

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Environmental Assessment (EA), WY-070- EA15-300, Application for Permit to Drill (APD)
EOG Resources, Inc., Crossbow 2016 Interim Oil and Gas Exploration Project
Bureau of Land Management, Buffalo Field Office, Wyoming

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI). Based on the information in the EA, WY-070-EA15-300, which BLM incorporates here by reference; I find that: (1) the implementation of Alternative B will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those addressed in the Powder River Basin (PRB) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (2003), to which the EA tiers; (2) Alternative B conforms to the Casper Field Office Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) (2007) and amendments; and (3) Alternative B does not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Thus an EIS is not required. I base this finding on consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27), with regard to the context and to the intensity of the impacts described in the EA.

CONTEXT. Mineral development is a common PRB land use, sourcing over 42% of the nation's coal. The PRB FEIS foreseeable development analyzed the development of 54,200 wells. The additional development analyzed in Alternative B is insignificant in the national, regional, and local context.

INTENSITY. The implementation of Alternative B will result in beneficial effects in the forms of energy and revenue production however; there will also be adverse effects to the environment. Design features and mitigation measures included in Alternative B will minimize adverse environmental effects. The preferred alternative does not pose a significant risk to public health and safety. The geographic area of the project does not contain unique characteristics identified in the 2007 RMP, 2003 PRB FEIS, or other legislative or regulatory processes. BLM used relevant scientific literature and professional expertise in preparing the EA. The scientific community is reasonably consistent with their conclusions on environmental effects relative to oil and gas development. Research findings on the nature of the environmental effects have minor controversy, are not highly uncertain, or do not involve unique or proven risks. The PRB FEIS predicted and analyzed oil development of the nature proposed with this project and similar projects. The selected alternative does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects. The proposal may relate to the PRB Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat decline having cumulative significant impacts; yet this project is consistent with BLM's Greater Sage-Grouse management strategy (CFO RMP 2007 and 2015 WY Greater Sage-Grouse Amendment) and is within the parameters of the impacts forecasted in the PRB FEIS (2003) and CFO RMP (2007) and Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse amendment (2015). There are no cultural or historical resources present that will be adversely affected by the selected alternative. No species listed under the Endangered Species Act or their designated critical habitat will be adversely affected. The selected alternative will not have any anticipated effects that would threaten a violation of federal, state, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

Field Manager: _____/s/ Duane Spencer_____

Date: _____01/08/2016_____