

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This chapter describes the existing conditions of the physical, biological, cultural, and socioeconomic resources in the project area. The resources that are addressed here were identified as issues during the scoping process or interdisciplinary team review as having the potential to be affected. Critical elements of the human environment, their status in the project area, and their potential to be affected by the Proposed Action are listed in Table 3.1. Six critical elements (areas of critical environmental concern, prime and unique farmlands, floodplains, wetlands/riparian areas, wild and scenic rivers, and wilderness) are not present and are not addressed further.

Table 3.1

Critical Elements of the Human Environment

Critical Element	Status on the Project Area	Addressed in Text of EA
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	None Present	No
Cultural Resources	Potentially Affected	Yes
Environmental Justice	Potentially Affected	Yes
Farmlands, prime or unique	None Present	No
Floodplains	None Present	No
Native American Religious Concerns	Not Affected	No
Invasive Non-native Species	Potentially Affected	Yes
Threatened and Endangered Species	Potentially Affected	Yes
Wastes, hazardous or solid	None Present	No
Water Quality (surface and ground water)	Not Affected	No
Wetland/Riparian Zones	Not Affected	No
Wild and Scenic Rivers	None Present	No
Wilderness	None Present	No

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS CONSIDERED WITH MINOR EFFECTS

The following resources would not be adversely affected by implementation of the Proposed Action. Consequently, these resources will also not be addressed in this chapter or in Chapter 4.0 (*Environmental Consequences*) to follow.

- **Air Quality** - air quality analyses have been conducted in this general area of Natrona County, Wyoming in conjunction with environmental analyses of the Cave Gulch-Bullfrog-Waltman Natural Gas Development Project (BLM 1997a, 1997b, 1997c), the Cooper Reservoir Natural Gas Development Project (BLM 1998), and the Wallace Creek Extension

3D Vibroseis Project (BLM 2002). These analyses concluded that no significant impacts would occur to air quality or the air shed as a result of the activities proposed therein.

Short-term impacts to air quality associated with the ten proposed Raderville Fm. wells would be inconsequential in comparison to the short-term impacts analyzed in the referenced documents and there would be no long-term impacts to (changes in) air quality once the wells have been drilled, completed, and placed on production.

Long-term impacts associated with the installation of the enlarged (replacement) compressor station have been analyzed by Compliance Partners, Inc. (CPI) in conjunction with an application to be filed with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) by BBC for the approval thereof. Assuming that the old compressor station is decommissioned upon installation of the replacement equipment mentioned in Sections 2.1.3 and 2.1.4, there would be slight increases in NO_x and CO emissions resulting from the new compressor, while both VOC and HAP emissions would be reduced. Furthermore, CPI concluded that local air quality would be improved due to the reduction in both VOC and HAP emissions (Compliance Partners, Inc. 2003).

Visibility impacts were assessed by comparing the proposed emissions for this project to the emissions estimated for the Cooper Reservoir Natural Gas Development Project (CRNGDP). Total NO_x for the CRNGDP (BLM 1998) were estimated to be nearly 97 tons per year (tpy), while the Wallace Creek Raderville Fm. project is estimating only 15 tpy. A visibility impact of only 0.3 deciview was predicted for the CRNGDP, and this analysis was conducted using the very conservative IWAQM guidance. Any impact on visibility associated with the proposed Wallace Creek Project would be lower than that predicted for the CRNGDP in proportion to the differences in NO_x emissions. Overall, the proposed facility changes are expected to result in a negligible change in ambient air quality in the surrounding area. No concerns are anticipated relative to compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) as well as the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) increment standards (Compliance Partners 2003).

- **Fisheries** - there are no perennial streams in or adjacent to the Wallace Creek Project Area (WCPA); consequently, there are no fisheries that could be affected by the Proposed Action.
- **Paleontology** - while the Eocene Wind River Formation is known to contain scientifically significant fossils throughout the Wind River Basin, bedrock outcrops that could contain significant fossils are noticeably absent throughout the majority of the project area. Moreover, past construction activity within the WCPA has failed to encounter bedrock deposits or paleontological remains. Mitigation recommended in Section 4.3.4 should prove adequate to protect any isolated paleontologic resources that might be encountered as a result of additional oil/gas exploration and development activity as proposed by BBC in the project area.
- **Recreation** - the project area consists of a mosaic of fee, state, and federal lands (see Table 2.1), with the federal lands located within the project area isolated due to the general lack of

a public easement (right-of-way) thereto. Moreover, considering that there are no special recreation management areas or developed recreational sites within the project area and the ownership patterns, recreational opportunities are somewhat limited and would not be adversely affected by the Proposed Action.

- **Socioeconomics** - neither the economy of Natrona County nor the quality of life for the residents thereof would be adversely affected by the Proposed Action. As described in Chapter 2.0, additional oil/gas exploration and development activity in the WCPA would not result in an increase in the local workforce, with a concomitant burden on the resources of Natrona County and/or the infrastructure thereof. In point of fact, implementation of the Proposed Action would actually have a positive impact on the economy of Natrona County through increased revenues generated by additional hydrocarbon production should any/all of the proposed wells prove to be commercially productive.
- **Vegetation** - considering that there are no threatened or endangered plant species or species proposed for listing as either threatened or endangered known to occur within the WCPA, the long-term disturbance of 16.00 acres (see note below) over the life of the project (LOP) does not represent a significant impact to plant communities within the project area.

NOTE: The long-term disturbance figures referenced above are derived from those areas that have not been reclaimed within five years of initial disturbance. In this regard, 75% of each well pad, 50% of the forty foot access road ROW, and 100% of the pipeline ROW's are expected to be reclaimed in the short-term resulting in the following long-term disturbance: 5.70 acres for well locations, 6.89 acres for access roads, and 3.41 acres for the expanded compressor station.

- **Visual Resources** - the WCPA is within a Class IV VRM area where changes may subordinate the original composition and character of the basic elements of the landscape, but must reflect what could be a natural occurrence within the characteristic landscape (BLM 1982). No impacts to Visual Resources would result from the proposed action considering that the project area is well removed from public roads within this area of Natrona County, combined with the fact that all permanent above-the-ground structures (not subject to safety considerations) would be painted a flat, non-reflective earth tone color (see Section 2.1.3).

3.2 GENERAL SETTING OF THE PROJECT AREA

The WCPA is located approximately 12 miles south/southwest of Waltman, Wyoming at elevations ranging from 6,334' at the proposed Wallace Creek Unit #41-27R well location to 6,105' at the proposed Stone Cabin #32-21R well location. The project area is situated in an area of moderately rolling uplands along the northern flank of the Rattlesnake Hills, directly east of Wallace Creek, and east/southeast of McCrae Gap. This upland area is vegetated with native grasses, low shrubs and sagebrush, with scattered stands of juniper and ponderosa pine on north-facing slopes.

3.3 EXISTING DEVELOPMENT IN THE WALLACE CREEK PROJECT AREA

The project area is situated in and adjacent to the Wallace Creek Unit, which was formed by National Cooperative Refinery Association (NCRA) in 1960. Initial production was established in the Wallace Creek Unit at the Wallace Creek Unit #1, which was drilled in late 1960 by NCRA to the Muddy Formation. Since the discovery of natural gas in the Muddy Formation in 1960, nine additional wells have been drilled in the Wallace Creek Unit - five of which are currently producing. BBC acquired the operating rights in the Wallace Creek Unit and surrounding area(s) in 2002 from Williams Production RMT Company and subsequently drilled three new wells in or adjacent to the Wallace Creek Unit in 2003 (see Section 2.1.5), which also targeted natural gas reserves in the Muddy Formation (WOGCC 2003). Since 1978, wells within the Wallace Creek Unit have produced 263,839 barrels (bbls) of oil, 6,956,268 mcf (thousand cubic feet) of natural gas, and 70,220 bbls of water. The Chaco Energy Company and Medallion Petroleum, Inc. wells identified in Table 3.3 are not committed to the Wallace Creek Unit and the cumulative production from these wells is provided in Table 3.2. Table 3.3 provides a synopsis of wells drilled in the overall project area including their current status. (WOGCC 2003).

Table 3.2

**Cumulative Production from Wells Either Not Committed To
Or Outside of the Wallace Creek Unit**

Well Operator	Well Name And Number	Cumulative Production			Production Dates
		Oil (bbls)	Gas (mcf)	Water (bbls)	
Chaco Energy	Twidale Fee #1-15	56,736	712,658	25	03/81 - 06/03
Chaco Energy	Moccasin #1-16	60,357	292,247	1,108	07/82 - 06/03
Chaco Energy	Wallace Creek State #1	9,278	1,817,128	822	03/78 - 06/03
Medallion Petroleum	Wallace Creek Fee #1	11,626	1,645,173	816	03/90 - 06/03

3.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resource inventories have been conducted on each of the proposed Raderville Fm. well locations and attendant access road routes identified in Tables 2.1 and 2.2. The access roads, well pads, and pipeline routes associated with the three Stone Cabin Muddy Fm. wells discussed in Section 2.1.5 have also been inventoried for cultural resources. These inventories were conducted in compliance with the *National Historic Preservation Act* (NHPA) and included all lands within the WCPA that may be affected by surface disturbing activities associated with this project. A synopsis of these cultural inventories is provided in Table 3.4 and includes the project name, acres inventoried, and the number of sites recorded.

Table 3.4

**Projects Inventoried for Cultural Resources within the WCPA by BBC,
Acres Inventoried, and Inventory Results**

Facility Description (name, number, etc.)	Acres Surveyed for Cultural Materials				Sites Identified	Eligible Sites
	Location	Access	Pipelines	Other		
Stone Cabin #24-21R	35.00	9.10	-----	-----	1	0
Stone Cabin #32-21R	40.00	2.30	-----	-----	3	0
Stone Cabin #11-27R	40.00	0.50	-----	-----	1	1
Stone Cabin #13-27R	40.00	7.13	-----	-----	2	1
Stone Cabin #31-28R	40.00	6.50	-----	-----	6	0
Wallace Creek Unit #43-15R	42.00	0.00	-----	-----	2	0
Wallace Creek Unit #11-22R	40.00	0.00	-----	-----	0	0
Wallace Creek Unit #13-22R	40.00	2.96	-----	-----	2	1
Wallace Creek Unit #32-22R	0.00	0.00	-----	-----	0	0
Wallace Creek Unit #41-27R	40.00	4.30	-----	-----	1	0
Wallace Creek Block Survey ¹	225.00	0.00	-----	-----	0	0
Expanded Compressor Station ²	0.00	0.00	13.10	3.50	1	0
Stone Cabin #1 ³ (Muddy Fm.)	10.00	15.20	32.60	-----	3	0
Stone Cabin #2 (Muddy Fm.)	20.00	0.00	-----	-----	5	0
Stone Cabin #32-21 (Muddy Fm.)	13.00	5.70	-----	-----	1	1
TOTALS	625.00	53.69	45.70	3.50	28	3

A block survey was conducted by Archaeological Energy Consulting in April 2003 covering portions of the north half of Section 22 in Township 34 North, Range 87 West. This inventory provided cultural clearance for the Wallace Creek Unit #32-22R well location/access road route.

² Includes the inventory for the pipeline right-of-way from the existing/expanded compressor station south to the tie-in point with the existing gas sales line in the SW¼NW¼NW¼ of Section 27, T34N, R87W.

³ Includes the inventory for the pipeline right-of-way from the Stone Cabin #1 well location south/southwest to the existing/expanded compressor station.

Approximately 727.89 acres have been inventoried for cultural resources in conjunction with the proposed Wallace Creek project (including the expanded compressor station and the three Stone Cabin Muddy Fm. wells discussed in Section 2.1.5) resulting in the identification of twenty-eight cultural sites, three of which are considered as eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Copies of the individual cultural resource inventory reports are currently on file with both the BLM's Casper Field Office in Casper, Wyoming and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in Laramie, Wyoming.

Based upon the cultural inventories conducted within the WCPA for those projects referenced in Table 3.4, we could reasonably expect cultural sites to occur within the overall WCPA with an estimated frequency of one site per twenty-six acres and that sites eligible for nomination to the NRHP would occur with an estimated frequency of one eligible site per two hundred and forty-three acres.

3.5 RANGE MANAGEMENT

Two grazing allotments exist within the WCPA as follows:

- Allotment 10129 held by Forgey Ranches, Inc. under grazing lease number 4906000, which encompasses portions of Sections 15, 21 and 28, T34N, R87W; and
- Allotment 10120 held by Clear Creek Cattle Company under grazing lease number 4906107, which encompasses portions of Section 21, T34N, R87W.

Table 3.5 provides a legal description of these allotments, total acres/section, the Animal Unit Months (AUM's) allocated to each portion of the allotment, and the total AUM's. On the average, the public rangelands within the project area have a carrying capacity of 7.37 acres per AUM for domestic livestock and are generally utilized as year-round pasture by the permittees. We may assume that similar, state and/or privately-owned, rangelands within the project area would also have an average carrying capacity of approximately 7.37 AUM's and that grazing practices would be similar to those currently being utilized on public lands.

Range improvements within the WCPA consist primarily of cross fencing along property and/or allotment boundaries and two permitted water wells as follows:

- Oil Field #1 located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 27 in Township 34 North, Range 87 West. State of Wyoming Permit #P094535W, jointly owned by the BLM and Forgey Ranch Company.
- Burns #1 located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28 in Township 34 North, Range 87 West. State of Wyoming Permit #P086360W, owned by Consolidated Ind. Corp.

No site specific surveys have been conducted within the WCPA to determine the presence of invasive non-native species. However, it is possible that Canadian thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), and halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*) occur on or adjacent to previously disturbed areas within the overall project area.

Table 3.5

Grazing Allotments on Public Lands in the WCPA

Grazing Allotment	Legal Location of Grazing Lease				# Acres	Acres/AUM	Total AUM's
	Quarter-Quarter	Section	Township	Range			
10129	NW¼NW¼	15	34. North	87 West	40.00	10.00	4
10129	SE¼SW¼	21	34. North	87 West	40.00	10.00	4
10120	W¼NW¼	21	34. North	87 West	80.00	10.00	8
10129	SE¼NE¼, E¼SE¼, SW¼NW¼, and SW¼	27	34. North	87 West	320.00	6.15	52
10129	W¼SW¼	28	34. North	87 West	80.00	10.00	8

3.6 SOILS

The Wind River Basin exhibits a wide range of soils which are directly associated with the topography. Variations in soils are due to the differing origins of parent materials, different climatic conditions, and the effects of different types of vegetation. In this regard, a Third Order Soils Inventory of Natrona County has been conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS 1997). As a result of this inventory, soils within the project area have been mapped and classified. Table 3.6 provides information concerning those soil mapping units (SMU's) encountered at each individual well location and access road route within the WCPA. Soils encountered at additional facilities proposed in conjunction with this environmental analysis include:

- Expanded compressor station: SMU 209
- Stone Cabin #1 pipeline: SMU 209 and SMU 227
- Stone Cabin #31-21 pipeline: SMU 167 and SMU 227

Table 3.7 provides additional information concerning the physical characteristics of each affected SMU as identified above and/or in Table 3.6. Additional information regarding the physical characteristics of individual soils within each of these soil mapping units may be obtained from the *Soil Survey of Natrona County Area, Wyoming* published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service in 1997 in cooperation with the U.S. Department of the Interior, BLM and the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station (USDA-NRCS 1997).

Table 3.6

Soil Mapping Units to be Impacted by the Proposed Action

Well Name And Number	Affected Soil Mapping Units		
	Well Location	New Road	Reconstructed Road
Stone Cabin #24-21R	188	188, 209, 228 ¹	n/a
Stone Cabin #32-21R	209	n/a	209
Stone Cabin #11-27R	209	209	n/a
Stone Cabin #13-27R	256	n/a	256
Stone Cabin #31-28R	209	209	n/a
Wallace Creek Unit #43-15R	209	209	117, 227
Wallace Creek Unit #11-22R	227	227	n/a
Wallace Creek Unit #13-22R	228	209, 228	n/a
Wallace Creek Unit #32-22R	209	209	n/a
Wallace Creek Unit #41-27R	228	167, 228	n/a

Approximately 500 feet of SMU 195 is encountered along the access road to the Stone Cabin #24-21R where the road crosses Wallace Creek

3.7 WILDLIFE

3.7.1 Big Game Species

Two big game species - pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*) and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) - inhabit the vicinity of the Wallace Creek project area. Antelope and mule deer populations residing in the project area are classified within the Rattlesnake Herd Unit, which includes antelope hunt areas 70, 71, and 72 and deer hunt areas 88 and 89. The WCPA is specifically included within antelope hunt area 72 and deer hunt area 89.

Herd objectives for both antelope and deer in the Rattlesnake Herd Unit are 12,000 and 5,500 post hunt animals, respectively. The 2001 estimated population for the Rattlesnake Herd Unit was 14,898 antelope and 3,254 mule deer. Antelope populations in the Rattlesnake Herd Unit are 24% above herd objectives, while mule deer populations are 41% below herd objectives (WGFD 2002a).

The WCPA includes crucial winter/yearlong range for both antelope and mule deer (see Figure 3.1).

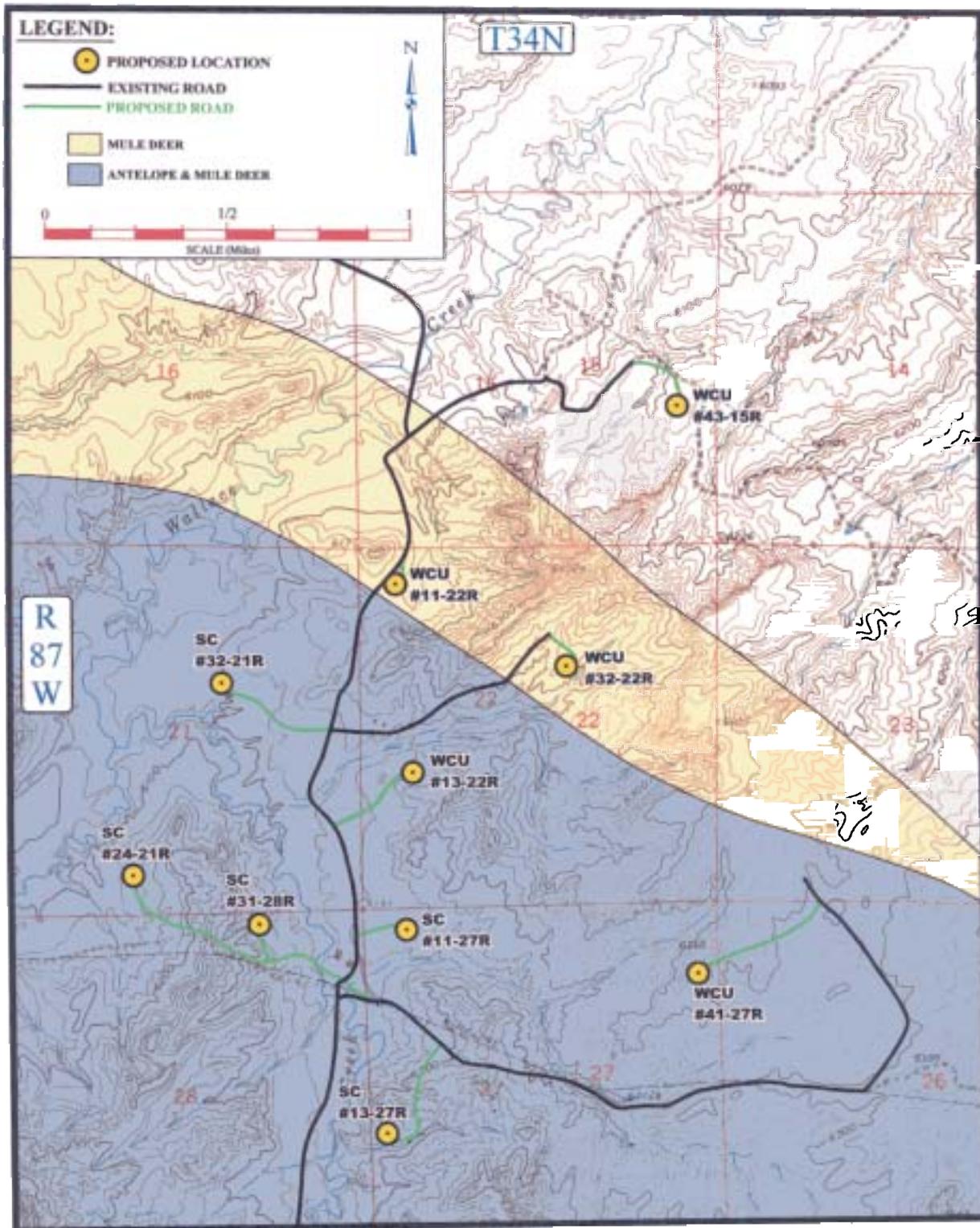


Figure 3.1: Big Game Crucial Winter Ranges in the Wallace Creek Project Area

3.7.2 Upland Game Birds

Greater sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) are the most important upland game bird in the WCPA and are found throughout the sagebrush upland areas of the Wind River Basin and rangelands throughout the Casper Field Office. Sage grouse populations in the WCPA are included in Upland Game Bird Management Area 33 and declined throughout the Casper (WGFD) Region from the early 1980's through the mid-1990's, with this decline generally attributed to various forms of habitat degradation. Nonetheless, it would appear that sage grouse numbers in the Casper Region have increased slightly since 1996 (WGFD 2002b).

There are no known sage grouse leks within a two-mile radius of the WCPA. As there are no known leks within a two-mile radius of the WCPA, there will be no significant impacts to greater sage grouse breeding or nesting habitat; consequently, the species will not be discussed further in this analysis document.

3.7.3 Raptors

An aerial inventory of raptor nesting activity within the WCPA (including a minimum one-mile buffer zone surrounding the project area) was conducted on May 14, 2003 by Anderson Environmental Consulting. A total of twenty nests were identified in conjunction with the aerial inventory as shown on Figure 3.2. Two of these nests were active at the time of the subject inventory. Table 3.8 summarizes the raptor nesting information collected by Anderson Environmental Consulting on May 14, 2003.

Table 3.8

2003 Raptor Nesting Activity In or Adjacent to the WCPA

Raptor Species	Nest Type	Nest Condition	Legal Location of Nest Structure				2003 Status
			Quarter-Quarter	Section	Township	Range	
FH	Stick	Very Good	NW¼SW¼SW¼	10	34 North	87 West	Inactive
FH	Stick	Poor	SW¼NW¼SW¼	17	34 North	87 West	Inactive
FH	Stick	Very Poor	SE¼SE¼SE¼	17	34 North	87 West	Inactive
??	Cavity	Unknown	SW¼SW¼NW¼	20	34 North	87 West	???
??	Cavity	Unknown	NE¼NE¼SW¼	20	34 North	87 West	???
FH	Stick	Poor	SE¼NW¼NE¼	20	34 North	87 West	Inactive
FH	Stick	Poor	NW¼SW¼NW¼	21	34 North	87 West	Inactive
GE	Stick	Good	SW¼NE¼NW¼	22	34 North	87 West	Inactive
FH	Stick	Fair	NE¼NW¼NE¼	22	34 North	87 West	Inactive
GE	Stick	Poor	SE¼NE¼NE¼	22	34 North	87 West	Inactive

Table 3.8 - Continued

2003 Raptor Nesting Activity In or Adjacent to the WCPA

Raptor Species	Nest Type	Nest Condition	Legal Location of Nest Structure				2003 Status
			Quarter-Quarter	Section	Township	Range	
FH	Stick	Poor	NW¼NW¼NW¼	23	34 North	87 West	Inactive
FH	Stick	Good	NE¼NE¼NE¼	23	34 North	87 West	Inactive
FH	Stick	Poor	NW¼NW¼NW¼	24	34 North	87 West	Inactive
FH	Stick	Fair	SW¼NW¼SW¼	24	34 North	87 West	Inactive
FH	Stick	Fair	NW¼SE¼SW¼	27	34 North	87 West	Inactive
FH	Stick	Fair/Good	NE¼SE¼NW¼	28	34 North	87 West	Inactive
FH	Stick	Good	SE¼NE¼SE¼	29	34 North	87 West	Inactive
GE	Stick	Excellent	SE¼SE¼NE¼	32	34 North	87 West	Active
FH	Stick	Poor	SE¼NE¼NW¼	33	34 North	87 West	Inactive
FH	Stick	Excellent	SE¼NW¼NE¼	34	34 North	87 West	Active

3.7.4 Threatened, Endangered, and Proposed Species

Special status wildlife species include those species which are in danger of extinction due to drastic population declines and which have subsequently been listed as threatened or endangered or are proposed for listing (T/E/P) pursuant to the *Endangered Species Act* (ESA) of 1973 (as amended). Those T/E/P species identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see Appendix A) which may occur within the project area include:

- **Bald eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) - Status: Threatened

Migrant through the area during the fall and spring migrational periods, seasonal resident during the winter months along the North Platte River.

The primary habitat for bald eagles migrating through or wintering in central Wyoming would include riparian area(s) along the North Platte River in Natrona County and both the Big and Little Wind Rivers in Fremont County, which provide roosting and perching areas for eagles foraging along the river course and their adjacent uplands. Roosting areas for bald eagles are also known to occur on the west end of Casper Mountain (Jackson Canyon) and on Pine Mountain (both of which are located in Natrona County).

Considering the distance of the WCPA from known foraging and/or roosting areas, impacts to bald eagles resulting from implementation of the Proposed Action are considered highly unlikely; consequently, this species will not be addressed further in this analysis document.

- **Black-footed ferret** (*Mustela nigripes*) - Status: Endangered

Potential resident in prairie dog (*Cynomys sp.*) colonies.

As there are no known prairie dog towns within the WCPA, impacts to black-footed ferrets will not occur; consequently, this species will not be addressed further in this analysis document.

- **Ute ladies'-tresses** (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) - Status: Threatened

Potential resident in seasonally moist soils and wet meadows below 7,000 feet. Locally found in the North Platte River drainage below Alcova Reservoir and in the drainages of the Cheyenne and Niobrara Rivers in southeastern Wyoming.

As the WCPA does not occur in the drainages of either the North Platte, Cheyenne, or Niobrara Rivers, impacts to Ute ladies'-tresses are not expected to occur; consequently, this species will not be addressed further in this analysis document.

- **Mountain plover** (*Charadrius montanus*) - Status: Proposed for Listing

The mountain plover is generally considered an associate of the shortgrass prairie, which is dominated by blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) and buffalo grass (*Buchloe dactyloides*) (Graul 1975). The species breeds across the western Great Plains and at isolated locales in western Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico (Leachman and Osmundson 1990). Between 1966 and 1991, continental populations of the mountain plover declined by 63% (Knopf 1994), with the Pawnee National Grassland in Weld County, Colorado being both the historic and current breeding stronghold of this aridland member of the family Charadriidae (Graul and Webster 1976). A second major breeding population of mountain plovers is currently located on the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge in Phillips, Montana (Knopf and Miller 1994).

In May of 2003 a search was made of the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WYNDDDB) records to determine if any sightings of mountain plover had been recorded within or directly adjacent to the WCPA. No sightings of mountain plover were recorded in the WYNDDDB for the survey area. As there is no suitable mountain plover nesting/brood rearing habitat within the WCPA, impacts to mountain plovers will not occur; consequently, this species will not be addressed further in this analysis document.

In addition to the species listed above, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also identified T/E/P species which may occur in the downstream riverine habitats of the North Platte River in Nebraska (see Appendix A) and which could be affected by water depletions (consumption) in the North Platte River system. As indicated in Section 2.1.1, water to be used in drilling operations would be obtained from local sources not connected to the North Platte River and would not result in a depletion thereto. As a consequence, the potential effects of water

depletions upon downstream T/E/P species will not be addressed further in this analysis document.

3.8 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative would disproportionately affect minority or low income people, and is not discussed further in this EA. The proposed project would provide some additional employment opportunities for a small number of workers in Natrona County, and would add to the local economy.