

DECISION RECORD
EOG Resources, Inc.,
Crossbow 2016 Interim Oil and Gas Exploration Project
Environmental Assessment Section WY-070- EA15-300
Bureau of Land Management, Buffalo Field Office, Wyoming

DECISION. The BLM approves the EOG Resources, Inc. (EOG) Crossbow 2016 Interim Oil and Gas Exploration Project - applications for permit to drill (APDs) described in the Environmental Assessment Section WY-070- EA15-300. This approval includes the wells’ infrastructure.

COMPLIANCE. This decision complies with or supports:

- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) (43 USC 1701).
- Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (MLA) (30 U.S.C. 181); including the Onshore Oil and Gas Orders.
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 USC 4321).
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) (16 USC 470).
- Powder River Basin Oil and Gas Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRB FEIS) 2003.
- Casper Field Office Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) (2007) and Amendments.
- Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan Amendment (2015).

CONSULTATION. This decision considered:

- BLM Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 2009-078, Processing Oil and Gas Application for Permit to Drill for Directional Drilling into Federal Mineral Estate from Multiple-Well Pads on Non-Federal Surface and Mineral Locations, 2009.
- Wyoming BLM State Director Review, SDR No. WY-2011-010, EOG Resources, Inc. v. Pinedale Field Office, 2011.

A summary of the details of the approval follows. The consolidated Environmental Assessment analysis includes the project description, including site-specific mitigation measures. Mitigation measures will include the conditions of approval (COAs) in Appendix A.

Table 1.1. The BLM approves the following APDs:

Well Pad Name	Pad Status	Well Name	Surface Location	Surface Hole Lease	Bottom Hole Lease
Blade 18 SWSW	Proposed	Blade 41-18H	SWSW S18 T40N R71W	Federal	Federal
		Blade 42-18H			
		Blade 43-18H			
		Blade 450-18H			
		Blade 451-18H			
		Blade 452-18H			
Blade 20 NENE	Proposed	Blade 34-2029H	NENE S20 T40N R71W	Federal	Federal
		Blade 437-2029H			
		Blade 438-2029H			
Blade 23 NWNW	Proposed	Blade 25-23H	NWNW S23 T40N	Federal	Fee
		Blade 419-23H			

Well Pad Name	Pad Status	Well Name	Surface Location	Surface Hole Lease	Bottom Hole Lease
		Blade 420-23H	R71W		
Mary's Draw 14 SWSW	Proposed	Mary's Draw 53-14H	SWSW S14 T40N R72W	Federal	Federal
		Mary's Draw 487-14H			Federal
		Mary's Draw 488-14H			Federal
		Mary's Draw 54-1426H			State Of Wyoming
		Mary's Draw 489-1426H			State Of Wyoming
		Mary's Draw 490-1426H			Federal
Mary's Draw 15 SWSE	Existing	Mary's Draw 493-15H	SWSE S15 T40N R72W	Federal	Federal
		Mary's Draw 494-1527H			
Blade 21 SENE	Proposed	Blade 4-2128H	SENW S21 T40N R71W	Fee	Federal
		Blade 429-2128H			
		Blade 430-2128H			
Blade 21 SENW	Existing	Blade 32-2128H	SENE S21 T40N R71W	Fee	Federal
		Blade 433-2128H			
		Blade 434-2128H			
Blade 22 NWNW	Proposed	Blade 39-2210H	NWNW S22 T40N R71W	Fee	Federal
		Blade 426-2210H			
		Blade 447-2210H			
Mary's Draw 8 SESW	Existing	Mary's Draw 46-0805H	SESW S8 T40N R72W	Fee	Fee
		Mary's Draw 55-08H			Federal
Mary's Draw 8 SWSE	Existing	Mary's Draw 51-08H	SWSE S8 T40N R72W	Fee	Federal
		Mary's Draw 495-08H			Federal
		Mary's Draw 52-0805H			Fee
Mary's Draw 13 SWSE	Existing	Mary's Draw 491-13H	SWSE S13 T40N R72W	Fee	Federal
		Mary's Draw 492-13H			
Mary's Draw 16 NENW	Existing	Mary's Draw 27-16H	NENW S16 T40N R72W	State of Wyoming	Federal
		Mary's Draw 424-16H			
		Mary's Draw 432-16H			
Mary's Draw 16 NWNE	Existing	Mary's Draw 433-16H	NWNE S16 T40N R72W	State of Wyoming	Fee
Mary's Draw 22 NWNW	Existing	Mary's Draw 267-2227H	NWNW S22 40N R72W	Fee	Federal
		Mary's Draw 461-2227H			
		Mary's Draw 462-			

Well Pad Name	Pad Status	Well Name	Surface Location	Surface Hole Lease	Bottom Hole Lease
		2227H			
Mary's Draw 23 NWNE	Existing	Mary's Draw 49-23H	NWNE S23 T40N R72W	Fee	Federal
		Mary's Draw 50-2326H			
Mary's Draw 24 NWNW	Existing	Mary's Draw 483-24H	NWNW S24 T40N R72W	Fee	Federal
		Mary's Draw 484-24H			

LIMITATIONS. BLM's Instruction Memorandum No. 2009-078 entitled "Processing Oil and Gas Applications for Permit to Drill for Directional Drilling into Federal Mineral Estate from Multiple-Well Pads on Non-Federal Surface and Mineral Estate Locations" will apply to those locations on non-federal surface over non-federal mineral (COA's are only recommended).

THE FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI). Analysis of Alternative B of the EA, WY-070-EA15-300 and the FONSI (incorporated here by reference) found EOG's proposal for the 2016 Interim Oil and Gas Exploration Project will have no significant impacts on the human environment beyond those described in the 2007 CFO RMP and the PRB FEIS (2003). There is no requirement for an EIS.

COMMENT OR NEW INFORMATION SUMMARY. BLM publically posted the APDs for 30 days and received no comments. Since BLM's receipt of these APDs, BLM received no new clarifying policies or instructions.

DECISION RATIONALE. The approval of this project is because:

1. Approval of these wells will not limit decision space of the recently initiated Greater Crossbow Oil and Gas Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Information gained from the interim exploration project will aid the EIS process; such as providing further delineation of reservoir extent amongst the target formations.
2. BLM and EOG Resources, Inc. (EOG) included design features and mitigation measures (conditions of approval (COAs)) to reduce environmental impacts while meeting the BLM's need. For a complete description of all site-specific COAs, see the COAs.
 - a. The impact of this development cumulatively contributes to the potential for local extirpation of the Greater Sage Grouse (GSG) yet its effect is acceptable because it is within general habitat (outside of priority habitat) and is within the parameters of the PRB FEIS/ROD and current BLM and Wyoming GSG conservation strategies.
 - b. With application of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), applied mitigation, Required Design Features, and COAs identified for Greater Sage-Grouse under the proposed action, impacts caused by surface-disturbing and disruptive activities will be minimized.
 - c. There are no conflicts anticipated or demonstrated with current uses in the area.
3. EOG will conduct operations to minimize adverse effects to surface and subsurface resources, prevent unnecessary surface disturbance, and conform with currently available technology and practice.
4. The selected alternative will help meet the nation's energy needs, and help stimulate local economies by maintaining workforce stability.
5. The operator committed to:
 - Comply with the approved APD, applicable laws, regulations, orders, and notices to lessees.
 - Obtain necessary permits from agencies.
 - Offer water well agreements to the owners of record for permitted wells.

- Incorporate several measures to alleviate resource impacts into their submitted surface use plan and drilling plan.
6. The operator certified it has surface access agreements with all landowners.
 7. The project is clearly lacking in wilderness characteristics because is amidst mineral development and there is no BLM-administered surface.
 8. These APDs are pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act for developing oil or gas and do not satisfy the categorical exclusion directive of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Section 390.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL. This decision is subject to administrative appeal in accord with 43 CFR 3165. Request for administrative appeal must include information required under 43 CFR 3165.3(b) (State Director Review), including all supporting documentation. Such a request must be filed in writing with the State Director, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003, no later than 20 business days after this Decision Record is received or considered to have been received. Any party who is adversely affected by the State Director's decision may appeal that decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, as provided in 43 CFR 3165.4.

Field Manager: /s/ Duane Spencer

Date: 01/08/2016