

May 11, 2004

SCOPING NOTICE
Simpson's Gulch 3D Geophysical Project

Dear Reader:

Veritas DGC Land, Inc. (Veritas) has filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Conduct Geophysical Operations with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rock Springs Field Office, for a geophysical project on public lands within Sweetwater County, Wyoming. The proposed project is located in multiple Sections within Townships 23, 24, and 25 North, Ranges 107, 108, and 109 West, 6th Principal Meridian. The attached document serves as notice of the beginning of the environmental analysis process to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. If you are interested in participating in the process and have concerns, issues, or alternatives you would like to see addressed, please respond with your written comments by **June 9, 2004**.

Send written comments to:

Address: Shelly Devoss
Rock Springs Field Office
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

Email: rock_springs_wymail@blm.gov
(Please reference Simpson's Gulch 3D Project in the subject field)

Written comments in response to this notice, including the names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Rock Springs Field Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. - 4:30p.m.) Monday through Friday (except federal holidays) after the comment period closes. These comments may be published as part of the environmental process although individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address from public view or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. You have been included in this mailing because you previously indicated interest in receiving information on actions of this type. Absence of response in this matter will remove you from further communications regarding this project.

If you have questions regarding this project, please contact Shelly Devoss at 307-352-0213.

Sincerely,

/S/ Susan Davis

Susan Davis
Acting Assistant Field Manager

Attachment

Bureau of Land Management
Rock Springs Field Office

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Simpson's Gulch 3D Geophysical Project

Description of Project

Veritas DGC Land, Inc. (Veritas) has filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Conduct Geophysical Operations with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rock Springs Field Office.

The proposed project is located approximately thirty miles north of Rock Springs and west of Highway 191 in the Simpson's Gulch area. The project would encompass about 105 square miles of federal land, and about two square miles of state land within T24-26N, R107-109W (see attached map). Those portions of the project occurring on state land are not subject to BLM authorization and would be permitted separately by Veritas.

A helicopter and ATVs would be used to deploy recording equipment to predetermined locations on the receiver lines. The receiver station interval would be 200 feet with lines 1800 feet apart. The source station intervals will be 200 feet, with source lines 1200 feet apart.

The proposed project would use buggy mounted vibrators as an energy source where terrain allows. They run on all terrain low ground pressure tires to minimize surface impact (a PSI of around nine pounds). Buggy drills would be used to fill in data where needed on steep slopes or soft ground. All shot holes would be plugged according to Wyoming Oil and Gas Commission standards. The project is scheduled to take about two months during the fall of 2004.

Relationship to Existing Plans and Documents

Resource Management Plan- The document that directs management of BLM administered lands within the analysis area is the Green River Resource Management Plan (RMP, August 8, 1997). The objective for management of geophysical exploration is to provide opportunity for exploration of mineral resources and collection of geophysical data, while protecting resource values.

Use Authorization- An approved Notice of Intent to Conduct Geophysical Operations is subject to the Terms and Conditions for a Notice of Intent to Conduct Geophysical Exploration. Other conditions of approval to protect important resources may be added to the authorization if analysis proves such measures would further reduce environmental impact.

National Environmental Policy Act

On reviewing the proposal from Veritas, the BLM has determined that an environmental analysis is required to determine whether impacts from the Proposed Action would be considered significant. Additionally, NEPA requires that a No Action alternative be considered in all environmental documents. This will allow a comparison of the economic and environmental consequences of all alternatives. Under the No Action alternative, geophysical operations would not occur in the project area.

Identified Resource Management Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities

The following issues and concerns have been identified by the BLM to date. It is not meant to be an all-inclusive list, but rather a starting point for public input and a means of identifying the resource disciplines needed to conduct the analysis.

Raptor nesting habitat
Greater sage-grouse habitat
Big game winter range
Steep slopes
Riparian areas
Cultural resources including the Sublette cut off of the Oregon Trail
Range projects in the Big Sandy area

Timing Needs or Requirements

Public input is important in establishing the level and scope of the analysis. The public is encouraged to participate in the environmental analysis process to help identify the level of analysis needed, alternatives to the proposed action, other issues or concerns that should be analyzed, mitigative opportunities, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure the completeness of the analysis process.

Please submit your comments by June 9, 2004. Written comments should be mailed to:

Address: Shelly Devoss
Rock Springs Field Office
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

Email: rock_springs_wymail@blm.gov
(Please reference Simpson's Gulch 3D Project in the subject line.)

Public Participation

The following individuals and organizations will receive a copy of this scoping statement:

Government offices

Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office (910,912,920,930)
Office of the Governor
U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Wyoming State Clearinghouse
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Cheyenne, Green River)
Bureau of Reclamation

Elected and Other Officials

Mayors of Rock Springs, Green River, Farson
State Senators: Rae Lynn Job, Tex Boggs, Larry Caller
State Representatives: Fred Parady, Mick Owen
Sweetwater County Commissioners
Sweetwater County Planner
Sweetwater County Libraries, Green River, Rock Springs
U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Cubin, Bonnie Cannon, Representative
U.S. Senator Mike Enzi, Lyn Shanaghy, Representative
U.S. Senator Craig Thomas, Pati Smith, Representative

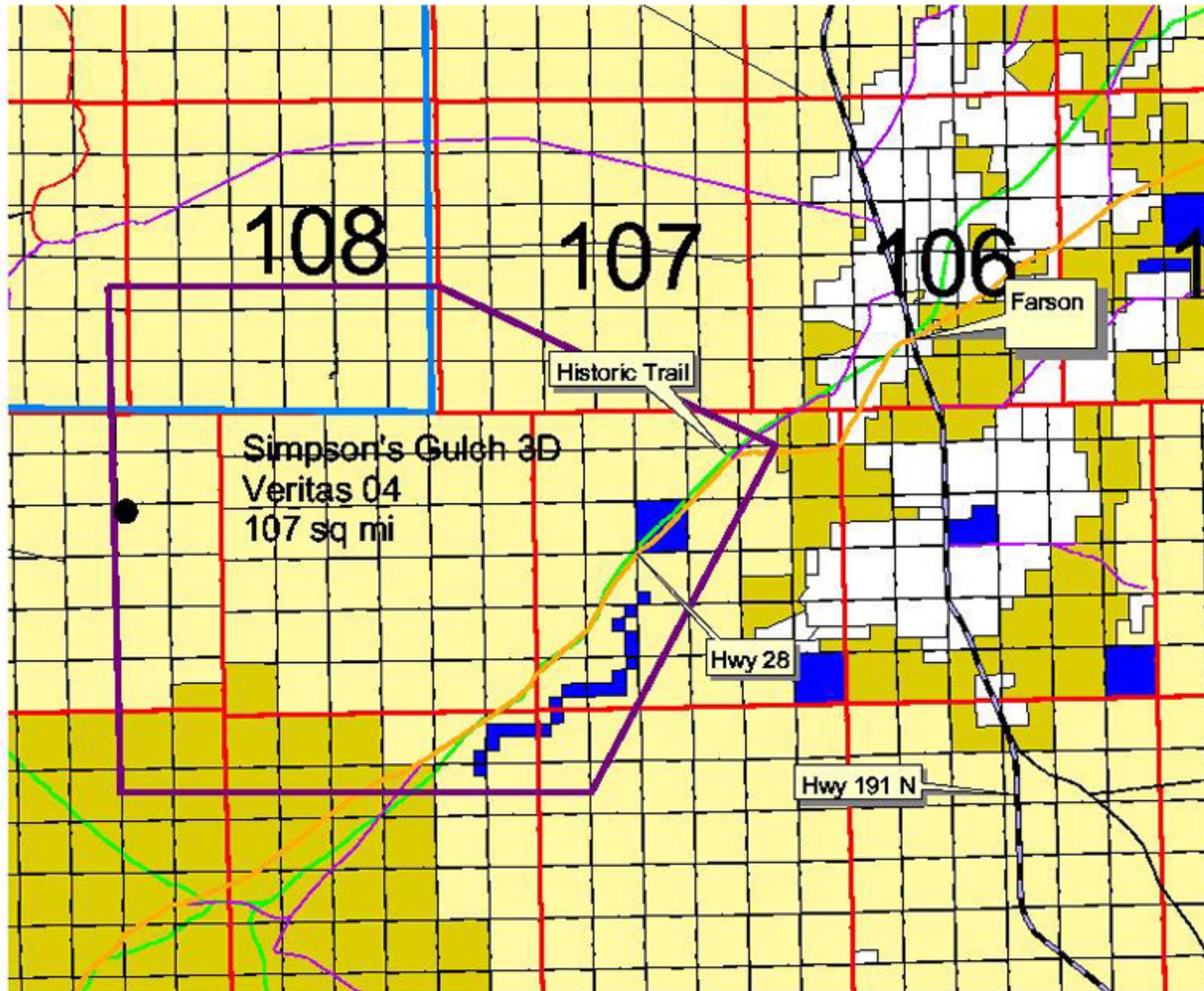
Public Land Users and User Groups

Big Sandy Working Group
Oregon California Trail Association

Newspapers

Rock Springs Daily Rocket-Miner
Casper Star Tribune
Green River Star

Simpson's Gulch 3D



- Rsfo-bndry
- Roads
 - BLM
 - County
 - Interstate Freeway
 - Private
 - State
 - US hwy
- Rs-township
- Rs-section
- Historic trail
- Rsfo-ownership
 - BLM
 - BOR
 - USFS
 - Private
 - State
 - Water

0 5 10 15 20 Miles