

of the species become listed in the future.

We have worked with the applicants to design conservation activities expected to have a net conservation benefit to the covered species within the covered area; however, landowners and enrollees would not have to conduct every activity in this list in order for their actions to have a net conservation benefit on the covered species. Each participant will need to follow their individual CIs or CPs and the conservation measures included within. Some examples of these conservation actions include the following: (1) Prevent new surface disturbance in habitat occupied by the Texas hornshell within the Black and Delaware Rivers; (2) Avoid new development within the Black and Delaware Rivers, Blue Springs, and their associated U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 100-year floodplain; (3) Site new projects to take advantage of existing and available infrastructure; (4) Avoid obstructing or disrupting the natural flow of ephemeral drainages to the Black and Delaware Rivers; (5) Implement erosion control measures; (6) Avoid water withdrawal in habitat occupied by the Texas hornshell within the Black and Delaware Rivers; (7) Maintain minimal stream flows and cease withdrawal of water within the Black and Delaware Rivers if stream flows reach minimum levels; (8) Avoid using low-water crossings when other routes are available; (9) Clear invasive shrubs and replant with native plants in areas adjacent to occupied sites; and (10) Buy or lease water rights during periods of low flow to maintain minimal stream flows.

Alternatives

We considered four alternatives to the proposed action as part of the environmental assessment process—the No Action Alternative; Development of a CCA only Alternative; Development of a CCAA only Alternative; and, Development of a CCA and CCAA (covering both private and State lands). Under the No Action Alternative, a coordinated effort to conserve the covered species on non-Federal properties using a programmatic CCA and CCAA would not occur. Under the CCA only and the CCAA only alternatives, conservation would only be coordinated on either non-Federal or Federal lands rather than having a coordinated effort across the Black and Delaware Rivers. Under the CCA and CCAA alternative, conservation would be the same as the proposed action; however, State lands and private lands would be enrolled in the same CCAA.

Next Steps

We will evaluate the permit applications, associated documents, and comments we receive to determine whether the permit application meets the requirements of the Act, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and implementing regulations. If we determine that all requirements are met, we will sign the proposed CCAAs, issue EOS permits under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act to CEHMM and the NMSLO for take of Texas hornshell and the other covered species in accordance with the terms of the CCAAs and specific terms and conditions of the authorizing permits, and sign the proposed CCA with BLM. We will not make our final decision until after the end of the 30-day public comment period, and we will fully consider all comments we receive during the public comment period.

Public Availability of Comments

Written comments we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. 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 request in your comment that we withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. We will not consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representative or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10(c) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32) and NEPA and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Benjamin N. Tuggle,

*Regional Director, Southwest Region,
Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

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Public Meeting for the Northwest Oregon Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Northwest Oregon Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The Northwest Oregon RAC will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, July 26, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Pacific Daylight Time.

ADDRESSES: The Northwest Oregon RAC will meet at the BLM Springfield Interagency Office, 3106 Pierce Parkway, Springfield, OR 97477.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Velez, Public Affairs Officer, 1717 Fabry Road SE., Salem, OR 97306; 541-222-9241; jvelez@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1(800) 877-8339 to contact the above individuals during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individuals. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 15-member Northwest Oregon RAC was chartered to serve in an advisory capacity concerning the planning and management of the public land resources located within the BLM's Northwest Oregon District. Members represent an array of stakeholder interests in the land and resources from within the local area and statewide. All advisory council meetings are open to the public. Persons wishing to make comments during the public comment period should register in person with the BLM, at the meeting location, preceding that meeting day's comment period. At the July 26 meeting, members will consider and make recommendations on the reallocation of Secure Rural Schools Title II funds. Other topics will include general updates, a review of subcommittee and future field trip opportunities, and likely a presentation by the Association of Oregon Counties pertaining to the Oregon and California Railroad

Revested Lands (O&C) Act and access related issues. Members of the public will have the opportunity to make comments to the RAC during a public comment period at 11:45 a.m.

Written comments may be sent to the Northwest Oregon District office, 1717 Fabry Road SE., Salem, OR 97306. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, please 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.

Authority: 43 CFR 1784.4-2

Jose L. Linares,

Northwest Oregon District Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLWYD01000 L13140000.NB0000 17X]

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Normally Pressured Lance Natural Gas Development Project

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the proposed Normally Pressured Lance (NPL) natural gas development project within the BLM Pinedale and Rock Springs Field Offices and by this notice is announcing the opening of the comment period.

DATES: To ensure that comments will be considered, the BLM must receive written comments on the NPL Draft EIS within 45 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability of the NPL Draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The BLM will announce future meetings or any other public participation activities at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media releases, and/or mailings.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments related to the NPL Draft EIS by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* blm_wy_npl_eis@blm.gov
- *Mail:* NPL EIS Project Manager, BLM Pinedale Field Office, P.O. Box 768, Pinedale, WY 82941

Copies of the NPL Draft EIS are available at the Pinedale Field Office at the following locations:

BLM Pinedale Field Office, 1625 West Pine Street, Pinedale, WY 82941

or

BLM Rock Springs Field Office, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, WY 82901

or on the project Web site at: <http://tinyurl.com/hloulms>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Susan (Liz) Dailey—NPL EIS Project Manager, BLM Pinedale Field Office, P.O. Box 768, Pinedale, WY 82941, 307-367-5310, sdailey@blm.gov. Persons who use telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FRS 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 NPL project is located immediately south and west of the existing Jonah Gas Field in Sublette County, Wyoming. The project area lies within the BLM Wyoming High Desert District and spans the Pinedale Field Office (PFO) in the north and the Rock Springs Field Office (RSFO) to the south. The project encompasses approximately 141,000 acres of public, state, and private lands. Approximately 96% of the project area is on public lands. Within the NPL project area, there are both unitized and non-unitized development areas.

There are approximately 48,036 acres of Greater sage-grouse Priority Habitat Management Area (PHMA) within the NPL project area (405 acres within the PFO and 47,631 acres within the RSFO). There are approximately 92,825 acres of General Habitat Management Area in the NPL project area (78,228 within the PFO and 14,597 within the RSFO). There are 27,292 acres (26,392 on BLM-administered lands) of Greater sage-grouse Winter Concentration Area (WCA) within the NPL. These are divided into two distinct WCAs: Alkali Creek, consisting of 20,132 acres (19,232 on BLM-administered lands), and Alkali Draw, consisting of 7,160 acres (all on BLM-administered lands). These WCAs are found in the western and northern portions of the project area,

respectively. There are approximately 1,259 acres of Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFAs) within the NPL project area. All of the SFAs are within the RSFO.

Jonah Energy LLC, the current operator after purchasing Encana Oil and Gas Inc.'s leasehold interest in the project, is proposing up to 3,500 directionally drilled wells (depth range from 6,500 to 13,500 feet) over a 10-year period (Proposed Action). Under Jonah Energy's proposal, most wells would be co-located on a single pad, with no more than four well pads per 640 acres in areas outside of PHMA. There would be only one disturbance per 640 acres inside PHMA. On average, each well pad would be 18 acres in size. Regional gathering facilities would be used instead of placing compressors at each well pad. Associated access roads, pipelines, and other ancillary facilities would be co-located where possible to further minimize surface disturbance.

In addition to the Proposed Action, the BLM analyzed three other alternatives: The No Action Alternative, using existing standard stipulations and examining the project area under the historical rate of development of around three wells per year; Alternative A, using a phased approach moving through existing leased oil and gas units and responding to identified wildlife issues; and Alternative B, which addressed a broadrange of resource concerns in response to issues identified during scoping.

Alternatives A and B each analyzed the same rate of development as the Proposed Action as well as the use of regional gathering facilities. However, in addition to varying resource protection measures, each alternative analyzed differing densities of development—from one to four multi-well pads per 640 acres, depending on the resource considerations of the project area. Additionally, Alternative A analyzed the merits of developing the project area in phases. Phased development across the project area analyzed development in three geographically defined phases, occurring sequentially, and taking into consideration existing oil and gas units.

Interim and final reclamation activities would be implemented under all alternatives so as to return the landscape to proper biological and ecological function in conformance with the NPL Reclamation Plan and the relevant Resource Management Plans.

Formal public scoping for the NPL project began on April 12, 2011, with the publication of the Notice of Intent in the **Federal Register** (76 FR 20370). Public scoping comments were used to identify issues that informed the formulation of alternatives and framed