



The  
**Gold Book**  
**UPDATE PROJECT**

***BLM Washington Office – Fluid Minerals  
Group***

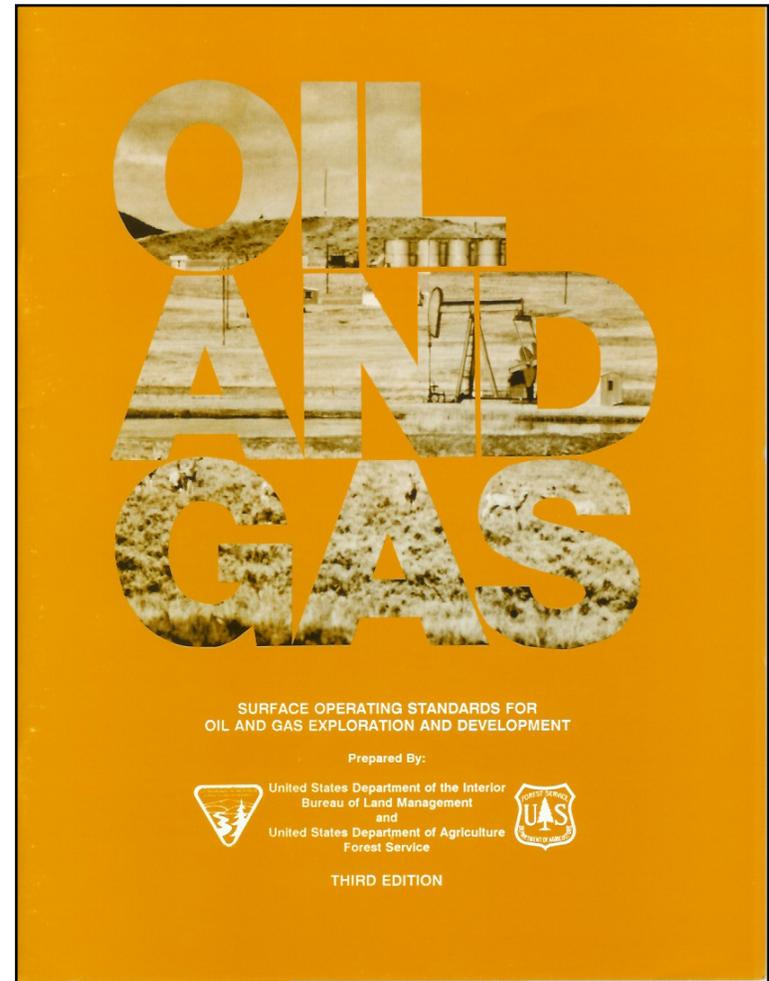
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*06-21-04*

# The **Gold Book** Provides: Start to Finish Guidance to Oil & Gas Operators

## Why the Update?

- 13 years out-of-date
- INCREASING
  - Energy Development
  - Public Use
  - Public Awareness & Involvement
  - Sensitive Species



# Update Status?

- **External Team** – Submitted Update Recommendations
- **Core Team** – Reviewed Recommendations
- **Current Status** – Rough Draft
- **Future** - Incorporate proposed Onshore Order No.1 Requirements; Photos; Drawings; BMPs.

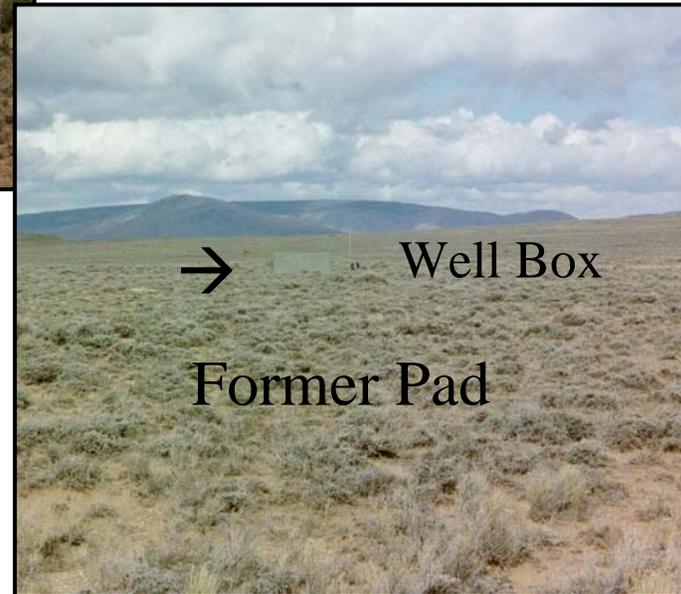
# New or Updated Concepts?

## Incorporate Best Management Practices

- Emphasizing **Interim Reclamation**
- “**Standards**” for Final Reclamation
- Permanent vs. Nonpermanent Roads
- **Mitigation**: Erosion Control; VRM; Noise; Revegetation; Wildlife
- **New** Forms, Orders, and Regulations
- Cultural Requirements on Private Surface

# Interim Reclamation

Reduce the loss of habitat and forage during the life of the well.  
(The workover rig can set up on the revegetated area.)



## Steps:

- 1. Fully Recontour Unneeded Areas;**
- 2. Respread Topsoil Over Entire Pad;**
- 3. Revegetate to Reestablish Habitat**

# vs. A Lack of Interim Reclamation



Unrevegetated Bare Ground

# Interim Reclamation of Roads Too



The Standard Road

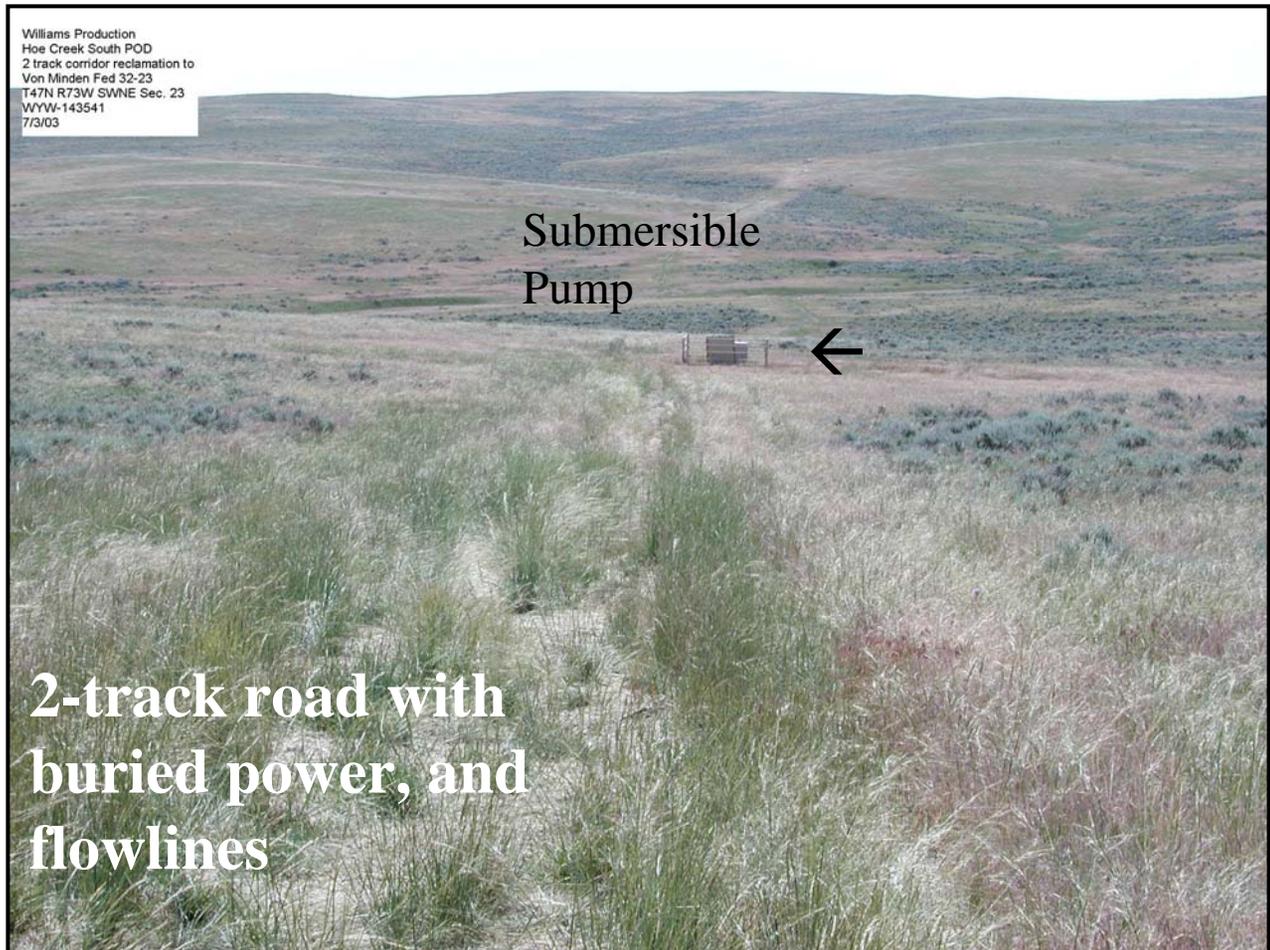


With Interim Reclamation

# Reduce the Footprint Consolidate Roads and Utilities

In some cases,  
2-track roads are suitable  
and create the least  
disturbance to habitat.

Consider:  
Average Daily Traffic  
load, soils, topography,  
weather, season of use,  
Safety, etc...



# Oil & Gas Roads Should Not Be Permanent

- Consider the use of lower standard roads.
- Do you really need an “Engineered” road?



BLM 9113 Manual - Bureau roads must be designed to an appropriate standard no higher than necessary to accommodate their intended functions...

# Color Selection

**Goal:** Minimize the visual **CONTRAST** with the surrounding landscape.



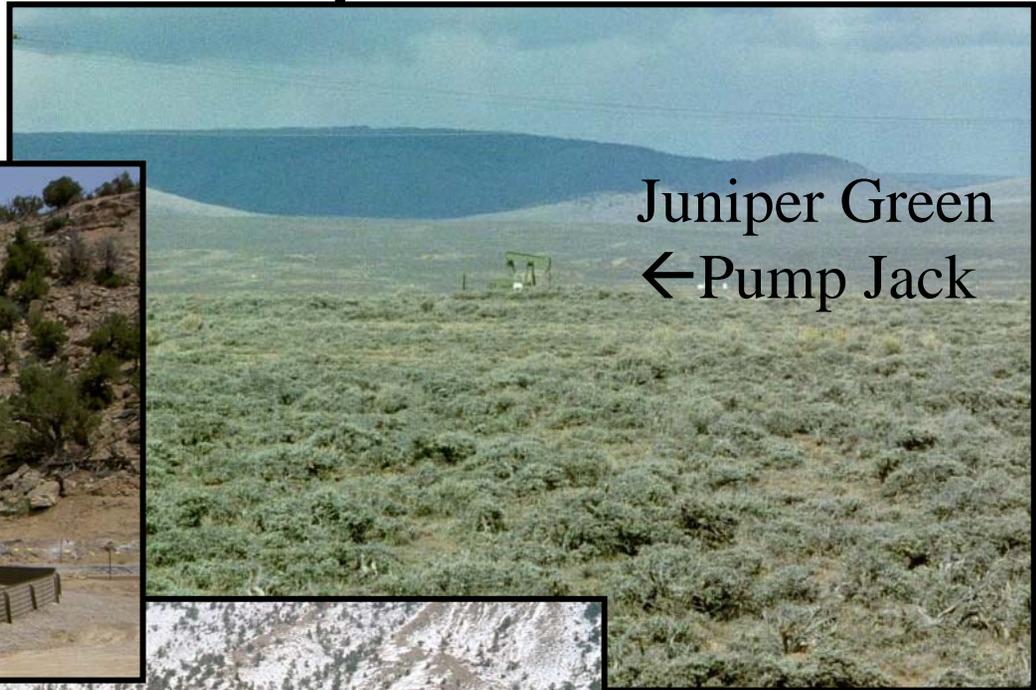
Typical “**Desert Tan**” facilities stand out in sharp contrast to the vegetated background, even dormant vegetation.

# Repeat Landscape Color

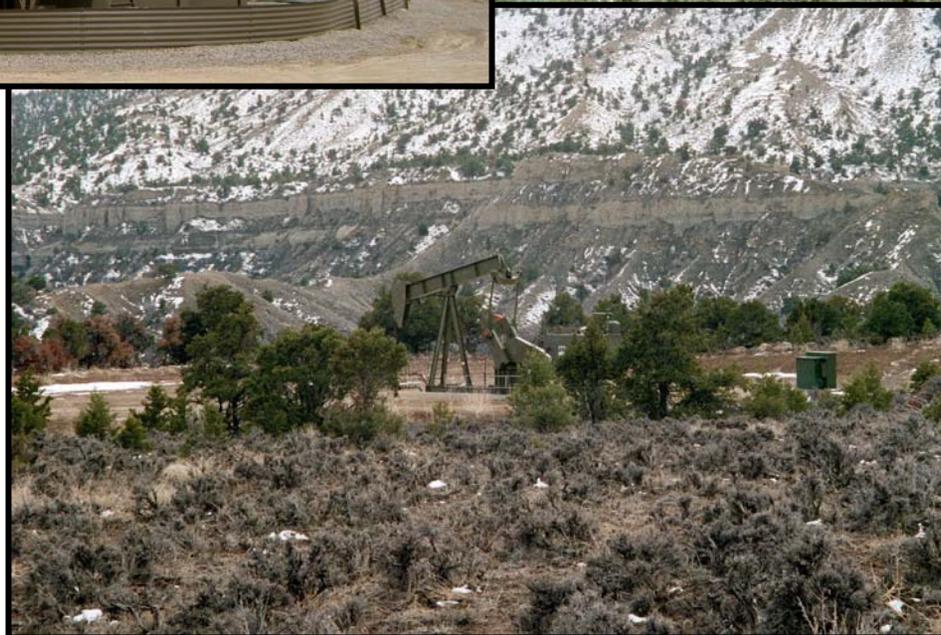
Shale Green  
Tanks



Juniper Green  
← Pump Jack



\*However, working safety edges may have to be painted orange.



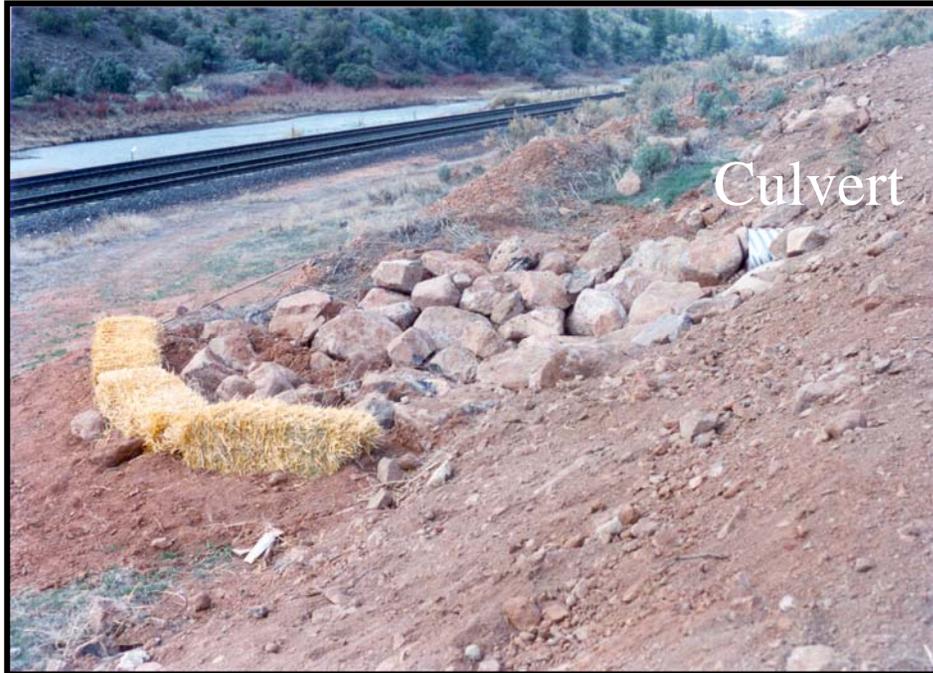
Dark, Juniper  
Green Pump  
Jack Partially  
Screened  
By Trees

# Do You Have to Excavate?

Consider Mowing the Location



# Erosion Control

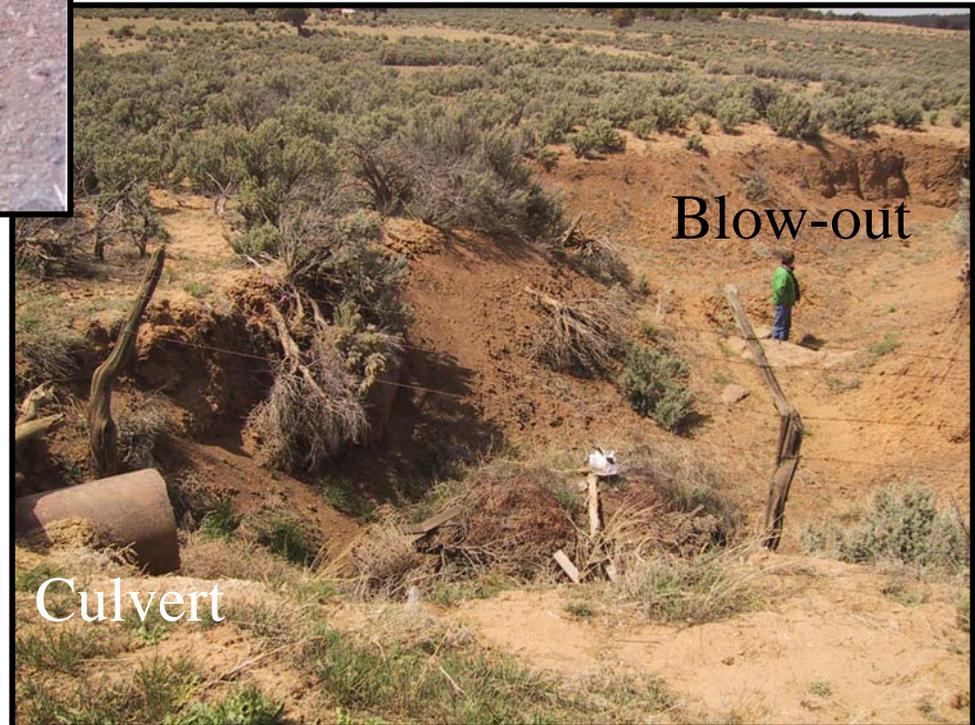


With Culvert Outlet  
Erosion Control

← Use this

To help prevent this →

Without Culvert  
Outlet Erosion Control



# Unfinished Reclamation

It may have some vegetation on it, but left unreclaimed, you will always see the change to the landform and vegetation.



Abandoned Roads  
Not Reclaimed Properly

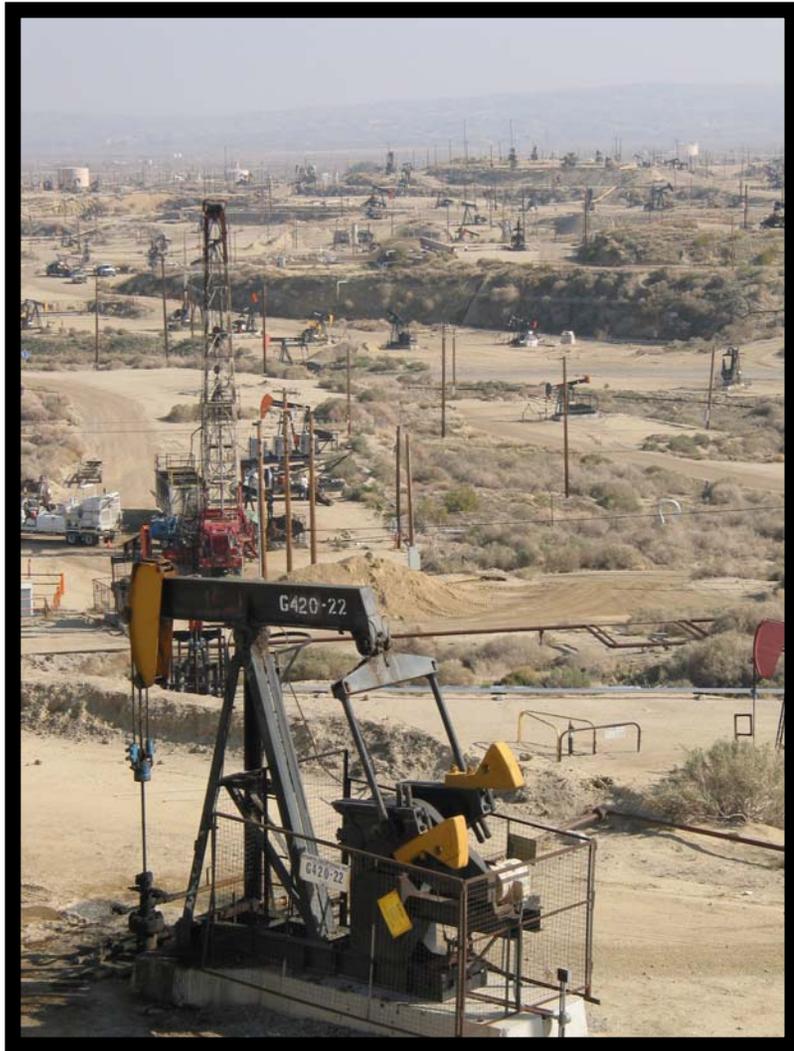
# Final Reclamation Standards

Ensure the site is recontoured, stable, and fully revegetated to natives.  
If reclaimed correctly, over time the native habitat will restore itself.



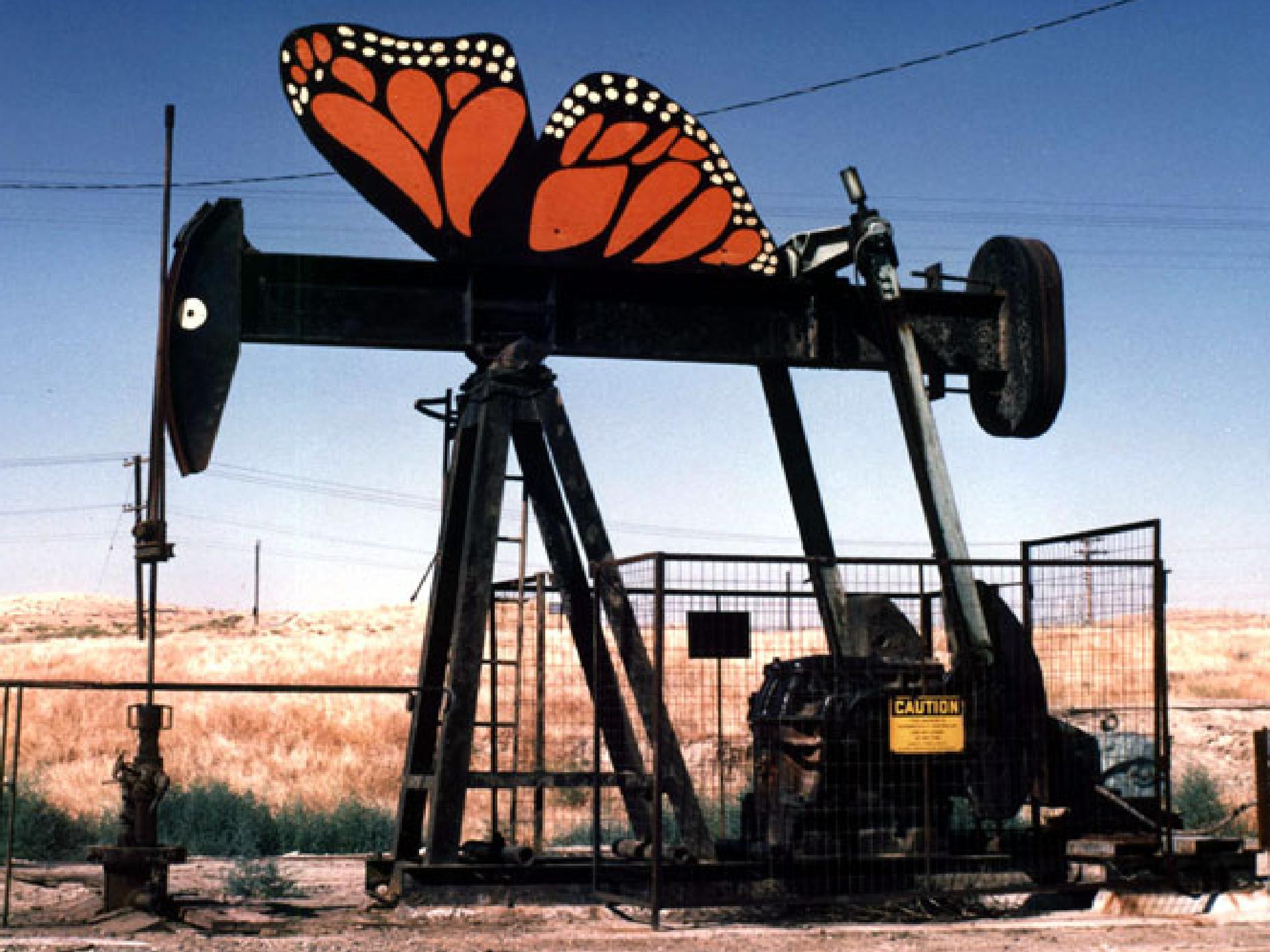
Reclaimed Well Location

# Old Gold Book?



# New Gold Book?





**CAUTION**