

Scoping Report

Moneta Divide

Natural Gas and Oil Development Project

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

**MONETA DIVIDE
NATURAL GAS AND OIL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

SCOPING REPORT

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

**BLM Lander Field Office
1335 Main Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520**

May 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 Introduction1

2.0 Scoping Process4

 2.1 Purpose of Public and Agency Scoping 4

 2.2 Purpose of Scoping Report..... 4

 2.3 Notification and Scoping Meeting Advertisements 4

 2.4 Scoping Meetings 6

 2.4.1 Scoping Meeting Materials..... 6

3.0 Scoping Comments9

 3.1 Comment Document Collection..... 9

 3.2 Comment Document Submissions by Affiliation 9

 3.3 Comment Document Submission by Geographic Location..... 10

 3.4 Comment Summary 11

 3.4.1 Comment Submittals by Comment Category 12

 3.4.2 Summary of Comments 13

 3.4.3 Summary of Out of Scope Comments 22

4.0 Issues Identified During Scoping23

5.0 Summary of Future Steps in the Process29

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Scoping Meeting Locations..... 6

Table 2. Submission Method of Comment Documents 9

Table 3. Number of Comment Documents Received by Affiliation 9

Table 4. Number of Comment Documents Submitted by Geographic Location..... 10

Table 5. Comment Categories 11

Table 6. Comments per Comment Category..... 12

MAP

Map 1. Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project EIS Location 3

APPENDICES

Appendix A Notification and Advertisements A-1

Appendix B Cooperating Agency InvitationsB-1

Appendix C Scoping Meeting MaterialsC-1

Appendix D Scoping Comments D-1

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| AUM | Animal Unit Month |
| BLM | Bureau of Land Management |
| BMP | Best Management Practice |
| CEQ | Council on Environmental Quality |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| DDA | Designated Development Area |
| EIS | Environmental Impact Statement |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Agency |
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act |
| NOA | Notice of Availability |
| NOI | Notice of Intent |
| NRHP | National Register of Historic Places |
| RMP | Resource Management Plan |
| ROD | Record of Decision |
| ROW | Right-of-Way |
| U.S. | United States |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the United States (U.S.) Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address potential effects of a project proposed by Encana Oil & Gas Inc. (Encana) and Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP (Burlington) (hereinafter referred to collectively as the Companies) to expand natural gas and oil development within the Moneta Divide area (Project Area). The Project Area (265,152 acres) includes the towns of Lysite and Lost Cabin, Wyoming, and covers federal, state, and private lands located in Fremont and Natrona Counties. In addition to the facilities located within the Project Area, the project includes facilities Outside of the Project Area (Map 1). This project is known as the Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project (Moneta Divide Project).

The proposed Moneta Divide Project is an expansion of a previous project known as the Gun Barrel, Madden Deep and Iron Horse Natural Gas Development Project (GMI EIS). Approximately 820 oil and gas wells have been drilled as of June 2012 within the Project Area. The Companies are proposing approximately 4,250 new wells to be drilled in the Project Area. In compliance with NEPA, preparation of the EIS and associated Record of Decision (ROD) will enable the BLM to make future decisions that either approve, approve with modification, or deny the Companies' Applications for Permit to Drill and associated rights-of-way (ROWs).

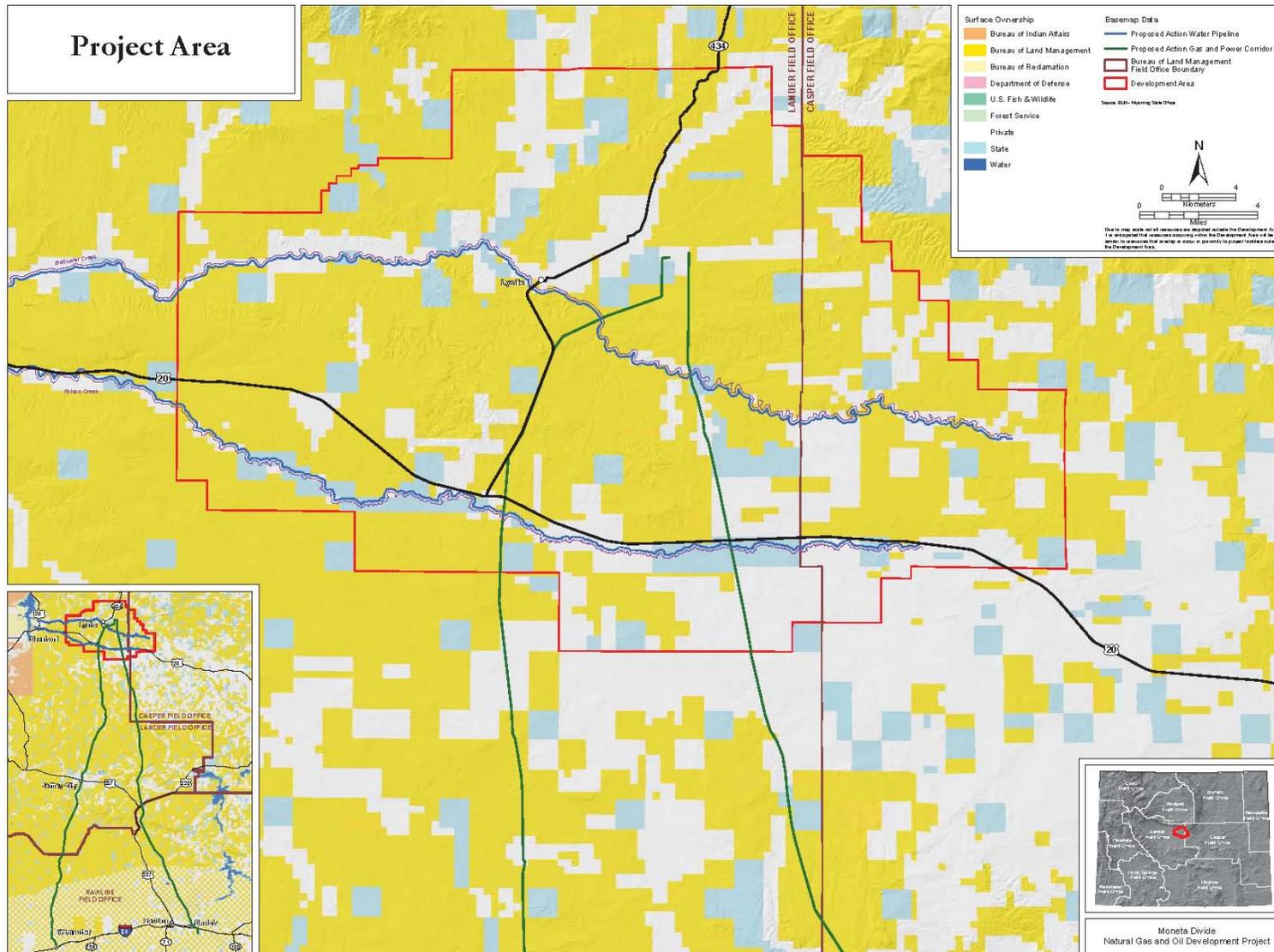
It is proposed that future wells will be drilled on either 40 or 80-acre surface spacing depending upon geologic conditions and the extent of existing development within the Project Area. In select limited areas some wells are proposed to be drilled on a maximum of 20-acre surface spacing. Exact locations of future wellheads are unknown at this time, but the final location would be within the 20, 40 or 80-acre surface spacing areas subject to various environmental constraints that may be identified during EIS analysis or subsequent Applications for Permits to Drill and the on-site inspection reviews conducted by the BLM. All proposed wells are anticipated to be drilled during an approximate 10 to 15-year period after project approval. Although actual operations are subject to change as conditions warrant, the Companies' long-term plans of development are to drill additional wells at the rate of approximately 280-325 wells per year, collectively, or until the resource base is fully developed. The average anticipated life of a well is expected to be 40 years.

The associated facilities required by the Moneta Divide Project will include roads, gas pipelines, power lines, separation, dehydration, metering, and fluid storage facilities to the extent such facilities are not already constructed. Certain project facilities including pipelines and electric transmission lines are proposed for development outside the Project Area; these facilities will be analyzed as part of the Moneta Divide Project. Hydrocarbons and associated liquids will generally be transported via subsurface pipeline to consolidated or individual compression, processing, and treatment facilities. A variety of methods of dealing with produced water will be evaluated; management of produced water (which under the Proposed Action is estimated at up to 1,000,000 barrels of water per day) is expected to be one of the most important distinctions among the alternatives. The Proposed Action would use roads previously constructed and currently used in the Project Area as well as the construction of new roads. New roads are expected to consist primarily of access roads, using existing arterial roads for main access to the Project Area.

In compliance with NEPA, as amended, the BLM published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the Moneta Divide Project and potential amendment to the Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP) in the *Federal Register* on January 17, 2013 (Appendix A). Publication of the NOI initiated a 45-day formal public and agency scoping period (end date of March 4, 2013), during which the BLM solicited

comments regarding the Moneta Divide Project and its potential impacts. While the BLM accepts and considers public comments throughout the NEPA process, this scoping report summarizes scoping comments received or postmarked shortly following the end of the scoping period. The EIS will disclose the potential impacts associated with the proponents' Proposed Action and other reasonable alternatives.

Map 1. Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project EIS Location



2.0 SCOPING PROCESS

Scoping is required under NEPA as defined in Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500–1508). The BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1) provides additional guidance and direction on scoping as part of the NEPA process.

2.1 Purpose of Public and Agency Scoping

Scoping provides an early and open process for determining the scope of issues an agency will address in an EIS. Scoping is the process used to solicit internal and external input and comments on the issues, impacts, and potential alternatives the agency will address in the EIS and the extent to which the agency will analyze those impacts.

2.2 Purpose of Scoping Report

This scoping report describes scoping activities for the Moneta Divide Project, summarizes public and agency comments received during scoping, describes the analysis of those comments, summarizes comments by category, and provides a preliminary list of issues, concerns, and opportunities for analysis in the EIS. During the EIS preparation, the BLM will consider all substantive issues raised by commenters that are within the scope of this project and BLM decisions.

2.3 Notification and Scoping Meeting Advertisements

The formal scoping process began with publication of the NOI in the *Federal Register* on January 17, 2013 (Appendix A). The BLM accepted comments received or postmarked shortly following the end of the Moneta Divide Project scoping period, which ran from January 17 to March 4, 2013. The NOI notified the public of the BLM's intent to prepare an EIS for the Moneta Divide Project and the potential for an amendment to the Casper RMP.

As part of the scoping process the BLM hosted scoping meetings for the public and other interested parties to learn about and submit comments on the Moneta Divide Project (see Section 2.4, Scoping Meetings). The BLM advertised the scoping meetings using a variety of outreach materials (e.g., postcard, website). The outreach materials provided an overview of the proposed project; identified meeting locations, dates, and times; explained the purpose of the scoping meetings; identified methods for making comments; and provided contact information for questions regarding the Moneta Divide Project. The following paragraphs describe each of the outreach materials.

Notice of Intent

On January 17, 2013, the BLM published the NOI to prepare an EIS for the Moneta Divide Project in the *Federal Register* initiating the scoping process. The NOI provided a summary of the Moneta Divide Project, notified the public of the potential for a land use plan amendment to the Casper RMP, identified preliminary planning criteria, provided information on submitting scoping comments, identified the Moneta Divide Project website, and provided contact information for further project details.

Postcard

The BLM compiled a mailing list of approximately 800 contacts including federal and state agencies, Tribes, non-governmental organizations, members of the public, and other stakeholders. The BLM prepared postcards (Appendix A) that provided information about the project, announced the public

scoping meetings, and provided contact information. The BLM mailed and emailed postcards to the contacts on the mailing list in advance of the scoping meetings.

Flyer

The BLM prepared a flyer (Appendix A) that provides information on the Moneta Divide Project, identifies scoping meeting dates and locations, and provides contact information. The BLM posted the flyer on the project website to advertise the scoping meetings.

Website

The BLM developed a website for the Moneta Divide Project which is linked to the BLM Lander Field Office website homepage. At the time of the scoping meetings, the website included the NOI, a press release announcing the NOI, a map of the Project Area, and a copy of the flyer which includes scoping meeting dates and locations. The Moneta Divide Project website located at <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/moneta-divide.html> is one method the BLM will use throughout the NEPA process to communicate project news and updates to the public and interested parties.

News Release

On January 17, 2013, the BLM issued a news release entitled “BLM to Initiate EIS for the Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project and Possible Amendment to the Casper RMP” (Appendix A). The BLM posted the news release on the BLM Wyoming online newsroom (http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/news_room/2013.html) and on the project website. The news release provided an overview of the project, information on scoping meeting dates and locations, guidance for submitting scoping comments, and contact information.

Cooperating Agency Invitations

The BLM mailed cooperating agency invitation letters to 50 federal, state, and local agencies and Tribal governments identified as having special expertise or jurisdiction by law applicable to the Moneta Divide Project EIS (Appendix B). The letters notified potential cooperating agencies of the Moneta Divide Project, provided an overview of the Moneta Divide Project, invited participation as a cooperating agency, and provided contact information to submit questions. To date, the following organizations have agreed to participate as cooperating agencies on the Moneta Divide Project EIS:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Northern Arapaho Tribe
- Fremont County
- Natrona County
- Natrona County Weed and Pest District
- Lower Wind River Conservation District
- Natrona County Conservation District
- State of Wyoming and State Agencies

2.4 Scoping Meetings

The BLM hosted three scoping meetings held February 12-14, 2013. The scoping meetings gave agencies, organizations, the public, and other interested parties an opportunity to learn and ask questions about the Moneta Divide Project and to share issues and concerns with the BLM. The BLM used an open house meeting format to encourage broader participation, allow attendees to learn about the Moneta Divide Project at their own pace, and enable attendees to ask BLM representatives questions in an informal one-on-one setting.

BLM and representatives from the Companies were available at the meetings to answer questions and provide further information on the scoping materials presented at the meetings. Representatives from the BLM included BLM district and field office management, the BLM project manager, and members of the BLM Interdisciplinary Team from the Lander, Casper, and Rawlins field offices. Representatives from the Companies included project managers and technical staff. Representatives from the EIS contractor were also at the meetings.

A total of 134 individuals (not including the Companies, BLM, or consultants working on the Moneta Divide Project) filled out registration cards at the public scoping meetings. Table 1 provides the locations, dates, times, and number of attendees at each scoping meeting.

Table 1. Scoping Meeting Locations

| Date and Time | Location | Number of Attendees |
|--|--|---------------------|
| Tuesday, February 12, 2013 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. | Natrona County Public Library Crawford Meeting Room 307 East 2nd Street Casper, Wyoming 82601 | 39 |
| Wednesday, February 13, 2013 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. | Best Western Wind River Conference Room 260 Grand View Drive Lander, Wyoming 82520 | 49 |
| Thursday, February 14, 2013 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. | Holiday Inn Taggarts Conference Room 900 East Sunset Drive Riverton, Wyoming 82501 | 46 |

2.4.1 Scoping Meeting Materials

The BLM and the Companies provided a variety of informational materials at the scoping meetings describing the Moneta Divide Project and the scoping process. Meeting attendees filled out registration cards (Appendix C) at the scoping meetings to document attendance and to be added to the mailing list if they so desired.

The BLM displayed three informational scoping display boards with nine panels for review during the open house meetings and handed out a brochure to attendees (Appendix C). The display boards and brochure displayed information on the following:

1. The National Environmental Policy Act
2. The scoping process

3. Casper Resource Management Plan Amendment and making effective comments
4. Project description
5. Project map
6. A description of the components associated with the proposed project (e.g., multi-well pads, pipelines, powerlines, access roads)
7. Air quality and water aspects of the Proposed Action (e.g., methods of water treatment)
8. Biological aspects of the Proposed Action (e.g., descriptions of wildlife and vegetation in the Project Area)
9. Cultural resource aspects of the Proposed Action and surface disturbance (e.g., anticipated acreage of new disturbance)

The BLM also displayed 10 maps on easels (30" x 40") at the scoping meetings, depicting:

1. Project Area
2. Surface and mineral ownership
3. Greater Sage-Grouse leks and raptor nests
4. Big game, prairie dogs, and mountain plover habitat
5. Special status plants and wetlands
6. Major Land Resource Areas
7. Grazing allotments
8. Air resources (Class I and II areas in proximity to the Project Area)
9. Paleontological sensitivity surveys
10. Historic trails

The Companies also provided materials and displays at each scoping meeting. Encana provided three fact sheets, describing 1) Encana's organizational goals, values, and the geographic context of its work, 2) the NEPA process, a project description, and Encana's approach to environmental protection for the Moneta Divide Project; and 3) an overview of the tax and royalty impacts from Encana's work in the State. Encana also provided a handout on the process of hydraulic fracturing along with a synopsis of Encana's Responsible Products Program. Encana displayed a large map of the Project Area and other relevant features including roads, land ownership, and nearby towns. Additionally, Encana displayed informational table-top display boards presenting the following:

- An outline of Encana's design features and project elements that are responsive to environmental concerns
- A graphic illustration of directional drilling depicted on a subsurface cross-section
- A summary of Encana's contribution as an employer to the local and state economy

Encana also provided a three-dimensional topographic-relief model of the proposed project.

Burlington provided table-top display boards depicting information on their current operations and future development plans, including:

- A description of their proposed project
- A map of the Project Area detailing the geographical relation to nearby towns
- Photographs and a list of wildlife in the Project Area
- Photographs of remediation and reclamation on past well sites
- An overview of historical features in the Project Area

3.0 SCOPING COMMENTS

3.1 Comment Document Collection

This scoping report includes comments submitted during the January 17 to March 4, 2013 scoping period. The BLM will continue to accept and consider all comments received during the NEPA process, to the extent feasible.

The BLM received 106 comment documents (scoping meeting comment forms, written comments, and email transmittals) during the scoping period, not including form letters (see below). Of the 106 submitted comment documents, 30 scoping-meeting comment forms were submitted at the scoping meetings, 30 comment documents were received via U.S. mail, and 46 comment documents were submitted to the Moneta Divide Project email address at BLM_WY_LD_Moneta_Divide_EIS@blm.gov (Table 2).

Table 2. Submission Method of Comment Documents

| Submission Method | Number of Comment Documents |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Email | 46 |
| Scoping Meeting | 30 |
| U.S. Mail | 30 |
| Total Comment Documents Received During Scoping | 106 |

The BLM received 370 form letters with similar or identical text to three “master” form letters analyzed in this scoping report. Form letters are standardized and duplicated letters that contain the same text or portions of text and comments. The BLM read all form letters in their entirety, extracted, and analyzed any comments unique and supplemental to the form letter; however, the BLM considered comments with the same text as one comment.

3.2 Comment Document Submissions by Affiliation

Most comment documents came from commenters with no identified affiliation (Table 3). Businesses submitted the second greatest number of comments followed by interest groups.

Table 3. Number of Comment Documents Received by Affiliation

| Commenter Affiliation | Number of Comment Documents |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| No Affiliation Indicated | 67 |
| Business | 15 |
| Interest Groups | 9 |
| State Agency | 6 |
| Elected Officials (or representative) | 2 |
| County or City Government | 5 |
| Federal Agency | 1 |
| Tribal Government | 1 |
| Total | 106 |

3.3 Comment Document Submission by Geographic Location

Commenters from Riverton and Lander combined submitted more than 42 percent of the comment documents (Table 4). Commenters from other Wyoming locations made up approximately 31 percent and commenters from out of state and with no location identified accounted for the remaining 27 percent of comment documents received.

Table 4. Number of Comment Documents Submitted by Geographic Location

| Location | Number of Comment Documents |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Riverton, Wyoming | 32 |
| Lander, Wyoming | 13 |
| Casper, Wyoming | 10 |
| Cheyenne, Wyoming | 5 |
| Shoshoni, Wyoming | 4 |
| Laramie, Wyoming | 3 |
| Lysite, Wyoming | 2 |
| Thermopolis, Wyoming | 2 |
| Denver, Colorado | 2 |
| Aurora, Colorado | 1 |
| Basin, Wyoming | 1 |
| Boulder, Colorado | 1 |
| Ft. Washakie, Wyoming | 1 |
| Glenrock, Wyoming | 1 |
| Hudson, Wyoming | 1 |
| Jackson, Wyoming | 1 |
| Logan, Utah | 1 |
| Mills, Wyoming | 1 |
| Rapid City, South Dakota | 1 |
| Saratoga, Wyoming | 1 |
| No location identified | 22 |

3.4 Comment Summary

The BLM used a multi-step process to catalogue, organize, sort, and summarize comments submitted during scoping. The following nine steps describe the process used for processing comment documents, identifying and bracketing individual comments, and grouping comments into comment categories:

1. Receive and log data for each comment document.
2. Assign each comment document a unique identifier (referred to as a document number) for tracking purposes.
3. Electronically scan the comment document.
4. Review the comment documents and identify (bracket) each individual comment in the comment documents. Many comment documents included multiple individual comments.
5. Code each comment with a comment category based on the content of the comment. Comment categories are broad topics used to group comments expressing similar concerns (Table 5).
6. Enter all individual comments into a sortable database with applicable fields, including comment category, contact information, affiliation, submittal method, and other relevant information.
7. Sort comments by comment category.
8. Summarize comments by comment category in a narrative form to describe the general questions and concerns associated with each category (Section 3.4.2, Summary of Comments).
9. Develop issue statements to identify questions, concerns, and opportunities to address during preparation of the Moneta Divide Project EIS.

Table 5. Comment Categories

| Comment Categories | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Air Quality | Recreation |
| Cultural Resources | Social and Economic |
| Cumulative Impacts | Soils |
| Health and Safety | Special Management Areas |
| Invasive Species | Special Status Species |
| Lands and Realty | Stakeholder Involvement |
| Livestock Grazing | Surface Disturbance |
| Mitigation | Traffic and Transportation |
| NEPA Process | Vegetation |
| Oil and Gas Operations | Water |
| Policies, Regulations, and Permitting | Wildlife and Fish |
| Reclamation | - |

3.4.1 Comment Submittals by Comment Category

The BLM identified 426 individual scoping comments covering a broad range of comment categories. Table 6 summarizes the number of scoping comments identified by comment category. The greatest number of comments were associated with water (56), air quality (53), the NEPA process (53), and social and economic (50).

Table 6. Comments per Comment Category

| Comment Category | Number of Comments per Comment Category |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Air Quality | 53 |
| Cultural Resources | 35 |
| Cumulative Impacts | 9 |
| Health and Safety | 1 |
| Invasive Species | 7 |
| Lands and Realty | 2 |
| Livestock Grazing | 7 |
| Mitigation | 7 |
| NEPA Process | 53 |
| Oil and Gas Operations | 23 |
| Policies, Regulations, and Permitting | 19 |
| Reclamation | 5 |
| Recreation | 5 |
| Social and Economic | 50 |
| Soils | 3 |
| Special Management Areas | 5 |
| Special Status Species | 24 |
| Stakeholder Involvement | 8 |
| Surface Disturbance | 3 |
| Traffic and Transportation | 9 |
| Vegetation | 3 |
| Water | 56 |
| Wildlife and Fish | 39 |
| Total Comments Identified | 426 |

3.4.2 Summary of Comments

This section summarizes comments submitted during scoping that are applicable to the project and within the scope of the EIS. Comment summaries are grouped into comment categories based on the content and substance of the comment. Appendix D contains the text of all individual comments extracted from the comment documents. The BLM's receipt of and summarization of scoping comments does not constitute agreement or disagreement with the content of the scoping comments. The purpose of this report is to present the issues raised in the scoping comments for consideration during the NEPA process.

Air Quality

Commenters requested that the EIS fully characterize existing air quality in the region through quantitative analysis of ozone levels, particulate deposition, ambient concentrations of hazardous air pollutants, recent air quality trends, and fugitive methane emissions from leaks and venting. Commenters noted that fugitive emissions from existing oil and gas developments as well as reasonably foreseeable development in the region should be incorporated in the cumulative impacts analysis. One commenter suggested that the BLM evaluate emission contributions from leaks in adjacent oil and gas fields with aging infrastructure. Commenters also requested that the cumulative analysis in the EIS and potential revision to the Casper RMP associated with the Moneta Divide Project consider air quality and visual impacts to specific areas of concern, including National Park Service lands in the region. Many commenters noted poor air quality conditions in nearby regions, particularly in the Upper Green River Basin, and expressed concern that the proposed project may exacerbate these conditions.

Some comments indicated that the impact analysis should demonstrate compliance with specific National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Additionally, commenters stated that the proposed project should also conform to the requirements of the Wyoming State Implementation Plan. Specific air quality issues of concern that commenters requested should be incorporated in the impact analysis include the potential for human health impacts due to increased ozone levels, especially for sensitive populations; accurate modeling of wintertime ozone concentrations; and how much of the Prevention of Significant Deterioration increment has been consumed in Class II regions throughout the Project Area. Multiple commenters emphasized the need to produce conservative emissions estimates and apply appropriate air quality analysis models that incorporate science-based, locally-specific assumptions. One commenter submitted an attachment of comments previously submitted on the air quality analysis in the Continental-Divide Creston Draft EIS and requested the BLM consider these comments and apply their recommendations to the Moneta Divide Project.

Several commenters argued that the BLM has responsibility independent from the Clean Air Act to protect public health and the environment, and has authority to implement a wide array of measures to reduce emissions. Commenters recommended a number of specific lease stipulations, mitigation measures, Conditions of Approval, and Best Management Practices (BMPs) to oil and gas development in the Moneta Divide Project Area, such as the use of no-bleed pneumatic devices, twice daily watering during construction activities, and the implementation of leak detection and repair programs. Some commenters requested that the BLM evaluate alternatives that limit venting and flaring, and require piping of condensate to centralized collection facilities rather than storage in on site condensation tanks. In addition, commenters recommended that the BLM establish enforceable requirements to ensure that emissions control devices are functioning properly and require the operator to regularly report the number of devices that produce fugitive emissions.

Cultural Resources

The BLM received comments regarding historic linear resources (e.g., trails, historic railroads), historic and cultural landscapes, prehistoric and historic artifacts, and Tribal interests. Several comments related to the importance of complying with the requirements and responsibilities of the National Historic Preservation Act and Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Commenters pointed to the abundance and diversity of prehistoric and historic cultural resources in the area, citing the need to conduct comprehensive inventories prior to surface disturbance and implementing protective measures. Commenters also wrote about the importance of consulting with Tribal governments, identifying the presence of Traditional Cultural Properties or landscape-wide sites important to the Tribes, and developing appropriate protection for such sites. Commenters recommended consultation with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, as well as a wide variety of historic organizations. Another commenter noted consultation with the National Park Service would be required if National Historic Landmarks may be affected. A number of comments expressed concern over the importance of identifying historic or cultural landscapes in the area and described how assessing impacts to these resources should be conducted.

Comments recommended disturbance buffers around cultural sites and set-backs for wells near sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Other comments indicated that development should not be hindered as long as monitors are present and sites are inventoried.

A number of commenters noted the importance of documenting and preserving regional historic trails and routes, early highways and other linear resources (e.g., rail beds, freight roads, etc.) in the area, including the Bridger Trail, Casper to Lander Road, Astorian Route, Yellowstone Coach Road from Casper to Thermopolis, Old Trail from Moneta to Shoshoni, Immigrant Trails, National Park to Park Highway, and a trail between Lander and Kaycee, Wyoming. Several commenters expressed specific concern about impacts to certain trails including the Bridger Trail, including where it crosses the Alkali Creek, and the impacts to National Historic Trails and other cultural sites from the proposed water and gas pipelines.

Comments indicated that while it was important to survey and catalog historic linear resources in the project vicinity, it was not necessary to establish large protective buffers around the resources where development could not occur, since these resources are not National Historic Trails and do not require the same standards for preservation. Conversely, comments indicated that it was important to maintain the significance of the historic linear resources from their beginning to end, including non-contributing segments. One commenter suggested the EIS analyze recreational opportunities for heritage tourism associated with historic linear resources. One commenter suggested posting signs where the linear resources cross roads or highways.

Cumulative Impacts

Several commenters emphasized the need for the EIS to thoroughly analyze cumulative impacts. Comments expressed concern related to the cumulative effects from regional development on air quality, visibility, water resources, Greater Sage-Grouse, and wildlife and wildlife habitat. Comments suggested the cumulative effects analysis for air quality incorporate data from all monitoring and ongoing experiments in the Upper Green River Valley, Pinedale Anticline and Jonah Fields, and the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Commenters requested the cumulative effects analysis incorporate all existing and reasonably foreseeable projects or impact sources in the surrounding region, including all oil and gas fields, uranium mining, coalbed natural gas development, and coal-fired power plants.

Other comments were specific to cumulative effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat. A commenter expressed concern that the cumulative effects on mule deer winter range from oil and gas development, and phosphate and locatable mineral mining could displace mule deer from the Moneta Divide Project Area. One commenter specifically requested BLM analyze the cumulative effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat from increased road mileage and traffic, increased acreage of undesirable or invasive plants, and loss of big game winter range, Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, and other wildlife habitat. Additional comments expressed concern that cumulative impacts from the Moneta Divide Project combined with other regional projects, could result in a region-wide decline in species, particularly Greater Sage-Grouse.

Health and Safety

A commenter expressed concern that the release of poisonous gases on BLM-administered lands threatened public safety.

Invasive Species

Commenters expressed concerns regarding the control and spread of invasive species from the Project Area to adjacent lands. Commenters specifically identified halogeton, cheatgrass, and kochia as invasive species of concern for the Moneta Divide Project. Commenters recommended developing and enforcing invasive species management and control plans with bonds necessary to ensure compliance with the plans. Commenters also suggested the EIS address the extent and cause of the spread of invasive species and provide options for restoration and prevention.

Lands and Realty

Commenters recommended that project-related roads and pipelines follow existing corridors and that ROWs and designated corridors align consistently between BLM field offices. Another commenter requested the BLM evaluate impacts on access to public and state lands.

Livestock Grazing

Commenters expressed concerns over potential impacts to livestock grazing. Several commenters listed specific impacts to livestock grazing that need to be addressed in the EIS, including but not limited to the impacts on range improvements, impacts from road improvements or construction and increased traffic, impacts due to the introduction and spread of invasive species, and the economic impacts on grazing permittees from the loss of animal unit months (AUMs) or reductions in allotments. One commenter suggested the cumulative impacts from development could jeopardize the existence of grazing in the area and requested the EIS analyze this potential as well as provide solutions. Commenters advocated the BLM and Companies work closely with permittees to address their concerns and that compensatory mitigation was appropriate for the loss of AUMs or pastures. One commenter recommended grazing mitigation measures be consistent with the Casper RMP, while another commenter stated mitigation measures could include moving livestock to an open pasture or allotment, construction of range improvements, and lease or purchase of replacement lands for grazing. A commenter also stated the EIS should discuss the beneficial environmental effects of livestock grazing and how the Moneta Divide Project could potentially limit these beneficial effects.

Mitigation

Comments pertaining to mitigation related to avoiding impacts to wildlife, enforcing a mitigation plan, and establishing an off-site mitigation area and fund. One commenter stated that avoiding impacts to

wildlife should be the highest priority over implementing other mitigation techniques. The commenter also requested the BLM enforce compliance with a mitigation plan for the life of the project and that this plan clearly state penalties for non-compliance. Several comments suggested establishing the Bridger Mountains area as an off-site mitigation area because of its proximity to the Moneta Divide Project and the important wildlife values they contain. The commenter also suggested establishing an off-site mitigation fund to compensate for impacts on the Southwest Bighorn mule deer herd habitat outside of the greater Copper Mountain Area.

NEPA Process

Commenters raised several issues related to the NEPA process. Many comments supported adhering to or expediting the Moneta Divide Project schedule, citing the potential for greater energy independence, job creation, and tax base expansion as reasons to complete the EIS in a timely manner. Commenters also emphasized the need to develop a range of alternatives that are feasible and maintain the Purpose and Need of the Proposed Action, rather than applying overly stringent restrictions or conditions of approval that may render development uneconomic. One commenter discussed the importance of selecting a preferred alternative in the Draft EIS.

Multiple comments noted that BLM should analyze impacts at a programmatic level, rather than inferring potential site-specific impacts based on conceptual well locations, which will be analyzed during subsequent site-specific NEPA analyses. Commenters noted that it is important to consider development that is reasonably foreseeable in the Project Area with the continuation of current management under the No Action Alternative. However, these commenters also noted that selection of the No Action Alternative would not meet the project Purpose and Need, would be inconsistent with BLM's multiple use mandate, and would not satisfy the goals and objectives of National Energy Policy.

Commenters recommended that the BLM expand the analysis area to include all areas where impacts could result from the Proposed Action, including areas subject to pipeline expansion and water disposal operations. Commenters also emphasized the need to establish adequate baseline data for the EIS and to consider the full range of available options to minimize adverse environmental impacts. Others stressed that a science-driven approach should guide the outcome of the NEPA process. One commenter recommended that the BLM offer public outreach and education for issues related to water resources.

Multiple comments discussed the relationship between the Moneta Divide Project, the ongoing Lander RMP revision, the potential Casper RMP revision, and compliance with both plans. Some indicated that the project could be approved while the Lander RMP is still undergoing revision. One commenter expressed a need to also maintain flexibility to amend the Lander RMP to resolve inconsistencies if needed. Commenters also expressed support for suggested revisions to the Casper RMP to ensure that wildlife stipulations and other management actions are consistent between the two field offices. Other comments requested additional information on the need to revise the Casper RMP and one commenter recommended that the BLM postpone preparation of the Moneta Divide EIS until the revision is complete, so as not to limit the development of reasonable alternatives.

Multiple comments supported the expansion of areas available for oil and gas development through the establishment of additional Designated Development Areas (DDAs). A number of comments noted that the BLM should not unreasonably constrain leasing and exploration in DDAs since these areas have been identified as regions appropriate for oil and gas development. However, one commenter emphasized that the BLM is still required to mitigate adverse impacts within DDAs.

Oil and Gas Operations

Commenters suggested a wide array of potential development requirements and controls on oil and gas operations, including limiting well pad and road densities, as well as the maximum number of wells that can be drilled from a single well pad; requiring the burial of pipelines and transmission lines; and implementing a phased development approach, in which new lands are not opened to drilling until existing impacted areas have completed final reclamation. Other recommended requirements expressed by commenters included the use of natural gas-powered drilling rigs, closed-loop drilling systems, directional drilling from multi-well pads, green completions, noise mitigation, and the use of telemetry and the construction of pipelines to transport produced water and condensate to centralized gathering facilities. One commenter emphasized the need to establish adequate setbacks between well heads and occupied buildings and areas. Several commenters noted that the BLM should implement methods to control the improper or incidental disposal of garbage and debris, which has been observed in association with existing oil and gas development activities near the Project Area. One commenter suggested the BLM review the white paper *Doing it Right: Designing Oil and Gas Development Projects to Safeguard Wyoming's Outdoor Heritage* and incorporate the recommendations as appropriate.

A number of commenters expressed concerns about potential environmental and health effects from the use of hydraulic fracturing fluids and requested full disclosure of the specific types and amounts of chemicals used in drilling fluids. Some commenters also recommended that the BLM review scientific literature to analyze potential health effects of hydraulic fracturing chemicals on humans, wildlife, and fish populations, and investigate their long-term impact to the environment.

Policies, Regulations, and Permitting

Multiple commenters discussed the need to consider state and federal regulations for the Moneta Divide Project. Specifically commenters referenced regulations, policies and associated permit requirements in regards to Waters of the United States, stormwater, wastewater discharge, water supply wells, ROWs, historic preservation, and air quality permitting. Some commenters insisted that only the State of Wyoming has authority for regulating air emissions in the Moneta Divide Project Area under the Clean Air Act, and that the BLM may not attempt to regulate emissions from the proposed development.

Commenters noted that the BLM cannot impose additional stipulations on existing leases without bilateral consent. Conversely, other commenters noted that the BLM retains substantial authority to regulate the time, place, and manner of oil and gas development in leased areas, and one commenter provided a white paper outlining BLM's retained rights on public lands. One commenter noted that the BLM should inform the public that the Reasonably Foreseeable Development scenario for oil and gas development in the Lander RMP, which is exceeded by proposed development under the Moneta Divide Project, is not a limit on future development.

Reclamation

Commenters emphasized the importance of a robust reclamation program including the development of a comprehensive reclamation plan. Commenters stated the reclamation plan should be consistent with the Wyoming Reclamation Policy and provide quantitative data supporting wildlife habitat reclamation statements as well as data regarding successful or unsuccessful reestablishment of vegetation. One commenter stated the EIS should include compliance measures in the event reclamation efforts are not successfully accomplished. Another commenter suggested analyzing an alternative that includes short- and long-term disturbance caps to minimize disturbance and encourage rapid reclamation. One

comment suggested the *Proposed Interim Rollover Objective for the Continental Divide Creston Natural Gas Project EIS and ROD*, be incorporated in the EIS and that this guidance be applied to Moneta Divide reclamation efforts. Another comment noted the importance of native grassland reclamation for wildlife habitat.

Recreation

One commenter suggested that the BLM analyze existing recreation uses in the Project Area, particularly hunting, and evaluate how the Moneta Divide Project would impact these uses and their associated economic benefits to local communities, including the impact on the number of hunting licenses issued in the project vicinity. The commenter went on to suggest that the operators and the BLM should provide additional opportunities for dispersed recreation, consistent with riparian and fisheries management objectives. Another commenter noted no evidence of decreased success from his/her personal experiences hunting in oil and gas fields, and to the contrary, has found abundant wildlife in these areas.

Social and Economic

Commenters described a variety of potential benefits to federal, state, and local economies from the Moneta Divide Project. Multiple commenters noted potential direct and indirect positive effects on local commerce and employment, increases in local, state, and federal tax revenues, and benefits to local communities that would result from the proposed project. Commenters mentioned that the long-term development proposed for the Project Area could help stabilize local communities by minimizing the boom and bust cycle, noting that it could help retain the skilled workforce currently employed in the oil and gas industry and increase job opportunities for young people. They noted beneficial social impacts and positive effects on public services, including schools, from increased economic stability. Many commenters endorsed the potential increase in domestic energy production and the alternative to energy sources with high carbon emissions provided by the proposed project.

Commenters also noted potential adverse effects to local communities from the Moneta Divide Project, including housing, social services, and public infrastructure, with some advocating that the EIS quantify the costs of these impacts and associated mitigations and identify funding sources to support the increased demand for these services. Economic impacts to tourism were also noted as issues of concern. One commenter expressed concern for temporary residence for construction workers, while another commenter stated that claims of increased crime rates associated with temporary residences were largely without basis. Comments also addressed more generally how the EIS should analyze socioeconomic impacts. Commenters suggested that the EIS evaluate historical economic conditions and trends in the region, which would provide a baseline to assess current economic conditions and evaluate development scenarios under each alternative. Other commenters requested that BLM quantify specific impacts to Fremont and Natrona counties, livestock grazing operators, and decreases in oil and gas revenues from resource conservation measures that restrict oil and gas development.

Soils

Commenters expressed concern over impacts to soils from topsoil removal and surface disturbance. One commenter recommended that the BLM explore the feasibility of using mats or similar techniques to limit soil removal and reduce costs associated with reclamation and monitoring. Another commenter noted that the Project Area contains a high proportion of soils susceptible to wind erosion or with limited reclamation potential, and that soil erosion and sediment delivery to nearby waterways from the disturbance of these areas could adversely impact fish populations.

One commenter suggested that BLM road construction and reclamation requirements should minimize soil disturbance, and that road surfaces, culverts, and ephemeral channel crossings should be designed to reduce erosion and monitored to ensure proper performance. The same commenter recommended requiring all produced water to be piped to a centralized gathering facility to reduce the need for roads designed for frequent large truck traffic.

Special Management Areas

One commenter requested clarification on whether the Project Area intersects the South Fork of the Powder River Citizen's Proposed Wilderness, which may trigger a need for BLM to re-assess the wilderness characteristics of this area. Another commenter expressed a need to implement proactive management for the Bridger Mountains area, including the greater Copper Mountain area, such as by making the area unavailable for oil and gas leasing due to its low development potential and high recreation and ecological values.

Special Status Species

Many commenters expressed concern regarding potential impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse and other special status species and recommended various protective measures and analysis methods for the EIS. Commenters specifically requested that the BLM ensure the Moneta Divide Project's full compliance with the Governor's Greater Sage-Grouse Core Area Protection Executive Order (EO 2011-5) and recommended that the density and disturbance calculation tool be used to analyze portions of the Project Area located in Greater Sage-Grouse Core Area. Commenters also suggested that the BLM incorporate recommendations of the Greater Sage-Grouse National Technical Team report into the EIS, as well as consider other relevant scientific literature, including site-specific Greater Sage-Grouse habitat studies performed by Hayden-Wing Associates. Commenters suggested extending protections to Greater Sage-Grouse beyond Core Area, and recommended No Surface Occupancy and seasonal restrictions on surface-disturbing activities within specific distances of the perimeter of occupied, non-Core Area leks, as well as limiting the density of disturbance to one per 640 acres outside of Core Area. Commenters also noted that the typical focus on stipulations that limit oil and gas activities around known occupied leks may fail to protect other critical factors affecting the species. One commenter indicated that the effects of any water disposal south of Highway 20/26 on Greater Sage-Grouse Core Area should be analyzed in the EIS.

Commenters also recommended that the BLM evaluate the effectiveness of existing measures to protect other special status species and consider additional protections including for mountain plover, black-footed ferrets, and prairie dogs. One commenter suggested specific management actions and mitigation measures for certain species including white-tailed and black-tailed prairie dog species and mountain plover. Another commenter suggested that the EIS should enumerate how the BLM will ensure compliance with the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Commenters also expressed concern regarding the occurrence potential for special status plants in the Project Area and requested the BLM preclude development in areas where the plants may occur. Another commenter recommended that the BLM survey the Project Area for rare plants and apply mitigation measures to reduce surface-disturbing activities and associated dust pollution.

Stakeholder Involvement

Several commenters provided suggestions and requested clarification about stakeholder involvement in the NEPA process. Commenters requested the BLM frequently update property owners and municipalities on the status of the EIS development process. Comments also emphasized the

importance of “meaningful engagement” and the “free flow of communication” throughout the entire planning process, including through the development of the ROD. One commenter recommended local government participation in the Interdisciplinary Team and suggested specific areas of potential collaboration. One commenter reasoned that since land owners and grazing permittees are the most familiar with areas that would be affected by the Moneta Divide Project, as well as the most likely to be impacted, the BLM should maintain an open channel of communication with these stakeholders.

Surface Disturbance

Commenters suggested various techniques to minimize surface disturbance associated with the Moneta Divide Project, such as co-locating pipelines with roads, closed-loop drilling, plowing installations for pipelines, clustering development through the use of multi-well well pads, and mowing vegetation instead of blading.

Traffic and Transportation

Commenters expressed concern regarding impacts on local roadways from increased traffic volumes, including U.S. 20/26 and Natrona County roads. Specific issues raised included impacts on the existing road standards and conditions, dust abatement, wind erosion potential, and safety. Commenters requested BLM disclose the number of heavy and light vehicle trips, minimize road construction, consider closing project-specific roads to public travel, identify the roads that will be utilized for project activities, and consider paving primary access roads. One commenter requested details on how safety would be addressed during periods of heavy industrial traffic. Another commenter suggested operators review traffic estimates and make adjustments, if necessary, to accurately reflect emissions and associated impacts.

Vegetation

Comments focused primarily on vegetation data collection and protecting riparian and wetland health. Commenters suggested that the BLM conduct surveys to determine the location and characteristics of native plant communities and rare or special status species. Additionally, commenters recommended that vegetation survey results be incorporated into the analysis in the EIS and used to establish standards for protecting native plant species. Commenters advocated the use of erosion-control measures and locating project facilities away from wetland and riparian areas to minimize adverse impacts to these areas.

Water

The BLM received the greatest number of comments regarding water resources. Comments touched on a range of issues including produced water handling, discharge to Boysen Reservoir, and impacts to groundwater and surface water quality and quantity. Commenters requested that the BLM perform a detailed analysis of all potential impacts to surface water and groundwater resources that may result from the Moneta Divide Project. Many stressed the importance of gathering comprehensive baseline data and implementing stringent monitoring protocols to assess changes in surface and groundwater quality over the life of the project. One commenter encouraged the BLM to follow guidance provided in the BLM and U.S. Geological Survey document, *Regional Framework for Water Resources Monitoring Related to Energy Exploration and Development*, which has also been endorsed by the Wyoming Division of Water Quality. A number of comments advocated a detailed analysis of all water sources, use, transport, and disposal throughout all phases of the Moneta Divide Project. Commenters specifically requested that the EIS contain a detailed description of subsurface hydrology in the area, including a

characterization of all source and disposal aquifers and how the proposed project may impact other uses of these resources.

Many comments expressed concern in regards to potential water quality impacts, including issues pertaining to produced water, chemical spills, hydraulic fracturing, and sedimentation. A number of commenters were particularly concerned over the potential discharge of produced water to the Boysen Reservoir and Wind River Canyon. These concerns were primarily focused on the quality of the discharged water and potential erosional impacts to stream and river channels from the greater quantity of discharged water. Some commenters suggested alternative forms of produced water disposal, such as reinjection, but favored treating the water prior to injection to guard against potential aquifer contamination. Conversely, other commenters pointed to the beneficial uses of produced water including irrigation, ranching, wildlife, and recreation.

Commenters also raised concerns over potential groundwater contamination from the use of hydraulic fracturing, and requested that the EIS disclose the specific types and amounts of all chemicals used. One commenter referenced a recent EPA study in Fremont County, which investigated the impacts of hydraulic fracturing on groundwater resources. Others requested specific information on how the BLM would enforce water quality standards, and expressed particular concern for the potential for contamination of shallow aquifers in the Project Area. Several commenters recommended that the BLM require regular inspections to assess well integrity to minimize the potential for failures and to apply mitigation measures, such as requiring the use of above-ground tanks to store contaminated fluids and to protect water resources. A number of commenters identified erosion and sedimentation resulting from surface disturbance as potential impacts to water quality and stream channel morphology.

Additionally, commenters raised the issue of water contamination from chemical spills, with some comments stressing the importance of developing appropriate response plans and reporting measures. Commenters noted specific rules and regulations that the Moneta Divide Project must adhere to, including Sections 303(d) 404 of the Clean Water Act, and permits required by the Wyoming Discharge Elimination System, the Wyoming State Engineer's Office, and Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission.

Wildlife and Fish

Commenters expressed concerns for potential impacts to wildlife and sensitive wildlife habitat from the Moneta Divide Project. Comments focused on the potential loss or fragmentation of habitat and migration routes for wildlife, especially big game species including elk, mule deer, and pronghorn from surface disturbance and other project-related activities. Commenters specifically raised the issues of big game winter range and declining mule deer numbers in the Project Area, with some commenters recommending alternatives that exclude important winter ranges and migration routes from surface disturbance.

A number of commenters emphasized that the EIS should utilize all appropriate information to fully analyze impacts to wildlife, including the most recent scientific research and data sources and the collection of baseline wildlife data. Some cited specific studies for incorporation in the analysis, such as the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's *Recommendations for Development of Oil and Gas Resources in Important Wildlife Habitats*. Some commenters indicated that typical conservation measures applied on BLM lands were inadequate and recommended a number of additional mitigation measures to reduce impacts to wildlife, including:

- Placing greater density limitations on well pads and roads
- Locating wells away from habitat frequently used by wildlife

- Temporally or seasonally restricting construction and maintenance activities
- Limiting noise generation during breeding periods
- Limiting the impact of vehicle traffic by providing various forms of road crossings amenable to wildlife
- Wildlife population monitoring
- Offsite mitigation
- Adaptive management strategies

Many commenters expressed their support for the implementation of a wildlife monitoring program to investigate long-term impacts on wildlife populations from the proposed development. Similarly, commenters indicated that the project proponents should provide offsite mitigation to offset potentially unavoidable impacts to mule deer, for example, by providing funding to pursue conservation easements on adjacent private lands or supporting stream restoration projects.

Commenters expressed concern over impacts to native fish from hazardous spills and nitrogen deposition, and to nest sites for raptors and migratory bird species from habitat alteration and manmade disturbance.

3.4.3 Summary of Out of Scope Comments

In addition to the comments described above, the BLM received scoping comments that were outside the scope of analysis for the Moneta Divide Project EIS. Out of scope comments include general opinions of the project (e.g., I support/I oppose), comments on projects or areas outside the geographic range of analysis in the EIS, comments associated with decisions and actions that will not be made in the Moneta Divide Project EIS, and other comments that are not within the scope of analysis for the Moneta Divide Project EIS.

Numerous comments expressed general support and opposition for the Moneta Divide Project. Multiple commenters requested approval of the project and noted Encana's commitment to environmentally conscious and responsible development of hydrocarbon resources and the importance of domestic energy production and national energy independence. Other commenters indicated their disapproval of the project and requested the BLM deny the Companies' development plans outright.

Other out of scope comments included general background information or organizational mission statements and objectives. Some commenters provided contact information or requested hardcopy versions of the Draft EIS. The BLM received comments regarding cooperating agency Memorandums of Understanding and review timeframes for the preliminary Draft EIS. One commenter submitted comments on other NEPA documents including the Lander RMP and Continental-Divide Creston EIS. Another commenter suggested bias of the parties involved in the EIS including the BLM that would sway the development decision.

4.0 ISSUES IDENTIFIED DURING SCOPING

Based on the comments submitted during scoping and summarized above (Section 3.4.2) the BLM developed 27 issue statements, in the form of questions, which describe the general issues and concerns identified during scoping. This section also includes specific questions and concerns encapsulated within each issue statement, displayed in bullet-point format beneath each issue statement. Issue statements are organized by comment category (e.g., Air Quality) although the relationship between comment category and issue statement is not necessarily one to one – a comment category may have none, one, or multiple issue statements based on the broad concerns raised by commenters. The issue statements, questions, and concerns presented in this section are intended for consideration during the NEPA process and do not constitute a commitment or mandate upon BLM to perform the suggested actions. The BLM will continue to consider issues during the EIS process as it receives additional input from the public, cooperating agencies, Tribes, and other affected parties.

Air Quality

1. How would the Moneta Divide Project affect air quality?

- Existing air-quality conditions, trends, and issues in the area should be adequately characterized.
- Will the Moneta Divide Project conform to the requirements of the Wyoming State Implementation Plan and maintain National Ambient Air Quality Standards?
- How will the Moneta Divide Project affect local and regional ozone levels, including wintertime concentrations?
- Will the Moneta Divide Project contribute to visibility impacts and contaminant deposition in National Parks and other sensitive locations?
- Incorporate robust and quantitative modeling for all appropriate air pollutants resulting from drilling, production, vehicle use, and other sources.
- What methods or actions can minimize or mitigate air quality impacts and potential effects on human health from the Moneta Divide Project?

Cultural Resources

2. How will the impacts to linear and non-linear cultural resources be reduced or avoided?

- What specific protective measures including buffers will be applied to linear and non-linear cultural resources?
- Conduct surveys and inventories of prehistoric and historic cultural resources during EIS development and prior to surface disturbance.
- Document and preserve regional historic trails and routes, early highways and other linear resources in the project vicinity.
- Consult with appropriate local, state and federal agencies regarding cultural resources in the project vicinity.

3. How will the BLM ensure the interests of Tribal governments are heard and protected?

- Consult with Tribal governments to identify Traditional Cultural Properties or landscape-wide sites important to the Tribes and develop appropriate protection for such sites.

Cumulative Impacts

- 4. What are the cumulative impacts and their effects on resource values from the Moneta Divide Project?**
 - How will the cumulative impacts from oil and gas and other regional development affect air quality, visibility, water resources, Greater Sage-Grouse, and other wildlife?
 - Incorporate the impacts of regional energy and other emissions-generating development projects, including reasonably foreseeable future projects, in the cumulative impact analysis for air quality.

Health and Safety

- 5. How will the BLM protect public health and safety in and around the Moneta Divide Project Area?**
 - How will the BLM address the release of gases that pose potential threat to public safety?

Invasive Species

- 6. How will the Moneta Divide Project affect the spread of invasive species and how will the impacts be mitigated or avoided?**
 - Develop and ensure compliance with invasive species management and control plans.
 - Focus on minimizing the spread of weed species of concern including halogeton, cheatgrass, and kochia.
 - What will be the impact from the spread of invasive species on lands adjacent to the Project Area?

Lands and Realty

- 7. How will ROWs and corridors be designed and permitted to reduce surface disturbance and ensure consistency between BLM Field Office boundaries?**
- 8. How will development in the Project Area affect access to federal, state, and private lands?**

Livestock Grazing

- 9. What are the impacts to livestock grazing from the Moneta Divide Project?**
 - How will the EIS analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to livestock grazing, including impacts on range improvements, potential loss of AUMs, and reduction in allotments?
 - What mitigation measures should be used to reduce the impacts to livestock grazing?
 - How will the permittees adversely affected by the Moneta Divide Project be compensated?

Mitigation

- 10. How will potential adverse impacts to resources and resource uses be reduced or eliminated?**
 - Create and enforce a mitigation plan for the Moneta Divide Project.
 - Establish an off-site mitigation area and fund to offset impacts to wildlife.

NEPA Process**11. What are the necessary steps to ensure an adequate and defensible NEPA process and EIS?**

- Develop and analyze an appropriate and reasonable range of alternatives in the EIS that are feasible and responsive to the Purpose and Need, including the No Action Alternative.
- Analyze impacts at a programmatic and not site-specific level.
- Establish an appropriate analysis area for the EIS that includes all project components to address all impacts from the Moneta Divide Project.
- Establish adequate baseline data needs for the Moneta Divide Project and affected area.
- Adhere to the EIS schedule and complete the EIS in a timely manner.
- Include appropriate public and stakeholder participation during the NEPA process.

12. How will the Moneta Divide Project consider and comply with applicable federal land use plans?

- Will the Moneta Divide Project result in revision to the Casper or Lander RMPs?
- How will the ongoing Lander RMP revision affect the Moneta Divide Project?
- Should DDAs be expanded as part of the Moneta Divide Project EIS and any associated land use plan revisions?
- What level of mitigation is appropriate within DDAs?

Oil and Gas Operations**13. What equipment, techniques, and design features will be implemented on the Moneta Divide Project to respond to local and regional conditions?**

- Consider technologies and options that balance extraction of hydrocarbon resources with environmental considerations.
- Evaluate the potential impacts of oil and gas drilling activities such as hydraulic fracturing on the environment and human health and safety.
- Consider methods and actions such as limiting well pad and road densities to reduce the potential for adverse impacts from the Moneta Divide Project facilities, infrastructure, and activities.

Policies, Regulations, and Permitting**14. How will the Moneta Divide Project comply with applicable policies, regulations, and permitting?**

- How will the BLM regulate the time, place, and manner of oil and gas development in leased areas in compliance with applicable law?
- The Moneta Divide Project needs to be consistent with federal, state, and local policies, regulations, executive orders, and other applicable legislation and guidance.
- How will the applicable Reasonably Foreseeable Development scenarios for oil and gas development affect the Moneta Divide Project?
- Recognize the State of Wyoming as having the authority related to air quality issues.

Reclamation**15. How will the BLM ensure appropriate and successful reclamation?**

- What requirements should be included in a reclamation plan for the Moneta Divide Project?
- Reclamation should be conducted in consideration of wildlife habitat.
- Collect data to quantitatively measure the success of reclamation.

Recreation**16. How will the Moneta Divide Project affect outdoor recreation?**

- Adequately describe existing recreation use in the Moneta Divide Project Area in the EIS.
- How would impacts on fish, wildlife, and other resources affect recreational hunting and fishing?
- Evaluate the potential for the Moneta Divide Project to provide additional opportunities for dispersed recreation that are consistent with riparian and fisheries management objectives.

Social and Economic**17. How will the Moneta Divide Project affect social and economic conditions on local, regional and national levels?**

- Conduct a detailed, quantitative economic analysis to evaluate how the Moneta Divide Project would affect local, regional, and national economies in the immediate future and over the full term of development and operation, including the impact of revenues from taxes and royalties to the federal, state, and local governments.
- Incorporate the region's historical economic conditions and trends in the analysis to provide a baseline for evaluating development scenarios under each alternative.
- Consider potential effects on housing, social services, public infrastructure, and other industries such as livestock grazing in local communities and consider methods and actions to reduce or mitigate adverse impacts.
- Assess the economic impacts of resource conservation measures and other actions that would restrict or limit oil and gas development.

Soils**18. How will the Moneta Divide Project affect soils?**

- How will topsoil removal and motorized vehicle use from the Moneta Divide Project affect soils?
- How will the Moneta Divide Project design and monitor road surfaces, culverts, and channel crossings to minimize erosion and ensure proper performance?
- Utilize soil erosion and reclamation potential ratings and other tools to identify areas or routes to be avoided, closed, or rehabilitated to minimize impacts on soils.
- Consider methods or actions to minimize or mitigate the extent of soil disturbance and erosion, such as the use of mats, and reduce costs associated with reclamation and monitoring.

Special Management Areas

19. How will the BLM protect areas with special management needs?

- Re-assess the wilderness characteristics of the South Fork of the Powder River Citizen's Proposed Wilderness.
- Proactively manage the Bridger Mountains area, including the greater Copper Mountain area, to avoid adverse impacts from the Moneta Divide Project.

Special Status Species

20. How will the Moneta Divide Project affect special status species and their habitats?

- Characterize special status species habitat and populations within the Project Area and include appropriate avoidance and minimization measures.
- Comply with existing regulations and policy associated with special status species, including the Governor's Greater Sage-Grouse Core Area Protection Executive Order.
- Incorporate contemporary research, impact assessment tools, and conservation strategies for Greater Sage-Grouse to inform the project design, alternatives, and impacts analysis.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of existing measures to protect special status species and consider additional protections for sensitive species with habitat in the Moneta Divide Project Area.

Stakeholder Involvement

21. How will the BLM engage stakeholders during the EIS development process and provide opportunities for meaningful collaboration?

- Update property owners and local, state, and federal agencies and Tribal governments on the status of the EIS development process.
- Provide opportunities for stakeholder participation in the EIS Interdisciplinary Team.
- Maintain an open channel of communication with land owners and grazing permittees.

Surface Disturbance

22. How will surface disturbance associated with the Moneta Divide Project be minimized?

Traffic and Transportation

23. How will the Moneta Divide project impact local and regional traffic and transportation systems and infrastructure?

- What is the impact to local and regional roads including U.S. 20/26 from increased traffic volumes?
- How will the Moneta Divide Project affect the local road system in terms of existing road standards, usage, condition, dust abatement, maintenance, and traffic safety?
- Include data on projected vehicle trips and road network usage.
- How will the Moneta Divide Project minimize adverse impacts to traffic and the local transportation network?

Vegetation

24. How will adverse impacts to vegetative health, especially riparian and wetland areas, be minimized or avoided?

- Conduct vegetation surveys and use the results to establish standards for protecting plant species.
- Use erosion-control measures and locate project facilities away from riparian and wetland areas.

Water

25. How will the Moneta Divide Project affect surface water and groundwater resources?

- Incorporate methods to gather baseline water quality data and monitor groundwater and surface water quantity and quality throughout all phases of the Moneta Divide Project.
- Fully characterize the hydrology and subsurface hydrology that may be affected by the Moneta Divide Project.
- What measures will be taken to avoid or mitigate direct and indirect impacts to sensitive water resource areas such as floodplains, ephemeral drainages, and other surface water features?
- What are the potential impacts to surface and groundwater from hydraulic fracturing and fluids storage?
- How will adherence to water quality and well site integrity standards be enforced throughout all phases of the Moneta Divide Project?

26. How will the proponents handle the collection, storage, treatment, and disposal of produced water?

- Analyze potential adverse and beneficial effects of produced water production and discharge to Boysen Reservoir, downstream waterways, and all water users.
- Under what circumstances and in what manner should produced water be re-injected?

Wildlife and Fish

27. How will the Moneta Divide Project affect wildlife and wildlife habitat?

- Analyze effects on habitat fragmentation and connectivity and the possible displacement of wildlife at the landscape scale from the Moneta Divide Project.
- Consider big game (e.g., pronghorn, elk, and mule deer) winter ranges and migration routes throughout the Project Area and limit impacts to these areas.
- Consider establishing a monitoring program to investigate long-term impacts on wildlife populations.
- Include design features, BMPs, mitigation measures, and conditions of approval to avoid or limit adverse impacts to wildlife.
- Consider requiring project proponents to provide offsite mitigation to offset potentially unavoidable impacts to wildlife in the Project Area.

5.0 SUMMARY OF FUTURE STEPS IN THE PROCESS

The BLM will consider the comments submitted during scoping and the issues identified in this scoping report when developing alternatives to the Proposed Action. The BLM will continue to consider issues identified during scoping, along with other issues and potential impacts, during preparation of the 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 summer 2014. 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. 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. An 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 late 2015.

The BLM will prepare a ROD to document the selected alternative and identify any accompanying mitigation measures. The BLM will issue the ROD no sooner than 30 days after the NOA for the Final EIS is published in the *Federal Register*. The ROD is scheduled to be released in 2016.

***Moneta Divide
Natural Gas and Oil Development Project
Scoping Report***

Appendix A

Notification and Advertisements

APPENDIX A
NOTIFICATION AND ADVERTISEMENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Notice of Intent A-1
Scoping Meeting Postcard A-4
Scoping Flyer A-5
Project Initiation News Release A-6

Notice of Intent



Federal Register / Vol. 78, No. 12 / Thursday, January 17, 2013 / Notices

3911

wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with each refuge's establishing purposes and the mission of the NWRS.

Additional Information

The final CCP may be found at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/hamdenslough/index.html>. The final CCP includes detailed information about the planning process, refuge, issues, and management alternative selected. The Web site also includes an EA and FONSI, prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (43 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.). The EA/FONSI includes discussion of three alternative refuge management options. The Service's selected alternative is reflected in the final CCP.

The selected alternative focuses on increasing the quantity and quality of habitat for wetland and grassland birds. Acquisition and full restoration of Pierce Lake will be emphasized over the next 15 years. The hydrologic regime will better emulate natural seasonal and long-term variability. More diverse, sustainable vegetation patterns will be restored on refuge wetlands and prairies. A detailed description of objectives and actions included in this selected alternative is found in chapter 4 of the final CCP.

Christopher P. Jensen,

*Acting Regional Director, Midwest Region,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 2013-00896 Filed 1-16-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R3-R-2012-N259; FXRS1265030000-134-FF03R06000]

Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, Big Stone and Lac Qui Parle Counties, MN; Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Finding of No Significant Impact for Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of a final comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the environmental assessment (EA) for Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge, NWR). In this final CCP, we describe how we intend to manage the refuge for the next 15 years.

ADDRESSES: You will find the final CCP, a summary of the final CCP, and the EA/

FONSI on the planning Web site at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/BigStoneNWR/index.html>. A limited number of hard copies and CD-ROMs are available. You may request one by any of the following methods:

- **Email:** r3planning@fws.gov. Include "Big Stone Final CCP" in the subject line of the message.
- **U.S. Mail:** Big Stone NWR, 44843 County Road 19, Odessa, MN 56276.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Alice Hanley, 320-273-2191.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

With this notice, we continue the CCP process for Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, which we began by publishing a notice of intent in the **Federal Register** (73 FR 76677) on December 17, 2008. For more about the initial process and the history of this refuge, see that notice. We released the draft CCP and EA to the public, announcing and requesting comments in a notice of availability (77 FR 27245) on May 9, 2012. The 30-day comment period ended on June 8, 2012. A summary of public comments and the agency responses is included in the final CCP.

Background

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee) (Administration Act), requires us to develop a CCP for each national wildlife refuge. The purpose in developing a CCP is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS), consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction on conserving wildlife and their habitats, CCPs identify wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update the CCP at least every 15 years in accordance with the Administration Act.

Each unit of the NWRS was established for specific purposes. We use these purposes as the foundation for developing and prioritizing the management goals and objectives for each refuge within the NWRS mission, and to determine how the public can

use each refuge. The planning process is a way for us and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives that will ensure the best possible approach to wildlife, plant, and habitat conservation, while providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with each refuge's establishing purposes and the mission of the NWRS.

Additional Information

The final CCP may be found at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/BigStoneNWR/index.html>. The final CCP includes detailed information about the planning process, refuge, issues, and management alternative selected. The Web site also includes an EA and FONSI, prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (43 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.). The EA/FONSI includes discussion of six alternative refuge management options. The Service's selected alternative is reflected in the final CCP.

The selected alternative includes 5 miles of river channel restoration, a focus on water quality improvement, water management improvements to help increase the amount of submerged vegetation in refuge wetlands, increased restoration and management of grasslands, and opportunities for wildlife dependent recreation. A detailed description of objectives and actions included in this selected alternative is found in chapter 4 of the final CCP.

Christopher P. Jensen,

*Acting Regional Director, Midwest Region,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 2013-00898 Filed 1-16-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-050-1310-DB]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Possible Amendment to the Casper Resource Management Plan, Fremont, Sweetwater, and Natrona Counties, WY

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (PLPMA), as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lander Field Office, Rawlins Field Office, and Casper Field Office intend to

prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project, which may include a land use plan amendment to the Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP), and by this notice is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS and possible land use plan amendment. You may submit written comments on issues until March 4, 2013. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meeting will be announced at least 15 days in advance through the local news media, newspapers and the BLM Web site at www.blm.gov/wy/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/moneta-divide.html. In order to be addressed in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

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

- *Web site:* www.blm.gov/wy/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/moneta-divide.html.
- *Email:* BLM_WY_LD_Moneta_Divide_EIS@blm.gov.
- *Fax:* 307-332-8444.
- *Mail:* Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project, Lander Field Office, 1335 Main Street, Lander, WY 82520.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Lander Field Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Chris Krassin, Project Coordinator, telephone: 307-332-8400; address: 1335 Main Street, Lander, WY 82520; email: BLM_WY_LD_Moneta_Divide_EIS@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 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document provides notice that the Lander Field Office, Rawlins Field Office, and Casper Field Office intend to prepare an EIS to support decision-

making regarding the proposed Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project, begin the public scoping period, and seek input on the preliminary issues identified with respect to this Project. In addition, BLM authorization of this proposed project may require amendment of the 2007 Casper RMP. By this notice, the BLM is complying with requirements in 43 CFR 1610.2(c) to notify the public of potential amendments to land use plans, predicated on the findings of the EIS, and to seek public input on preliminary planning issues. If a land use plan amendment is necessary, the BLM will integrate the land use planning process with the NEPA process for this project.

Proponent energy development companies (the companies) propose to develop up to 4,250 natural gas and oil wells within the proposed Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project area. The proposed development project area is located in Fremont and Natrona counties and encompasses approximately 265,000 acres of land, of which 138,000 acres are public land administered by the Lander Field Office. Approximately 31,500 acres of the project area are public lands administered by the Casper Field Office. The southern portion of a proposed pipeline associated with the project is located in Sweetwater County on lands administered by the Rawlins Field Office. The balance of the development project area consists of State and private lands. The Lander Field Office will serve as the lead for this Project.

The companies propose to develop using downhole well spacing of up to 20 acres in select areas within the proposed project area using directional, vertical, and other drilling techniques, and propose to develop infrastructure to support oil and gas production in the project area, including: Well pads; gathering, treating, processing and compression production facilities; water wells, water treatment, water injection and evaporation facilities; electric power lines, roads, gas flow lines, and pipelines. The companies propose to transport gas through pipelines to approximately five field compression and treatment facilities. The companies propose to reinject produced water in some instances, evaporate it in some instances, and treat and dispose of it through the use of surface and subsurface facilities in other instances. The companies also propose to construct gas processing facilities in the project area to separate natural gas liquids from the natural gas stream as well as to construct a new pipeline to transport and deliver natural gas and natural gas liquids to market pipelines

located near Wamsutter, Wyoming (approximately 100 miles south of the project area). The southern portion of the pipeline (approximately 42 miles in length) is proposed in Sweetwater County, Wyoming and public lands included within this segment are administered by the Rawlins Field Office.

Anticipated surface disturbance associated with the Moneta Divide Project proposal will include approximately 13,500 acres of initial surface disturbance for the construction of new roads, well pads, pipelines and associated facilities, of which approximately 5,500 acres could remain for the life of the project.

The BLM will evaluate any authorizations and actions within the Casper Field Office administrative area that are proposed for approval in the EIS to determine if they conform to the decisions in the 2007 Casper RMP. At this time, some management actions particularly for surface disturbing activities and wildlife stipulations in the Casper RMP do not match the Lander RMP (1987). In an effort to have consistency in management actions within the Moneta Divide project area and across the Lander and Casper Field Office administrative boundaries, it is anticipated that some management actions may result in a change in terms and conditions or decisions of the Casper RMP, which in turn may require amendment of the RMP. Prior to approval, any proposed actions that would result in a change in the scope of resource uses, terms and conditions, and decisions of the Casper RMP would require amendment of the RMP. If the BLM determines that a plan amendment is necessary, the analysis necessary for the RMP amendment would occur simultaneously with preparation of the Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project EIS. The preliminary planning criteria would include:

- The RMP amendment will comply with NEPA, FLPMA, and other applicable laws, executive orders, regulations and policy;
- The RMP amendment will recognize valid existing rights;
- The BLM would limit the scope of the RMP amendment to the BLM-administered public lands and mineral estate within the project area proposed for the Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project EIS; and
- A collaborative and multi-jurisdictional approach will be used, where possible, to jointly determine the desired future condition and management direction for the public lands. To the extent possible and within

legal and regulatory parameters, the BLM planning and management decisions will complement the planning and management decisions of other agencies, State and local governments, and Native American tribes, with jurisdictions intermingled with, and adjacent to, the planning area.

To provide the public with an opportunity to review the proposed project and the project information, as well as the possible proposed plan amendment, the BLM will host meetings in Riverton and Casper within 45 days of the publication of this notice. The BLM will notify the public of meetings and any other opportunities for the public to be involved in the environmental review for this proposal at least 15 days prior to the event. Meeting dates, locations and times will be announced by a news release to the media, individual mailings and postings on the project Web site.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EIS. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: Potential impacts to air quality, disposal of produced water, and potential effects of development and production on surface resources including vegetation and wildlife habitat.

The BLM will utilize and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to help fulfill the public involvement process under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). The information about historic and cultural resources within the area potentially affected by the proposed action 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 policy, and tribal concerns will be given due consideration, including impacts on Indian trust assets. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested or affected by the BLM's decision on this project, 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)

Donald A. Simpson,
State Director, Wyoming.
[FR Doc. 2013-00853 Filed 1-16-13; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLNV9230000 L13100000.FI0000 241 A;
NVN-81212; NVN-81213; 13-08807; MO#
4500044423; TAS: 14x1109]

Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Leases NVN-81212 and NVN-81213; Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, and existing BLM regulations, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a petition for reinstatement from Lonewolf Exploration & Production Company, for competitive oil and gas leases NVN-81212 and NVN-81213 on land in Elko County, Nevada. The petition was timely filed and was accompanied by all the rentals due since the leases terminated under the law. No valid leases have been issued affecting the lands.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia M. LaFramboise, BLM Nevada State Office, 775-861-6632, or email: plaframboise@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 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The lessee has agreed to the amended lease terms for rental and royalties at rates of \$10 per acre or fraction thereof per year and 16½ percent, respectively. The lessee has paid the required \$500 administrative fee for each lease and has reimbursed the Department \$159 for the cost of this Federal Register notice. The lessee has met all of the requirements for reinstatement of the leases as set out in Section 31(d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, 30 U.S.C. 188, and

the BLM is proposing to reinstate the leases effective March 1, 2012 under the original terms and conditions of the leases and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above. The BLM has not issued a lease affecting the lands encumbered by these leases to any other interest in the interim.

Authority: 43 CFR 3108.2-3(a).

Gary Johnson,
Deputy State Director, Minerals Management.
[FR Doc. 2013-00927 Filed 1-16-13; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CACA 43949, LLCA930000, 3810-FF-P]

Public Land Order No. 7807: Withdrawal of Public Lands for the Camp Michael Monsoor Mountain Warfare and Training Facility, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Public Land Order.

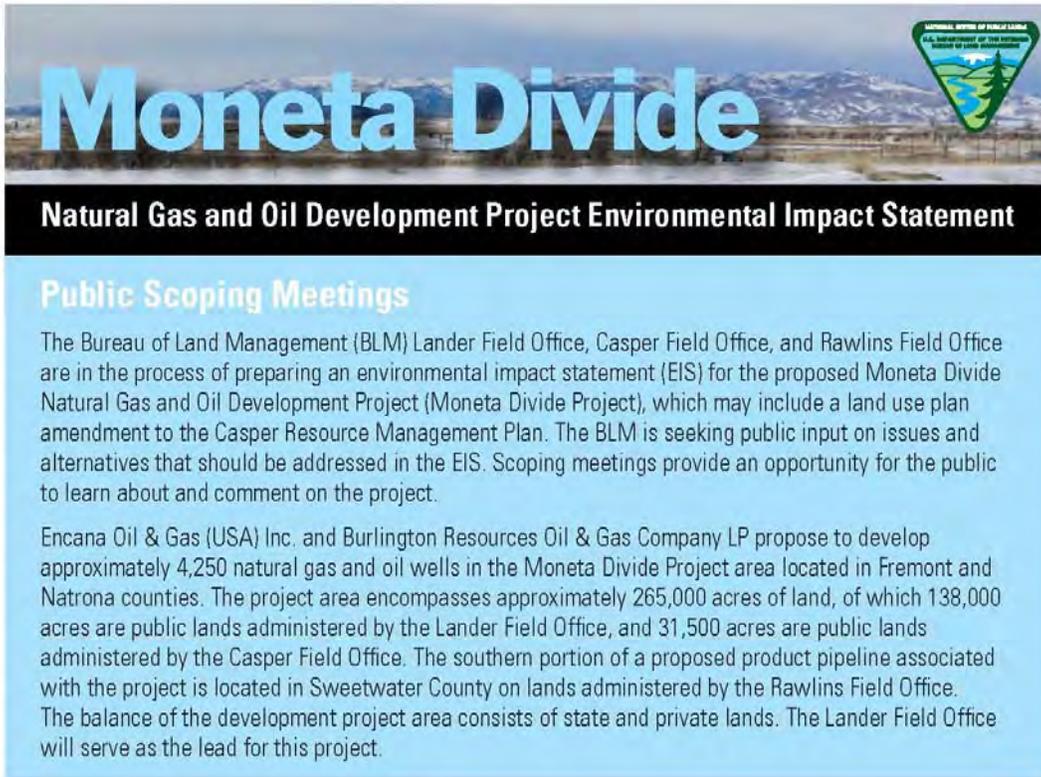
SUMMARY: This order withdraws 3,385.89 acres, more or less, of public lands from settlement, sale, location, and entry under the general land laws, including the United States mining laws, for a period of 20 years for use by the Department of the Navy for the Camp Michael Monsoor Mountain Warfare and Training Facility. This withdrawal also transfers administrative jurisdiction of the lands to the Department of the Navy.

DATES: *Effective Date:* January 17, 2013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Heather Fullerton, address: Bureau of Land Management, California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Suite-W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825-1886; telephone: 916-978-4634. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to reach the Bureau of Land Management contact. 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This order withdraws 3,385.89 acres of lands, more or less, from public use for the Department of the Navy. The area, known as Camp Michael Monsoor Mountain Warfare Training Facility, is being developed to maintain the operational readiness of Naval Special Warfare Forces.

Scoping Meeting Postcard



The postcard features a scenic landscape of a valley with mountains in the background. The title 'Moneta Divide' is written in large, light blue letters across the top. Below the title, the text reads 'Natural Gas and Oil Development Project Environmental Impact Statement'. A BLM logo is in the top right corner. The main body of the postcard is light blue and contains the following text:

Public Scoping Meetings

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lander Field Office, Casper Field Office, and Rawlins Field Office are in the process of preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project (Moneta Divide Project), which may include a land use plan amendment to the Casper Resource Management Plan. The BLM is seeking public input on issues and alternatives that should be addressed in the EIS. Scoping meetings provide an opportunity for the public to learn about and comment on the project.

Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. and Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP propose to develop approximately 4,250 natural gas and oil wells in the Moneta Divide Project area located in Fremont and Natrona counties. The project area encompasses approximately 265,000 acres of land, of which 138,000 acres are public lands administered by the Lander Field Office, and 31,500 acres are public lands administered by the Casper Field Office. The southern portion of a proposed product pipeline associated with the project is located in Sweetwater County on lands administered by the Rawlins Field Office. The balance of the development project area consists of state and private lands. The Lander Field Office will serve as the lead for this project.

You are invited to attend the public scoping meetings at the following locations:

| | |
|--|--|
| Tuesday February 12, 2013 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. | Natrona County Public Library Crawford Meeting Room 307 East 2nd Street Casper, Wyoming 82601 |
| Wednesday February 13, 2013 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. | Best Western Wind River Conference Room 260 Grand View Drive Lander, Wyoming 82520 |
| Thursday February 14, 2013 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. | Holiday Inn Taggarts Conference Room 900 East Sunset Drive Riverton, Wyoming 82501 |

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project EIS
BLM Lander Field Office
Chris Krassin, Project Manager
1335 Main St.
Lander, Wyoming 82520
307-332-8400

While comments will be accepted throughout the process, they can be best utilized if received during the public scoping period, January 17, 2013 to March 4, 2013.

E-mail: BLM_WY_LD_Moneta_Divide_EIS@blm.gov
Website: www.blm.gov/wy/en/info/NEPA/documents/ifo/moneta-divide.html

Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project EIS

BLM Lander Field Office
Chris Krassin, Project Manager
1335 Main St.
Lander, Wyoming 82520

Scoping Flyer



Public Scoping Meetings

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lander Field Office, Casper Field Office, and Rawlins Field Office are in the process of preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project (Moneta Divide Project), which may include a land use plan amendment to the Casper Resource Management Plan. The BLM is seeking public input on issues and alternatives that should be addressed in the EIS. Scoping meetings provide an opportunity for the public to learn about and comment on the project.

Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. and Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP propose to develop approximately 4,250 natural gas and oil wells in the Moneta Divide Project area located in Fremont and Natrona counties. The project area encompasses approximately 265,000 acres of land, of which 169,500 acres are public lands administered by the BLM. The southern portion of a proposed product pipeline associated with the project is located on public lands in Sweetwater County. The balance of the development project area consists of state and private lands.



You are invited to attend the public scoping meetings at the following locations:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Tuesday February 12, 2013 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.</p> | <p>Natrona County Public Library Crawford Meeting Room 307 East 2nd Street, Casper, Wyoming 82601</p> |
| <p>Wednesday February 13, 2013 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.</p> | <p>Best Western Wind River Conference Room 260 Grand View Drive, Lander, Wyoming 82520</p> |
| <p>Thursday February 14, 2013 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.</p> | <p>Holiday Inn Taggarts Conference Room 900 East Sunset Drive, Riverton, Wyoming 82501</p> |

Moneta Divide Project Area



Each meeting will have an open house format. Comments received at the public meetings and during the public scoping period, January 17, 2013 to March 4, 2013, will help the BLM prepare a well-informed EIS.

For more information, to request handicap assistance or translation services at the meetings, or to submit comments, please contact the project manager, Chris Krassin:

Email: BLM_WY_LD_Moneta_Divide_EIS@blm.gov
 Phone: 307-332-8400
 Website: www.blm.gov/wy/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/moneta-divide.html

Project Initiation News Release

BLM to Initiate EIS for the Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project and ... Page 1 of 1



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT NEWS RELEASE
Lander Field Office

Release Date: 01/17/13
Contacts: Sarah Beckwith
307-347-5207

BLM to Initiate EIS for the Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project and Possible Amendment to the Casper RMP

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lander Field Office is seeking input on a proposed natural gas development project in Fremont, Natrona and Sweetwater counties. A notice of intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) was published in the *Federal Register* on Jan. 17, 2013, opening a public scoping period. In addition, BLM authorization of this proposed project may require an amendment to the 2007 Casper Resource Management Plan; therefore, the NOI also serves to initiate the public scoping period for this possible plan amendment.

Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. and Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP propose to develop approximately 4,250 natural gas and oil wells in the Moneta Divide Project area located in Fremont and Natrona counties. The project area encompasses approximately 265,000 acres of land, of which 169,500 acres are public lands administered by the BLM. The southern portion of a proposed product pipeline associated with the project is located on public lands in Sweetwater County. The balance of the development project area consists of state and private lands.

The BLM will prepare an EIS to analyze the proposed project and possible land use plan amendment. Project information and documents will be posted on the website at: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/1fo/moneta-divide.html.

To provide the public with an opportunity to review the proposal and project information, the BLM will host public meetings in Casper, Lander and Riverton. BLM resource specialists will be available to provide information, answer questions and receive public comments. Comment forms will be available.

| Date and Time | Location |
|--|--|
| Tuesday, February 12, 2013 5-7 p.m. | Casper: Natrona County Public Library Crawford Meeting Room 307 East 2nd Street |
| Wednesday, February 13, 2013 5-7 p.m. | Lander: Best Western Wind River Conference Room 260 Grand View Drive |
| Thursday, February 14, 2013 5-7 p.m. | Riverton: Holiday Inn Taggarts Conference Room 900 East Sunset Drive |

Public input is valuable early in the process and will enable the BLM to develop a well-informed EIS. Comments should be received by March 4, 2013. Written comments may be emailed to BLM_WY_LD_Moneta_Divide_EIS@blm.gov or mailed to Bureau of Land Management, Lander Field Office, Attn: Chris Krassin, Project Manager, 1335 Main St., Lander, WY 82520.

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 can 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.

For more information, please contact BLM Project Manager Chris Krassin at 307-332-8400.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production; and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

—BLM—

Last updated: 01-18-2013

Lander Field Office 1335 Main Street Lander, WY 82520

[USA.GOV](http://www.blm.gov) | [No Fear Act](#) | [DOI](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [About BLM](#) | [Notices](#) | [Social Media Policy](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [FOIA](#) | [Risk Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Home](#)

http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/news_room/2013/january/17fo-moneta.html

3/19/2013

***Moneta Divide
Natural Gas and Oil Development Project
Scoping Report***

Appendix B

Cooperating Agency Invitations

APPENDIX B
COOPERATING AGENCY INVITATIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cooperating Agency Invitations.....B-1

COOPERATING AGENCY INVITATIONS

Cooperating Agency invitation letters were mailed to the following local, state, and federal agencies and Tribal governments:

Local, State, and Federal Agencies

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Carbon County Commission
- Environmental Protection Agency Region 8
- Fremont County Commissioners
- Lower Wind River Conservation District
- National Park Service
- Natrona County Commissioners
- Natrona County Conservation District
- Office of State Lands and Investments
- Office of the Governor
- Popo Agie Conservation District
- Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins Conservation District
- Sweetwater County Commissioners
- Sweetwater County Conservation District
- United States Fish & Wildlife Service
- United States Geological Survey
- United States Representative Cynthia Lummis's Office
- United States Senator John Barrasso's Office
- United States Senator Michael Enzi's Office
- Wyoming Business Council
- Wyoming Department of Agriculture
- Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
- Wyoming Department of Transportation
- Wyoming Game & Fish Department
- Wyoming Livestock Board
- Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
- Wyoming State Engineer's Office
- Wyoming State Geological Survey
- Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office
- Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources
- Wyoming State Planning Office
- Wyoming Trails Program

Tribal Governments

- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council
- Crow Tribal Council
- Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation
- Northern Arapaho Tribe
- Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
- The Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation
- Oglala Sioux Tribal Council
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- Shoshone Bannock Tribes
- Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
- Three Affiliated Tribes Business Council
- Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
- Yankton Sioux Tribe Business and Claims Committee
- Ft. Peck Assiniboiné and Sioux Tribes
- Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
- Crow Creek Sioux Tribe
- Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate

***Moneta Divide
Natural Gas and Oil Development Project
Scoping Report***

Appendix C

Scoping Meeting Materials

APPENDIX C
SCOPING MEETING MATERIALS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Scoping Display BoardsC-1

Scoping BrochureC-4

Map – Project AreaC-5

Map – Surface and Mineral OwnershipC-6

Map – Wildlife, Greater Sage-Grouse and Raptors.....C-7

Map – Wildlife, Big Game, Prairie Dogs and Mountain PloverC-8

Map – Special Status Plants and WetlandsC-9

Map – Major Land Resource AreasC-10

Map – Grazing AllotmentsC-11

Map – Air ResourcesC-12

Map – PaleontologyC-13

Map – Cultural, Historic Trails.....C-14

Scoping Meeting Registration CardC-15

Scoping Meeting Comment FormC-16

Scoping Display Boards

Moneta Divide

Natural Gas and Oil Development Project Environmental Impact Statement

National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that considers the following factors when a proposed project could result in significant effects:

- Input from public, agency, tribal, and other affected parties
- A reasonable range of alternatives
- Environmental consequences
- Social, economic, and human health consequences
- Mitigation to reduce adverse impacts and monitoring to evaluate mitigation effectiveness




Moneta Divide

Natural Gas and Oil Development Project Environmental Impact Statement

What is Scoping?

Scoping provides members of the public, agencies, and other affected parties an opportunity to:

- Learn more about the project
- Provide comments on the project
- Identify issues to be analyzed in the EIS

You are encouraged to provide comments at this meeting or mail your comments prior to the close of the public comment period (March 4, 2013). Your comments will become part of the official public record and will be considered in the development of the EIS.



Moneta Divide

Natural Gas and Oil Development Project Environmental Impact Statement

PROJECT TIMELINE

- Notice of Intent Published in Federal Register
January 17, 2013
- Public Scoping Meetings
February 12-14, 2013
- Preparation of Draft EIS
2013 – 2014
- Notice of Availability of Draft EIS
2014
- 45-Day Public Comment Period*
2014
- Preparation of Final EIS
2014 – 2015
- Notice of Availability of Final EIS
2015
- 30-Day Review Period†
2015
- Record of Decision
2016

* 90-day public comment period if a RMP amendment is required.
† 30-day project period and 60-day Governor's consistency review if a RMP amendment is required.



Casper Resource Management Plan Amendment

- This project may require an amendment to the 2007 Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP)
- Certain management actions and stipulations in the Casper RMP that would affect oil and gas development do not match the Lander RMP (1987)
- To maintain a consistent management approach within the project area, a plan amendment may be required
- The amendment process would occur simultaneously with preparation of the Moneta Divide EIS

Making Effective Comments

- State specific concerns instead of making broad statements
- Focus your comments on specific issues and provide supporting details
- Identify important environmental and community concerns

Moneta Divide

Natural Gas and Oil Development Project Environmental Impact Statement

Project Description

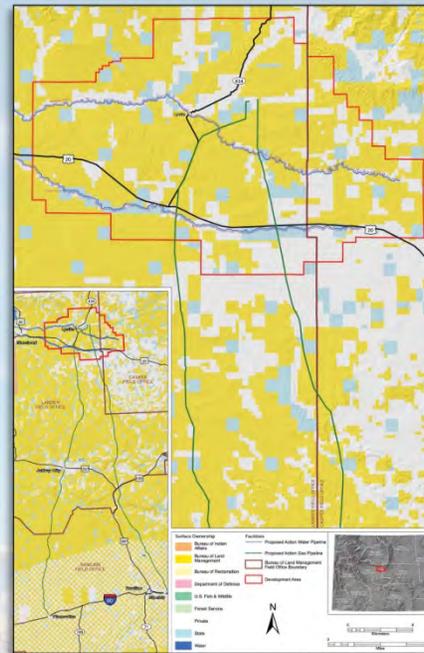


Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. and Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP (the Companies) propose to develop natural gas and oil wells in the Moneta Divide area on federal, state, and private lands in Fremont and Natrona counties, Wyoming.

- Natural gas and oil development project
- Project area includes 265,000 acres of land, of which 169,500 acres are public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Project area and proposed pipelines intersect three BLM field offices; the Lander Field Office will lead preparation of the environmental impact statement
- The project may require a land use plan amendment for the Casper Field Office
- The towns of Lysite and Lost Cabin, Wyoming are located within the project area
- Drill 4,250 new natural gas and oil wells
- Constructed over a 10 to 15-year period at the rate of approximately 280-300 wells per year
- Average life of 40 years per well
- Estimated initial surface disturbance of 13,500 acres (5 percent of the project area)



Project Area Map



Project Description

The project proposed by the Companies includes the following components:

- Directional, vertical, and other drilling techniques
- Water wells, water treatment, water injection and evaporation facilities
- Electric power lines, access roads, gas flow lines, and pipelines
- Gas gathering system
- Gas processing facilities to separate natural gas liquids from the natural gas stream
- Gas compression and treatment facilities



- New pipeline to transport and deliver natural gas to market
- New pipeline to deliver treated water to Boysen Reservoir
- Reclamation would commence at well location after production equipment is installed

Moneta Divide



Moneta Divide



Moneta Divide



Natural Gas and Oil Development Project Environmental Impact Statement

Air Quality



- Expansion of natural gas and oil development may impact local and regional air quality
- Project-specific emissions inventory will be developed, including greenhouse gases
- The environmental impact statement will quantify, through modeling, potential impacts to air quality
- The project will evaluate potential air emissions reduction strategies and mitigation measures

Water

- Impacts to ground water and surface water will be analyzed including hydrology and sedimentation, water quality and use, reservoir management, and water treatment
- Methods proposed for disposal of produced water include underground injection and surface discharge of treated water into Boysen Reservoir
- Water resources considered for analysis:
 - SHALLOW AQUIFERS** Wind River and Indian Meadows Formations
 - OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION** Shotgun, Waltman, Lower Fort Union, Lance, Cody, Mesaverde, Frontier, and Madison Formations
 - INJECTION ZONES** Fort Union, Lance, Tensleep, Nugget, and Madison Formations
 - SURFACE WATERS** Badwater Creek drainage, Poison Creek drainage, and Boysen Reservoir



Biological Resources



- Wildlife associated with sagebrush and sagebrush steppe habitats, as well as low-elevation woodlands, buttes, rock outcrops, and large draws
- Big game crucial winter-year-long range has been identified in the project area
- Sensitive plant, bird, and mammal species including Endangered Species Act listed and candidate species
- Raptor species include Prairie Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, and Golden Eagle
- Project area overlaps Greater Sage-Grouse core population area and encompasses several occupied leks




Surface Disturbance

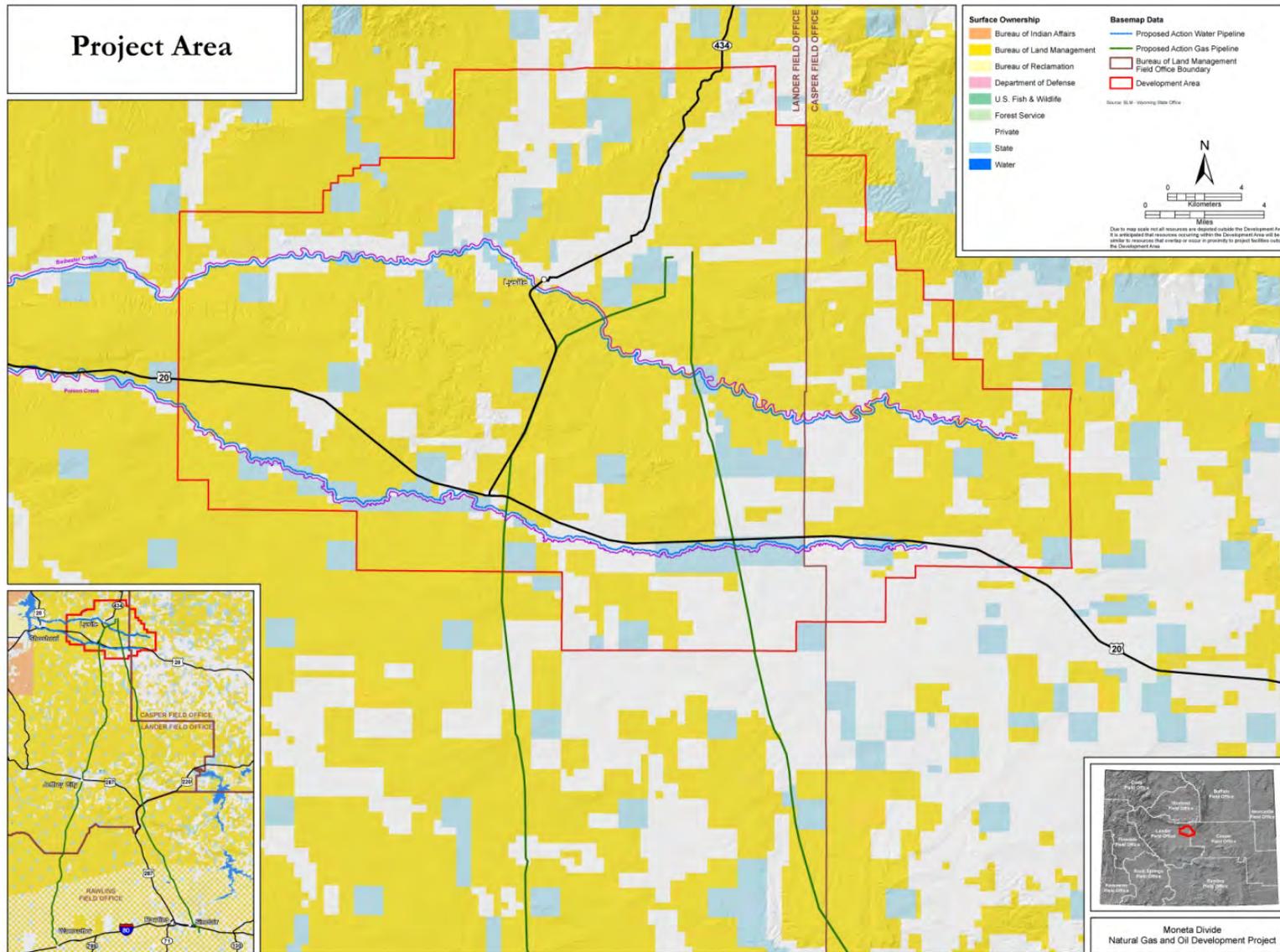
- Existing disturbance includes approximately 820 oil and gas wells and associated infrastructure
- Approximately 13,500 acres of new initial short-term surface disturbance (5 percent of project area)
- Approximately 5,500 acres of new long-term surface disturbance after reclamation (2 percent of project area)

Cultural Resources

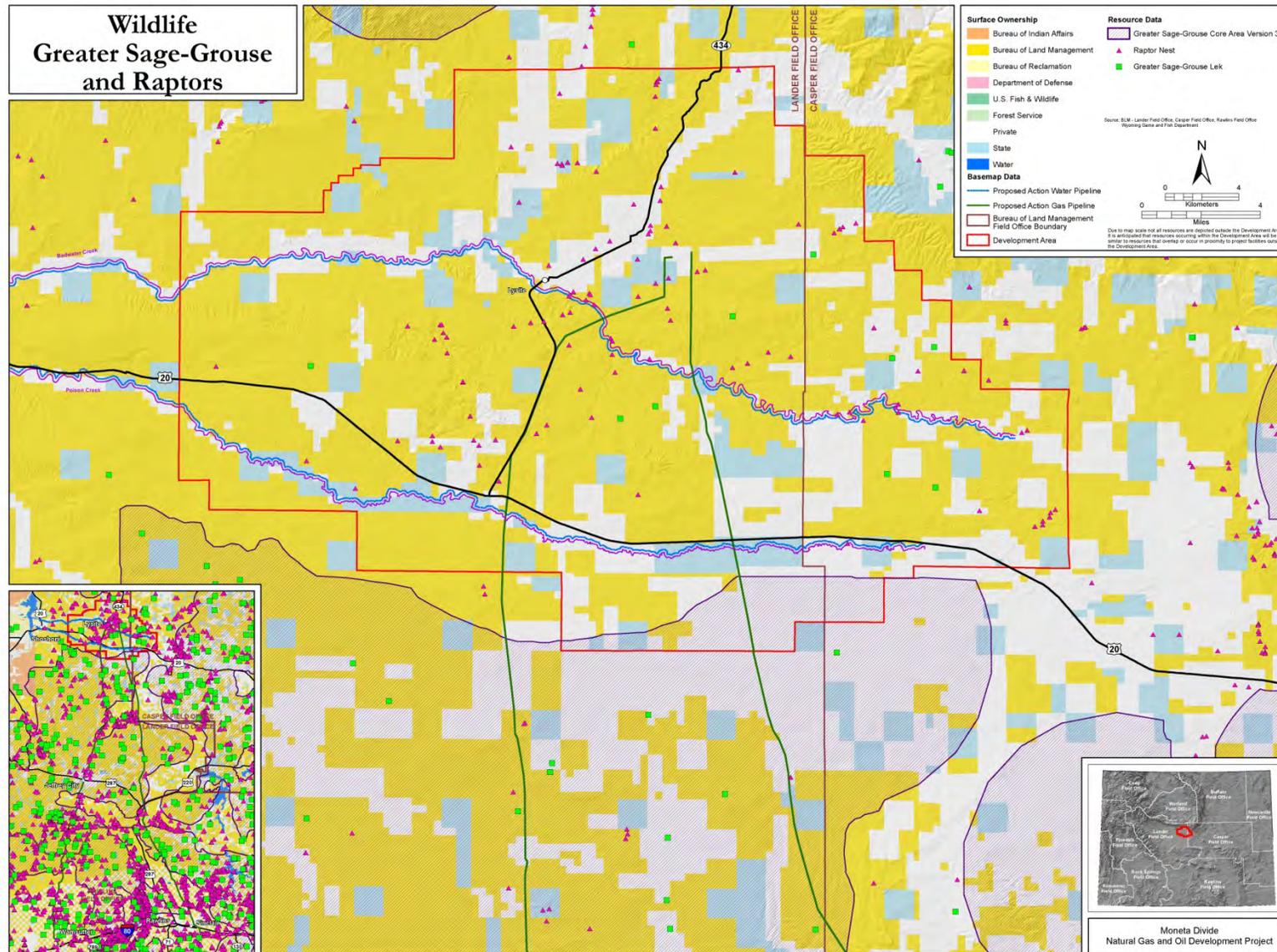



- The Cedar Ridge Site is a large, complex prehistoric site identified as a traditional cultural property within the project area
- Several National Historic Trails and Regional Trails pass through the project area or cross proposed pipeline routes including Bridger Trail, Casper to Lander Road, National Park to Park Highway, and Oregon-Mormon-California Trail

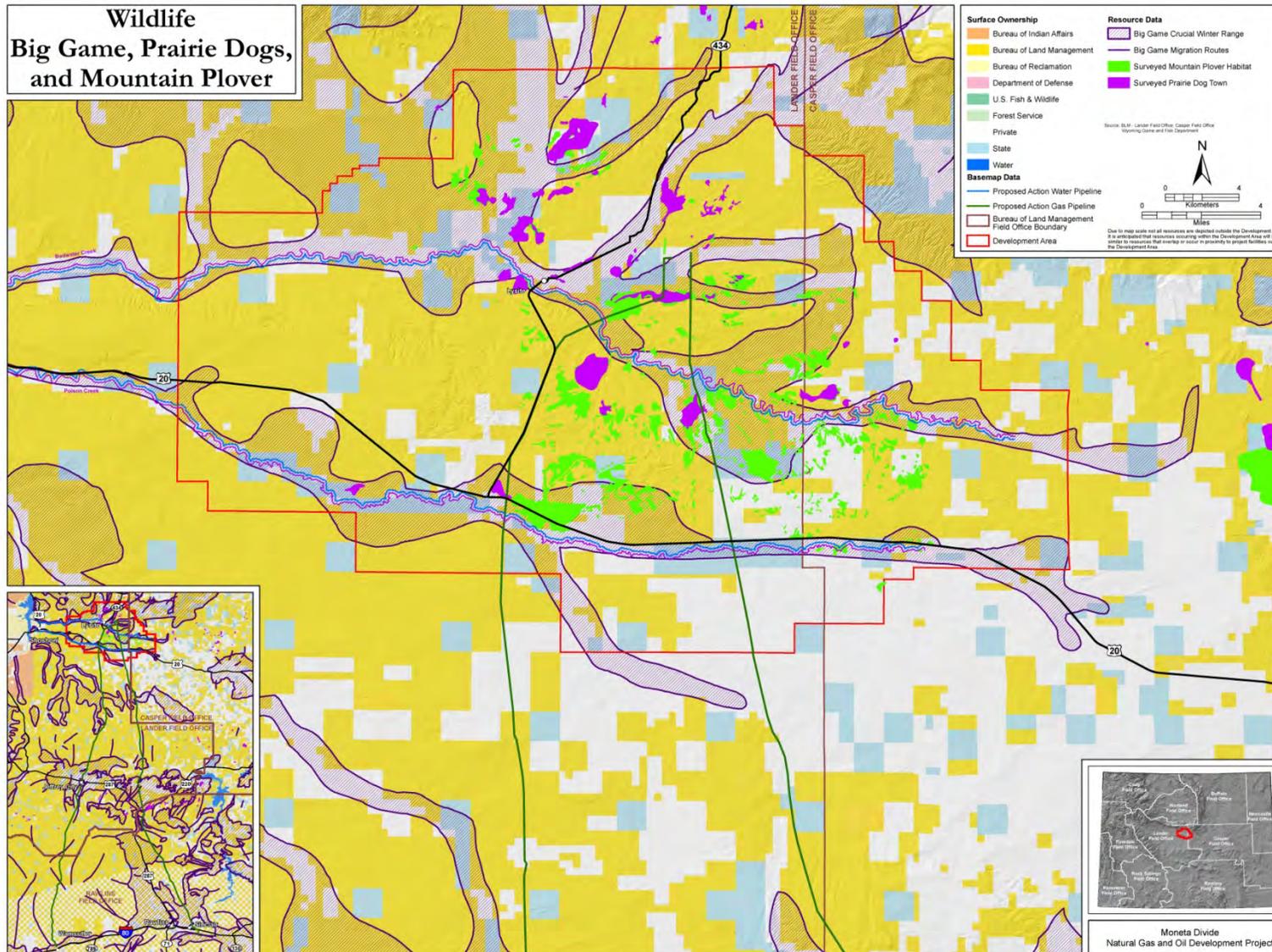
Map – Project Area



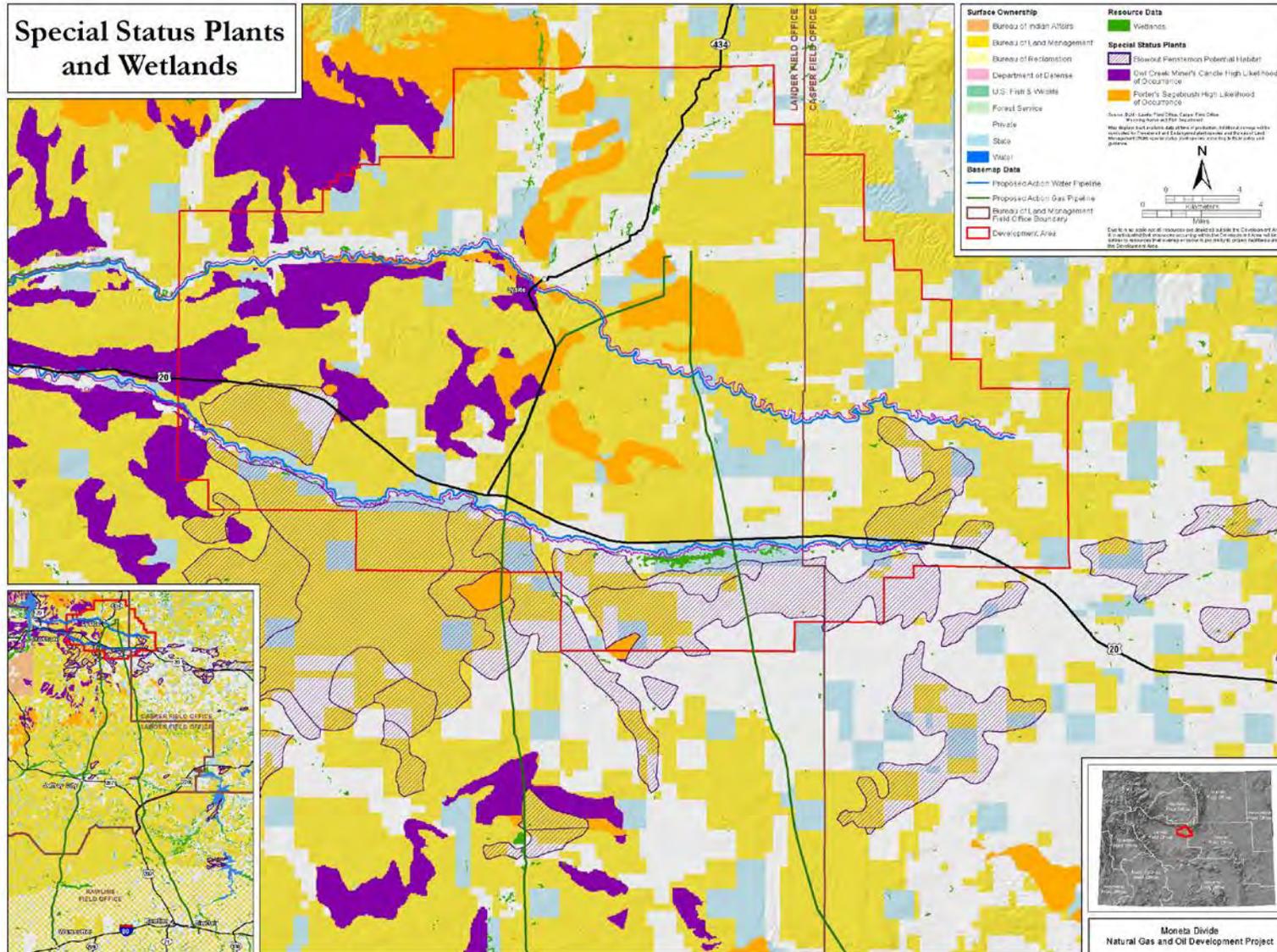
Map – Wildlife, Greater Sage-Grouse and Raptors



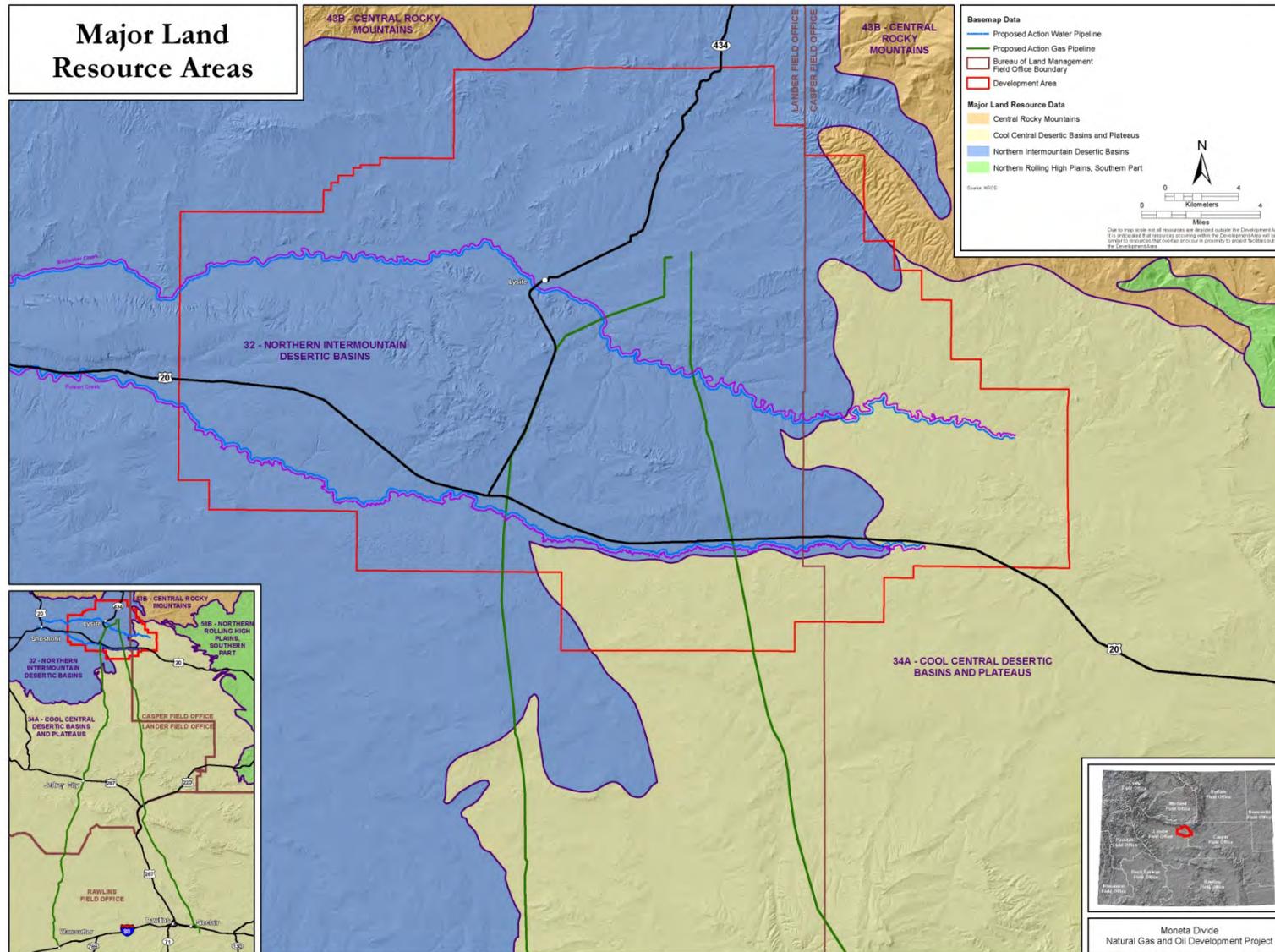
Map – Wildlife, Big Game, Prairie Dogs and Mountain Plover



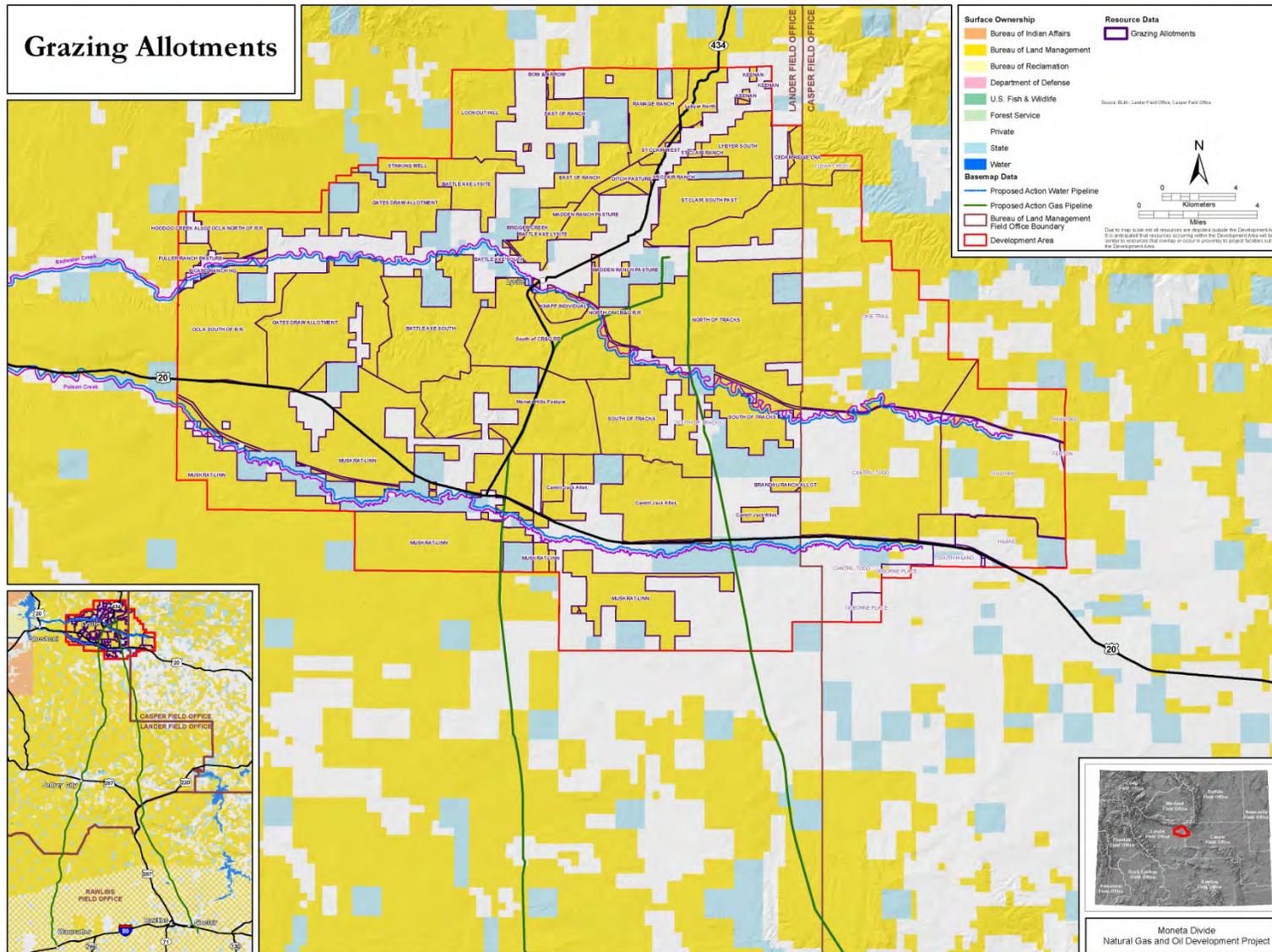
Map – Special Status Plants and Wetlands



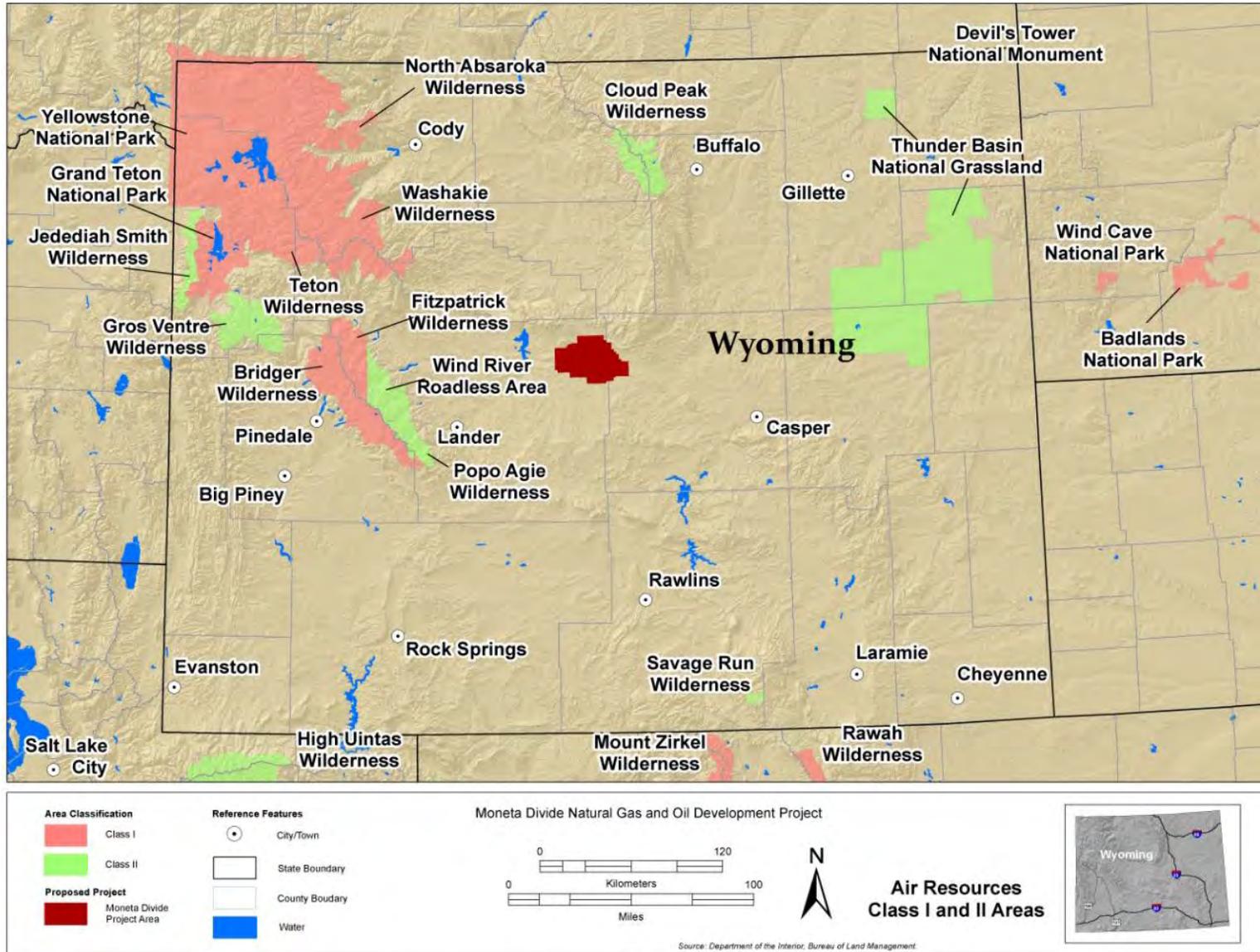
Map – Major Land Resource Areas



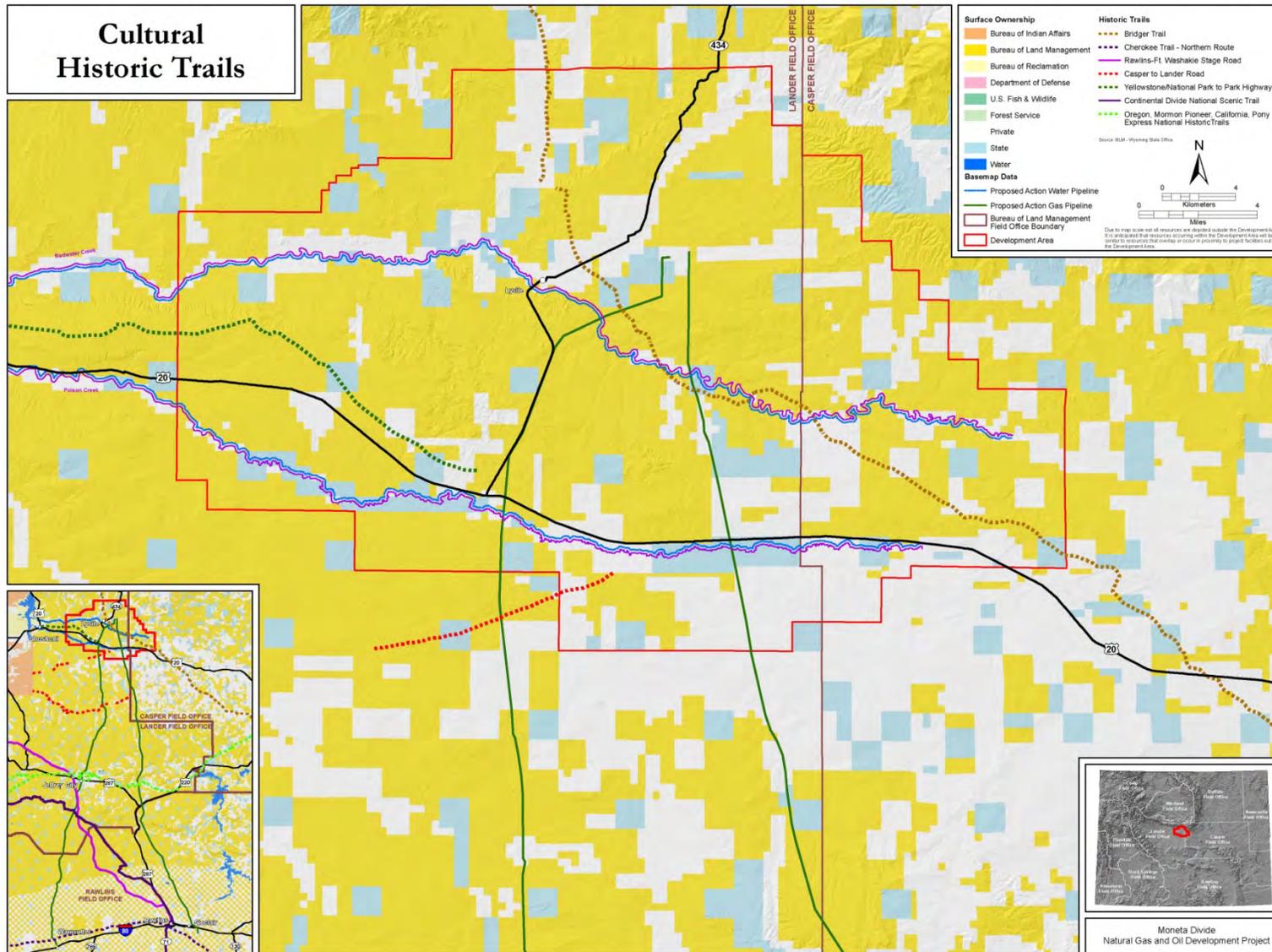
Map – Grazing Allotments



Map – Air Resources



Map – Cultural, Historic Trails



Scoping Meeting Registration Card

Moneta Divide



Natural Gas and Oil Development Project Environmental Impact Statement

Registration Card

Meeting Location _____ Meeting Date _____

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

Organization (if applicable) _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Please add my name, address, and email to the mailing list so that I can receive information on the Moneta Divide Natural Gas and Oil Development Project EIS.

I wish to receive a copy of the Draft EIS (check one): notice of downloadable web copy printed copy

***Moneta Divide
Natural Gas and Oil Development Project
Scoping Report***

Appendix D

Scoping Comments

APPENDIX D
SCOPING COMMENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Commenters Listed by Document Number D-1
Scoping Comments by Comment Category D-5
Air Quality..... D-5
Cultural Resources..... D-10
Cumulative Impacts..... D-13
Health and Safety D-14
Invasive Species..... D-14
Lands and Realty..... D-15
Livestock Grazing..... D-15
Mitigation D-15
NEPA Process..... D-16
Oil and Gas Operations..... D-21
Policies, Regulations, and Permitting D-22
Reclamation..... D-24
Recreation D-25
Social and Economic..... D-25
Soils..... D-29
Special Management Areas..... D-30
Special Status Species..... D-30
Stakeholder Involvement D-32
Surface Disturbance D-33
Traffic and Transportation..... D-33
Vegetation D-34
Water..... D-34
Wildlife and Fish D-39

LIST OF TABLES

Table D-1. Commenters Listed by Document Number D-1
Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category D-5

Commenters Listed by Document Number

Table D-1 includes all comment documents received by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) during the scoping period and indicates the assigned document number.

Table D-1. Commenters Listed by Document Number

| Document Number | Last Name | First Name | Agency or Organization Name |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|--|
| 1001 | Wiginton | Laramie | |
| 1002 | Kintzler | Brandon | |
| 1003 | Meyer | Darrell | |
| 1004 | Angel | Terry | Wrangler Well Service Inc. |
| 1005 | Donelson | Heidi | |
| 1006 | Allred | Michael | |
| 1007 | Goros | Jim | |
| 1008 | Bietel | Robert | Well Head Covers Plus LLC |
| 1009 | Alley | Michael | |
| 1010 | Arima | Dan | Meldan Environmental Services |
| 1011 | Harris | Deb | Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality |
| 1012 | Arnold | Todd | |
| 1013 | Greff | Michael | |
| 1014 | Davis | DJ | |
| 1015 | Conrad | Darlene | Northern Arapaho Tribal Historic Preservation Office |
| 1016 | Linn | Lindy | |
| 1017 | Linn | Thomas | |
| 1018 | Ladeu | Juan | |
| 1019 | Huff | Ronald | Wyoming Department of Transportation |
| 1020 | Keller | Matthew | |
| 1021 | McWain | Phil | |
| 1022 | Vogel | Kristin | |
| 1023 | Garrison | Ben | Western Archaeological Services |
| 1024 | Connely | Dorian | Natrona County Weed & Pest |
| 1025 | Pavack | Don | Natrona County Farm and Ranch Bureau |
| 1026 | Smith | Craig | |
| 1027 | Corder | Joey | Varel International |
| 1028 | Johnson | Lucas | |

Table D-1. Commenters Listed by Document Number

| Document Number | Last Name | First Name | Agency or Organization Name |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|--|
| 1029 | Leotta | Sandy | |
| 1030 | Dunne | Steve | |
| 1031 | Landham | Charles | TRACKS Across Wyoming |
| 1032 | Wilson | Charlie | |
| 1033 | Hendry | Rob and Lisa | Clear Creek Cattle Co. |
| 1034 | Hendry | Rob | Clear Creek Cattle Co. |
| 1035 | Poggis | Michael | |
| 1036 | Eckley | Troy | |
| 1037 | Christensen | Jeremy | |
| 1038 | House | Trent | |
| 1039 | Walters | Andrea | |
| 1040 | Phillips | Kyle | |
| 1041 | Haleside | Mark | |
| 1042 | Johnson | Thomas | Apex Surveying, Inc. |
| 1043 | Larsen | John | Triple L, Inc. |
| 1044 | Johnson | Bob | Homax Oil Sales |
| 1045 | Hunter | Katie | |
| 1046 | Nipper | Casey | |
| 1047 | Fretheim | Kevin | |
| 1048 | Brandmeier | Erin | |
| 1049 | Schmidt | John | |
| 1050 | Soderstrom | Sody | |
| 1051 | Williams | Mark | Wyoming Department of Transportation |
| 1052 | Greff | Michael | |
| 1053 | Van Riper | Bob | |
| 1054 | MacKinnon | Anne | |
| 1055 | Ulrich | Paul | Encana Oil & Gas (USA) |
| 1056 | Noecker | Josh | |
| 1057 | Jones | Steve | Jones and Maxon Law Office |
| 1058 | | | Natrona County Board of Commissioners |
| 1059 | Rolston | Bob | Wyoming County Commissioners Association |

Table D-1. Commenters Listed by Document Number

| Document Number | Last Name | First Name | Agency or Organization Name |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|---|
| 1060 | Wischmann | Leslie | Alliance for Historic Wyoming |
| 1061 | Wessels | John | National Park Service Intermountain Region |
| 1062 | Rea | Tom | Oregon-California Trails Association |
| 1063 | Emmerich | John | Wyoming Game and Fish Department |
| 1064 | Molvar | Erik | Biodiversity Conservation Alliance |
| 1065 | Pizzo | Sarah | National Wildlife Federation |
| 1066 | Wells | Kim | |
| 1067 | Crane | Eva | |
| 1068 | McClelland | Kristen | |
| 1069 | Taylor | Justin | |
| 1070 | McClelland | Trevor | |
| 1071 | McDonald | Jazmyn | |
| 1072 | Juve | Jim | |
| 1073 | Gomez | Andrea | |
| 1074 | Warpness | Ron | City of Riverton, Mayor's Office |
| 1075 | Horton | Leena | |
| 1076 | Nielson | Barbara | Nielson Oil Co. |
| 1077 | Majelky | Thomas | Cross Roads Water Tanks |
| 1078 | de Cognets II | Russell | Encana Oil & Gas (USA) |
| 1079 | Shellard | Bob | Natrona County Conservation District |
| 1080 | | | Wyoming Outdoor Council |
| 1081 | Dent | Homer | |
| 1082 | Hughes | Bruce | |
| 1083 | Wagner | John | Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality |
| 1084 | Bebout | Eli | State of Wyoming Legislature |
| 1085 | | | CREDO Action |
| 1086 | Dolcater | Rob | |
| 1087 | Arima | Kathy | |
| 1088 | Arima | Perry | |
| 1089 | Brost | Dustin | |
| 1090 | Johnson | Bob | Homax Oil Sales, Inc. |

Table D-1. Commenters Listed by Document Number

| Document Number | Last Name | First Name | Agency or Organization Name |
|-----------------|--------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1091 | Horton | Gary | |
| 1092 | Edwards | Kathleen | |
| 1093 | Fearneyhough | Jason | Wyoming Department of Agriculture |
| 1094 | Place | Casy | |
| 1095 | Boche | Morey | |
| 1096 | VanRiper | Donald | |
| 1097 | Dolcater | Megan | |
| 1098 | Pitt | Jeremy | |
| 1099 | Clarke | Hope | |
| 1100 | Uedy | Lucy | |
| 1101 | Souice | Stephanie | |
| 1102 | Edwards | Kathleen | |
| 1103 | McKinney | Kyle | |
| 1104 | Laird | Patricia | |
| 1105 | Albeke | Shannon | |
| 1106 | | | Wyoming Outdoor Council |

Scoping Comments by Comment Category

Table D-2 includes the comment document number and each comment made during scoping, reproduced as they were received by the BLM and organized by comment category. Except for handwritten comment letters which were hand typed, all comment excerpts in this appendix were copied “as is” from scanned/electronic comment documents using electronic text recognition software. Errors in character recognition may have resulted in minor inaccuracies in the rendered text displayed in Table D-2. To identify the name of the person and/or organization who submitted a comment, locate the corresponding document number in Table D-1.

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|---|
| Air Quality | |
| 1022 | I am also concerned about air quality. Natural gas drilling has severely negatively impacted to air quality in the Pinedale area, and I believe that will happen with this drilling project as well as others. |
| 1048 | The oil and gas industry has contributed to poor air quality in Wyoming. |
| 1057 | Things that we believe are important to consider with regard to this project include the following: Impacts to air quality. Alternatives for the project should include careful evaluation and quantification of various fugitive methane emissions that occur as a result of venting (planned and unplanned) and leaks from various facilities involved in the production of methane within the project area, as well as pipelines. As you know, methane is a potent greenhouse gas (33 times more potent than CO2), and fugitive emissions are a significant concern in terms of their overall impact upon climate change. Alternatives that limit venting and flaring should also be included in your EIS. The potential for ozone formation is also significant with respect to this project. The experience of Pinedale, which will probably be a non-attainment area for air quality in the near future due to oil and gas development, should teach us that strong protections against emissions of VOCs and NOX need to be mandated if this project is to go forward. |
| 1058 | The environmental concerns associated with air quality in Wyoming are of high importance. Any increases to total emissions volumes from the Moneta Divide Project will possibly contribute to the deterioration of air quality. Thus, every reasonable effort should be made to reduce emissions from this proposed project, and all feasible emission reduction methods should be considered during mitigation development. For this to be accomplished, the existing air quality of the area must be accurately and fully characterized in the Affected Environment chapter of the EIS. |
| 1061 | A number of analyses have shown that current oil and gas drilling and production is degrading air quality in this region with associated impacts on National Park Service lands. The addition of more wells will increase air pollutants regionally. We have particular concern for potential impacts from ozone and nitrogen deposition. The NPS requests that a quantitative analysis of air quality impacts including modeling be undertaken for the Casper Resource Management Plan (RMP) and the amendment for the Moneta Divide project to understand the incremental and cumulative impacts of potential new oil and gas development. This work is necessary to identify appropriate mitigation. The RMP should include associated stipulations that will be incorporated into to all subsequent leases to better protect air resources in NPS units. |
| 1064 | It is clear that the cumulative level of air quality impact from drilling and production operations in the Upper Green is presently leading to levels of air pollution, particularly for ozone, that are illegal under the Clean Air Act; we could see new air quality problems cropping up near Moneta if appropriate safeguards are not required. |
| 1064 | We are concerned that the current Labarge Field may be a large source of methane leaks, volatile organics compounds (VOCs), and other pollutants due to the advanced age (and potentially poor repair) of oil and gas infrastructure there. Ozone precursors wafting off the condensate tanks fo the Jonah and pinedale Anticline Fields also pose problems. Mitigation measures for direct and cumulative impacts to air quality should include a complete evaluation of pollutant leaks in the existing fields and fixing present sources of pollutants so that overall airborne pollution is minimized. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1064 | The greenhouse gas emissions from this project, both direct and cumulative, need to be analyzed fully and mitigation measures will be needed to minimize these emissions. Such mitigation measures should include at minimum piping of condensate in order to minimize VOC emissions at condensate tanks. |
| 1065 | We also ask that BLM carefully consider the impact of this project on ozone concentrations and the applicable National Ambient Air Quality Standards, as similar projects have created dangerously high ozone levels. BLM must also conduct an adequate cumulative air quality impacts analysis. |
| 1065 | Whatever noise does occur due to oil and gas development should be minimized by requiring the maximum use of the best available mufflers. Under the Clean Air Act, BLM must consult with the EPA to determine possible means of abating noise that constitutes a public nuisance or is even simply —objectionable. 42 U.S.C. § 7641(c). Drilling rigs and compressors certainly meet this standard, and thus consultation with the EPA is required. |
| 1080 | To help meet these modeling needs we submit herewith as Exhibits 5 and 6 expert comments regarding the air quality analysis that was presented in the BLM's Continental Divide-Creston Project EIS. We ask the BLM to carefully consider these comments as it develops the air quality analysis for the Moneta Divide Project. In all likelihood the air quality analysis for the Continental Divide-Creston Project will serve as a model or baseline input into the Moneta Divide air quality analysis, so we believe these comments are highly relevant to this EIS. |
| 1080 | the agency must accurately forecast emissions associated with leaks, venting and flaring of natural gas, and operational truck traffic, and evaluate effective mitigation and reductions measures as a part of this EIS. The NEPA analysis should consider and install as required lease stipulations, COAs, or BMPs measures that will mitigate emissions from oil and gas development. |
| 1080 | The importance of protecting the air quality for those people who live in the region, most importantly for sensitive populations, including children, the elderly and those with respiratory conditions is great. Exposure to ozone is a serious concern as it can cause or exacerbate respiratory health problems, including shortness of breath, asthma, chest pain and coughing, decreased lung function and even long-term lung damage. ⁵ |
| 1080 | So, even ozone concentrations at levels as low as 60 ppb can be considered harmful to human health and the BLM should consider this when evaluating the air impacts in the DEIS, including by considering, in detail, an alternative in the DEIS pursuant to NEPA that would constrain impacts to within the 60-70ppb range recognized by the CASAC, regardless of what EPA eventually chooses to do in 2013, as the BLM has a duty-independent of the CAA- to protect public health and the environment. |
| 1080 | BLM must demonstrate as part of this DEIS that these significant NOx and VOC emissions increases will not threaten the impacted area's compliance with the ozone NAAQS-including a reduced level in the 60-70 ppb range that is likely under the upcoming NAAQS revision this year-or interfere with the adjacent nonattainment area's plans for attaining and maintaining the ozone standard. |
| 1080 | BLM must ensure that the proposed project will not interfere with the Wyoming State Implementation Plan (SIP) to attain the ozone NAAQS. Specifically, BLM should consider the impact from the proposed development on any general conformity requirements imposed in the nonattainment area. General conformity requirements apply to federal actions that are not covered by transportation conformity requirements and could include further analysis and action based on predicted ozone impacts to the nonattainment area. The purpose of the General Conformity Rule is to ensure that federal activities do not cause or contribute to new violations of the NAAQS or worsen existing violations and also to ensure that attainment of the NAAQS is not delayed. BLM has an obligation in this DE IS to determine whether the project impacts will conform to the SIP, including general conformity requirements. |
| 1080 | EPA's recommended approach calls for an absolute minimum of 5 days at or above the minimum allowable threshold (in this case, 60 ppb) per site when establishing relative response factors for use in the modeling. ²² Relative response factors that are based on fewer than 5 days of modeled results above 60 ppb would not be acceptable for use in predicting ozone concentrations according to EPA guidance. ²³ |
| 1080 | With respect to the model performance in the unmonitored areas, the reliability of the predictions is also severely limited, in this case, by the scarcity of monitors on which to base the interpolations. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1080 | Note, since minimum setbacks in Wyoming are 350 feet (106 meters), the 100-meter distance - not 250-meter distance - is the most relevant distance for consideration of health impacts from air pollution. |
| 1080 | EPA recently finalized a strengthened PM25 annual standard of 12 µg/m3. BLM must update the DEIS to reflect this new standard, which was effective immediately, and must also consider the new, lower, standard in its impact analyses. |
| 1080 | BLM should consider that significant impacts can occur at 24-hour PM2.5 concentrations as low as 30 µg/m3. |
| 1080 | With maximum monitored 24-hour average PM2.5 concentrations occurring primarily in winter in Rock Springs and Lander, it is important for the BLM to closely monitor wintertime PM2.5 concentrations in the project area. BLM should establish monitoring requirements for the project area to help manage PM25 impacts. |
| 1080 | BLM must determine and then use a more locally-specific adjustment for calculating the MLE scenario. Finally, combined cancer risks for the maximally exposed individual (MEI) for almost all of the modeled scenarios exceed a 1 in 1 million risk factor, with some scenarios modeled as presenting risks in excess of 20 in 1 million. |
| 1080 | BLM, therefore, cannot allow for any increase in emissions that would contribute to changes in visibility- even if the changes, when considered in isolation, are insignificant- at any location where significant cumulative impacts are predicted. |
| 1080 | This DEIS must fully consider these existing visibility concerns along with the impacts of the increases in air pollutants that contribute to visibility impairment (e.g., sulfates, nitrates, dust, etc.) that will come from the proposed development in the CD-C Project Area. |
| 1080 | BLM must complete an analysis to determine how much of the incremental amount of air pollution allowed in clean air areas (i.e., PSD increment) has already been consumed in the affected area and how much additional increment consumption will occur due to the proposed development. Without this analysis, the BLM is not adequately ensuring that air quality will not deteriorate more than allowed under the CAA |
| 1080 | BLM must assess and disclose the maximum project impacts on Class II increments throughout the project impact area, wherever they occur. Presenting increment consumption just for sensitive Class II areas is highly misleading. |
| 1080 | Overall, the modeling presented in the DEIS does not reflect a conservative assessment of ozone impacts to the region from the proposed action. Therefore, ozone impacts may be even greater than what is presented in the DEIS. |
| 1080 | But probably most significant, the DEIS does not account for wintertime ozone formation. The absence of a wintertime ozone analysis is a major limitation of the DEIS. |
| 1080 | Surely, if modeled wintertime ozone concentrations are shown to be a problem and the performance evaluation for the modeling indicates that modeled results likely underestimate impacts in winter then the BLM has an obligation under NEPA to reduce emissions from the proposed development that contribute to those modeled adverse impacts. At a minimum, the BLM must be able to ensure there will be no significant impacts to wintertime ozone levels based on the modeling, as evaluated (with an underestimation bias), in the DEIS. |
| 1080 | BLM therefore must offer a more convincing argument for why use of the CAMx model, while clearly not yet ideal for predicting wintertime ozone concentrations, is more likely to be considered as pure conjecture rather than as the best available tool based on credible science. |
| 1080 | The parties involved in the air quality studies in the Uinta Basin are in the process of developing a conceptual model of how winter ozone is formed and recognize the need for a validated photochemical modeling analysis of the basin for simulating winter ozone formation in order to fully understand and quantify the effectiveness of mitigation strategies. BLM should monitor the findings of these studies and apply what is learned in Utah to Wyoming, where appropriate. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1080 | In addition to these issues with the model performance, ozone impacts may be underestimated due to underestimated emissions inputs. Based on findings from a recent study of VOC emissions from oil and gas sources in the Colorado Front Range, emission inventories may under-predict fugitive emissions from oil and gas sources. |
| 1080 | BLM must correct this flawed methodology for the final EIS and determine the short-term NO ₂ impacts from drilling operations by including drilling emissions in each of the three years of meteorological data modeled. |
| 1080 | BLM must correct this flawed methodology for the final EIS and determine the short-term PM _{2.5} impacts from construction by including maximum emissions scenarios in each of the three years of meteorological data modeled. |
| 1080 | EPA has issued recent guidance on combining modeled results and monitored background concentrations to determine compliance with the 1-hour NO ₂ NAAQS and the BLM must adhere to this guidance. ¹¹³ Specifically, when determining compliance with the 1-hour NO ₂ NAAQS, the BLM should add the overall highest (not 98 th percentile) hourly representative background concentration to the modeled design value that is based on the form of the standard (i.e., the 98 th percentile of the annual distribution of daily maximum 1-hour concentrations averaged across the number of years modeled). |
| 1080 | Due to the potential for wintertime temperature inversions in the region, the BLM must seriously consider the contribution from secondary PM _{2.5} to total PM _{2.5} concentrations in the area. All of the sources of the primary pollutants that contribute to secondary PM _{2.5} formation-e.g., NO _x , SO _x , VOC and ammonia from sources in the area should be accounted for in an assessment of PM _{2.5} impacts. |
| 1080 | The CAMx model used in the far-field modeling analysis is one tool available to assess secondary PM _{2.5} formation. CAMx has source apportionment capabilities and can assess a wide variety of inert and chemically reactive pollutants, including inorganic and organic PM _{2.5} and PM ₁₀ . In addition, EPA's Support Center for Regulatory Atmospheric Modeling (SCRAM) provides various resources for modeling the impacts of secondary PM _{2.5} . For example, EPA's recently-developed model based on the Community Multi-scale Air Quality (CMAQ) model in support of the development of the PM _{2.5} NAAQS has been shown to "reproduce the results from an individual modeling simulation with little bias or error" and "provides a wide breadth of model outputs, which can be used to develop emissions control scenarios". ¹²⁰ The Regional Modeling System for Aerosols and Deposition (REMSAD) can also model concentrations of both inert and chemically reactive pollutants on a regional scale, "including those processes relevant to regional haze and particulate matter". ¹²¹ These are just some examples of current models, identified by EPA, with the capability to assess secondary PM _{2.5} impacts. With adequate performance testing (using existing regional monitoring data to ensure accuracy) these models could be used in the NEPA context. An alternative to these grid models would be for the BLM, in cooperation with EPA, to develop a screening point source model-like CALPUFF-to look at near-field PM _{2.5} primary and secondary impacts. |
| 1080 | Fugitive device emissions are based on operator data for the number of devices. ¹³⁴ BLM should require reporting on the number of devices and make necessary changes to the inventory and modeling if operator-provided estimates do not reflect actual device populations. |
| 1080 | Well venting emissions are based on operator supplied VOC emission factors. ¹³⁶ The emissions estimates seem low as compared to other industry-reported data. ¹³⁷ BLM should require operators to confirm emission rates and make adjustments to better reflect emissions and associated impacts, if needed. |
| 1080 | Dehydrator emissions from existing wells are based on operator data for VOC emissions, the number of dehydrators per well and production data (MMscf/yr/well). ¹⁴² If BLM is going to assume 100% control at dehydrators, it must establish an enforceable requirement that all dehydrators at new wells actually control emissions by 100%, not 98%, as Wyoming requires, and must also verify the operator-supplied data for dehydrator emissions at existing wells. |
| 1080 | Pneumatic pump emissions from existing wells are based on operator data for chemical usage data and vented volumes. ¹⁴⁷ If BLM assumes 100% control of pneumatic pump emissions, BLM must establish an enforceable requirement that all pneumatic pumps at new wells control emissions by 100%, not 98%, as Wyoming requires, and must also verify the operator supplied data for existing wells. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1080 | Before 100% control of condensate tank emissions can be assumed, BLM must establish an enforceable requirement that all condensate tanks at new wells actually control emissions by 100%, not 98%, as Wyoming requires, and must also verify the operator-supplied data for existing wells. |
| 1080 | BLM must establish an enforceable requirement that operators install only no-bleed pneumatic devices, not low bleed controllers, at new wells if it is going to assume 100% use of no-bleed devices. |
| 1080 | In addition to a comprehensive emissions inventory of the various development and operation sources anticipated under the proposed action and alternatives, the BLM must also prepare an inventory of all existing and reasonably foreseeable air pollution sources expected to impact the same areas impacted by emissions from the proposed development. |
| 1080 | The DEIS should include a quantitative assessment of the impacts from greenhouse gas emissions, and in particular methane emissions, from the proposed development and mitigation measures for reducing impacts from methane emissions. |
| 1080 | BLM should assess the potential impacts of methane emissions from the proposed development on ozone levels in the project area. |
| 1080 | <p>(1) Well Cleanup Operations (Liquids Unloading). Required use of plunger lift systems and well monitoring technologies to improve operational systems during well cleanup operations can significantly reduce methane and VOC emissions and increase gas production.¹⁸⁵</p> <p>(2) Well Completions. Significant salable gas can be recovered with the use of reduced emissions completions.</p> <p>(3) Compressors. Use of compressor rod-packing technologies and the use of dry seals in centrifugal compressors are both cost-effective means to reduce VOC emissions and can reduce methane emissions by more than 90% and up to 99%, respectively.</p> <p>(4) Pneumatic Devices. Use of no bleed pneumatic devices is a cost-effective measure that can virtually eliminate methane and VOC emissions.</p> <p>(5) Dehydrator Units. Zero emission dehydrators can be considered a technically and economically feasible option for new dehydrator installations and virtually eliminate methane and HAP emissions.</p> <p>(6) Storage Tanks. Use of vapor recovery units at crude oil and condensate storage tanks are cost-effective and can reduce methane and VOC emissions by at least 98%.</p> <p>(7) Enhanced Operating and Maintenance Practices for Pipelines. During routine maintenance of pipelines, operator use of pump-down techniques reduces the gas line pressure in the pipeline before venting and can recover up to 90% of the gas in the line.¹⁸⁶ Use of in-line compressors is almost always cost effective and use of additional portable compressors to achieve higher gas recovery may also be justified in some cases. In addition to methane reductions, pump down techniques virtually eliminate HAP emissions.</p> <p>(8) Leak Detection Programs. Equipment leak detection and repair programs across all sectors (i.e., processing, production, transmission and storage) can be cost-effective and significantly reduce methane and VOC emissions.</p> |
| 1080 | Exceedances of the 1-hour NO ₂ standard, widespread elevated ozone concentrations, visibility impacts and excessive nitrogen deposition in sensitive wilderness areas near the project area indicate the need for additional NO _x reductions. This could be achieved through field electrification, requirement of Tier 4 drill rigs and Tier 2 or better construction equipment, and centralization of well pad production facilities (e.g., to reduce emissions from heaters). |
| 1080 | Exceedances of the 24-hour PM _{2.5} standard supports requirements for field electrification, steps to minimize traffic (e.g., through centralization of well pad production facilities), and Tier 2 or better construction equipment. Concerns about ozone impacts and climate change warrant addressing fugitive VOC and methane emissions through implementation of all available technologies and practices to reduce emissions. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1080 | These management actions include the following additional air quality controls that are not listed as enforceable mitigation measures for the CD-C project: (1) 94% reduction in fugitive dust from roads; (2) the use of Tier 4 engines for all new and existing drill rig engines and hydraulic fracturing pump engines; (3) twice daily watering during construction activities; and (4) electric compression at compressor stations.203 These measures should also be considered as required mitigation measures for this DEIS. In addition, BLM's Greater Natural Buttes FEIS in Utah requires the following mitigation measures for reducing VOC emissions that are not included in the CD-C project and should be: (1) catalysts on all natural gas-fired compressor engines to reduce VOCs; and (2) an inspection and maintenance program to reduce VOCs that includes performing inspections of thief hatch seals and Enardo pressure relief valves to ensure proper operation and reviewing gathering system pressures to evaluate any areas where gathering pressure may be reduced, resulting in lower flash losses from condensate storage tanks? |
| 1080 | In light of the aforementioned oil and gas emissions control measures, BLM should require leak detection and repair at all possible locations |
| 1105 | The Pinedale area is already greatly suffering from poor air quality and has been cited on multiple occasions for violating the Clean Air Act due to ozone. |
| Cultural Resources | |
| 1015 | My concern is the integrity of the traditional/historic cultural properties. The protection of sacred sites should not be limited to physical locations but the essence of spirituality of such as visual impact or visual intrusions by construction and proposed project wells. |
| 1015 | The water used and reclaimed is also important in the defining the sacred sites. |
| 1031 | we would like to see specific concerns documented with requirements for detailed Class II and III cultural surveys before land disturbance takes place. Our concern comes from the fact that much of the proposed area has previously been disturbed with this or that activity (roads, pipelines, community and facility development in the Lysite and Lost Cabin areas [too include extensive sheep herding in the early days]). |
| 1031 | There is a significant early trail (Bridger Trail followed by the early Yellowstone Coach Road from Casper to Thermopolis and beyond) that needs some special attention |
| 1031 | There is also a little known and detailed trail that was used by Native Americans and Outlaws that traversed from the Lander, Riverton, Shoshoni area across the Lysite/Lost Carbin area to Kaycee and the Hole in the Wall. The trail started in Colorado near Brown's Park, traveled north through the Rock Springs/Green River area and then across South Pass and down into the Lander/Ft Washakie area. |
| 1031 | This area was also a winter home to many of the Plains Indian tribes with the Bates Battlesite not too far north of the proposed area. The area is also known to be on a major pre-historic route along the west and south side of the Big Horn mountains. Vigilance in surveying the area is important for this reason as well as much of the historic value of this area lies untouched and undocumented. |
| 1031 | A second concern lies outside of the actual well area but is included in the proposed pipelines (both water and fuel). The water lines, like the well areas, will disturb some yet to be documented areas - i.e. along Bad Water and Poison Creeks. The pipelines south out of the area will cross some really important Immigrant Trails, and cultural areas as well with care required even when they parallel existing lines, cross through built up areas (like around Jeffery City), etc |
| 1031 | Class III Surveys, if previously done, may not have covered the new right-of-way land and moving just a few feet can have a major impact on historic and cultural resources that need to be discovered and documented. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1033 | Trails: The Jim Bridger Trail, Casper Lander road, the Old Trail from Moneta to Shoshoni. All these should be remembered and cataloged but should not be an impediment to the future uses of the area. We should save small areas to help showcase the western movement. We don't need to save every square inch of any of them. You could put signage where they cross existing Highways or County Roads in order to preserve their legacy. The minerals companies and others should be able to use the land around the rest of the trails and not have two or three mile buffer zones. Roads and Pipelines should follow existing corridors as much as possible. The trails should not be treated as if they were part of the Nations Historical Trails. |
| 1033 | Paleontology and Archeology: There are sites in different areas of the project. The Companies should have monitors for different areas. The companies should not be hindered because of big areas of potential sites. Every fire pot, teepee ring or camp site doesn't need to be saved. Those places need to be cataloged but should not stop the development of the area |
| 1034 | There needs to be a way to work around the Bridger Trail. To have a 2 or 3 mile buffer is not realistic. I don't think this is a National Historic Trail and doesn't require the same standards as the Oregon Trail etc. |
| 1058 | If it is determined that there are potential impacts to heritage and cultural resources that are located along BLM planning area boundaries, ensure that consistent, yet reasonable and appropriate protection measures are applied across those boundaries. Manage regional historic trails and early highways to protect important characteristics; however, if the condition class is categorized as unknown or damaged make sure that extensive restrictions and buffers are not applied to those areas. |
| 1060 | With regards to this specific project, a quick review of SHPO's cultural resource database shows that the area to be impacted is extremely rich in historic and prehistoric resources that will need to be fully evaluated and considered during both the NEPA process and the Section 106 deliberations under NHPA. The diversity of prehistoric features --petroglyphs, firepits, hearths, quarries, cairns, stone circles, knapping stations, lithic scatters and rock alignments – combined with the existence of historic Native American features – beads and historic hearths – show that this area has seen a vital indigenous habitation for centuries. The same features that attracted natives to this area no doubt also contributed to the number and diversity of historic features found in the project area. These include historic ranches, stockherding camps, sheep shearing facilities, drivelines, corrals, dugouts, cabins, historic inscriptions, ranch cairns, homesteads, walls, foundations and the related elements needed to connect this historic region to the outer world (historic transmission lines, phone lines and canals). |
| 1060 | The historic roads in the project area are equally numerous and include the Bridger Trail, the Astorian Route, multiple routes from Lost Cabin to a variety of destinations as well as other historic freight roads, such as the Lander to Casper Road. Another interesting historic route that could be impacted by this project is the National Park to Park Highway, which connected Yellowstone National Park to Rocky Mountain National Park. This fascinating precursor to Highway 20 is a testament to early automobile travel and the beginning of the very important tourist economy, which continues to be a vital part of Wyoming's economy. Railroad history is also prevalent in the project area, with historic railroad beds and camps related to several historic railroads. |
| 1060 | Similarly, it will be very important to reach out to a wide variety of historic organizations to get the most comprehensive engagement possible in the Section 106 consultations. It is very likely that many groups that do not usually participate in such consultations will find themselves interested and concerned about the potential impacts of this project. |
| 1060 | An issue that is of specific concern to the Alliance for Historic Wyoming, especially when we see a project that will impact a site as rich in historic and cultural resources as this one, is the potential impact of such a project on the historic and cultural landscapes in the area. |
| 1060 | In our experience, there has been too little attention paid to evaluating whether or not one or more of these historic landscapes exist within a project area. The focus is usually on "historic sites" with landscapes rarely considered. As grounddisturbing, large-scale energy development consumes more and more of Wyoming's historic open spaces, the necessity to fully evaluate a project area for the existence of potential landscapes becomes ever more important. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1060 | The presence of historic or cultural landscapes can often necessitate a much larger APE than might be applicable were there only issues of historic sites to be considered. Therefore, we encourage you to work closely with the project proponents from the very beginning to ensure that a thorough evaluation of potential landscapes is conducted and well documented in the subsequent NEPA documents. |
| 1060 | In determining areas of potential effects, boundaries are often drawn across historic trails and other linear resources that fit the project but actually fail to recognize the true nature of the resource. Historic trails and other affected linear resources are of significance precisely because they were the routes that allowed people to explore our country and extend the limits and boundaries of our country. The simple act of imposing artificial boundaries that bisect these trails for the convenience of specific projects results in the degradation of a trail or historic road’s essential contiguous nature. |
| 1060 | This applies to the Bridger Trail, the historic freight roads and railroad beds. We strongly believe that the continued, incremental degradation of these resources results in a much greater loss to the public than many NEPA documents acknowledge. This can be especially true when the segments to be affected are labeled as “non-contributing.” While a specific segment of any of these linear resources may have lost much of its original integrity, it is nonetheless important to understand that, the historic and cultural significance of these historic resources extends from their beginning through to their end. When the totality of a linear resource is properly considered, there is no such thing as a “non-contributing” segment. |
| 1060 | Historic freight roads and trails also have to be analyzed for the existence of historic or cultural landscapes. This requires a special type of analysis not often applied. Too often, consultants apply a trail viewshed analysis and consider their work done. But viewshed analysis looks outward from the resource (or key observation point) to evaluate potential impacts from the resource itself. Determining whether or not a historic or cultural landscape exists requires you to look inward, at the landscape encompassing the resource, to see whether there are natural boundaries that created a logically defined space. |
| 1060 | In addition, AHW encourages you to be inclusive when it comes to analyzing the recreational opportunities offered by the Bridger Trail, the Route of the Astorians and historic roads and railbeds in this area. Even segments that have been labeled “noncontributing” may still be of great interest to enthusiasts who take great pleasure in tracking these routes from beginning to end. While their excitement is clearly heightened by finding pristine segments, a key part of their recreational pursuit is tracking the route itself and, with historic trails especially, looking for little known alternatives that may parallel the main track. Often, relatively pristine segments of minor alternative routes have been discovered near non-contributing trail segments. Thus, it is not a proper understanding of how people recreate on these trails to assume that a non-contributing segment will have no interest for a “rut nut.” The ways in which heritage tourists, the fastest growing segment of our tourist economy, wander to discover the many diverse aspects of our nation’s history is rarely well understood or appreciated in NEPA analyses. |
| 1060 | Also, considering the wealth of prehistoric resources in this area, we would encourage you to make extensive and effective outreach to any potentially affected tribes as early as possible so that they might have the opportunity to conduct extensive on-the-ground surveys to identify landscape-wide cultural sites of importance to their culture. |
| 1060 | Together, these provisions of NHPA and ARPA make clear that contractors working on any federal undertaking that may encounter cultural resources need to receive indepth training regarding the significance of those resources and the contractor’s responsibilities under the law. We hope you will consider adding such requirements to your NEPA analysis and any listing of best management practices. If, at any time, you feel that AHW could be of assistance in explaining the importance of these resources to the contractors and/or their equipment operators, please feel free to contact us. |
| 1061 | Both counties are locations of National Historic Landmarks (NHLs): South Pass NHL in Fremont County and Expedition Island NHL in Sweetwater County. This project has the potential to affect these NHLs. At a minimum, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) should be aware of the potential impacts on the NHLs in those counties and determine, if any, adverse effects to them as a result of this project. Should a determination of adverse affect be made (with consultation with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer), the NPS should be consulted accordingly. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1061 | This project appears to have potential to involve a gas pipeline project; enabling the provided gas to get to market. We would appreciate consideration of this possible connected action, as it may impact National Historic Trails. |
| 1062 | For much more on the history of the Bridger Trail, we hope you at the BLM will consult regularly the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office’s excellent website on the topic, at http://wyoshpo.state.wy.us/btrail/index.html , and that you will consider our inclusion of that link in this letter a formal inclusion of the entire site as part of our comments for your review. |
| 1062 | around 30 miles of this historic route will be heavily affected by oil and gas development. In that distance, the trail crosses Alkali Creek three times. These crossings are likely to be some of spots where the trail is most vulnerable to adverse affects from the oil and gas development. |
| 1062 | As you write the Environmental Impact Statement, please specify exactly how the proposed development will affect the look of the trail, the view in all directions from the trail, and the physical trail itself. All these elements contribute to the trail’s historic values. Please plan the project in a way that will keep adverse effects to those values at an absolute minimum. |
| 1064 | Historic trails and sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places should be given a wide berth, and wellsites should not be sited within 5 miles of such sites (this is the foreground/middleground distance for the setting, which is federally protected under the NHPA). A variety of tribes, including the Shoshone, Araphao, Lakota, Bannock, Comanche, and Ute should be consulted to identify Traditional Cultural Properties and strong and appropriate protections can be developed for such sites. |
| 1065 | But not only must the BLM examine the effects of the proposed project on cultural resources, it must evaluate whether or not it possesses sufficient information to assess these potential resource conflicts. If the agency lacks enough information to make informed decisions, it must collect data according to a plan and a schedule established at the outset of this environmental review process. |
| 1065 | The EIS must ensure there is a sufficient inventory of cultural resources and their values prior to authorizing ground-disturbing activities and it should be used proactively by the BLM in its management in order to avoid resource conflicts. Clearly BLM must fully comply with the need to consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and any interested tribes prior to authorizing activities that may harm resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and ensure full compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. |
| 1065 | The BLM must specifically request the views of tribal officials, and must solicit the views of traditional leaders or religious leaders. |
| 1065 | The EIS should identify areas where cultural sites are at risk, and the decision document should employ measures to protect these resources. The areas designated should be of sufficient size to allow viable protection of the resources; designation of just the site itself may not allow for effective management. |
| 1075 | As a state Wyoming is full of historical artifacts and Moneta Divide is not exempt from their presence. The potential to find Native American, early settlement and trail related artifacts is a reality that Encana has had to deal with since their arrival to the area. |
| Cumulative Impacts | |
| 1063 | We recommend the EIS include a disclosure of each of the following cumulative impact issues as they pertain to wildlife and wildlife habitat. 1. Increase in road miles and motorized traffic over the past 15 years with an estimate of additional future increases over the lifespan of the project. 2. Increase in acreage of undesirable plants (particularly halogen, cheatgrass, and other invasive species) over the past 15 years and potential additional increases over the lifespan of the project. 3. Loss of big game winter range, sage-grouse habitat, and other habitat impacts that have occurred in the past 15 years and projected losses from this project. |
| 1064 | We are concerned that the cumulative level of development in this part of Wyoming is reaching a tipping point beyond which native wildlife, clean air, and water quality will no longer be maintained. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1064 | Air Quality BLM should do a complete analysis of direct and cumulative effects of the project to air quality in the project area and surrounding region. This analysis should incorporate all air quality monitoring and ongoing scientific experiments that are occurring in the Upper Green River Valley, including those underway in the Pinedale Anticline and Jonah Fields and the neighboring Bridger-Teton National Forest. |
| 1064 | BLM will need to analyze cumulative impacts of the Moneta Divide Project together with other industrial projects/impact sources in neighboring lands, including but not limited to: the existing oil and gas fields, uranium mining activities, and nearby coal-fired power plants. Impacts to water quality and quantity should include potential impacts of coalbed methane development. |
| 1065 | Most importantly, the BLM must consider the cumulative effects of the numerous other ongoing and/or proposed energy development projects in the region surrounding the Moneta Divide project. |
| 1065 | NWF and WWF are deeply concerned that the cumulative impacts from this project in addition to other projects could result in a region-wide species decline, especially for greater sage-grouse. |
| 1080 | At a minimum, the agency must consider the impacts of phosphate leasing, oil and gas development, and locatable mineral mining as cumulative impacts on winter habitat. If these mountains will be the winter range refuge for mule deer that are displaced from the Moneta Divide Project area, then they must provide high-quality, undisturbed habitat, and the Moneta Divide EIS should so provide. |
| 1080 | It is important to recognize that a large number of existing emissions sources in the region already degrade visibility, and that the potential direct impacts from individual projects are adding to existing degradation. Even though the visibility analysis for individual projects may show visibility degradation below the threshold for concern when considered alone, when the impacts from all the existing and proposed sources are added together, the effects on visibility can be substantial. |
| 1080 | Also, BLM must ensure that all of the RMPs that were updated under the 2012 Final Programmatic EIS for oil shale and tar sands leasing and that impact the project area (as well as the areas outside the project area that are impacted by the planned development under the DE IS) are fully considered in the cumulative inventory. ¹⁷⁰ This would include, for example, the additional electrical power needs for in-situ oil shale production. |
| Health and Safety | |
| 1048 | The oil and gas industry has made areas of the BLM a danger to the population at large due to poisonous gas releases. |
| Invasive Species | |
| 1024 | A strong enforceable weed management/reclamation plan/bond should be insisted on. |
| 1033 | As a land owner in the project area, we would like the companies to control noxious weeds on their locations as well as undesirable plants such as cheat grass on BLM as well as State and Deeded Lands. |
| 1058 | It is requested that the BLM assess the following wildlife concerns and implement protective strategies when deemed necessary. Control and prevention of noxious weeds |
| 1063 | Given the tremendous increase in weed infestations in the project area, we recommend the EIS provide direction for the development of a comprehensive weed and cheatgrass control management plan as part of the development plan. |
| 1064 | We are concerned that this project will contribute to the spread of noxious weeds including halogeton and kochia, which have a history of proliferating in oil and gas fields in this part of Wyoming. Once these weeds take root on roads and wellpads, they begin to spread into surrounding areas not subjected to surface disturbance. Mitigation measures will need to be provided to ensure that the threat of noxious weeds is minimized. |
| 1065 | BLM must ensure the decision document provides for compliance with Executive Order 13112, which established requirements and procedures Federal agencies are to adhere to relative to invasive species. |
| 1065 | The EIS should fully analyze the extent of the invasive species problem in this area, the causes, and options for both restoration and prevention in the future. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|--------------------------|---|
| Lands and Realty | |
| 1058 | Please evaluate the following potential infrastructure concerns and address significant issues during project and alternative development: When feasible roads and pipelines should follow existing corridors. |
| 1058 | Please evaluate the following potential infrastructure concerns and address significant issues during project and alternative development: Consistent application of rights-of-way designated corridors between BLM planning areas |
| Livestock Grazing | |
| 1058 | The BLM should address how range improvements and lessee allotments will be affected by the proposed project. Any temporary or permanent changes in land use need to be disclosed. Weeds introduced to disturbed areas can spread to adjacent land and negatively impact local agriculture and livestock operations. If the impacts analysis indicates that mitigations are needed, grazing mitigations should be consistent with those stated for oil and gas operations in the RMP for the Casper Office. Additionally, please include a mitigation regarding compensation by the operator if reduced allotment numbers occur due to project activities and encourage annual meetings to facilitate better communication and to address lessee concerns. |
| 1093 | Following are specific individual effects upon livestock grazing to analyze in the EIS: increased off- and on-road traffic, increased number of speeding vehicles, construction of new roads and modifications to existing roads, destroyed cattle guards, increased number of vehicles in the area causing death or impairments of livestock, cut fences, opened gates, damaged range improvements, decreased Animal Unit Months (AUMs) and pastures for grazing, decreased palatability of vegetation and forage from road dust and development activities, unsuccessful reclamation of disturbed areas, introduction and spread of noxious and invasive weeds, and other detrimental social and economic impacts on livestock operators and livestock management operations. |
| 1093 | We strongly encourage BLM staff and commercial operators to work closely and consistently with all affected grazing permittees and agriculture producers to learn of their concerns and recommendations regarding this project. |
| 1093 | The impacts of the Project will definitely increase costs and decrease revenues for grazing permittees. The accumulated impacts of this and nearby projects could jeopardize the continued existence of grazing operations in this area. The individual and cumulative impacts and the proposed remedies need to be thoroughly identified and evaluated in the EIS. |
| 1093 | We support compensatory mitigation discussions between commercial operators and livestock permittees to lessen the burden, livestock stress, and economic impacts to grazing permittees from this development. Such mitigation strategies and costs could include, but are not limited to, the following: movement of livestock to an open allotment or pasture, monitoring of impacts, construction of water and range improvements on either public or private land, purchase or lease of additional grazing land to replace lands lost to grazing, and reimbursement to producers for loss of AUMs and pastures. |
| 1093 | Any loss of these important environmental, historic, and social values of livestock grazing to users and visitors of the area and residents of impacted communities should be included in the scope of the study and the social impacts analyzed in the EIS. |
| 1093 | The EIS needs to include 1) these positive effects of livestock grazing upon the environment and as a tool to achieve environmental objectives and 2) the impacts of this project on limiting the ability of livestock grazing to achieve these positive effects. |
| Mitigation | |
| 1064 | Capping the density of surface well sites at one wellsite per square mile. |
| 1065 | Applying mitigation measures to manage impacts. In choosing amongst various mitigation techniques, BLM must place highest priority on avoiding impacts all together. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1065 | Most importantly, BLM must enforce the provision of this management and mitigation plan throughout the life of the project. The EIS should clearly state how the BLM will enforce compliance and impose penalties for non-compliance. |
| 1080 | Enclosed as Exhibit 1 are the comments the Wyoming Outdoor Council submitted to the BLM on the draft EIS for the revised Lander RMP. We ask the BLM to consider these comments in full but particularly direct you to pages 6-8 and 62-68 of the comments where we address management needs in the Bridger Mountains. As we have made clear above, in our view the BLM must carefully consider the Bridger Mountains as an off-site mitigation area for impacts resulting from the adjacent Moneta Divide Development Project, particularly relative to impacts to mule deer. The comments in Exhibit 1 help to elaborate on the mitigation opportunities that are available in the Bridger Mountains. |
| 1080 | Two of those maps are included here on a compact disc as Exhibits 2 and 3. These maps help make clear the values of the Bridger Mountains, especially their wildlife values, and thus their suitability and importance as an off-site mitigation area for the Moneta Divide Project. Taken together the written comments and the maps emphasize the environmental values of the Bridger Mountains, and thus their value as an off-site mitigation area. For example, in addition to providing crucial winter ranges for mule deer and other big game species, the Bridger Mountains also contain substantial areas of sage-grouse core habitat, large areas of key non-game habitat, six species of rare plants, and the historic Bridger Trail. This is a remote area that is only lightly visited but treasured especially by hunters, and it contains one wilderness study area and two citizens' proposed wilderness areas. |
| 1080 | improved livestock grazing management in this area, allowing motorized vehicle use only on designated routes, and VRM Class II visual resource protections and Category 5 resource use restrictions could help protect the important resources in the Bridger Mountains area.2 If these restrictions were adopted as components of an off-site mitigation strategy for the Moneta Divide Project they could help ensure that adverse environmental impacts resulting from the project are mitigated. |
| 1080 | Furthermore, because the proposed Moneta Divide Natural Gas Project will likely affect wildlife habitat outside of the GCMA, especially winter habitat use by the Southwest Bighorn mule deer herd, we suggest that BLM consider establishing an off-site mitigation fund for development-related activities of the proposed Moneta Divide project that will likely affect wildlife within the GCMA. |
| NEPA Process | |
| 1001 | I would encourage to stick to the time line for the EIS. |
| 1009 | My hopes are that the EIS of the Moneta divide exceed the deadline that was set. |
| 1010 | I feel it is necessary to expedite the EIS process as quickly as possible in order for all to gain from the potential benefits the project has to offer. |
| 1016 | Please expedite the process and get this done. |
| 1025 | I would like to know why and how there is a need to change or amend the Casper (Natrona County) resource management plan. |
| 1027 | Please speed the timeline up |
| 1034 | The EIS should consider making drilling in the field easier for both the Companies and the BLM |
| 1035 | I would also like to add that the current time frame for a EIS is unacceptable this is something that needs to be approved as soon as possible. |
| 1036 | I also believe that this EIS should be passed as soon as possible. |
| 1042 | However if this EIS is not given proper and expeditious review, those agencies responsible are perpetrating a huge injustice to every current and future taxpayer of not only Wyoming but of the nation, and I say this with the ideas of energy independence and economic tax base in the forefront of my mind. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1044 | Please consider all the facts, fully vet the hazards associated with the project, but do it in a timely manner! Don't unnecessarily prolong the EIS. |
| 1047 | It is also extremely important that the BLM keep this scoping period moving and meet the timelines. This project is needed now. I certainly hope that they won't let this drag on for years and deny the people of Wyoming the jobs they deserve! |
| 1053 | I feel it is critical for the EIS timeline to be held at a very tight schedule for the current and future state of our local and state economy. |
| 1055 | Based on the initial information available at this time, Operator supports the revision to the Casper RMP to ensure that wildlife stipulations and other management actions are consistent between the two Field Offices. The BLM should take this opportunity to manage the Moneta Project Area as a single oil and gas field, rather than two separate fields in two BLM Field Offices. Having consistent management directives between the two Field Offices will improve operational efficiencies and potentially minimize impacts in both areas. Encana encourages the BLM to revise the Casper RMP to the extent necessary to ensure that the Moneta Project Area can be developed with consistent timing and mitigation measures. Encana specifically encourages the BLM to consider creating Designated Development Areas (“DDAs”) within the Casper Field Office similar to those proposed in the ongoing revision to the Lander RMP. Within DDAs, the BLM would routinely waive timing stipulations for more big game species, and would consider other timing waivers as well. Lander DRMP/EIS, pg. 830. Absent a similar modification to the Casper RMP, drilling and development activities may shift dramatically on a seasonal basis, which may have adverse impacts to wildlife and regional economies. |
| 1055 | BLM’s decision to revise the Lander RMP does not limit BLM’s ability to approve the Moneta Project. Both the IBLA and the federal courts have affirmed the BLM’s ability to reach management decisions that are consistent with existing RMPs while RMP revisions are ongoing. The IBLA has allowed the BLM to proceed with actions that conform to an existing, valid land use plan and EIS while it prepares new land use plans. |
| 1055 | The Moneta Project is consistent with the BLM’s Preferred Alternative for the Lander RMP revision. As contemplated by Alternative D, the BLM’s Preferred Alternative in the Draft EIS, the BLM would allow and even expand oil and gas development within the Moneta Divide Project Area. |
| 1055 | The Moneta Project EIS is intended to analyze the potential impacts of the Moneta Project at the programmatic level. As a result, BLM should not engage in speculative analysis of potential impacts resulting from the placement of individual wells because these impacts will be analyzed once specific development is proposed. The analysis of site-specific potential impacts of development will appropriately occur when applications for permits to drill (“APDs”) are filed. |
| 1055 | Accordingly, when evaluating the impacts of the Moneta Project, BLM must evaluate potential impacts on a broad, programmatic level. BLM need not become mired in the details of site-specific analysis when such analysis will occur at the APD stage. |
| 1055 | It is well established that NEPA only requires an agency to consider “reasonable alternatives” to a proposed action. 40 C.F.R. § 1502.14. When developing alternatives for analysis in the Moneta Project EIS, BLM must consider the purpose of the Encanas’ proposal. |
| 1055 | When developing alternatives and the purpose and new statement for the EIS, the BLM must consider the objectives of the Operators and their goals. Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Alliance v. Salazar, 661 F.3d 66, 73 (D.C. Cir. 2011) (holding with respect to the Pinedale Anticline Project that BLM appropriately analyzed objectives of the proponents). Here, the purpose of the Operators’ proposal is to develop and maximize recovery of the hydrocarbon resources underlying their federal, state, and private-fee mineral leases within the Moneta Project Area and, to enable the Operators’ commercial production of federally, state, and privately owned mineral resources in conformance with the government RMPs for the Lander and Casper Resource Areas pursuant to their rights under existing oil and gas leases issued by the BLM, the State of Wyoming, and private land owners. In addition, the further intent of the proposed action is to prevent the drainage of federal minerals by oil and gas wells located on adjacent nonfederally owned lands (i.e., the State of Wyoming and private lands). In developing alternatives for the Moneta Project EIS, BLM must consider these purposes. Id. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1055 | BLM may not analyze alternatives that are not consistent with the Moneta Project’s purpose and need of developing Hydrocarbon resources within the Moneta Project Area. The Moneta Project EIS should include a detailed explanation of the rationale for the development of each alternative considered, including how the alternative satisfies the Operators’ purpose and need. |
| 1055 | Finally, BLM must ensure that the alternatives analyzed in the Moneta Project EIS are both feasible and economic. The CEQ has described reasonable alternatives as “those that are practical or feasible from the technical and economic standpoint and using common sense, rather than simply desirable.” CEQ’s Forty Most Asked Questions, Question 2a, 46 Fed. Reg. 18028, 18027 (Mar. 23, 1981) (emphasis added). BLM need not analyze speculative, impractical, or uneconomic alternatives. Citizens’ Comm. to Save Our Canyons, 297 F.3d at 1030-31. Overly stringent restrictions or conditions of approval (“COA”) may render development uneconomic. In the Moneta Project EIS alternatives analysis, BLM must recognize that the hydrocarbon resources within the Moneta Project Area may not be developed if restrictions render development economically unfeasible. |
| 1055 | As BLM is aware, its analysis of alternatives must include consideration of a “no action alternative.” 40 C.F.R. § 1502.14(d). In the Moneta Project EIS, the no action alternative is not an alternative under which no additional development would occur. Rather, BLM must analyze development that could proceed under the current management of the Moneta Project Area if BLM did not approve the Operators’ GMI Project proposal. |
| 1055 | Additionally, the BLM should clearly inform the public that selection of the no action alternative would not meet the purpose and need of the proposed action, would be inconsistent with the BLM’s mandate to encourage natural gas production from federal lands, and would be contrary to the National Energy Policy and Executive Order 13211, 66 Fed. Reg. 28355 (May 18, 2001). |
| 1058 | The NCB OCC recommends that the BLM offer some form of public outreach and education regarding water resources. This would provide an opportunity to explain how project proponents are going to identify and minimize risks to surface water and ground water. |
| 1059 | Flexibility for Lander RMP Amendment. We suggest that the draft EIS be sufficient in scope to allow for amendments to the Lander RMP if needed. The Moneta Divide Federal Register notice states that there are current inconsistencies between the Lander and Casper RMP with regard to wildlife stipulations and that the Casper RMP may need to be amended. We ask that the BLM not only consider amendments to the Casper RMP, but also maintain flexibility to amend the Lander RMP to resolve the inconsistency if needed. |
| 1059 | We offer this comment out of concern that the Lander/Casper Field Offices may decide to follow the same route as the Continental Divide Creston EIS and not select a preferred alternative in the draft EIS. We sincerely hope that the BLM will identify a preferred alternative in the draft EIS, as this greatly enhances the public’s, operator’s, and project proponent’s understanding of what mix of development and surface use the BLM thinks is the best way to accomplish the purpose and need. The absence of a preferred alternative requires the public to review the entire EIS and offer comments on all alternatives |
| 1060 | We would suggest that, in fact, some impacts to what might be called our traditional cultural resources – our open landscapes, for example – would be more effectively, and therefore should be, addressed directly through NEPA. Just as many NEPA documents have required mitigation funding to address impacts to wildlife, we believe it is now past time for federal land management agencies to begin considering the imposition of direct mitigation funding to address impacts to the historic and cultural landscapes that have shaped the psyche of Wyoming from its beginning. |
| 1063 | We recommend the project analysis area be expanded to include areas that are expected to be impacted by water disposal operations. If all water disposal is expected to occur within the designated project area, the BLM should provide information suggesting this is a realistic possibility. |
| 1063 | Given the pipeline is proposed as part of the project, and there may be various alternative routes being proposed, we recommend the pipeline route is considered as part of the project analysis area. Much of the pipeline is likely to run through designated sage-grouse core area and thus will be subject to process, guidelines, and stipulations as outlined in E.O. 2011-5. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1065 | Therefore, until the proposed revision to the Casper RMP is complete, the BLM should not take any action or approve any activity that might limit the reasonable alternatives in the RMP revision. By proceeding with the Moneta Divide project prior to the RMP revision, the BLM would impermissibly prejudice the outcome of the RMP revision process. |
| 1065 | The EIS Must Include Adequate Information Regarding Baseline Conditions, Prior Actions, and Reasonably Foreseeable Consequences Although NEPA does not require BLM to achieve complete certainty regarding the environmental impact of a proposed project, the Act does require all federal agencies to make every reasonable effort to obtain the requisite information to make an informed and environmentally sound decision. |
| 1069 | Lastly, I would like to voice two concerns I have to the project - 1) timeline of the project which is crucial as well as |
| 1069 | Lastly, I would like to voice two concerns I have to the project - 2) ensuring truly unbiased/objective people are involved |
| 1078 | BLM's decision to revise the Lander RMP does not limit BLM's ability to approve the Moneta Project. Both the IBLA and the federal courts have affirmed the BLM's ability to reach management decisions that are consistent with existing RMPs while RMP revisions are ongoing. The IBLA has allowed the BLM to proceed with actions that conform to an existing, valid land use plan and EIS while it prepares new land use plans. |
| 1078 | The Moneta Project is consistent with the BLM's Proposed RMP for the Lander Field Office. As contemplated by the proposed RMP, the BLM would allow and even expand oil and gas development within the Moneta Divide Project Area. |
| 1078 | Based on the initial information available at this time, Encana supports the revision to the Casper RMP to ensure that wildlife stipulations and other management actions are consistent between the two Field Offices. The BLM should take this opportunity to manage the Moneta Project Area as a single oil and gas field, rather than two separate fields in two BLM Field Offices. Having consistent management directives between the two Field Offices will improve operational efficiencies and potentially minimize impacts in both areas. Encana encourages the BLM to revise the Casper RMP to the extent necessary to ensure that the Moneta Project Area can be developed with consistent timing and mitigation measures. Encana specifically encourages the BLM to consider creating Designated Development Areas ("DDAs") within the Casper Field Office similar to those proposed in the ongoing revision to the Lander RMP. Within DDAs, the BLM would routinely waive timing stipulations for more big game species, and would consider other timing waivers as well. Lander RMP/FEIS, pg. 94. Absent a similar modification to the Casper RMP, drilling and development activities may shift dramatically on a seasonal basis, which may have adverse impacts to wildlife and real economies. |
| 1078 | The Moneta Project EIS is intended to analyze the potential impacts of the Moneta Project at the programmatic level. As a result, BLM should not engage in speculative analysis of potential impacts resulting from the placement of individual wells because these impacts will be analyzed once specific development is proposed. The analysis of site-specific potential impacts of development will appropriately occur when applications for permits to drill ("APDs") are filed. |
| 1078 | Accordingly, when evaluating the impacts of the Moneta Project, BLM must evaluate potential impacts on a broad, programmatic level. BLM need not become mired in the details of site-specific analysis when such analysis will occur at the APD stage. |
| 1078 | It is well established that NEPA only requires an agency to consider "reasonable alternatives" to a proposed action. 40 C.F.R. § 1502.14. When developing alternatives for analysis in the Moneta Project EIS, BLM must consider the purpose of the Operator's proposal. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1078 | When developing alternatives and the purpose and new statement for the EIS, the BLM must consider the objectives of the Operators and their goals. Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Alliance v. Salazar, 661 F.3d 66, 73 (D.C. Cir. 2011) (holding with respect to the Pinedale Anticline Project that BLM appropriately analyzed objectives of the proponents). Here, the purpose of the Operators' proposal is to develop and maximize recovery of the hydrocarbon resources underlying their federal, state, and private-fee mineral leases within the Moneta Project Area and, to enable the Operators' commercial production of federally, state, and privately owned mineral resources in conformance with the government RMPs for the Lander and Casper Resource Areas pursuant to their rights under existing oil and gas leases issued by the BLM, the State of Wyoming, and private land owners. In addition, the further intent of the proposed action is to prevent the drainage of federal minerals by oil and gas wells located on adjacent nonfederally owned lands (i.e., the State of Wyoming and private lands). In developing alternatives for the Moneta Project EIS, BLM must consider these purposes. Id |
| 1078 | BLM may not analyze alternatives that are not consistent with the Moneta Project's purpose and need of developing Hydrocarbon resources within the Moneta Project Area. The Moneta Project EIS should include a detailed explanation of the rationale for the development of each alternative considered, including how the alternative satisfies the Operators' purpose and need. |
| 1078 | Finally, BLM must ensure that the alternatives analyzed in the Moneta Project EIS are both feasible and economic. |
| 1078 | Overly stringent restrictions or conditions of approval ("COA") may render development uneconomic. oneta Project EIS alternatives analysis, BLM must recognize that the hydrocarbon within the Moneta Project Area may not be developed if restrictions render economically unfeasible. |
| 1078 | As BLM is aware, its analysis of alternatives must include consideration of a "no action alternative 40 C.P.R. § 1502.14(d). In the Moneta Project EIS, the no action alternative is not alternative under which no additional development would occur. Rather, BLM must analyze development that could proceed under the current management of the Moneta Project Area if BLM did not approve the Operators' Moneta Divide Project proposal. |
| 1078 | Additionally, the BLM should clearly inform the public that selection of the no action alternative would not meet the purpose and need of the proposed action, would be inconsistent with the BLM' s mandate to encourage natural gas production from federal lands, and would be contrary to the National Energy Policy and Executive Order 13211, 66 Fed. Reg. 28355 (May 18,2001). |
| 1080 | We recognize that DDAs are established to allow " intensive mineral exploration, development and production" (Draft RMP and EIS for the Lander Field Office Planning Area, Record #20 17). However, this does not mean these places need to become "sacrifice zones" where development takes priority to the absolute detriment of other resources. Rather, these DDAs are so designated in places where "adverse impacts to other resources can be successfully mitigated with design features, operating methods, and other mitigation" (Draft RMP and EIS, Record #2021). Thus, even for the proposed Moneta Divide Project that is within a DDA, adverse impacts must be mitigated. We will speak to air quality and other impacts in these comments; here, we wish to discuss mitigation for impacts to mule deer that utilize this area. |
| 1080 | Enclosed as Exhibit 1 are the comments the Wyoming Outdoor Council submitted to the BLM on the draft EIS for the revised Lander RMP. We ask the BLM to consider these comments in full. |
| 1080 | To ensure a hard look is taken, we request that the BLM fully consider the obligation to minimize adverse environmental impacts, fully exercise its wide array of retained rights that it maintains even where leases have been issued, and that it fully analyze the merits of the "doing it right" principles presented in Appendix 1. If this is done BLM will meet its obligation to provide a hard look at the environmental consequences of the Moneta Divide Project. |
| 1091 | The NEPA process must be followed and sound science utilized to evaluate the project. This evaluation must occur in a timely manner as required by law and as professional ethics add integrity would dictate |
| 1091 | I am asking that the BLM review this proposal as the NEPA process dictates with expediant effort and without any influence other than science to dictate the final outcome. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1093 | Flexibility to make the best site-specific, case-by-case decisions that are in the best interests of the affected resources and citizens throughout the life of this plan should also be addressed. |
| 1095 | I also would like to encourage the BLM to approve this project in a timely manner. |
| Oil and Gas Operations | |
| 1018 | If someone was going to put any chemical in/on my property I want to know what it was and what effect it would have. If they aren't going to tell me what it is they can't put it there. |
| 1023 | Trash is thrown out of windows and blows out of trucks. I know of specific contractors whose trash I find regularly. |
| 1023 | People throw trash in pipelines and I have dug it up. It needs to be stressed more that trash needs to be packed OUT and put where it goes. |
| 1024 | The BLM should insist on maximum holes per pad to mitigate impact on the area. |
| 1057 | <p>Apparently the operator for the proposed project is planning to discharge all wastewater from the Moneta Divide Project via a pipe that conveys the effluent to Boysen Reservoir. We do not have any information as to the volume of the discharge. This poses grave concerns for several reasons: Hydraulic fracturing poses various dangers that are as yet not fully understood. Hydraulic fracturing involves the use of many chemicals that are highly toxic – even in very small (or diluted) quantities. Nevertheless, there are no standard effluent requirements for these dangerous chemicals, as part of a produced water discharge. With respect to the anticipated discharge, the BLM should be sure to demand the following information from the operator, and discuss the impacts in the EIS:</p> <p>A. A complete list of the chemicals to be used (with CAS numbers for each one) in the hydraulic fracturing (HF) process.</p> <p>B. A complete disclosure of the volume of each chemical to be used by the operator – and how much of each chemical volume will be recycled, and how much will be left in the ground, and how much will be discharged.</p> <p>C. A complete disclosure of the health effects of each chemical to be used in the HF process on human health, on wildlife, and on fisheries. The impacts upon humans should include ingestion as well as inhalation of the chemical in question. The impacts upon fisheries should include the possibilities for bioaccumulation of the chemical in fish flesh, particularly game fish.</p> <p>iii. Please note that information contained in MSDS sheets is not sufficient, and instead complete disclosure and analysis must include the CAS numbers and a thorough review of scientific literature for each chemical, to thoroughly evaluate the impacts of each chemical. ALL of the impacts need to be thoroughly evaluated.</p> |
| 1058 | Please evaluate the following potential infrastructure concerns and address significant issues during project and alternative development: Methods to control garbage disposed of along Natrona County roads created from material hauled to and from the project area. |
| 1058 | Please evaluate the following potential infrastructure concerns and address significant issues during project and alternative development: Please provide a comprehensive spill plan for main access routes. |
| 1058 | Please evaluate the following potential infrastructure concerns and address significant issues during project and alternative development: The burial of pipelines and transmission lines where possible |
| 1058 | Please evaluate the following potential infrastructure concerns and address significant issues during project and alternative development: Instruct development and operation companies to devise a fire protection plan. |
| 1064 | Given the cumulative level of expansion of gas drilling in this area, we recommend that a system of phased development be instituted, in which new lands are not opened to drilling until existing impacted areas have at least completed final (not interim) reclamation. |
| 1064 | Directional Drilling Project proponents should be required to drill this project entirely using directional drilling with multiple wells on a single pad. There is no reason to allow a surface density greater than one wellpad per square mile, and operators should be required to drill directionally from existing wellpads in all cases where the field has already seen some development. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|--|---|
| 1064 | We would also like to see proponents do their directional drilling with natural gas powered drilling rigs, so that directional drilling can be accomplished without significant elevation of pollutant levels. This has been proposed by EnCana for the Normally Pressured Lance Project, demonstrating the feasibility of this approach. |
| 1064 | In order to satisfy the 'hard look' analysis of impacts pursuant to NEPA, the BLM must fully disclose the chemical constituency of any and all fracking fluids and drilling muds and their potential impacts on human health, vegetation, and wildlife. |
| 1064 | Requiring green completions. Needless waste of natural gas through venting and flaring can be avoided by requiring green completions, thereby reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas production. |
| 1064 | Require piping of condensate and central collection facilities rather than wellsite condensate tanks. This reduces truck traffic associated with trucking the condensate (thereby reducing to some degree disturbance to wildlife), and also reduces emissions of VOCs from condensate tanks. |
| 1064 | Require well telemetry and reduce wellsite visits for the purpose of well tripping. The reduction of truck traffic would further reduce disturbance to wildlife and dust pollution. |
| 1065 | The BLM should give full and meaningful consideration to alternatives that may reduce loss of wildlife habitat and other sensitive resources, including but not limited to: Directional drilling Phased development Centralized facilities Minimizing road density Interim reclamation Noise mitigation Consolidation of surface ownership to promote effective management Offsite mitigation where effective onsite mitigation is not possible |
| 1065 | Establish a well monitoring protocol for spill detection. |
| 1080 | Appendix 1 to these comments presents a report the Wyoming Outdoor Council has developed that discusses numerous practices that can be required of oil and gas development projects so as to ensure the BLM and the operator are "doing it right" when it comes to oil and gas development. We ask the BLM to consider these doing it right principles and to require relevant provisions as best management practices (BMP), conditions of approval (COA), or stipulation requirements before approving development in the Moneta Divide Project area. |
| 1080 | In general, maximum pad spacing should be established at a distance of at least 40 acres and greater setbacks should be required. At a minimum, setbacks defined as the distance from the wellhead to an occupied building or outside venues of 250 meters should be required and even greater setbacks (e.g., 300 meters) should be considered in areas closer to populated areas. |
| 1085 | Fracking is an inherently dangerous threat to Wyoming's water and air. Do not allow Encana and ConocoPhillips to move forward with the Moneta Divide natural gas and oil development project. |
| 1102 | Fracking is an inherently dangerous threat to Wyoming's water and air. Do not allow Encana and ConocoPhillips to move forward with the Moneta Divide natural gas and oil development project. |
| 1103 | We need to consider these threats to our citizens and move forward slowly and cautiously with drilling rather than in huge swaths until the concerns with fracking can be better addressed. |
| Policies, Regulations, and Permitting | |
| 1055 | The BLM cannot and should not unreasonably constrain natural gas development in the Moneta Project Area under the terms of the current Lander RMP. The BLM specifically identified this region as appropriate for oil and gas development and the Lander RMP compels the BLM not to automatically apply unnecessary restrictions. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1055 | The alternatives analyzed in the Moneta Project EIS may not affect the Operators’ ability to access minerals under existing leases. Once the BLM issues leases, it cannot preclude development or impose additional lease stipulations. An oil and gas lease is a contract between the federal government and the lessee and cannot be unilaterally modified. |
| 1055 | In the Moneta Project EIS, BLM must expressly recognize that the State of Wyoming, and not the BLM, has authority for regulating air quality within the Moneta Project Area. The complex regulatory scheme established by the Clean Air Act (“CAA”) provides the State of Wyoming with the authority to regulate Wyoming’s air resources. BLM may not infringe upon the State’s authority by attempting to regulate air quality or air emissions in the Moneta Project EIS. |
| 1055 | Because BLM lacks authority under the CAA over air quality, BLM may not attempt to regulate air emissions in the Moneta Project Area. Moreover, in the Moneta Project EIS, BLM should expressly acknowledge that, as a matter of federal law, the State of Wyoming has the authority to directly regulate air quality in the Moneta Project Area. Furthermore, BLM must acknowledge that it defers the regulation of emissions to the State’s authority. |
| 1055 | While BLM prepares the Moneta Project EIS, it must allow development to continue within the Moneta Project Area. As BLM is aware, an EIS takes considerable time to prepare and implement. BLM should not halt development during this time, but should instead continue to permit individual wells subject to site-specific NEPA analysis. BLM may also continue to authorize additional development under the categorical exclusions set forth in section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. Law. No. 109-58, 119 Stat. 747. |
| 1060 | Since none of these important cultural attributes are, by themselves, eligible for the NRHP, we strongly encourage you to consider whether an automatic deferral to the Section 106 process to handle all concerns related to historic and cultural resources sufficiently addresses the impacts you are required to analyze under NEPA. |
| 1065 | BLM has both a duty and the authority to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation. BLM retains authority to condition oil and gas development despite issuance of a lease, so it can and should impose any requirement or restriction necessary to ensure that development activities in the Moneta Divide project area do not cause unnecessary or undue degradation. |
| 1065 | BLM should assist the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers with implementation and enforcement of section 404 of the CWA, which requires permits before discharges of dredged or fill material can be made into navigable waters. This is a powerful means for the protection of wetlands. |
| 1078 | The Lander RMP specifically encompasses oil and gas development in the Gas Hills Management Area. Lander RMP, pg. 50. The BLM specifically identified this region as appropriate for oil and gas development and the Lander RMP compels the BLM not to automatically apply unnecessary restrictions. |
| 1078 | The alternatives analyzed in the Moneta Project EIS may not affect the Operators' ability to access minerals under existing leases. Once the BLM issues leases, it cannot preclude development or impose additional lease stipulations. An oil and gas lease is a contract between the federal government and the lessee and cannot be unilaterally modified. |
| 1078 | In the Moneta Project EIS, BLM must expressly recognize that the State of Wyoming and not the BLM, has authority for regulating air quality within the Moneta Project Area. The complex regulatory scheme established by the Clean Air Act (“CAA”) provides the State of Wyoming with the authority to regulate Wyoming’s air resources. BLM may not infringe upon the State’s authority by attempting to regulate air quality or air emissions in the Moneta Project EIS. |
| 1078 | Because BLM lacks authority under the CAA over air quality, BLM may not attempt to regulate air emissions in the Moneta Project Area. Moreover, in the Moneta Project EIS, BLM should expressly acknowledge that, as a matter of federal law, the State of Wyoming has the authority to directly regulate air quality in the Moneta Project Area. Furthermore, BLM must acknowledge that it defers the regulation of emissions to the State’s authority. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1078 | When discussing the RFD Scenario, the BLM must inform the public that the RFD Scenario is not a limit or threshold on future development. The BLM should also explain that the RFD Scenario is only a tool utilized by the BLM to estimate the potential impacts of oil and gas development. The development of the RFD Scenario is not expressly required by FLPMA, NEPA, or the BLM's planning regulations at 43 C.P.R. part 1600. Rather, the concept arises from NEPA's general requirement to consider the potential cumulative impacts of a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. |
| 1078 | It is particularly important for the BLM to explain that the RFD Scenario is not a limit on future development because the oil and gas development proposed for the Moneta Divide Project exceeds the RFD Scenario set forth for the Proposed Lander RMP. Lander RMP/FEIS, pg. 254. As long as the BLM adequately analyses the impact of development in the Moneta Divide EIS, no revision to the Lander RMP is required and the BLM is free to approve the project. |
| 1078 | While BLM prepares the Moneta Project EIS, it must allow development to continue within the Moneta Project Area. As BLM is aware, an EIS takes considerable time to prepare and implement. BLM should not halt development during this time, but should instead continue to permit individual wells subject to site-specific NEPA analysis. BLM may also continue to authorize additional development under the categorical exclusions set forth in section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. Law. No. 109-58, 119 Stat. 747. |
| 1080 | the BLM cannot allow RMP provisions to override regulatory requirements. The regulations should dictate the application of RMP provisions. Therefore, the BLM must ensure it complies with the "minimize requirement" as it moves toward approval of the Moneta Divide Project even if this area is a DDA. |
| 1080 | In support of the need for BLM to ensure that it minimizes adverse environmental impacts in the Moneta Divide Project area we submit herewith as Exhibit 4 a scholarly article regarding BLM's "retained rights" in areas it has leased for oil and gas development. As the article makes clear, even though a lease may give lessees the right to develop oil and gas resources on their lease, any such rights have been made "subject to" a number of limitations. Therefore, the BLM retains substantial authority to regulate the time, place, and manner of any oil and gas development. The BLM should fully recognize these retained rights as a means to meet its obligation to minimize the adverse environmental impacts of oil and gas development in the Moneta Divide Project area. |
| 1080 | Finally, BLM should consider implementing a self-certification program in order to enhance compliance assurance. Such a program could be modeled off of EPA's Title V permitting and NSPS compliance certification requirements and is warranted given the unique nature of the oil and gas industry with its extremely large number of affected sources spread across vast areas and remote locations. |
| 1083 | Section 404. While not a state permit, this project may require a section 404 permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers. Any time work occurs within waters of the U.S. a 404 permit may be required. Please contact the Corps (307-772-2300) for specific information regarding jurisdiction and requirements. |
| Reclamation | |
| 1058 | It is requested that the BLM assess the following wildlife concerns and implement protective strategies when deemed necessary. Reclamation of native grasslands disturbed in the development and operation phases of extraction |
| 1063 | Given the long history of development and attempted reclamation in the area, the BLM should be able provide quantitative data in the EIS to support statements regarding reclamation of wildlife habitat. In particular, the EIS should include data pertaining to the successful or unsuccessful re-establishment of grasses, forbs, and shrubs on reclaimed sites in the area. The EIS should provide direction for the development of a comprehensive reclamation plan as part of the development plan. |
| 1083 | The reclamation plan must comply with the Wyoming Reclamation Policy and should be clearly described in the DI31S, including measures to monitor success and re-vegetate where needed. An alternative should be considered with both long-term and short-term disturbance caps to encourage minimization of surface disturbance, as well as rapid and successful reclamation of new and existing surface disturbances. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1083 | Scientists from the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, along with other state cooperators, the BLM, the University of Wyoming, producers and reclamation scientists contributed to the development of the "Proposed Interim Rollover Objective for the Continental Divide-Creston Natural Gas Project EIS and ROD" in Appendix E of the CD-C DE IS. Although this document was developed to facilitate interim reclamation rollover, we believe this a state o f the art guidance document which can and should be applied to any reclamation, whether it is used for rollover credit or not. The WQD requests that this document be incorporated into the DEIS. |
| 1093 | The BLM should require timely and successful reclamation and mitigation. Reclamation and mitigation requirements and the consequences for energy developers failing to accomplish adequate reclamation and mitigation should be clearly stated. |
| Recreation | |
| 1058 | It is requested that the BLM assess the following wildlife concerns and implement protective strategies when deemed necessary. Evaluate effects to public access on public and state lands and whether the project would affect the number of hunting licenses issued within and surrounding the project area. |
| 1065 | The EIS must analyze recreation uses of the Moneta Divide project area and adjacent areas and the economic gain realized by the local economy as a result of these uses. The EIS must then evaluate the loss of recreation opportunities that may result from the development of 4,250 wells and associated infrastructure. |
| 1065 | The proposed project will certainly impact the hunting opportunities the area currently affords. In developing the project, the BLM and operators should provide opportunities for dispersed recreation uses in the area that are consistent with riparian and fisheries management objectives. |
| 1065 | The EIS should address issues related to noise created by drilling and other activities. These impacts must be evaluated in terms of the remoteness and quietness that so many seek on public lands. Specifically, the impacts on hunting activities in the area, and on hunters who may use the area, must be considered. |
| 1094 | As an avid hunter and sportsman, I would strongly be against anything that hindered my success in the field. To the contrary, I find that the oil fields are great places to see an abundance of wildlife. |
| Social and Economic | |
| 1002 | This project would bring much needed jobs & economic growth to Fremont county & Wyoming. |
| 1003 | It will create many jobs and no harm to the environment. |
| 1008 | More energy mining means added textile jobs to this area. We manufacture coverts and other textile products for the energy industry. More local sales will bring machines to Riverton that will also manufacture outdoor, military, organic, and personal care items along with medical equipment. |
| 1009 | The Moneta Divide Project could and would be a huge economy booster and provide several more job opportunities for Fremont and Natrona county residents. |
| 1013 | Economically: Provide jobs and economic stability to an area in need. Tax revenues will increase and stabalize. Socially: good jobs keep families together and that makes for great communities that thrive. |
| 1013 | The trickle down of this will affect our real estate prices, our public services, cause a downturn in our business environment, which will in turn affect the unemployment numbers which will further snowball the economic and social effect of the economic losses. |
| 1028 | The addition of high paying skilled jobs stimulates growth and wealth in every facit of business in the area. |
| 1043 | We are very favorable to the Moneta Divide Project for obvious reasons. If this project were to get started, it would mean job security for all of our current employees, plus with the increased work load, I feel confident in saying that there would be many more employees added to our payroll. |
| 1044 | I also like that royalties from the project would go into both the State and Federal coffers. My understanding is that the Federal royalty is 18.5% which in my mind is substantial. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1044 | Royalties aside the jobs it would create would prove of immediate benefit to both the State and Federal governments. |
| 1045 | There will positive effects both on the local and national economy. I also think that the residents in and around the proposed drilling area, for the most part, are accustom to the oilfield so there would be little social impact. |
| 1046 | There is an abundance of experienced workers in the region at this current time. With the recent market of this area, many are looking to move on or change careers. Having this project in place, it would keep the local force intact and divert the need to bring in outside help and less experienced personnel to accomplish the work. This alone helps with overcrowding and under sizing of the current towns in the region as well as providing highly trained individuals to complete the services. |
| 1049 | There are very few human homes in the area, so the impact to the public should be minimal |
| 1049 | Jobs, with the Country needing jobs, this will be a good source of high paying jobs for people who need them, both local and people who will move here for them. - Taxes, I hate to say it, but Fremont County, the State of Wyoming and the US Government will reap benefits from the labor pool and the taxes paid to drill and the royalties paid while producing the wells |
| 1052 | Many jobs are at stake with this project- this will employ many people and help the local and state economies. Tax revenues will help insure that our essential services provided by the state and local governments will continue to be funded adequately. |
| 1055 | Hydrocarbon production in the Moneta Project Area increases domestic energy resources, provides an alternative to energy sources with high carbon emissions, and provides sources of revenue to stimulate the local and national economies. |
| 1055 | Hydrocarbon production from the Moneta Project will benefit the national, state, and local economies. Development of one natural gas well can yield hundreds of thousands of dollars that are paid to governments and reinvested in the local community. Production of Hydrocarbons provides revenue to county, state, and federal governments through royalties and taxes. Furthermore, development of the natural gas resource will require increased employment, and the Operators will make substantial economic investments in the local economies. |
| 1055 | The Moneta Project EIS must include an analysis of the economic effects of the project. This analysis should begin with a historical perspective of land use in the Moneta Project Area and a discussion of how oil and gas development has facilitated economic growth. This description would provide a baseline to assess current economic conditions and how future development scenarios would affect the local and regional economy. From this information, BLM can best analyze the beneficial economic impacts that will result from the Moneta Project. In this analysis, BLM must evaluate the beneficial impacts of the revenues the federal government, State of Wyoming, and Fremont and Natrona Counties will receive from royalties and taxes on production. Furthermore, BLM must analyze the beneficial impacts to public services that depend on tax revenues generated by oil and gas operations, such as public school districts. BLM must also analyze the impacts from the Moneta Project on the local and regional economy from the project's demand for additional goods and services, which results in the creation of additional jobs, additional sales of materials, and increased tax revenue from sales taxes. |
| 1055 | Just as the Moneta Project EIS must analyze the project's economic benefits, it must also analyze the adverse economic effects of overly restrictive management alternatives. BLM must explain how overly restrictive management of the project may lead to decreased development, which negatively impacts the local and regional economy through decreased royalty revenue, decreased tax revenue, and the creation of fewer jobs. |
| 1058 | Preliminary potential impacts noted in the NOI did not include the socioeconomic impacts to Natrona County, which is one of our major concerns. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1058 | The NCBOCC believe that the proposed development would be beneficial for the area, yet have concerns about the availability of housing and the ability of the County to provide the necessary infrastructure for the increased population. While only 20% of the project area is located in Natrona County, the majority of the anticipated population increase will likely reside within the County. In addition, a substantial amount of the service industry is already established in Natrona County. Thus impacts will not only be from workers on the project site but from citizens providing supporting services. |
| 1058 | The project will employ as many as 300 permanent workers and 600 temporary workers. However, if the drilling is staged over 15 years, a temporary workforce would be required for as many years. As of the 2010 census there were 785 housing units for rent in Casper. This influx in population will have a significant impact on the County’s housing market, public utilities infrastructure, public services, and transportation network |
| 1058 | Identification of housing needs and other socioeconomic impacts may be more accurate with improved baseline data collection. Considering other BLM energy development projects where workers have had a choice as to where to live may be worthwhile in order to analyze whether temporary or permanent workers will choose to live in Casper Riverton, or within the project area. Impacts associated with the establishment of man camps should also be evaluated. The choice of living area will impact traffic, infrastructure, law enforcement, social services and housing. |
| 1058 | With only 20% of the project area within our jurisdiction, Natrona County will not receive as much of the mineral tax revenues as Fremont County, yet will need to spend funds to mitigate the strains on services. Some of this may be offset by increased assessed valuation from businesses that support the oil and gas industry locating in Casper. However, this revenue will most likely fall well short of the amount needed to expand and maintain additional required infrastructure. |
| 1058 | We believe that it is vital to (1) quantify new and continuing impacts and the associated costs of any needed mitigations, and (2) identify funding sources for any necessary mitigations. In particular, potential impacts associated with increased demand should be analyzed for the Natrona County Sheriff’s Office, emergency management services in western Natrona County, and Natrona County schools. |
| 1058 | Consequently, we request that the BLM and the operators provide a socioeconomic assessment that includes baseline data, an annual monitoring plan, an infrastructure project list, and annual funding sources. |
| 1059 | Socio-economic analysis. We ask that the BLM work very closely with Fremont and Natrona County on the development of the socio-economic analysis. Under Wyo. Stat. Ann. 18-5-208, the Wyoming Legislature has recognized that boards of county commissioners have "special expertise on all subject matters for which it has statutory responsibility, including but not limited to, all subject matters directly or indirectly related to health, safety, welfare, custom, culture and socio-economic viability of a county." We have been concerned with the accuracy of the socio-economic analysis on a number of recent BLM plans and RMP revisions, particularly the depiction in past analysis that there will be no difference in the economic impact across alternatives, despite the fact that conservation alternatives place significant development constraints that most certainly will have an economic impact. The socio-economic impact analysis is a significant aspect of an EIS, as significant as wildlife impact analysis, and it should be completed in a manner that is as accurate as possible. |
| 1060 | We believe these unconsidered impacts to our state’s heritage can and will have serious socio-economic impacts long into the future. Our state’s economy is heavily dependent on tourism, which ranks second only to energy production. If we sacrifice the qualities that draw in tourists – our cowboy culture, our open spaces, our unobstructed views, our clean air, our ability to transport visitors back to another era – we risk losing this vital and important sector of our economy. |
| 1068 | If a positive decision is reached in this EIS the field will develop long term and these steady jobs will help to decrease the boom/bust cycle we commonly experience with the oil and gas industry in Wyoming. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1069 | <p>I am writing this letter in support of the Moneta Divide EIS project. This project will have an overall positive impact on the state of Wyoming due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job creation and stability Increased tax revenue Stability in developing domestic energy Increased natural gas development, the cleanest fossil fuel Community investment Growth of local economies Growth in local school districts Collaboration with the UW energy studies and engineering programs |
| 1070 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Jobs generated by this development provide stable jobs for our county and state so people can remain in Wyoming to raise their families 4) Families who remain in Wyoming stimulate the economy here and have a positive effect on communities 5) graduating high school students may stay in Wyoming to go to school if they feel there is sustainable work in their own home town |
| 1072 | <p>Each drilling rig that runs at moneta divide will directly employ 25 people as well as 100 indirect people. These jobs will boost the economy in Riverton and Casper greatly. The extra business to the motels, restaurants, bars and stores will then provide additional jobs to hourly wage workers and the cycle will continue positively for our small Wyoming towns.</p> |
| 1072 | <p>I am aware that many people have a negative opinion of oilfield workers and feel that crime etc will go up with this prosperity. Although any influx of people provides a potential for crime the perception is not the reality.</p> |
| 1074 | <p>This project would provide hundreds of permanent jobs in our community and others and would provide billions of dollars in tax revenues to state and local governments.</p> |
| 1075 | <p>The continued extraction of the natural resource is anticipated to bring in billions of dollars in tax revenues to state and local governments. Not to mention the royalties paid to the federal government. There is also the potential to introduce hundreds more jobs, filled by current county residents and encouraging an influx of new residents.</p> |
| 1076 | <p>I want to stress very strongly that if this project does not go through, many people will be out of work. This is always a domino effect in this community and others in this great State of Wyoming. Natural gas and oil is one of Wyoming's largest employers, supporting more than 62,000 jobs throughout the state.</p> |
| 1077 | <p>I want to stress very strongly that if this project does not go through, many people will be out of work. This is always a domino effect in this community and others in this great State of Wyoming. Natural gas and oil is one of Wyoming's largest employers, supporting more than 62,000 jobs throughout the state.</p> |
| 1078 | <p>Hydrocarbon production in the Moneta Project Area increases domestic energy resources, provides an alternative to energy sources with high carbon emissions, and provides sources of revenue to stimulate the local and national economies.</p> |
| 1078 | <p>Hydrocarbon production from the Moneta Project will benefit the national, state, and local economies. Development of one natural gas well can yield hundreds of thousands of dollars that are paid to governments and reinvested in the local community. Production of Hydrocarbons provides revenue to county, state, and federal governments through royalties and taxes. Furthermore, development of the natural gas resource will require increased employment, and the Operators will make substantial economic investments in the local economies.</p> |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1078 | The Moneta Project EIS must include an analysis of the economic effects of the project. This analysis should begin with a historical perspective of land use in the Moneta Project Area and a discussion of how oil and gas development has facilitated economic growth. This description would provide a baseline to assess current economic conditions and how future development scenarios would affect the local and regional economy. From this information, BLM can best analyze the beneficial economic impacts that will result from the Moneta Project. In this analysis, BLM must evaluate the beneficial impacts of the revenues the federal government, State of Wyoming, and Fremont and Natrona Counties will receive from royalties and taxes on production. Furthermore, BLM must analyze the beneficial impacts to public services that depend on tax revenues generated by oil and gas operations, such as public school districts. BLM must also analyze the impacts from the Moneta Project on the local and regional economy from the project's demand for additional goods and services, which results in the creation of additional jobs, additional sales of materials, and increased tax revenue from sales taxes. |
| 1078 | Just as the Moneta Project EIS must analyze the project's economic benefits, it must also analyze the adverse economic effects of overly restrictive management alternatives. BLM must explain how overly restrictive management of the project may lead to decreased development which negatively impacts the local and regional economy through decreased revenue decreased tax revenue, and the creation of fewer jobs. |
| 1084 | This project is estimated to bring in hundreds of new primary and secondary jobs to Fremont and Natrona counties as well as the State of Wyoming from drilling an estimated 4,000+ oil and natural gas wells through 2030. This will be a sustained operation providing essential energy and financial resources to the state and the country. |
| 1086 | It is important to the future of Fremont County. This project and others like it will provide money for educators, youth programs, state and city grants. Oil projects and (illegible) this could be the beginning of some serious funding for our economy. |
| 1088 | The state & country needs the economic benefit that will happen if development takes place. |
| 1089 | I feel that this project is a great opportunity for Wyoming and its people. It will provide a lot of local work and employment of many people |
| 1091 | This project is necessary for America to develop independence from middle eastern oil supplies. Whether natural gas or oil is the predominant product from the wells, it is important to our economy. |
| 1093 | We strongly recommend the EIS include a full and thorough social and economic impact analysis, since grazing on public lands represents a vital economic value to agriculture producers and local communities. We recommend the analysis includes impacts upon livestock grazing in and adjacent to the planning area. The cumulative impacts of energy developments upon livestock grazing may jeopardize the livelihoods of grazing permittees. |
| 1094 | The oil and gas industry here in Central Wyoming provides economical stability to not only the State of Wyoming but to all of the surrounding states. |
| 1097 | The oil and gas industry is very important to the residents of Fremont County. It provides jobs that support many families which in turn produces economic stability and growth here in our county. Funding and many donations from the oil and gas companies help our children and our community in continuing education, healthcare, and youth programs. |
| 1098 | Many families depend on the oil field because that is the source of income. Many people will be out of a job in the oil company will go under. |
| Soils | |
| 1058 | It is requested that the BLM assess the following wildlife concerns and implement protective strategies when deemed necessary. As classified in the Lander RMP the vicinity is prone to moderate and severe wind erosion and there are areas with low soil reclamation potential. Erosion of soils and sediment delivery to waterways are major issues affecting fish populations which warrant consideration. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1083 | The BLM should require building roads to the minimal standard necessary for the production phase, or immediately reducing their footprint after drilling and completion activities are completed. Additionally, the DEIS should analyze requiring all produced water and condensate be piped to centralized gathering facilities to reduce the need for roads designed for frequent large truck traffic. Roads should also be designed so that surface runoff from roads, or flows across the roads, is not concentrated in a way that causes erosion. Runoff and erosion from roads, culverts and ephemeral channel crossings can compound and cause significant sediment loading as well as channel alteration both upstream and downstream of the crossings. It is important that all these locations are monitored throughout the life of the project so that any erosion can be mitigated before growing into larger erosion problems in streams and wetlands. |
| 1083 | Soils which remain in place, can when compacted, can often be reclaimed more quickly and successfully than soils which have been removed and replaced. The BLM should consider analyzing the feasibility of using mats or similar techniques to reduce temporary surface disturbance. The analysis should include the cost of reclamation, long term monitoring, and other costs associated with surface disturbance. |
| Special Management Areas | |
| 1064 | It is unclear at this point whether the project area intersects the South Fork of the Powder citizens' proposed wilderness, submitted to the Casper Field Office of the BLM approximately 7 years ago... This makes clear that BLM's previous determination regarding naturalness for this area is not valid under the new wilderness inventory guidance. This NEPA project triggers a need for BLM to re-assess the wilderness characteristics of this unit if it intersects the Project Area or would otherwise be affected in any way by the proposed project. |
| 1080 | Given this array of special values, this area should be protected from development, particularly any oil and gas development. Significant oil and gas development is already occurring to the south of this area and more is planned, but this development should remain south of the Bridger Mountains. There is low potential for oil and gas in most of this area, and for that reason it is largely unleased, so it is appropriate to remove it from consideration for oil and gas development. |
| 1080 | Given these limitations, it is our view that the Lander RMP should be improved relative to its management direction for the Bridger Mountains. We believe more proactive management to protect the resources of this area is needed. |
| 1080 | we believe the BLM should focus a greater level of resource protection on the Bridger Mountains area under the auspices of the Lander RMP. The proposed management of this area in the draft RMP is lacking relative to protections for this magnificent Priority Conservation Area. For example, much of this area would be open to oil and gas leasing with only moderate constraints. |
| 1080 | Proposed Management Direction for the Bridger Mountains. With superb opportunities for recreation, a diverse assemblage of native plants and wildlife, and a strong likelihood that significant new oil and gas development will occur nearby, we believe that the greater Copper Mountain area (GCMA) deserves management that will maintain or minimize impacts to scenic, recreational, and ecological values of this area. Below in Figure 1 we present a map of this area. This is a revision to the area presented in the map entitled "The Bridger Mountains- Extraordinary Solitude, Geology, and Wildlife" in Exhibit 1, and the reasons for this modification will be discussed below. |
| Special Status Species | |
| 1024 | Activity should be disallowed around any sage-grouse leks. |
| 1033 | I was alarmed to see the three plants that were listed had large areas circled on the map saying potential habitat or high likelihood of occurrence. If the plants are there they need to work around them. If it's just potential or highly likely it should not stop oil and gas development in those areas, there should not be big areas that can't be used. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1033 | We think it is important to start the EIS with numbers of Sage Grouse that are out there now. There have been two studies in the resent past. Dave Lockman did a study on the south side of the area and Hayden-Wing Associates performed a study on the north. Their findings on all wildlife should be included in the EIS. Because of the predation over the past 30+ years, the historical numbers from the Game and Fish should not be used. Part of the Studies was to look at habitat for wildlife, that information should also be a part of the EIS |
| 1057 | Things that we believe are important to consider with regard to this project include the following: Impacts to sage grouse populations. In particular, what efforts will be made to insure that Gov. Mead’s Executive Order on Sage Grouse will be met? The USFWS has endorsed this Exec. Order as an appropriate methodology for conserving sage grouse populations, and expects that it will be followed with respect to federal projects in Wyoming. If it will not be followed in this instance, an explanation should be provided as to how the BLM or the USFWS intends to mitigate the impacts that can be anticipated to be visited upon sage grouse populations. |
| 1058 | It is requested that the BLM assess the following wildlife concerns and implement protective strategies when deemed necessary. Follow the Wyoming Governor’s Executive Order Sage-grouse Core Area guidelines |
| 1059 | We ask that the BLM ensure full consistency with the Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse Core Area Protection Executive Order (Sage-grouse EO). The Wyoming Sage-Grouse EO has been recognized by the FWS as a "sound framework for a policy by which to conserve greater sage grouse in Wyoming." |
| 1063 | An alternative in the EIS should analyze the application of non-core area lek protections and seasonal use stipulations, including: no surface occupancy (NSO) within 1/4 mile of the perimeter of occupied, non-core area leks, No surface disturbing activity from March 15-June 30 within 2 miles of the perimeter of occupied, non-core area leks. |
| 1063 | Additionally, a sage-grouse habitat use study was completed in the project area by Hayden-Wing (2008-2012). We recommend the BLM incorporate appropriate site-specific data and information provided by this study into the development of the EIS. |
| 1063 | An alternative in the EIS should analyze the application of core area process, guidelines, and stipulations Specifically: the density and disturbance calculation tool (DDCT) process should be conducted on the portion of the project area in core area, general stipulations pertaining to surface disturbance, surface occupancy, seasonal use, transportation, overhead lines, noise, vegetation removal, sagebrush treatment, monitoring/adaptive response, reclamation, and existing activities should be considered, specific stipulations pertaining to oil and gas development should be considered, development of the Long Rifle Unit (established in 2012) in accordance with E.O. 2011-5 process, guidelines, and stipulations should be considered. |
| 1063 | The project area contains habitats that support other sensitive species including raptors and bats, and potentially mountain plover and prairie dogs. Based on wildlife survey information, an alternative in the EIS should analyze protections for these species nesting areas, colonies and habitats as appropriate. |
| 1063 | If water disposal is expected to occur south of U.S. Highway 20/26, the EIS needs to analyze the effects of any proposed activity in relation to sage-grouse core area and E.O. 2011-5. |
| 1064 | While Core Areas contain the best sage grouse habitat for this particular project area, they do not encompass all of the sage grouse habitat, and sage grouse would benefit from capping the surface density to 640-acre spacing outside Core Areas, too. |
| 1064 | With this in mind, wellpad density should be capped at no greater than one well per square mile throughout the project area, and surface disturbing activities should be prohibited within 3 miles of active or recently active sage grouse lek sites. |
| 1064 | The BLM’s National Technical Team has issued a series of recommendations for oil and gas development in sage grouse Core Areas, and BLM must require implementing these recommendations, representing the most scientifically credible approach espoused by the agency’s own experts, in at least one alternative. BLM should make this alternative its Proposed Action. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1064 | Prairie dog colonies need to be mapped and population trends should be established in the forthcoming EIS to fulfill NEPA baseline information requirements, and mitigation measures should be applied preventing road construction or well development within ¼ mile of active colonies, and preventing powerline siting within ½ mile of active colonies. The project area is near the mixing zones between the white-tailed and black-tailed species, so impacts to both will need to be considered. |
| 1064 | Mountain plovers. BLM should map occurrences and nesting habitat for mountain plovers within the project area and avoid the development of roads or wellpads within ½ mile of identified nesting habitats. Roads and wellpads may become population sinks for mountain plover, which can be attracted to these as feeding sites to be killed by collisions with motor vehicles. |
| 1064 | Rare plants The project area should be surveyed for rare plants (BLM Sensitive, or labeled G1, G2, G3, S1, or S2 by NatureServe or the Wyoming Natural Diversity database). Mitigation measures should be put into place to prevent surface disturbance from destroying or reducing rare plant occurrences, or promoting an increase in dust pollution that would have an adverse effect on plants occurring directly adjacent to roads or wellpads. |
| 1064 | Displacing surface disturbance from sensitive wildlife habitats. Sensitive wildlife habitats such as big game crucial ranges and sage grouse nesting habitats should be avoided (whether inside or outside of Core Areas); the gas and oil resources underneath them will still be available for production via the use of directional drilling. |
| 1065 | Habitat designated by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) as —crucial habitat must be managed to prevent any —significant declines in species distribution or abundance or loss of habitat function. |
| 1065 | In addition, the EIS needs to consider the status, trend, and effectiveness of existing measures to protect all other threatened, endangered, and candidate species, as well as species of concern or recreational or economic significance, in the project area and cumulative impact area. Species and habitat to be analyzed must include (but are not limited to): Black-footed ferrets (including prairie dog colonies) Bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and ferruginous hawks Western burrowing owls Sage grouse Big game (including crucial winter range, migration corridors, parturition areas, and other crucial habitats) |
| 1065 | BLM must comply with Wyoming Executive Order 2011-5, Greater Sage-Grouse Core Area Protection. In addition, when designing a Greater sage-grouse management and mitigation plan for the Moneta Divide project area, BLM must apply current and relevant scientific data analyzing impacts to greater sage-grouse that result from oil and gas development of recommended mitigation measures. |
| 1065 | BLM should not focus its attention on protecting —core areas at the expense of adjacent —noncore areas. It is possible that non-core areas that may be affected by the proposed project have more Greater sage-grouse and/or more active leks than surrounding core areas. |
| 1065 | Typical stipulations limit oil and gas activities when sage grouse are utilizing known leks, and certainly BLM must prevent disturbance during the sage grouse courtship period and near sage grouse nests. However, focusing exclusively on limited elements of a species' ecological needs (courtship and nesting) not only might fail to protect the species, it might also blind BLM to other critical factors affecting the species. |
| 1065 | Additionally, the EIS should address compliance with the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the decision document should specify the means by which BLM will ensure compliance with and enforce these laws. |
| Stakeholder Involvement | |
| 1025 | I would like to see all property owners - ranchers - in the area constantly notified or updates on this project. |
| 1058 | We also request that the BLM analyze impacts to Natrona County municipalities and suggest that the agency work to include and inform municipalities during the planning process. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1058 | The NCBOCC and its representative are interested in participating in the Interdisciplinary (ID) team. There is precedent across Wyoming for local governments to be part of the ID team at both planning and site-specific project levels. Early and frequent communication with local governments will benefit the Moneta Divide Project as consideration of local government concerns, data, public process, and credibility can improve the NEPA process by allowing for the opportunity to minimize differences. |
| 1058 | In addition to providing internal and external scoping to develop the issues to be analyzed, we would like to work on the below key items in the NEPA process for the Moneta Divide Project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Development of the list of needed resource, environmental, social, economic, and institutional data · Development of alternatives · Evaluation of alternatives and estimation of the effects of alternatives on the environment, local socioeconomics, and local customs and culture |
| 1059 | With that in mind, we request that the Lander and Casper Field Offices meaningfully engage Fremont and Natrona County as cooperating agencies, and that the cooperating agency relationship be a working partnership, rather than merely a check of a box to indicate that you "included" cooperating agencies. Meaningful cooperating agency involvement requires full cooperation and the free flow of communication through the entirety of the planning process through the ROD- not just up and until the draft EIS. |
| 1079 | The NCCD Board strongly encourages the BLM staff and other cooperators to work closely with landowners and grazing permittees in the area and listen to their concerns and recommendations. It will be the land user that is most familiar with the areas affected by this project, as well as the most impacted by development. It will be essential to take into consideration the cultural and financial impacts on these land users. |
| 1083 | The WQD would like to participate as a cooperator in developing a monitoring plan for both baseline and ongoing groundwater monitoring. |
| 1093 | Moreover, it is imperative that BLM officials continuously inform all livestock grazing permittees who are directly or indirectly affected of the issues, decisions, and resulting actions regarding this proposal. |
| Surface Disturbance | |
| 1063 | Given the amount of development associated with the proposed project, every attempt should be made to minimize the acreage of initial vegetation disturbance. Techniques such as multi-well platforms should be utilized as much as possible, as well as clustering developing in the least sensitive habitats, among other measures. We recommend an alternative in the EIS analyze a scenario that reduces initial surface disturbance below the currently proposed 13,500 acres. |
| 1064 | Require closed-loop drilling in lieu of reserve pits. This reduces the size of individual wellpads and thereby reduces the overall surface disturbance of the project. |
| 1083 | The DEIS needs to analyze various alternatives which minimize the amount of surface disturbance and topsoil removal. Whenever possible, pipelines should be co-located with roads, pipelines should be installed with techniques such as plowing, and vegetation should be mowed rather than bladed to minimize soil disturbance. |
| Traffic and Transportation | |
| 1019 | My concern is how is this develop going to impact the highway between Riverton and Casper WYO 20/26. What kind of traffic increase and what kinds of vehicles will their be. Number of trucks vs. cars/pickups. |
| 1024 | An arterial road system should be incorporated that minimizes road buildings. |
| 1024 | Roads to production/exploration sites should be closed to general public to mitigate impact. |
| 1051 | I wanted to make sure impacts to US 20/26 were adequately studied and mitigated due to the the increased traffic generated by the development. |
| 1058 | Please evaluate the following potential infrastructure concerns and address significant issues during project and alternative development: The effects of proposed alternatives with respect to Natrona County and state roads, particularly their current standards and conditions, dust abatement, and traffic safety. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1058 | Please evaluate the following potential infrastructure concerns and address significant issues during project and alternative development: Please analyze road impacts based on dust mitigation and traffic volume and consider paving main access roads if traffic volume indicates that it would be feasible. During the analysis consider that the potential for wind erosion is moderate to severe. |
| 1058 | Please evaluate the following potential infrastructure concerns and address significant issues during project and alternative development: Please disclose which Natrona County roads will be used for operations, maintenance, and water disposal. |
| 1058 | Please evaluate the following potential infrastructure concerns and address significant issues during project and alternative development: Please state how traffic safety will be addressed during periods of heavy industrial traffic. |
| 1080 | Traffic estimates are based on operator data for the assumed weight of vehicles, speeds driven, distance traveled, number of trips made and total miles traveled.15. BLM should require operators to confirm activity data and make adjustments to better reflect emissions and associated impacts, if needed. |
| Vegetation | |
| 1065 | The BLM should conduct surveys to determine the location and characteristics of native plant communities and rare or special status species. The survey results should be presented in the environmental analysis, and the decision document should establish standards for protecting native plant communities and rare or special status species. |
| 1065 | Further, all federally approved activities must include all practical measures to minimize adverse impacts to wetlands and riparian areas. BLM must prohibit disturbance in riparian areas and wetlands to ensure these critical resources are fully protected. |
| 1065 | Predict the level of vegetation and surface disturbance, identify resulting surface water impacts, and plan for mitigation of such impacts. Assert best management practices to control surface runoff and protect natural drainages. Seismic exploration activities and hydraulic fracturing should not be allowed in or very near to streams, wetlands, and riparian areas. |
| Water | |
| 1006 | I am very impressed with the stabilization and water treatment/disposal plans that I discussed with representatives from Encana. The project is very well conceived. |
| 1013 | Environment: The water byproduct from this development will provide additional water for wildlife, agriculture and recreation. |
| 1015 | For me the concern is the water which will be going into Boysen Reservoir and into the Wind River Canyon. |
| 1016 | The water would be a great benefit to the landowners and to the wildlife. |
| 1017 | The water treatment plans are very encouraging and would be of great benefit to the area. |
| 1022 | I am concerned about water quality, especially the surface discharge of "treated" water into Boysen Reservoir. |
| 1032 | I harbor a great deal of concern regarding our inability to eliminate the possibility of ground water contamination secondary to fracking. Further I recognize the highly speculative nature of the science of ground water hydrology. Wells are the source of information, and wells cost money, and thus there is very limited information. |
| 1040 | I would also like to request the BLM recommend, or if possible demand, way more stringent water testing prior to drilling of any kind, and annual water testing follow-up to accurately determine the damaging effects of the fracking process. |
| 1046 | Another topic is with the pipeline to Boysen Reservoir. If the proposed amount of clean reusable water can be entered into the reservoir, that would be of huge impact to the local agriculture business as well as the personal enjoyment from the lake. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1054 | I think it is important to urge the company to explore a number of options beyond simple "disposal" of the water via re-injection. |
| 1054 | I understand there has been a proposal to treat some of the water and pipe it to the Big Horn River or Boysen Reservoir; I had heard the company also proposed some more nearby uses that might benefit the Shoshone and Arapahoe tribes, including possible hyroponic greenhouses or fish culture. |
| 1054 | I think there should be ample public discussion of the best use of that water, and the potential for the water that Encana is now proposing to reinject, instead to be treated and used on the surface. Alternatively, there should be discussion of treating the water before reinjecting it, in a way that could avoid potential problems of aquifer contamination. |
| 1054 | I hope the draft EIS, and perhaps earlier public meetings, will make clear exactly how much water is potentially involved, and what the many options might be for its use. In that discussion, I think it would be helpful for public understanding to make sure the water volume is translated from barrels/day (the oilfield term) to cubic feet per second and/or acre-feet per year, which will mean more to Wyoming people who make use of water, whether in municipalities, industry, or agriculture. |
| 1057 | Things that we believe are important to consider with regard to this project include the following: Impacts to groundwater quality. Studies conducted by the EPA on hydraulic fracturing in Fremont County (the Pavillion area) have shown that Hydraulic Fracturing operations can impact groundwater resources. There is every reason to believe that this will also be the case with the Moneta Divide Project. The operator is the same operator as in the Pavillion study. Well integrity should be closely scrutinized, since it appears that the integrity of wells and well bores are a crucial determinant with respect to groundwater pollution and contamination. |
| 1057 | Things that we believe are important to consider with regard to this project include the following: Reasonable alternatives should require that every single well should be inspected regularly for well integrity, since the record of the oil and gas industry is that a certain percentage of wells will fail, due to poor construction or poor well integrity. The failure rate can range from 1% to 10%, but for a 4200 well project, this would be a significant number of wells that could be expected to fail. The groundwater resources of the area could be permanently ruined if adequate protections to guard against this possibility are not undertaken. |
| 1057 | Apparently the operator for the proposed project is planning to discharge all wastewater from the Moneta Divide Project via a pipe that conveys the effluent to Boysen Reservoir. We do not have any information as to the volume of the discharge. This poses grave concerns for several reasons: The operator will undoubtedly be utilizing some kind of hydraulic fracturing to produce the 4200 wells that will be drilled as part of this project. |
| 1057 | Apparently the operator for the proposed project is planning to discharge all wastewater from the Moneta Divide Project via a pipe that conveys the effluent to Boysen Reservoir. We do not have any information as to the volume of the discharge. This poses grave concerns for several reasons: It is not sufficient to rely on the Wyoming DEQ with respect to surface water quality concerns. It is quite possible that the DEQ will issue a discharge permit without looking at or evaluating the fact that many highly toxic chemicals will be part of the produced water effluent to be discharged by the operator into Boysen reservoir. Such an evaluation and analysis needs to be made for ALL chemicals to be dumped into Boysen reservoir by the operator as part of its discharge, whether or not it will be listed as a constituent that is regulated by the DEQ as part of the discharge permit. ALL of the impacts of all of the chemicals need to be thoroughly evaluated and considered. |
| 1057 | Generally speaking, it should be remembered that Boysen Reservoir is an important water resource to all Wyomingites, as well as all Americans, that is prized for its recreational, fishing, boating and swimming opportunities. The impacts of the Moneta Divide Project will obviously include impacts to Boysen Reservoir that should be examined, studied and evaluated carefully before this project is allowed to go forward. Many people recreate in and around Boysen Reservoir and the impacts to human and animal health cannot and should not be ignored. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1058 | It is requested that the BLM assess the following wildlife concerns and implement protective strategies when deemed necessary. Use best management practices, such as enclosed, above ground waste water storage tanks as a means of processing and storing waste water to minimize potential of ground water contamination, mortality to birds, amphibians and small mammals. |
| 1058 | The EIS should provide measures to minimize pollution and mitigate impacts if necessary. Baseline water quality data should be collected prior to the start of the project and should facilitate future monitoring analyses. Budgets for all baseline data studies should be included in the EIS. In addition, it is requested that several methods for water disposal be considered during project and alternative development. |
| 1063 | We recommend the EIS address produced water quality and quantity, and recommend that produced water from the project either be reinjected or treated to meet Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality water quality standards. Even treated water, if discharged to the surface, could impact the ecology and balance of aquatic systems and their species assemblages, including amphibians. Such possible impacts should be evaluated and addressed in the EIS. |
| 1063 | We are concerned with erosion and sedimentation in this area because the soils in these drainages are very unstable. An increase in roads, pipelines and other developments could lead to increased erosion. Sedimentation would impact the fisheries in these drainages, as well as the productivity of the Boysen Reservoir fishery. We recommend that the EIS include, at a minimum, best management practices to control erosion and prevent sediment from reaching these waterways. |
| 1065 | That is, a purpose of water quality standards is to protect aquatic ecosystems. As such, the EIS must explain how compliance with water quality standards will ensure maintenance of aquatic habitat function. |
| 1065 | Specifically, we request that the EIS and the decision document (1) discuss the water demand associated with the exploratory drilling and production activities, (2) disclose the source of water anticipated to supply the demand, and (3) analyze the impact of this water demand on affected water users. |
| 1065 | Furthermore, the EIS must describe exactly how and where produced water will be disposed. Due to current drought conditions and a general water shortage facing the West, we recommend that produced water be sent to a treatment facility for recycling. |
| 1065 | Complete a thorough and updated baseline water quality study of streams and aquifers. Analyze surface and subsurface hydrologic conditions. Analyze potential surface water contamination issues. Analyze all stream and drainage crossings of pipelines, roads, improved access areas, staging areas, and water disposal facilities. |
| 1065 | Analyze the impact of well development activities on surface waters. |
| 1065 | Address hydraulic fracturing, including details on how operators will handle produced water, which might include treatment, re-injection, evaporation and discharge. |
| 1065 | Identify what measures will be taken to prevent ground and surface water pollution. Define specific mitigation measures that the BLM will use to limit and prevent impacts to the hydrological systems. Discuss the water demand associated with the exploratory drilling, production activities, and the source of water anticipated to supply the demand. Analyze the impact on affected water users. |
| 1065 | To the extent waters within the BLM's jurisdiction have been identified as water quality impaired segments, or contribute stream flow to such segments, the Moneta Divide project decision document should require affirmative steps toward reducing that impaired status, regardless of whether the State has made a specific allocation of pollutant load to BLM lands at the time the ROD is adopted. If any specific load allocation has been made by the State of Wyoming for activities on BLM lands, BLM should obviously ensure compliance with these allocations. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1065 | Use the state-of-the-art technology to protect and monitor groundwater in the proposed project area. Provide a detailed description of the subsurface hydrology with characterization of the aquifers that could be affected. Identify the differing geological formations and provide quantitative descriptions of the geohydrological characteristics of each formation. Identify water users who depend upon groundwater resources and provide mitigation measures. Analyze the impact of well development activities on subsurface water. Address hydraulic fracturing, the use of drilling muds and injection of other substances, penetration of aquifers and aquitards, and related potential inter-aquifer communication. Complete a thorough and updated baseline water quality study of streams and aquifers. Provide a full discussion of potential contamination issues. Define specific mitigations measures that the BLM will use to limit and prevent impacts to the hydrological systems. |
| 1067 | the new oil and gas project in the Moneta Divide Field has me very much concerned because of the proposed discharge of postproduction processed water into Boysen Reservoir. Can the proposed water treatment plant actually sufficiently clean up the water brought to the surface, so it will not negatively impact aquatic live in the reservoir or further downstream, as well as negatively impact irrigation water for agriculture? |
| 1067 | How will shallow aquifers in the area be protected? Will there be preproduction water quality baseline data? How will water quality standards be enforced? |
| 1068 | In addition to the jobs the development of Moneta divide has the potential to provide large quantities of treated water to our county and our local reservoir Boysen. As we all know water is a rare commodity in the state of Wyoming and if this clean water can be provided it can be used for all matter of things such as livestock, farming, recreation etc. |
| 1070 | 6) Water generated from this project can be used for recreation, livestock, farming |
| 1071 | I am wondering about what chemicals will be in the water; how that water is going to be monitored for acceptable quality; and what safeguards will be in place to protect not only the downriver users of Boysen water, but also the many many wildlife species, including birds and aquatic residents that rely on the Reservoir itself. I have observed numerous duck species in Wind River Canyon each winter; clearly this is an important overwintering and fall feeding area. |
| 1071 | I urge the BLM to examine and present a thorough analysis of the possible chemical contaminants, the containment and/or mitigation plan should there be escaped chemicals fluids in the water; and most particularly to propose an alternative that insists on maintaining if not improving the quality of both surface and underground water in the vicinity of the Moneta Draw field. |
| 1075 | The potential beneficial use from the water is mind boggling to think on, both in the wildlife/habitat arena and in the agricultural arena. |
| 1076 | This project will provide fresh water for wildlife, which has been supported by many avid outdoorsmen. It also helps deliver fresh water to our Boysen Lake, that also continues down Wind River to supply water for towns, and ranchers and farmers for irrigation. |
| 1077 | This project will provide fresh water for wildlife, which has been supported by many avid outdoorsmen. It also helps deliver fresh water to our Boysen Lake, that also continues down Wind River to supply water for towns, and ranchers and farmers for irrigation. |
| 1079 | Water quality, quantity, and effective use of the limited water resources in Natrona County have long been NCCD's primary focus for many years. The NCCD Board of Supervisors highly recommend to the BLM and the energy development operators to research the potential use of the water produced from the oil and gas wells for livestock, wildlife or agricultural uses, after analysis of the water quality to ensure no harm. NCCD would also like BLM to consider the potential that any useable water that is produced in Natrona County be utilized in Natrona County. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1080 | Until the BLM acquires detailed reporting and technical data regarding confining layers and groundwater migration in the Madison formation, the agency should not permit injection wells, and should consider withholding permits to drill. Additionally, the agency should consider and adopt stringent wellbore integrity rules to protect the formation from pollution associated with structural problems in well construction and maintenance. |
| 1083 | Because of the large volumes of water to be expected, it is likely that all management options will need to be used to some extent. The Moneta Divide DEIS should evaluate the volume of water and wastes projected to be produced, and the technological and economical practicality of treating and properly managing produced water and wastes to prevent degradation of surface and groundwater resources. |
| 1083 | The quality of produced water in the Moneta Divide area is relatively poor and cannot be discharged to surface drainages without significant treatment. Additionally, the potential for disposal of untreated produced water via underground injection wells in the project area should be limited to confined, structurally stable saline (i.e.>10,000 mg/L Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)) aquifers, or aquifers that are so contaminated that it would be economically or technologically impractical to make the water suitable for use. Because of these circumstances, it is unknown whether the capability of properly handling the water produced from an additional 4250 new wells is technologically or economically feasible. The DE IS should evaluate the rate of development that would be allowable to ensure that the number of new wells permitted does not outpace the available infrastructure to treat or otherwise manage the expected volumes of produced water, and the volumes of brine and other waste water generated by water treatment. |
| 1083 | Surface discharges of produced water are regulated by the WQD through the WYPDES permitting program. The existing gas production facilities in the area from the Gun Barrel Unit" located in the center of the proposed Moneta Divide development area are permitted to discharge to Alkali Creek under permit number WY0002062. This permit contains grandfathered effluent limits that were put into place in the 1970s. Any new development is subject to more stringent standards contained in the current Wyoming water quality rules and regulations. There have been discussions with project proponents to pipe treated water to Boysen Reservoir. If that option is selected, the water will need to be treated sufficiently to protect the water quality in the Wind River below Boysen Reservoir, which is a designated Class I Water. |
| 1083 | A large scale development can be expected to generate increased flows from large volumes of produced water in addition to flows from disturbed sites. The DE IS should evaluate the channel capacities and erosion potential of the various stream channels in the development area to assess the potential erosion impact from the combined sources and to develop water management measures for each development alternative. |
| 1083 | Re-injection of produced water (untreated and treated) and/or treatment brine wastes may be problematic and constrained in the Moneta Divide area, dependent upon geologic and hydrogeologic conditions. In order to evaluate the potential use of re-injection for water and waste disposal, a comprehensive assessment and understanding of those conditions and associated geologic/hydrogeologic constraints will be necessary to evaluate the technological and economical practicality of the application of re-injection into saline or contaminated aquifers. |
| 1083 | The DEIS should describe and evaluate the potential for impacts to groundwater from drilling, well construction, and well completion operations: characterize the hydrology (stratigraphy, geochemistry, hydraulic characteristics) of water bearing units, recharge zones, springs, etc.; document baseline groundwater quality; evaluate how existing water wells may be affected by the project, and; describe how groundwater will be monitored through time as development proceeds. Baseline monitoring data should be collected for ground and surface waters early in the planning process to establish existing conditions, and to help guide development and any necessary mitigation. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1083 | The WQD supports the recent BLM/USGS document "Regional Framework for Water Resources Monitoring Related to Energy Exploration and Development" (Framework). This guidance document provides a 7 step framework for developing a monitoring strategy for measuring and mitigating water resource damages. The framework should be specifically referenced in the DEIS and the monitoring framework should be followed to develop a monitoring plan for both surface and groundwater prior to any development. |
| 1083 | Storm Water Associated with Construction Activities. This permit is required any time a project results in clearing, grading, or otherwise disturbing one or more acres. The disturbed area does not need to be contiguous. The permit is required for surface disturbances associated with construction of the project, access roads, construction of wetland mitigation sites, borrow and stockpiling areas, equipment staging and maintenance areas and any other disturbed areas associated with construction. A general permit has been established for this purpose and either the project sponsor or general contractor is responsible for filing a Notice of Intent (NOI) and complying with the provisions of the general permit. The NOI should be filed no later than 30 days prior to the start of construction activity. |
| 1083 | Discharge Permit. Other discharges to "waters of the state", such as discharges from cofferdam dewatering or from hydrostatic pipe line testing must be permitted under the Wyoming Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WYPDES) program. This program is part of the federal Clean Water Act, but is administered by the WQD. For clarification waters of the state include rivers, streams, dry draws, wetlands, lakes, reservoirs and even stock ponds. This permit will require some sampling and will incorporate effluent limits for any constituents of concern. |
| 1083 | Land Application or Road Application Permit. Water from hydrostatic pipeline testing may be applied to roads or land surfaces if it will not reach a water of the state, meets certain water quality standards and a permit is obtained from the WQD. |
| 1083 | Spill Reporting. Chapter 4 of the WDEQ Water Quality Rules and Regulations requires that the WQD be notified of spills or releases of chemicals and petroleum products. The DEIS should reiterate this and explain how soils, groundwater and surface water impacted by spills, leaks and releases of chemicals, petroleum products and produced water will be restored. |
| 1083 | Water Supply Wells. The WQD would like to remind the BLM that the Wyoming State Engineer (SEQ) has regulations governing the sanitary construction of water supply wells and the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (WOGCC) has regulations governing the siting and construction of water supply wells proximal to oil and gas exploration and production facilities. |
| 1092 | Fracking is dangerous to the environment due to the use of steam under pressure and solvents. The steam causes dangerous chemicals to enter aquifers and wells. Chemicals such as arsenic, uranium, and other indigenous dangerous substances are endangering elements to our own water supplies. Solvents ruin aquifers and wells and eventually pollute not only the waters, but the environment, atmosphere, and all plants. |
| 1104 | we ask that you make sure the ground water is kept pristine for the people who live in this state and that regulations be strictly enforced for clean water and air. |
| Wildlife and Fish | |
| 1022 | Lastly, I am concerned about the impact the over 4,000 wells will have on the flora and fauna of the area. It is impossible for native species to not be impacted by a project of this size. |
| 1033 | Raptors are found in the area and should not be an impediment to the development. |
| 1033 | Make sure the EIS reflects the numbers of Big Game that are present now. It is not fair to Mineral Companies or Ranching to have high numbers that may not ever return to where they once were. |
| 1048 | The oil and gas industry has disrupted wild life migration paths in Wyoming. |
| 1057 | Things that we believe are important to consider with regard to this project include the following: Impacts to the Mule Deer population. There should be a quantified estimate as to how this project will impact the mule deer populations of the area, and several reduced-impact alternatives should be considered. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1058 | It is requested that the BLM assess the following wildlife concerns and implement protective strategies when deemed necessary. If potential impacts are identified during analysis, consider requesting funding from the lessees to conduct research-level monitoring to ensure that wintering mule deer (Berger et al. 2006; Sawyer et al. 2003; Sawyer et al. 2004; Sawyer et al. 2005; Sawyer et al. 2006; Sawyer et al. 2007), pronghorn (Berger et al. 2006), and nesting greater sage-grouse |
| 1058 | It is requested that the BLM assess the following wildlife concerns and implement protective strategies when deemed necessary. Analyze and evaluate potential surface disturbance and fish and wildlife impacts from possible pipeline construction associated with product movement from production sites to market pipelines. |
| 1063 | In addition to analyzing the loss of winter range as a result of development, an alternative in the EIS should analyze protections for big game. Specifically: application of November 15 - April 30 seasonal stipulations on crucial winter ranges to protect big game during the wintering period, clustering development that configures well pads, facilities, and roads within the least sensitive habitats, an application of Standard Management Practices as outlined in Appendix A of the WGFD "Recommendations for Development of Oil and Gas Resources within Important Wildlife Habitat" (April 2010). |
| 1064 | The direct loss and displacement of wildlife from these projects has been serious, but the operators of these fields have always insisted that these fields had a relatively compact footprint on the land, and because other surrounding areas (even though they may be of lower habitat quality, especially in the case of mule deer winter range) remain undeveloped and therefore the wildlife losses resulting from this drilling should be seen as acceptable. We would expect a similar result for wildlife in the Moneta Divide area should a similar intensity of drilling be approved by BLM. |
| 1064 | Fewer surface locations mean a smaller mileage of roads and pipelines, less habitat fragmentation, less dust pollution, less acreage of disturbance to wildlife, regardless if they are avoiding lands within 0.5 mile of roads, like elk, or within 100m of roads, like sagebrush obligate songbirds. A surface spacing of 20 acres would be catastrophic to wildlife, extirpating many if not most native species from the developed area. |
| 1064 | Elk. BLM should evaluate areas in the project area which are crucial winter range and migration corridors for elk, and these lands should be excluded from surface-disturbing activities. |
| 1064 | Mule Deer. We are concerned that this project will have direct and cumulative impacts on mule deer herds, and that currently used winter ranges and migration corridors will suffer unacceptable impacts as a result. BLM should analyze mule deer habitat use throughout the project area and exempt crucial ranges and migration corridors from surface-disturbing activities through No Surface Disturbance provisions enforces as Conditions of Approval on APDs. |
| 1064 | Pronghorn. We are concerned that the expansion of the drilling operations in the project area will interrupt migrations and degrade the crucial habitats for pronghorn. Wintering and fawning areas as well as migration corridors intersecting the project area should be mapped and analyzed, and these areas should be withdrawn from eligibility for surface-disturbing activities. |
| 1064 | Raptors. The typical BLM stipulations for nesting raptors hinge upon Timing Limitations that extend from 800 to 1500 feet from raptor nests. These are inadequate to protect nesting raptors on two counts. 1064 First of all, the buffer size is too small: Two-mile buffers should be applied for nests used by the extremely sensitive ferruginous hawk, while one-mile buffers should be applied for other birds of prey. Secondly, the timing limitation stipulation is itself flawed because it allows wells to be constructed adjacent to raptor nest sites as long as construction/drilling activities are conducted outside the nesting season. Under these stipulations, once raptors return to nest sites following well construction, they are subjected to disturbance from vehicles and human presence likely to flush nesting birds from the nest and expose eggs or nestlings to death by overheating, cooling, or dehydration. No Surface Occupancy measures are the appropriate mitigation measure in the case of lands in close proximity to active or recently active raptor nests. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1064 | Native fishes. We are concerned about the direct and cumulative impact of the project on native fish populations. We are concerned that spills of chemicals will make their way into local waterways. We are concerned that construction of roads and wellpads in close proximity to streamcourses will result in sedimentation that will choke spawning gravels and change stream morphology. The impact of this project on Green River fisheries deserves careful analysis. |
| 1064 | Serious habitat fragmentation resulted from past oil and gas projects, and 4 wellpads per square mile in part of this project area would also amount to major habitat fragmentation. BLM should also be analyzing impacts of this project on a regional scale, analyzing core habitat areas and connecting wildlife corridors that maintain dispersal ability and migration routes. Wellpad densities greater than one per square mile need not be permitted. |
| 1065 | the EIS needs to evaluate all alternatives for consistency with the requirements of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department’s Recommendations for Development of Oil and Gas Resources Within Important Wildlife Habitats. |
| 1065 | The EIS must identify and quantify impacts resulting from habitat fragmentation and interruption of movement corridors and should include modeling of scenarios that may occur should movement corridors be disrupted or lost. Because these types of impacts can be effectively analyzed only when the actual location of well pads, facilities, and roads are known, the infrastructure and road system will need to be clearly defined and mapped in the EIS, with a travel management plan included. |
| 1065 | In addition, impacts to big game species, particularly in crucial winter range, differ significantly depending on whether the development is concentrated in one area of the range, or spread throughout. The EIS should include map overlays of infrastructure and road maps and wildlife habitat and movement corridor maps for useful comparison and analysis. |
| 1065 | Thus, the EIS must provide a cumulative effects scenario that illustrates what may occur to species that are impacted from this proposed development project and from the other existing and projected developments in the region. In creating this analysis, the BLM should use the most up-to-date wildlife range maps, produced by WGFD. |
| 1065 | Before any development occurs in the project area, BLM must comprehensively inventory the biological and physical components (vegetation cover types, wildlife species and numbers, seasonal habitats, current land uses, movement corridors, existing patterns of development, etc.) affected by the proposed development project. Baseline information should be collected over a multi-year period, not at a single point in time, to account for annual and seasonal variations. Complete and accurate pre-development baseline data is a crucial element of impact monitoring, because comparing baseline data to data collected during and after development allows wildlife managers and the project proponent to determine whether development is correlated with population trends and other possible impacts. |
| 1065 | The BLM and project proponents must develop a comprehensive, detailed, and enforceable plan to protect wildlife habitat and to mitigate the potential impacts of this project. This plan should be developed on a landscape scale to determine management options for affected wildlife species. |
| 1065 | Applying the principles of adaptive management. Adaptive management has been described as the treatment of management policies and actions as —experiments that produce information, which is re-incorporated into the management plan to produce refined management strategies. |
| 1065 | Continuous collection of data on wildlife populations, habitat conditions, and air and water quality throughout the life of the proposed project. |
| 1065 | Continuously comparing baseline data to environmental data collection during development and operation of the proposed project and monitoring changes and trends. |
| 1065 | Setting thresholds, or indicators, which will trigger mitigation. Thresholds should be established prior to any development, in consultation with WGFD. The BLM and project proponent should commit to maintaining pre-development population numbers. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1065 | In developing the Moneta Divide project environmental analysis, BLM should consider and utilize data available from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to determine protections for game species (and other species). We particularly direct BLM to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department’s Recommendations for Development of Oil and Gas Resources Within Important Wildlife Habitats. BLM should also utilize the information regarding the needs of big game species available from other sources. ^{3 3} We specifically request that BLM consider the following studies: Sawyer, H. 2007. Final Report for the Atlantic Rim Mule Deer Study. Western Ecosystems Technology, Inc., Cheyenne, WY; Sawyer, H., R. Nielson, and D. Strickland. 2009. Sublette Mule Deer Study (Phase II) Final Report. Western Ecosystem Technology, Inc., Cheyenne, WY; Sawyer, H., R. Nielson, F. Lindzey, and L. McDonald. 2006. Winter habitat selection of mule deer before and during development of a natural gas field. <i>Journal of Wildlife Management</i> 70:396-403; Sawyer, H., M. J. Kauffman, and R. M. Nielson. 2009. Influence of well pad activity on the winter habitat selection patterns of mule deer. <i>Journal of Wildlife Management</i> 73: 1052-1061; Sawyer, H., F. Lindzey, and D. McWhirter. 2005. Mule deer and pronghorn migration in western Wyoming. <i>Wildlife Society Bulletin</i> 33:1266-1273; Sawyer, H. and M. Kauffman. 2011. Stopover ecology of a migratory ungulate. <i>Journal of Animal Ecology</i> 80:1078-1087; Sawyer, H., M. J. Kauffman, R. M. Nielson, and J. S. Horne. 2009. Identifying and prioritizing ungulate migration routes for landscape-level conservation. <i>Ecological Applications</i> 19:2016-2025. |
| 1065 | BLM and the operators will protect big game habitat and migration corridors. BLM to should protect more than —critical big game winter ranges. This approach is biologically and ecologically unsupportable and results in unnecessarily and unduly restricted protections. We therefore request that protective measures be considered not just for —critical winter ranges, but also for all winter range areas in the Moneta Divide project area. To the extent BLM excludes —general winter range areas from the application of protective measures, it should provide a biologically defensible rationale for such a decision. |
| 1065 | BLM must establish an action plan for the potential loss of existing big game migration corridors. For example, overpasses and underpasses for big game to migrate with more ease may be warranted. |
| 1065 | The EIS should determine whether these species are or could be using the Moneta Divide project area and ensure that BLM meets its duties to provide management protections for these species that meets the requirements of the Sensitive Species Manual. BLM must ensure that no drilling or other extreme noise occurs during nesting season or near to occupied nests. The EIS should examine whether habitat that could potentially be occupied by raptors, such as previously utilized nests, should receive protection so as to ensure the continued viability of raptors in the area. It should consider all biological needs of raptors and develop suitable protections for all significant life-stages of the various raptors, all of which should be included in the decision document. |
| 1067 | Also, a lot of birds overwintering in these waters could be negatively impacted as well as many migrating birds using the reservoir in spring and fall. |
| 1080 | The surface disturbance and the lack of seasonal stipulations for mule deer in this project area will result in the total loss of this crucial winter range. The BLM must demonstrate that the Moneta Divide Project will not have adverse impacts to this wildlife resource; and barring that demonstration (which is seemingly not possible) must establish mitigation procedures in the EIS to improve the quality of habitat elsewhere. This will require high quantities of quality off-site mitigation projects- the funding for which should be supplied by project proponents. |
| 1080 | This winter range is along the southern flanks of the Bridger Mountains. However, the stream functionality for these riparian areas is poor. While there are some functional streams in the area, many are functional-at-risk (Draft RMP and EIS, Map 48). To provide quality winter range for the displaced mule deer from the Moneta Divide Project, these streams need to be brought into full functionality; we strongly advocate this off-site mitigation measure be incorporated into the Moneta Divide EIS. |
| 1080 | Additional mitigation measures for the off-site winter range should include projects that address habitat quality, including improving the condition of rangelands to ensure healthy habitat. The agency's hard look at off-site winter range should take into consideration likely predicted impacts of climate change on vegetation and weather patterns for the life of the project. |

Table D-2. Scoping Comments by Comment Category

| Comment Document Number | Comment |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1080 | There is a quantity of private land in this area, which generally also provides for winter range. In the EIS, the BLM and project proponents should also analyze possibilities for creative off-site mitigation such as pursuit of conservation easements, habitat leasing, and possibly conservation banking on these privately owned lands. However, we strongly urge that these methods be used locally and be fully assessed to ensure the possible benefits to mule deer and other impacted species, like greater sage-grouse, will actually occur and not be just potential benefits. |
| 1080 | The intensive development allowed on a DDA, which the Moneta Divide Project will benefit from, is allowed when adverse impacts are fully mitigated. However, because of the sensitive nature of mule deer crucial winter range and the lack of seasonal stipulations in the DDA, this mitigation must take place off-site. This off-site mitigation will be most useful to the wildlife if it takes place on adjacent winter range to the north and northwest of the project area, along winter range that is designated along the southern flanks of the Bridger Mountains. We especially recommend off-site mitigation projects that increase the habitat quality in this area, which includes improving stream functionality from at-risk to fully functional, ensuring healthy rangelands, and considering conservation finance methods to address winter range on private lands. |
| 1080 | BLM must include an enforceable mitigation strategy to address the modeled significant N deposition impacts in order to ensure that there will be no significant ecological impacts from the proposed development. Specifically, BLM must assess whether the N deposition impacts shown in the DE IS will result in adverse impacts to biodiversity, including aquatic organisms, and ultimately to trout which are a valued resource in the region. |
| 1080 | BLM should identify critical loads for acidification likely to impact trout. Recent work mapping critical loads in the region indicate the Medicine Bow Mountains have some of the highest N deposition levels in the intermountain west. ⁷⁷ All of this points to a critical need for the BLM to more closely assess the N deposition impacts, in particular, in the wilderness areas in the Medicine Bow where trout streams are considered a critical resource (i.e., Huston Park, Encampment River, Savage Run and Platte River Wilderness Areas). |
| 1105 | The habitat fragmentation, in conjunction with rapidly deteriorating quality of air and water, combine to create a scenario that doesn't provide a 'net-gain' to the citizens of Wyoming. |