

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

5.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

An EA must be prepared when a federal government agency considers approving an action within its jurisdiction that may impact the human environment. An EA aids federal officials in making decisions by presenting information on the physical, biological, and social environment of a proposed project and its alternatives. The first step in preparing an EA is to determine the scope of the project, the range of action alternatives, and the impacts to be included in the document.

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR, Parts 1500-1508) require an early scoping process to determine the issues related to the proposed action and alternatives that the EA should address. The purpose of the scoping process is to identify important issues, concerns, and potential impacts that require analysis in the EA and to eliminate insignificant issues and alternatives from detailed analysis.

The Cow Creek CBM project EA was prepared by a third party contractor working under the direction of and in cooperation with the lead agency for the project, which is the BLM, Rawlins Field Office, Rawlins, Wyoming.

5.1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A scoping notice was prepared and submitted to the public by the BLM on June 14, 2001, requesting input into the proposed Atlantic Rim Coalbed Methane Project. Scoping documents were sent out to the public listed on the BLM mailing list, as well as organizations, groups, and individuals requesting a copy of the scoping document.

As a part of the scoping process, the interim drilling programs proposed by Double Eagle and other operators were included in the scoping notice. The scoping period ended on July 25, 2001.

During preparation of the EA, the BLM and the consultant IDT have communicated with, and received or solicited input from various federal, State, county, and local agencies, elected representatives, environmental and citizens groups, industries, and individuals potentially concerned with issues regarding the proposed drilling action. The contacts made are summarized in the following sections.

The following organizations/individuals either provided comment or were provided the opportunity to comment during the scoping period.

FEDERAL OFFICES

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming State Office
U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Cubin
U.S. Senator Mike Enzi
U.S. Senator Craig Thomas

U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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STATE AGENCIES

Governor Jim Geringer
State Engineer's Office
State Senators
Wyoming Department of Environmental
Quality

Wyoming Game and Fish Department
State Representatives
Wyoming State Planning Coordinator
Wyoming Department of Transportation
Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation
Commission

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Carbon County Commissioners

Carbon County Planning Commission

MUNICIPALITIES

Mayor-Baggs
Mayor-Rawlins

Mayor-Wamsutter

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

Northern Arapahoe Tribal Council
Ute Mountain Tribe
Shoshone-Arapahoe Joint
Tribal Council

Shoshone Tribal Council
Ute Tribal Council
Uinta-Ouray Tribal Council

GRAZING PERMITTEES

Weber Ranch
Salisbury Livestock Company
Three Forks Ranch Corporation
Mike Sheehan
H.B. Lee
Espy Livestock
PH Livestock Company

Montgomery Livestock Company
Stratton Sheep Company
Sam Morgan
Robert Orchard
Matt Weber
Jack Creek Land and Cattle Company

LEASE AND ROW HOLDERS

Stone & Wolf, LLC
Merit Energy Company
Benson-Montin-Greer

North Finn, LLC
P&M Petroleum Management
KCS Mountain Resources, Inc.

LANDOWNERS

This scoping notice has been sent to 111 landowners potentially affected by the proposal.

LOCAL MEDIA

Casper Star-Tribune
Rock Springs Rocket Miner
Wyoming State Tribune/Eagle
KRAI - Craig, Colorado
KRKK - Rock Springs
KTWO - Casper
KUWR - University of Wyoming

Rawlins Daily Times
Wyoming State Journal
Gillette News-Record
KRAL - Rawlins
KSIT - Rock Springs
KTWO TV - Casper
Northwest Colorado Daily News

OTHER AGENCIES, INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES, INDIVIDUALS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

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Audubon Society
 Wilderness Society
 The Nature Conservancy
 Field Museum of Natural History
 Department of Geology
 Montana Oil Journal
 Murie Audubon Society
 Petroleum Association of Wyoming
 Sierra Club
 Wyoming Outdoor Council
 Wyoming Stockgrowers Association
 Wyoming Woolgrowers Association
 Ivan Herold

National Wildlife Federation
 Carbon County Stockgrowers
 Wyoming Association of Professional
 Archaeologists
 Independent Petroleum Association
 of Mountain States
 The Nature Conservancy
 Rocky Mountain Oil & Gas Association
 Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
 Wyoming Public Lands Council
 Wyoming Wildlife Federation
 Vern Brodsho
 Little Snake River Conservation District

5.2 LIST OF PREPARERS

The following tables identify the core BLM IDT (Table 5-1) and the consultant IDT (Table 5-2) that were principally involved with preparing this EA.

Table 5-1. List of BLM Interdisciplinary Reviewers.

Name	Responsibility
RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE	
Brenda Vosika Neuman	BLM IDT Lead
John Spehar	Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Mary Apple	Public Affairs
Krystal Clair	Visual Resources/Recreation
Sandra Meyers	Cultural Resources
Kip Purington	Petroleum Engineer
Andy Warren	Vegetation/Range Issues
Mark Newman	Paleontology/Geology
Susan Foley	Soils/Pipeline Construction/Reclamation
Ken Peacock	Hydrology/Water Quality
Frank Blomquist	Riparian/Wetland; Wildlife/T & E Issues
Mike Bower	Fisheries Biologist
Janelle Wrigley	Realty Specialist
Tom Williams	Natural Resource Specialist
BUFFALO FIELD OFFICE	
Alan Schlutz	Hydrologic Technician
WYOMING STATE OFFICE	

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Name	Responsibility
Susan Caplan	Air Quality

Table 5-2. List of Consultant Interdisciplinary Team EA Preparers.

Principal Interdisciplinary Team		
Name	Affiliation	Responsibility
Gary Holsan	Gary Holsan Environmental Planning	Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Project Manager, Recreation, Visual Resources
Carleton Babb	CS Babb Consulting, LLC	Water Resources
Larry Hayden-Wing	Hayden-Wing Associates	Wildlife/Fisheries; Special Status Plants, Animals and Fish; Vegetation and Wetlands
Brenda Schladweiler	BKS Environmental Associates	Soils
George Blankenship	Planning Information Corporation	Socioeconomics, Transportation, Range, Other Land Use
Jim Zapert, Susan Eatinger	TRC Environmental Corporation	Air Quality
John Albanese	Pronghorn Archeological	Cultural Resources
Gustav Winterfeld	Erathem-Vanir Geological Consultants	Geology/Paleontology, Mineral Resources
Technical Support Team		
Travis Olson	Hayden-Wing Associates	Wildlife, Vegetation & Wetlands
Jeffrey Winstead	Hayden-Wing Associates	Wildlife Biologist, Cartographer
Scott Mullner	Hayden-Wing Associates	Fisheries Biologist
Connie Hedley	Hayden-Wing Associates	Document Editing and Production
Sarah Hamilton	Hayden-Wing Associates	Document Production