CFR 1610.2(c) to notify the public of potential amendments to land use plans, based on the findings of the EIS for the Project. If land use plan amendments are necessary or appropriate, the BLM will integrate the land-use planning processes with the NEPA process for this project.

The BLM is announcing the beginning of a scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues associated with the Public. The BLM seeks resource information and data for public land values (e.g., air quality, cultural and historic resources, fire/fuels, fisheries, forestry, lands and realty, non-energy minerals and geology, oil and gas including coalbed natural gas, paleontology, rangeland management, recreation, soil, water, and wildlife) in the Project area. The purpose of this process is to ensure that the BLM's analysis of the Project has sufficient information and data to consider a reasonable range of resource uses, management options, and alternatives for managing public lands. The EIS for the Project will incorporate elements of the Wyoming Core Population Strategy and the BLM's Greater Sage-Grouse planning effort and decisions (76 FR 77008, December 9, 2011).

In connection with its evaluation of any authorizations and actions proposed in the EIS, the BLM will determine if those actions conform to the decisions in the current and proposed land use plans for the Project area. Any proposed actions that would change the scope of resource uses, terms and conditions, and decisions of these plans may require amendment of the affected plan(s). If the BLM determines that a plan amendment is necessary, it would conduct the appropriate analysis simultaneously with preparation of the EIS for the Project. The planning criteria for any necessary plan amendment will follow that found in the affected plan(s).

To provide the public with an opportunity to review the proposal and associated information, as well as any proposed plan amendments, the BLM will host public meetings on or before November 25, 2015. The BLM will notify the public of the precise date of such meetings and any other opportunities for the public to be involved in the process at least 15 days prior to the event via news release to the media, individual mailings, and postings on the BLM's Project Web site.

The BLM will use and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to help fulfill the public involvement process under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. 470f), as provided for in 36 CFR

800.2(d)(3). Information about historic and cultural resources in the area potentially affected by the Project will assist the BLM in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources in the context of both NEPA and section 106 of the NHPA. Native American tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with applicable policy, and tribal concerns will be given due consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested or affected by the BLM's decisions on this proposal, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency.

Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2.

Mary Jo Rugwell,

Acting State Director.

[FR Doc. 2015-27191 Filed 10-23-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLES962000 L14200000.B0000 15X]

Eastern States: Filing of Plats of Survey

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of filing of plats of survey; Minnesota.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will file the plats of survey of the lands described below in the BLM-Eastern States Office, Washington, DC, 30 calendar days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office, 20 M Street SE., Washington DC, 20003. Attn: Cadastral Survey. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week,

Appendix B – Scoping Advertising and Media Outlets



Bureau of Land Management

GREATER CROSSBOW

OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invites your participation in the preparation of the proposed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Greater Crossbow Oil and Gas Project (project). EOG Resources proposes to develop 1,500 oil and natural gas wells on 100 multiple well pads in southern Campbell and northern Converse counties, Wyoming.

The BLM will hold public scoping meetings the week of December 7, 2015 in Douglas and Gillette, Wyoming

The project area is between Wright and Bill, Wyoming, primarily west of WY Highway 59. The project area is 107,000 acres, which includes 93,000 acres of private surface, 8,200 acres of State of Wyoming surface, and 5,700 acres of USFS surface. There is no BLM-administered public surface. The project area includes 66,000 acres of public fluid mineral split estate. The remainder of the project area has fluid minerals managed by the State of Wyoming or private owners.

EOG is proposing a “spine and rib” approach that would use multiple well pads (i.e., the ribs) that are strategically placed along a primary corridor system that includes pipelines and utilities (i.e., the spines). This design is intended to minimize surface disturbance, habitat fragmentation, truck traffic, and air emissions compared to that of a traditional oil and gas field development project.

Public Meeting Locations

Presentations begin at 4:30pm and 7:00pm

Douglas, Wyoming

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

4:00pm - 8:00pm

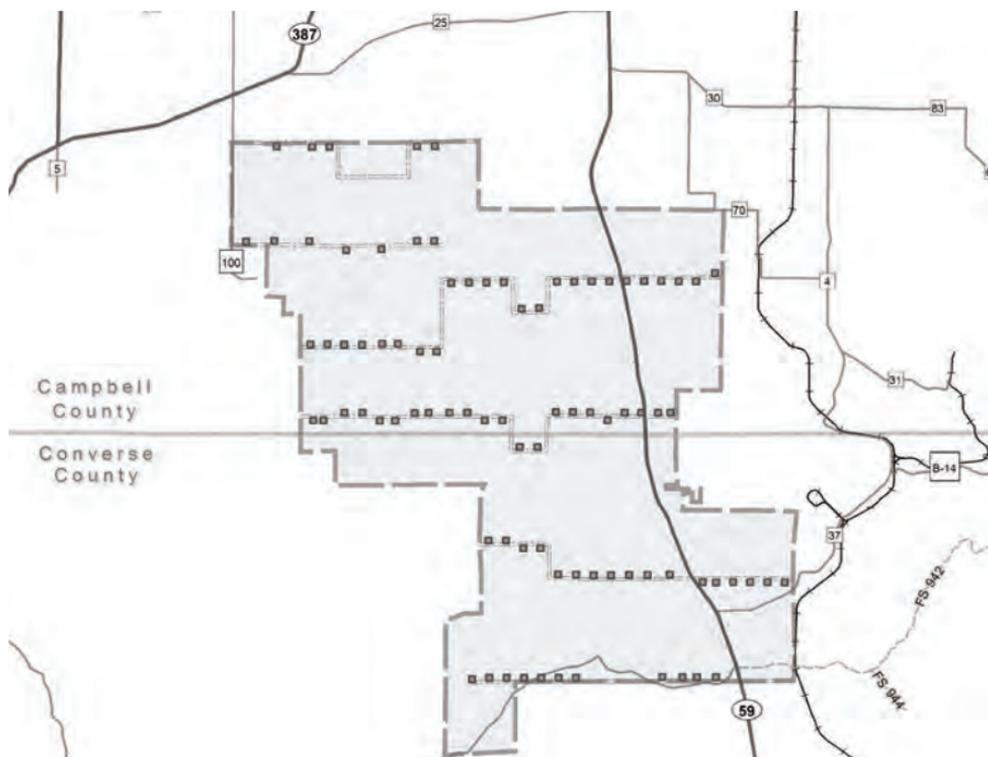
Eastern Wyoming College
800 S. Wind River Drive
Douglas, WY 82633

Gillette, Wyoming

Thursday, December 10, 2015

4:00pm - 8:00pm

Campbell County Public Library
2101 4-J Road
Gillette, WY 82718



If you require special accommodations for the meeting, contact Ellen Carr at Galileo Project, LLC, by e-mail Ellen.Carr@galileoaz.com, by telephone 480-629-4705, or by fax 480-629-5978.

GREATER CROSSBOW PROJECT
Newspaper Ad Run Dates

Paper	Quarter Page Ad Size/ Run Date
<p>Buffalo Bulletin Thursday weekly publication</p>	<p>Size: 3" x 5"</p> <p>Display ad run dates: 1st Run – Thursday, November 19 2nd Run – Thursday, December 3</p>
<p>Gillette News Record Daily publication (except Saturday)</p>	<p>Size: 5.75" x 10.5"</p> <p>Display ad run dates: 1st Run – Monday, November 23 2nd Run – Monday, December 7</p>
<p>Casper Star Tribune Daily publication</p>	<p>Size: 4.8889" x 10.75"</p> <p>Display ad run dates: 1st Run – Monday, November 16 2nd Run – Monday, November 30</p>
<p>Douglas Budget Wednesday weekly publication</p>	<p>Size: 5.75" x 10.5"</p> <p>Display ad run dates: 1st Run – Wednesday, November 18 2nd Run – Wednesday, December 2</p>
<p>Glenrock Independent Thursday weekly publication</p>	<p>Size: 5.75" x 10.5"</p> <p>Display ad run dates: 1st Run – Thursday, November 19 2nd Run – Thursday, December 3</p>
<p>Converse County Merchant Thursday weekly publication</p>	<p>Size: 5.75" x 10.5"</p> <p>Display ad run dates: 1st Run – Thursday, November 19 2nd Run – Thursday, December 3</p>

Bureau of Land Management

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

GREATER CROSSBOW OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

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PUBLIC MEETING LOCATIONS

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

4:00pm - 8:00pm

Presentations at 4:30pm and 7:00pm

Eastern Wyoming College

800 S. Wind River Dr.

Douglas, WY 82633

www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/bfo/GC.html

Thursday, December 10, 2015

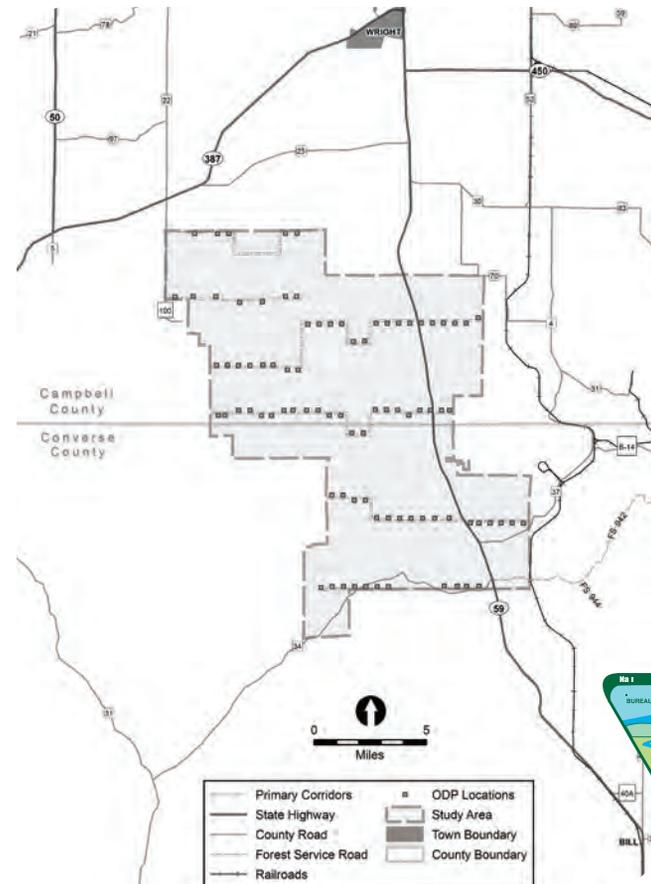
4:00pm - 8:00pm

Presentations at 4:30pm and 7:00pm

Campbell County Public Library

2101 4-J Road

Gillette, WY 82718



If you require special accommodations for the meeting, contact Ellen Carr at Galileo Project, LLC, by e-mail Ellen.Carr@galileoaz.com, by telephone 480-629-4705, or by fax 480-629-5978.



Greater Crossbow Project
Attn: Tom Bills
Bureau of Land Management
Buffalo Field Office
1425 Fort Street
Buffalo, Wyoming 82834-2436

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TEMPE, AZ
PERMIT NO. 195

Comments Due 12/31/2015

Mail Comments

Greater Crossbow Project
Attn: Tom Bills
BLM Buffalo Field Office
1425 Fort Street
Buffalo, Wyoming 82834-2436

Email Comments

BLM_WY_BuffaloGCEIS@blm.gov



Appendix C – Scoping Meeting Displays and Presentation Materials

Greater Crossbow

Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Project Environmental Impact Statement

BLM Wyoming Buffalo Field Office



Welcome to Public Scoping

- ▶ Learn about the proposal
- ▶ Ask questions
- ▶ Discuss concerns
- ▶ Submit written comments by **December 31, 2015**

Thank You for Joining Us!

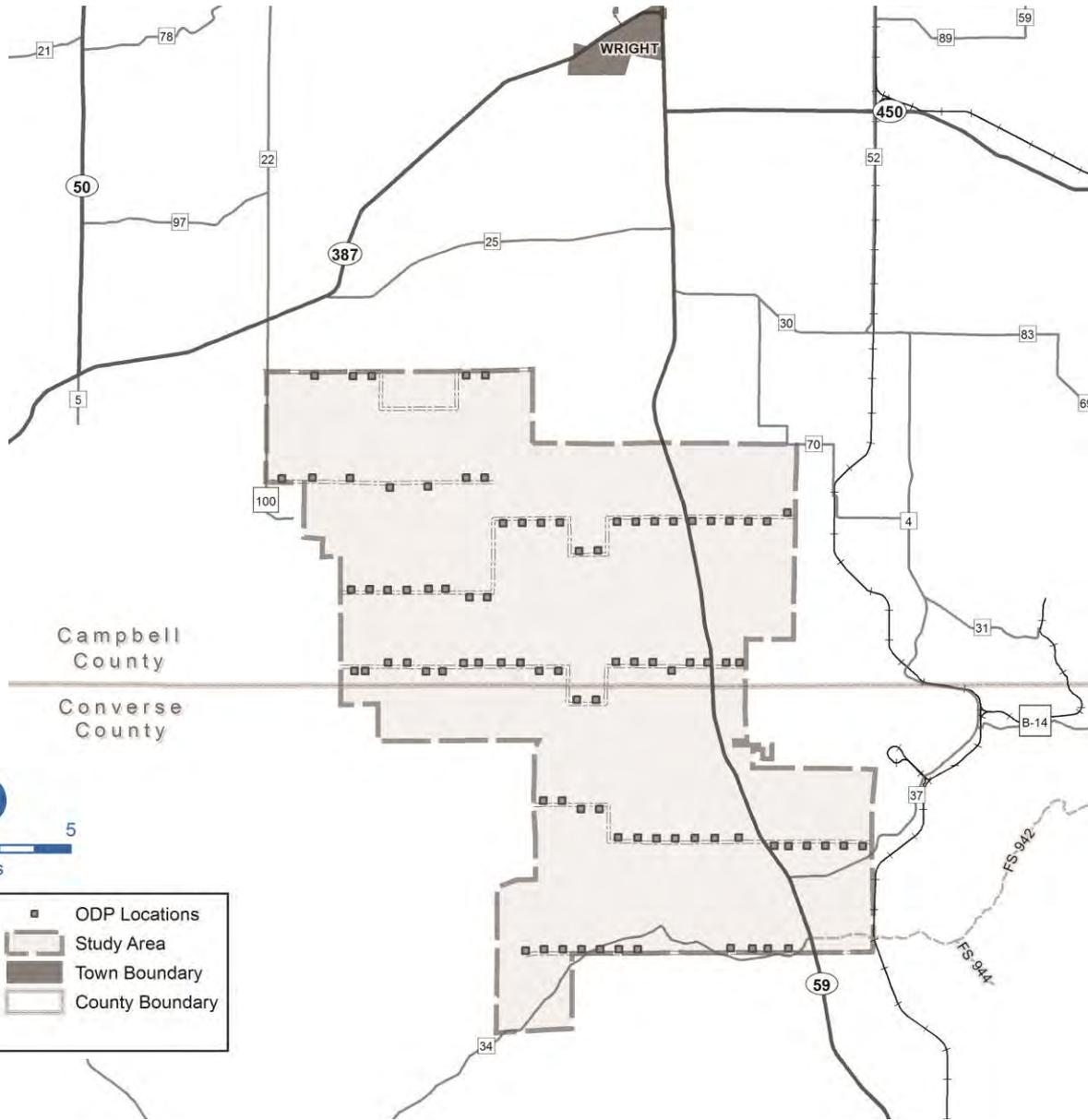


The purpose of this Public Scoping meeting is to:

- ▶ Describe the proposed project
- ▶ Describe BLM's responsibilities
- ▶ Describe the NEPA and EIS Process
- ▶ Get your input on issues and concerns to be considered in the EIS



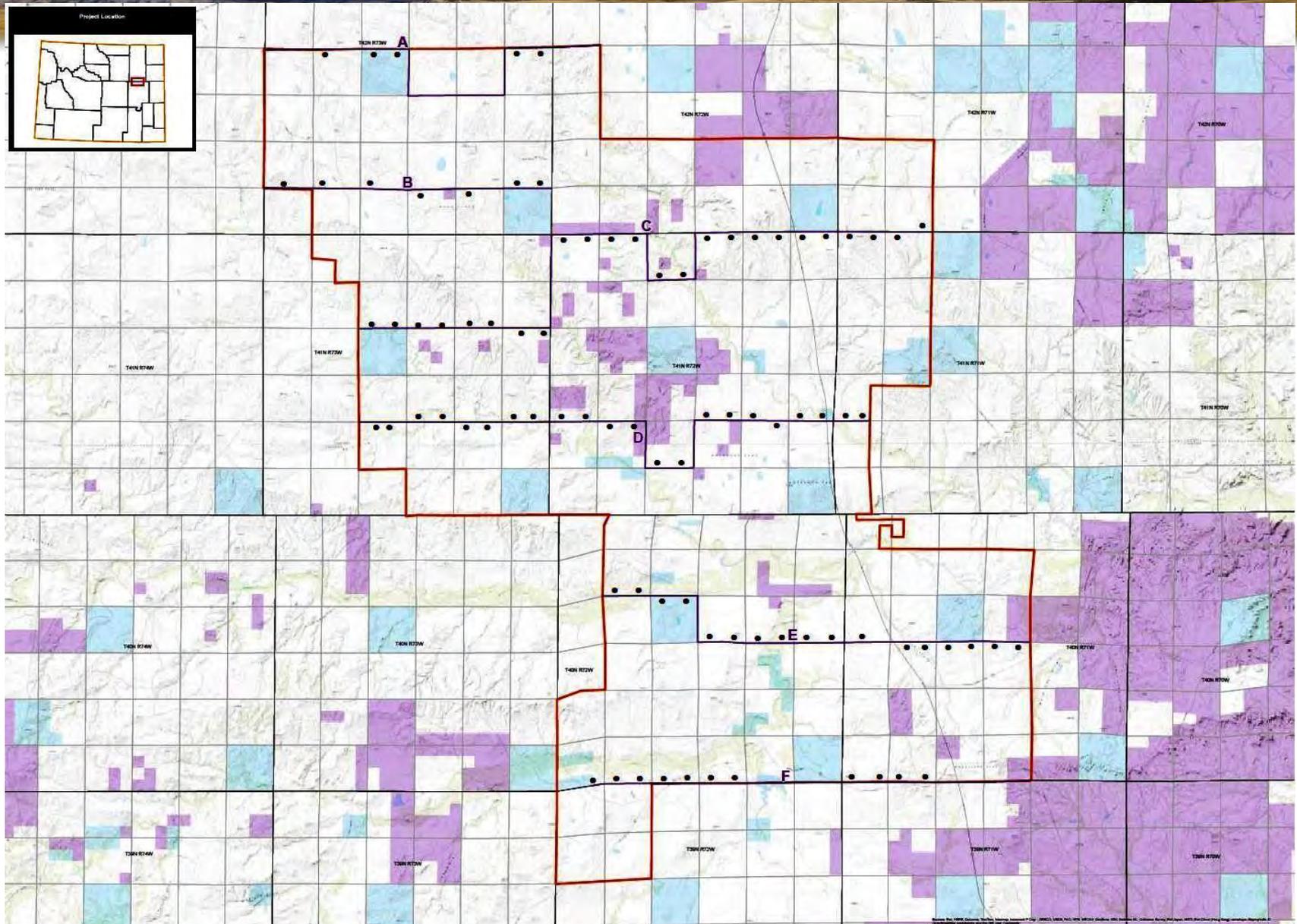
Project Location



	Primary Corridors		ODP Locations
	State Highway		Study Area
	County Road		Town Boundary
	Forest Service Road		County Boundary
	Railroads		



Project Location



Legend

- ODP Location
- Primary Corridor

- Greater Crossbow EIS Project Area

- Township/Range Boundary
- Section Boundary

Surface Ownership

- Forest Service
- Private
- State

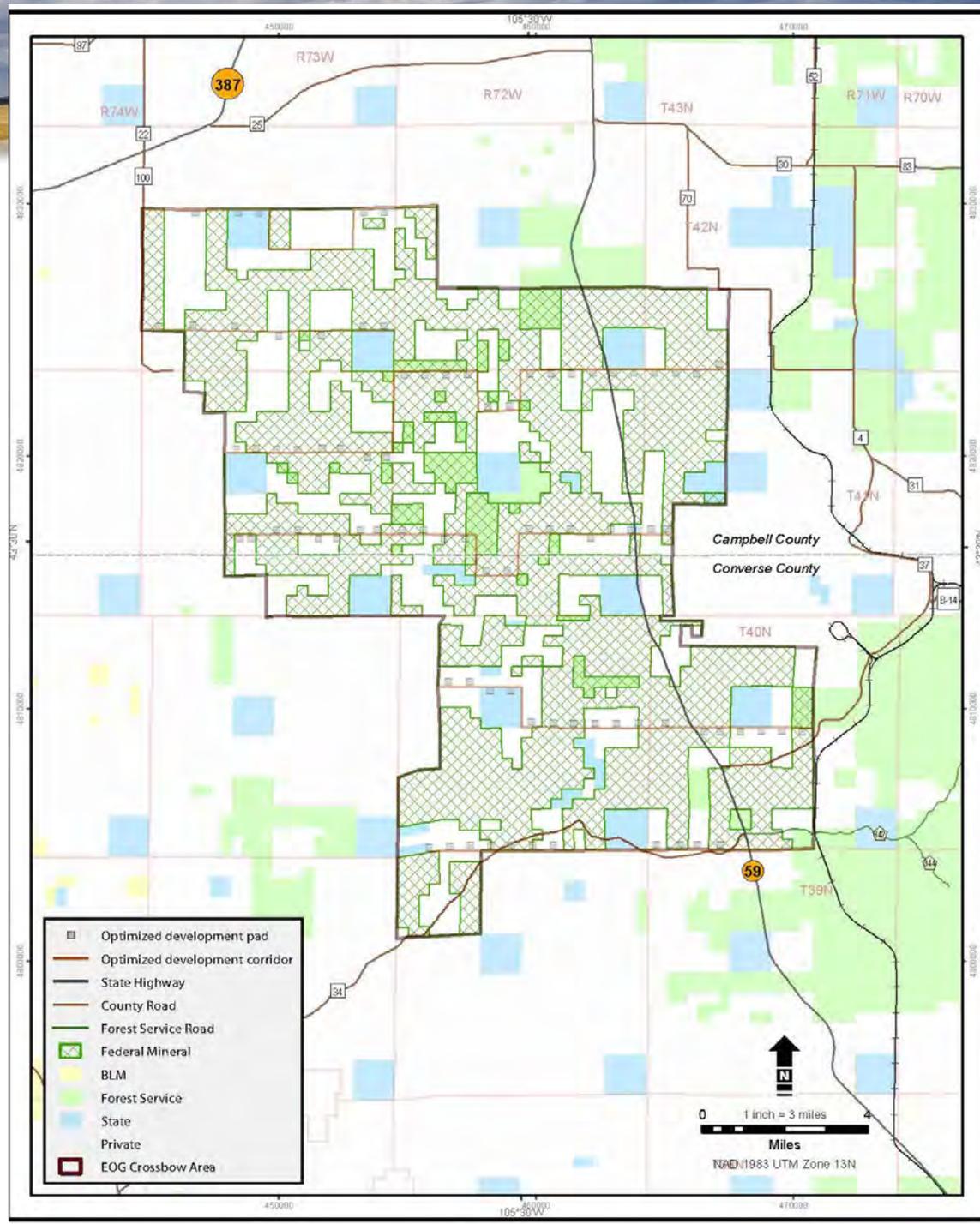


PROJECT NO: 13872
 DRAWING: 2413001A
 DRAWN BY: J. Wink
 CHECKED BY: S. Mads
 FILE NAME: PCL_2413001A.dwg
 PCL_2413001A.dwg

Greater Crossbow EIS
 Project Area
 EDC Resources, Inc.
 Consulting and Geospatial Services
 Wyoming

Project Location

Federal Mineral Map



Project Area

Status	Surface Acres	Mineral Acres
Private	93,140 (87%)	30,763 (29%)
State	8,192 (8%)	8,020 (8%)
Federal	5,655 (5%) [USFS]	68,203 (64%) [BLM]
Total	106,987	106,987

Summary:

- ▶ 87% private surface
- ▶ 64% public minerals, administered by BLM
- ▶ Predominantly split-estate

EOG Proposal



- ▶ 1,500 oil & natural gas wells on 100 multi-well pads
- ▶ Max. 22 wells/pad drilled to multiple formations
- ▶ Average of 150 wells per year over 10 years
- ▶ “Spine and rib” development pattern
- ▶ Up to 125,000 hp of new compression

Water Management (on-site)

Water for drilling and completion:

- ▶ Four existing, permitted wells
- ▶ Ten new water wells and storage ponds
- ▶ Water piped within “spine and rib” system
- ▶ Recycled water for completions

Produced water disposal:

- ▶ Initially trucked to licensed disposal facilities
- ▶ Converting four existing wells for disposal

Surface Disturbance

DESIGN FEATURE	NUMBER	LENGTH (MILES)	INITIAL WIDTH (FEET)	INITIAL FACILITY SIZE (ACRES)	INITIAL DISTURBANCE (ACRES)	LONG-TERM WIDTH (FEET)	LONG-TERM FACILITY SIZE (ACRES)	LONG-TERM DISTURBANCE (ACRES)
ODPs	100	NA	NA	27*	2,700	NA	21**	2,100
Primary Corridors	NA	64	205	NA	1,590	8	NA	62
Secondary Corridors	NA	5	205	NA	124	8	NA	5
Corridor Connectors/ Cross-Country Pipelines	NA	20	205	NA	496	8	NA	20
Access Roads	NA	103	60	NA	749	40	NA	499
Water Wells	10	NA	NA	4	40	NA	2	20
Water Storage Ponds	10	NA	NA	9	90	NA	90	90
Electric Utility Lines	NA	100	20	NA	242	8	NA	97
Compressor Stations	10	NA	NA	10	100	NA	10	100
TOTALS	NA	NA	NA	NA	6,131*	NA	NA	2,993**

EOG design features

Project designed to reduce impacts to raptors and other resources.

- ▶ Spine (utilities) & rib (multi-well “opti” pads)
 - ▶ Consolidates disturbance
 - ▶ Roads with or parallel to corridors
- ▶ Closed-loop drilling
- ▶ On-site water management
- ▶ Year-round development
 - ▶ Raptor mitigation plan

Manager of Federal Minerals

- ▶ Federal Land Policy & Management Act (1976)
- ▶ Mineral Leasing Act (1920)
- ▶ Energy Policy Act (2005)
- ▶ Onshore Orders



Federal Environmental Laws

- ▶ National Environmental Policy Act (1969)
- ▶ Clean Air Act (1963)
- ▶ Clean Water Act (1972)
- ▶ National Historic Preservation Act (1966)
- ▶ Endangered Species Act (1973)
- ▶ Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918)
- ▶ Bald & Golden Eagle Protection Act (1940)



Cooperating Agencies

Federal Agencies

- ▶ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- ▶ U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- ▶ U.S. Department of Agriculture. Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, Thunder Basin National Grasslands
- ▶ U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service

State Agencies (WY Governor's Office) Local Governments

- ▶ Department of Agriculture
 - ▶ Department of Environmental Quality
 - ▶ Game & Fish Department
 - ▶ Office of State Lands & Investments
 - ▶ Oil & Gas Conservation Commission
 - ▶ State Engineer
 - ▶ State Historic Preservation Office
- ▶ Campbell County Commission
 - ▶ Campbell County Conservation District
 - ▶ Converse County Commission
 - ▶ Converse County Conservation District
 - ▶ Johnson County Commission
 - ▶ Natrona County Commission



National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Consultation

- ▶ Government – to – Government consultation with interested tribes
- ▶ To take into account the effects of agency undertakings on historic properties

Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation

- ▶ Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- ▶ To ensure authorized actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of threatened or endangered species, or result in destruction of critical habitat.



Purpose:

- ▶ Declare a national policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment;
- ▶ Promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and stimulate the health and welfare of man.



NEPA Requirements

- ▶ Identify key issues to focus analysis
- ▶ Identify reasonable alternatives to consider and analyze
- ▶ Describe existing environmental conditions
- ▶ Identify environmental consequences/impacts of proposed projects and ways to avoid or reduce impacts.
- ▶ Findings from EIS help public officials make informed decisions about the project.





We Are
Here

- ▶ Publish Notice of Intent
- ▶ Scoping Period (Comments due December 31, 2015)
- ▶ Prepare Draft EIS
- ▶ Publish Draft EIS (Summer 2017)
- ▶ Public Comment Period
- ▶ Respond to Public Comments/ Prepare Final EIS
- ▶ Publish Final EIS (Summer 2018)
- ▶ Public Availability Period
- ▶ Prepare Record of Decision
- ▶ Issue Record of Decision (Fall 2018)

Scoping

- ▶ The process federal agencies use in early stages of preparing an EIS to solicit input on issues, concerns, and opportunities that may arise.
- ▶ Public participation and input on the proposed project and alternatives development is encouraged.
- ▶ Issues and concerns from the public drive the agency's alternative formulation process.



Potentially Affected Resources

The EIS will provide a detailed study of human and natural resources including:

Human Resources:

- ▶ Human Health & Safety
- ▶ Socioeconomic Conditions
- ▶ Environmental Justice
- ▶ Visual Resources
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Farmlands & Range Lands
- ▶ Land Use
- ▶ Cultural Resources

Natural Resources:

- ▶ Air Quality & Climate Change
- ▶ Geological & Mineral Resources
- ▶ Paleontological
- ▶ Soils
- ▶ Vegetation
- ▶ Water Resources
- ▶ Wildlife

Stockraising Homestead Act (1916)

- ▶ Reserved the minerals to the public to be managed by the federal government.
- ▶ Federal mineral lessee has the right to the property.



Non-federal Surface/Federal Minerals

- ▶ BLM manages oil and gas leases.
- ▶ The oil and gas developer must make a good faith effort to negotiate a surface access agreement.
- ▶ The surface owner is invited to meetings and to report compliance concerns to BLM.



Tips for providing comments:

- ▶ Keep your comments focused on the proposed project being analyzed.
- ▶ Submit your comments by the deadline:
December 31, 2015.
- ▶ Sign up for the mailing list to receive notices of project progress.
- ▶ Provide your ideas for project alternatives and potential impacts of concern.



Provide your comments on the project:

- ▶ At the meeting:
 - ▶ Fill out a comment form and submit it.
- ▶ After the meeting:
 - ▶ E-mail: blm_wy_buffalogceis@blm.gov
 - ▶ Mail: Greater Crossbow Project
Attn: Tom Bills, Project Manager
BLM, Buffalo Field Office
1425 Fort Street
Buffalo, Wyoming 82834-2436
 - ▶ Fax: (307) 684-1122

Comments must be postmarked by December 31, 2015



Next Steps:

- ▶ Comment period closes December 31, 2015
- ▶ Public Scoping report published March 2016
- ▶ Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), July 2017
- ▶ Draft EIS public comment period, July-August 2017
- ▶ Final EIS published, August 2018
- ▶ BLM Record of Decision, December 2018



For more information:

- ▶ Tom Bills, Project Manager, (307) 684-1133
- ▶ E-mail: blm_wy_buffalogceis@blm.gov
- ▶ Website:
www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/bfo/GC/html



Greater Crossbow Project

Welcome

Welcome to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) public scoping meeting for the
**Proposed Greater Crossbow Oil and Gas Exploration
and Development Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).**

While you are here, please take time to learn about the proposed project, ask questions, and discuss your concerns with the BLM project manager and resource specialists involved with this project.

Written comments may be submitted tonight or at any point until **December 31, 2015.**

Thank You for Joining Us!



Greater Crossbow Project

Public Scoping Meeting Locations and Open House Agenda

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Eastern Wyoming College/Multi-purpose Room

800 S. Wind River Drive

Douglas, WY 82633

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Campbell County Public Library/ Wyoming Room

2101 4-J Road

Gillette, WY 82718

4:00 - 4:30 Sign In and Open House

4:30 - 5:00 BLM Presentation

5:00 - 7:00 Open House

7:00 - 7:30 BLM Presentation

7:30 - 8:00 Open House



Greater Crossbow Project

BLM Purpose

The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield.

- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)
- Buffalo Field Office Resource Management Plan (BLM 2015)

BLM Need

Respond to the proponent's proposal, for the exploration and development of oil and natural gas resources in southern Campbell and northern Converse counties, Wyoming.



Greater Crossbow Project

What is a Cooperating Agency?

BLM is committed to engaging and involving our agency partners as cooperating agencies or “cooperators.” Any federal, state, tribal, or local agency with jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to an environmental issue may, by agreement, be a cooperator.

A Cooperator Will:

- › Contribute staff to participate on the interdisciplinary team.
- › Participate in the EIS process and be formally involved in scoping.
- › Provide leadership, expertise, guidance, and review for the environmental analysis.
- › Provide information related to the agency’s role.
- › Identify issues of concern regarding project impacts on the natural and human-made environment.
- › Provide timely input on unresolved issues.

To Become a Cooperator:

Respond in writing, describing your jurisdiction and special expertise, as well as the potential physical, natural, and socioeconomic issues or concerns that are of interest to your agency.

- › An agreement (MOU) will be signed prior to your participation.
- › Your participation may include those activities outlined in 40 CFR 1501.6(b).



For more information on how to become a Cooperator:

Mail: Bureau of Land Management

Attention: Tom Bills

1425 Fort Street

Buffalo, WY 82834-2436

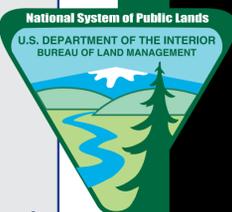
Phone: 307-684-1133

E-mail: BLM_WY_BuffaloGCEIS@blm.gov

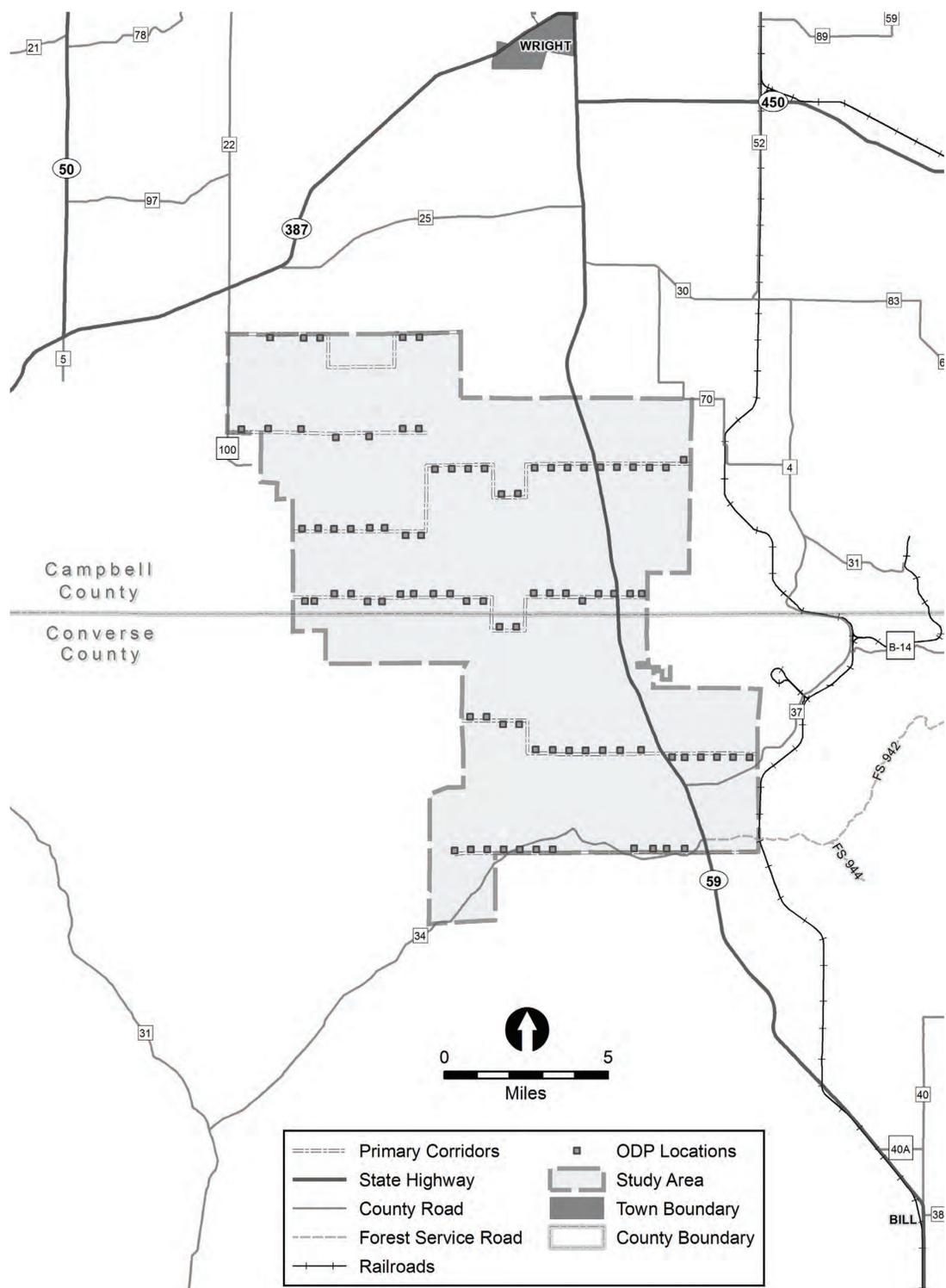
Website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/bfo/GC.html

Cooperating Agency Booklet:

http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/nepa/cooperating_agencies.html



Greater Crossbow Project



Greater Crossbow Project Description

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invites your participation in the preparation of the proposed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Greater Crossbow Oil and Gas Project (project). EOG Resources (EOG) proposes to develop 1,500 oil and natural gas wells on 100 multi-well pads in southern Campbell and northern Converse counties, Wyoming.

The BLM will hold public scoping meetings the week of December 7, 2015 in Gillette and Douglas, Wyoming. The Project area is between Wright and Bill, Wyoming, primarily west of WY Highway 59. It includes parts of 9 townships, including all or portions of T42N:R73W to T42N:R71W, T41N:R73W to T41N:R71W, T40N:R72W to T40N:R71W, and T39N:R72W. The project area is about 107,000 acres, which includes approximately 93,000 acres of private surface (87 percent of the project area), 8,200 acres of surface administered by the State of Wyoming (8 percent of the project area), and 5,700 acres of the Thunder Basin National Grassland administered by the USFS (5 percent of the project area). There is no BLM-administered public surface within the project area. The project area includes about 66,000 acres (62 percent of the project area) of BLM-administered public fluid mineral split estate. The remainder of the project area has fluid minerals managed by the State of Wyoming or private owners.

EOG is proposing a “spine and rib” approach that would use multi-well pads (i.e., the ribs) that are strategically placed along a primary corridor system that includes the access roads as well as the pipelines and utilities (i.e., the spines). This design is intended to minimize surface disturbance, habitat fragmentation, truck traffic, and air emissions compared to that of a traditional oil and gas field development project.



Greater Crossbow Project

NEPA and the EIS Process

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requires the lead federal agency (BLM) to evaluate effects of the proposed project on the natural and human environment.

The EIS will include a detailed analysis of potential environmental impacts from which decision-makers can make an informed decision.

Key Milestones during the EIS process include:

Scoping

- » Public meetings
- » Comment period
- » Identify issues for consideration

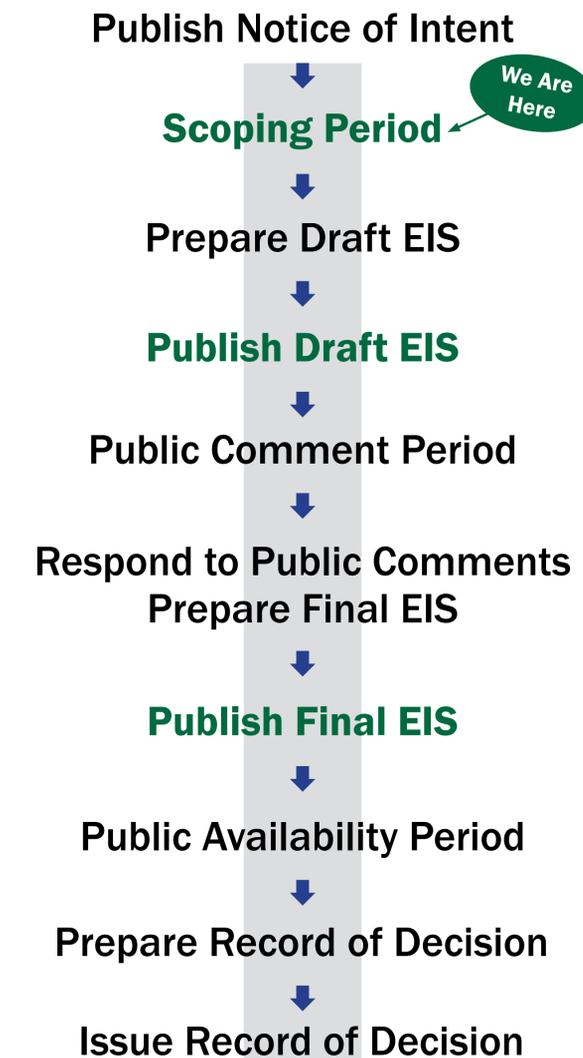
Draft EIS

- » Public information meetings
- » 45 - 90 day public review
- » Disclose technical studies and potential impacts of proposed action and a range of alternatives
- » Identify agency preferred alternative

Final EIS

- » Address public comments and concerns received
- » 30-day public availability period

National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Impact Statement Process



Greater Crossbow Project

What will be Analyzed?

The agency must analyze the full range of direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed project and reasonable alternatives to the proposed project.



Cultural Resources - Any object or specific location of past human activity, occupation, or use, identifiable through historical documentation.



Health & Human Safety - Potential hazards to surrounding communities from any health and safety dangers, including chemical spills or fire hazards.



Recreation - Recreation uses and the scenic or visual quality and character of the landscape.



Transportation - Traffic to and from sites for construction and operation.

What is an Impact?

- An “impact” is a change or consequence that results from an activity.
- Impacts can be positive, negative, or both.
- An EIS describes effects, as well as ways to “mitigate” effects. To “mitigate” means to lessen or remove negative effects.



Land Use - Compatibility of project with designated land uses on surrounding lands.



Socioeconomics - Evaluation of economic and social impacts of the project on local communities or populations.



Noise - Noise levels during construction and operation.



Soils and Vegetation - Evaluation of long-term impacts to soils and the protection, maintenance, and restoration of vegetation resources.

Greater Crossbow Project

Wildlife/Threatened and Endangered Species

Key wildlife resource issues to be examined in the EIS include:

- How would wildlife resources, threatened and endangered species, and habitat be protected?
- How would changes to raptor protections (timing limitations) affect raptor populations?
- How would impacts to migratory birds be minimized?

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act directs federal agencies to ensure authorized actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of threatened, or endangered species or result in destruction of critical habitat. A biological assessment will be prepared to examine impacts to federally listed wildlife and plant species (anticipated to include Ute ladies'-tresses).

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act implements the United States' commitment to international conventions for the protection of migratory birds. Under the Act, taking, killing, or possessing migratory birds is unlawful. More than 800 species of migratory birds are protected under this law, including raptor species (such as the ferruginous hawk). **The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act** prohibits anyone, without a permit, from "taking" bald eagles or golden eagles, including their parts, nests, or eggs. Both Acts require federal agencies to ensure authorized actions are not likely to jeopardize the covered species.



Greater Crossbow Project

Air Resources

Air resource issues to be examined in the EIS include:

- What are the direct and indirect local impacts created by each alternative?
- How would the project impact locations at a significant distance away from the project area?
- How the impacts of increased airborne dust, industrial particulates, magnesium chloride, and other dust-abating chemicals be mitigated?
- How would the project contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change?



The air quality analysis for the project will be performed using Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - approved models to assess both near-field and far-field impacts. The CAMx photochemical grid model will be used to assess both project and cumulative regional impacts for criteria pollutants, visibility, and deposition. AERMOD will be utilized to address near-field impacts for criteria pollutants and hazardous air pollutants.

The air analysis is developed in coordination with an inter-agency team that includes air quality technical experts from the EPA, USFS, National Park Service, and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality - Air Quality Division.

Greater Crossbow Project

Water Resources

The EIS will evaluate:

- Changes to water management between the alternatives.
- Impacts on groundwater and surface water quality.
- Develop mitigations to further protect water resources.



Water Resource Issues to be Addressed in the Greater Crossbow EIS

- How would water resources be managed to protect and maintain ground and surface water quality and quantity?
- What would be the effects on water resources from hydraulic fracturing?
- How would water sources be affected by water use? Identify water sources and predicted amounts.
- How would waste water management affect water resources?
- How and where would waste water be disposed of?
- What are the estimated amounts of waste water from drilling, fracturing, and production?

Greater Crossbow Project

What is Split Estate?

In split-estate situations, the surface rights and subsurface rights (such as the rights to develop minerals) for a piece of land are owned by different parties. In these situations, mineral rights are considered the dominant estate, meaning they take precedence over other rights associated with the property, including those associated with owning the surface. However, the mineral owner must show due regard for the interests of the surface estate owner and occupy only those portions of the surface that are reasonably necessary to develop the mineral estate.

The BLM manages the public lands, including the federal mineral estate, to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations of Americans, under the mandate of multiple use as described in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). The Mineral Leasing Act guides the leasing, bonding, operations, and reclamation associated with all development of federal oil and natural gas resources.



How Did Split Estate Develop?

An estimated 11.6 million acres of private land in the state of Wyoming is split estate. This is the legacy of the Homestead Acts (particularly the Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916), which allowed a settler to claim the surface land for a homestead. Mineral exploration was beginning to escalate during that time and the federal government opted to maintain the mineral rights to the land claimed under this law.

Agency Booklet:

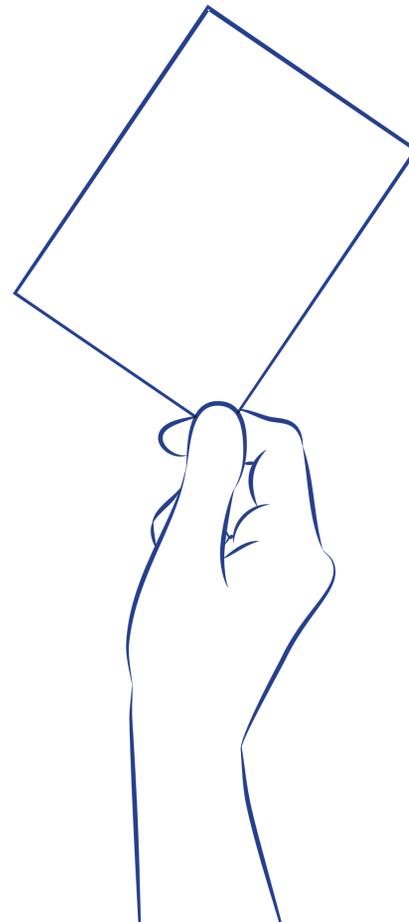
http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/oil_and_gas/best_management_practices/split_estate.html

Greater Crossbow Project

Tips for Providing an Effective Comment

Effective comments address one or more of the following:

- Resources likely to be affected by the project;
- Potential resource issues that should be analyzed;
- Data sources that the agency may not be aware of;
- Reasonable alternatives other than those suggested; and/or
- Changes or revisions in one or more of the suggested alternatives.



Ways to Provide a Comment:

At the meeting:

Fill out a comment form and submit it in the comment box.

After the meeting:

E-mail: BLM_WY_BuffaloGCEIS@blm.gov

Mail: Greater Crossbow Project
Attn: Tom Bills
BLM Buffalo Field Office
1425 Fort Street
Buffalo, Wyoming 82834

For more information or if you have further questions contact:

Tom Bills
307-684-1133

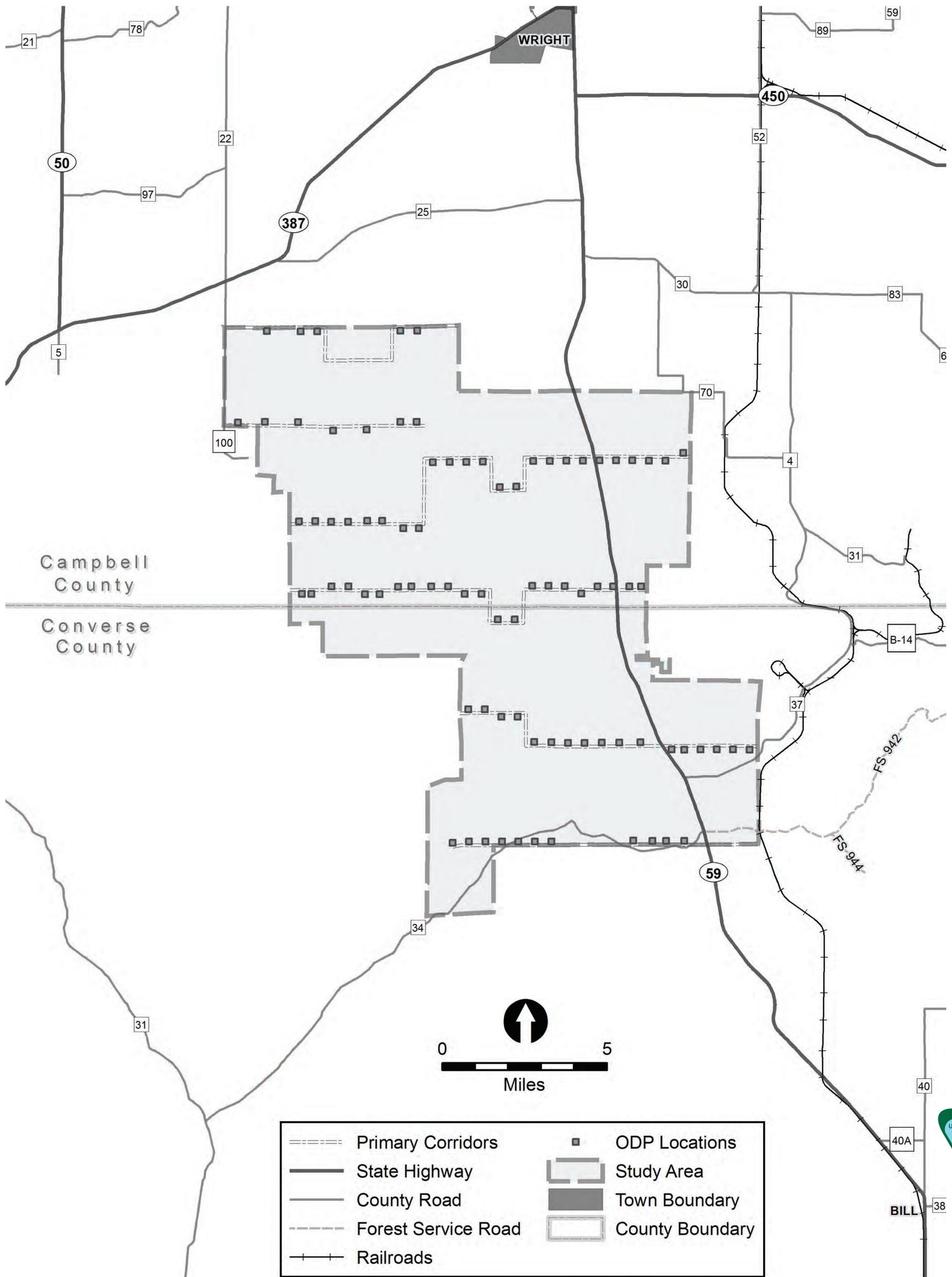
For Project Updates:

Project website:
www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/bfo/GC.html



Greater Crossbow Project

Project Area Map



How can I participate in the EIS and scoping process?

You can attend the scoping meetings to learn more about the project, ask questions, and submit your comments. You can also stay informed by using the following methods:

1. Visit the BLM's project website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/bfo/GC.html.
2. Sign up for the project mailing list and receive project updates by emailing: blm_wy_buffalogceis@blm.gov.
3. For more information regarding the public scoping meetings or the proposed project, contact Tom Bills: Telephone 307-684-1133 or Email blm_wy_buffalogceis@blm.gov.

The BLM will also keep you informed in regional and local newspapers, radio and television, and open house meetings later in the process. All comments must be postmarked by **December 31, 2015**.

How to Comment Effectively

Your participation is an important part of the decision-making process. We need your feedback to identify issues that may occur if the project moves forward. To make the best use of your input, here are some points to consider when making a comment about the project:

1. Keep your comments focused on the proposed project and what is being analyzed.
2. Think about concerns you have about the impacts the project may have, then explain them in detail.
3. Make sure you submit your comments within the timeframe announced. This ensures that the BLM will have all concerns documented for use in the EIS. Comments must be postmarked by **December 31, 2015**.
4. Make sure you are on the mailing list to receive project updates and notifications.

The most effective comments are those that provide useful information to the agencies. Comments made during scoping or on the EIS are not counted as votes or as a part of a referendum on BLM's decision.

1. They are used to improve the document and analyses to adequately determine environmental impacts before the BLM makes final decisions on the proposed Project.
2. Avoid comments that state, "I am in favor of this project," or "I am opposed to this project."
3. Comments should focus on identifying potentially affected resources, potential resource issues that should be analyzed, and data sources that the agency may not be aware of.
4. Remember that the more clear, concise, and relevant to the project your comments are, the more effective and useful they will be in improving the EIS and affecting the BLM's decision.



WYOMING MEETING LOCATIONS

Douglas, Wyoming
Wednesday, December 9, 2015
4:00pm - 8:00pm

Eastern Wyoming College
Multi-Purpose Room
800 South Wind River Drive
Douglas, WY 82633

Gillette, Wyoming
Thursday, December 10, 2015
4:00pm - 8:00pm

Campbell County Public Library
Wyoming Room
2101 4-J Road
Gillette, WY 82718



Greater Crossbow Project

December 2015

Introduction

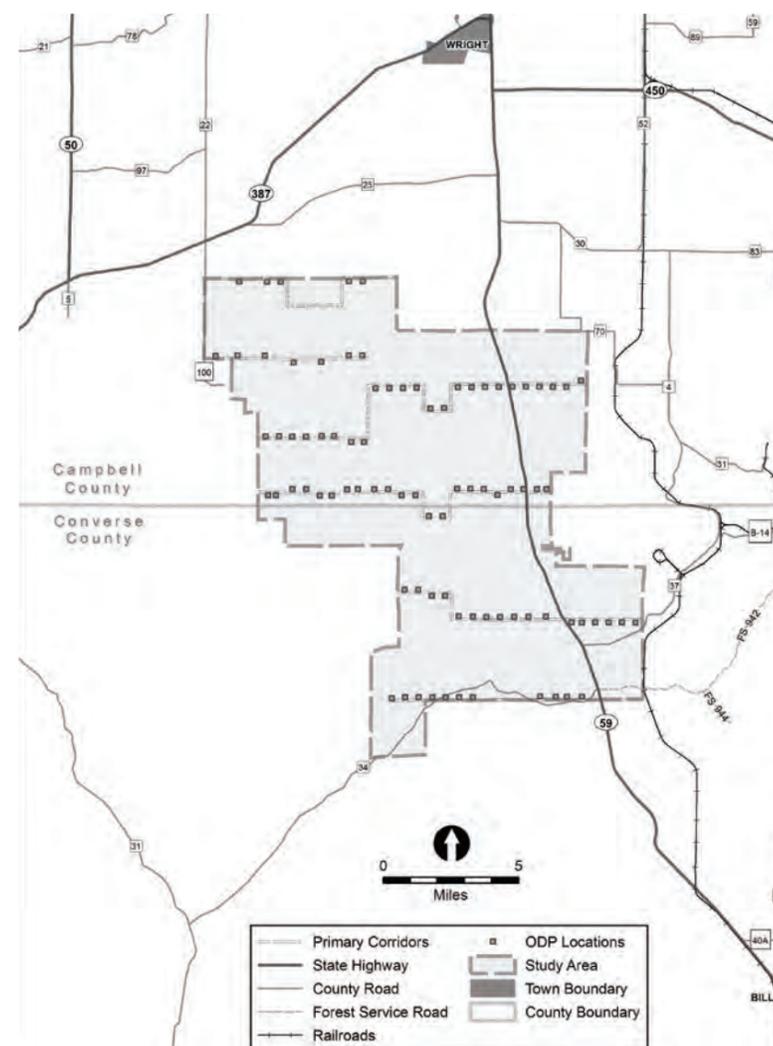
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the lead agency for the development of the proposed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Greater Crossbow Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Project (Project). The BLM must decide whether, how, and under what conditions to authorize EOG Resources' proposed action to develop its federal lease rights, while supporting resource goals and objectives. The BLM has determined that this is a major federal action that requires the preparation of an EIS.

What is the proposed project?

EOG proposes to develop 1,500 oil and natural gas wells on 100 multi-well pads in Wyoming's southern Campbell and northern Converse counties.

The Project area is between Wright and Bill, Wyoming, primarily west of WY Highway 59. It includes parts of 9 townships, centered on T42N:R73W to T42N:R71W, T41N:R73W to T41N:R71W, T40N:R72W to T40N:R71W, and T39N:R72W. The project area is about 107,000 acres, which includes approximately 93,000 acres of private surface (87 percent of the project area), 8,200 acres of surface administered by the State of Wyoming (8 percent of the project area), and 5,700 acres of the Thunder Basin National Grassland administered by the USFS (5 percent of the project area). There is no BLM-administered public surface within the project area. The proposal area includes about 66,000 acres (62 percent of the project area) of BLM-administered public fluid mineral split estate. The remainder of the project area has fluid minerals managed by the State of Wyoming or private owners.

EOG proposes a "spine and rib" approach that would use multiple well pads (i.e., the ribs) that are strategically placed along a primary corridor system that includes pipelines and utilities (i.e., the spines). This design is intended to minimize surface disturbance, habitat fragmentation, truck traffic, and air emissions compared to that of a traditional oil and gas field development project.



What is an EIS?

An EIS is prepared for major federal actions that may have a significant effect on the environment. The purpose of an EIS is to identify potential issues related to the project, analyze the project impacts, disclose them to the public and use the information developed to make informed decisions. The EIS is a public document, and the public is encouraged to provide input throughout the development of the EIS.

The EIS is not a decision document, but it provides information to the BLM decision makers in order to make informed decisions. See “[A Citizen’s Guide to the NEPA, Having Your Voice Heard](https://ceq.doe.gov/publications/citizens_guide_to_nepa.html),” at https://ceq.doe.gov/publications/citizens_guide_to_nepa.html for more information on NEPA and the EIS process or request a copy online from the BLM office using the contact information provided on the back of this newsletter.

What is the process for preparing an EIS?

There are a number of steps involved in preparing an EIS (see graphic). The EIS process begins with the publication of a notice of intent (NOI) in the Federal Register, which initiates the scoping period. The BLM will use information derived from public scoping comments to identify potential resource concerns, potential project modifications and alternatives, and mitigation measures that could be used to minimize impacts. The process will be documented and the impacts disclosed in a draft EIS. After public review of the draft EIS, comments on the draft EIS will be considered and incorporated into the final EIS. The BLM will issue a record of decision at the close of the NEPA process.

What is scoping?

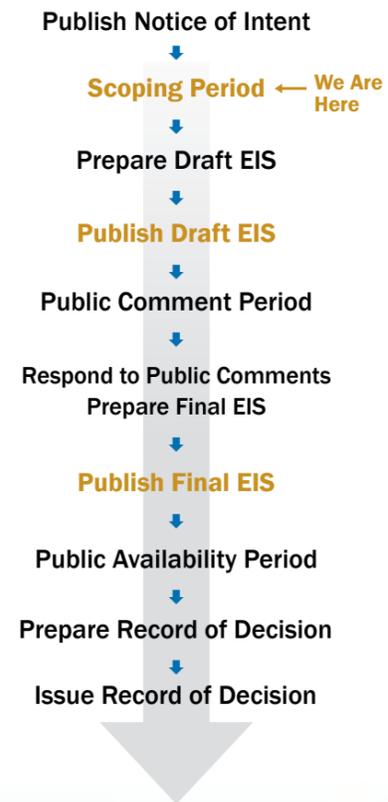
The NOI was published in the Federal Register on October 26, 2015, notifying the public of the intent to prepare an EIS. The EIS is in the first stage, called public scoping, in which potential environmental issues, project modifications, and mitigation to be evaluated in the draft EIS are identified. During the scoping period, the public is encouraged to provide comments and information on factors that should be considered in the EIS. Public meetings will be held during the scoping period, which will close on December 31, 2015, to provide information and solicit public comments. The times and locations for public meetings will be posted on the project website and through media outlets.

Which resources would potentially be affected?

- Air Quality
- Cultural
- Land Use
- Socio-economics
- Soils, Geology, and Vegetation
- Transportation
- Water
- Wildlife/Threatened & Endangered Species



National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Impact Statement Process



What is split-estate?

In split-estate situations, the surface rights and subsurface rights (such as the rights to develop minerals) for a piece of land are owned by different parties. In these situations, mineral rights are considered the dominant estate, meaning they take precedence over other rights associated with the property, including those associated with owning the surface. However, the mineral owner must show due regard for the interests of the surface estate owner and occupy only those portions of the surface that are reasonably necessary to develop the mineral estate.

The BLM manages the public lands, including the federal mineral estate, to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations of Americans, under the mandate of multiple use as described in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The Mineral Leasing Act guides the leasing, bonding, operations, and reclamation associated with all development of federal oil and natural gas resources.

How did split-estate develop?

An estimated 11.6 million acres of private land in the state of Wyoming is split estate. This is the legacy of the Homestead Acts (particularly the Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916), which allowed a settler to claim the surface land for a homestead. Mineral exploration was beginning to escalate during that time and the federal government opted to maintain the mineral rights to the land claimed under this law.

What is a Cooperating Agency?

The cooperating agency role derives from NEPA, which calls on federal, state, and local governments to cooperate with the goal of achieving “productive harmony” between humans and the environment. The Council on Environmental Quality’s regulations implementing NEPA allow federal agencies (as lead agencies) to invite tribal, state, and local governments, as well as other federal agencies, to serve as “cooperating agencies” in the preparation of EISs.

Who are the Cooperating Agencies for this project?

U.S. Forest Service	Converse County
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Johnson County
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Natrona County
State of Wyoming	Converse County Conservation District
Campbell County	Campbell County Conservation District

What role does the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) play in this project?

The USFS is a cooperating agency in the development of the EIS. The project would include approximately 5,700 acres of surface area under USFS jurisdiction for which they need to be sure the proposed action complies with their Land and Resource Management Plan’s goals and objectives.

