

DS-252

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b> Big Bear #1 Wildcat Well	<b>Proposed Implementation Date</b>
<b>Proponent:</b> BWOC, Inc.	<b>RECEIVED</b>
<b>Type and Purpose of Action:</b> Wildcat Well	
<b>Location:</b> SWNWE Sec. 16, T11N-R26E	<b>County:</b> Musselshell
MAR 24 2006	

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL  
POLICY OFFICE

### I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1.	PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	Field inspection with BWOC landman, Rich McKamy; Lessee, Ned Tranel was contacted; MU CO FSA contacted re: CRP drill site location.
2.	OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	MU CO FSA: County committee approval for this action to take place on CRP. This was given on 2-28-06.
3.	ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	No Action; Location change; Proposed action.

### II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
	N = Not present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ] Flat piece of old cropland which is now in CRP. Minor bladework possible. Pits will be dug at the drill site. Upon completion the pits will be filled, reclaimed and reseeded to the original CRP stand seed mix, as will all other disturbed areas.
5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ]
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ] What minimal emissions are released as part of the drilling process will quickly dissipate.
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ] Currently an excellent stand of CRP acreage. BWOC will be required to reclaim all disturbed areas to the current condition.
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ] Pronghorn Antelope and upland gamebirds may utilize this stand for cover and food. This stand of CRP is 194 acres in size so there is plenty for them to utilize if the proposed action goes forward.
9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ]
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[ N ] As stated above, this is old cropland which is now in CRP.
11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ] The tract can be accessed by Colony Road which borders its north boundary. The tract holds no real aesthetic value and is similar to most of the surrounding area.

12.	DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ]
13.	OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of other private, state or federal current actions w/n the analysis area, or from future proposed state actions that are under MEPA review (scoping) or permitting review by any state agency w/n the analysis area?	[ N ] The information from this wildcat well will provide data to the applicant to analyze future oil and natural gas development on this tract.

### III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

RESOURCE		[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14.	HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the are?	[ N ]
15.	INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[ N ]
16.	QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so estimated number. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ]
17.	LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ]
18.	DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ] Access for drilling will be restricted to dry or frozen conditions. No additional services are needed. All disturbed areas will be reclaimed after drilling is completed.
19.	LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[ N ] Provided that all disturbed areas are immediately reclaimed to current conditions, the proposed action will not affect the CRP contract with the USDAFSA.
20.	ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ] The tract is accessed along the north by a county road. The CRP acreage may provide some quality hunting potential for upland gamebirds and Pronghorn antelope. The proposed activity will have no affect on this.
21.	DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ]
22.	SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[ N ]
23.	CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[ N ]
24.	OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES: Is there a potential for other future uses for easement area other than for timber management? Is future use hypothetical? What is the estimated return to the trust. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ Y ] Discovery of oil and/or gas would result in increased revenue for the school trust.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Gary Brandenburg	SLO Land Use Specialist	3-1-06
	Name	Title	Date

IV. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Proposed action
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	There will be surface impacts with the plan as submitted. Reclamation of the CRP stand to its current condition is critical to avoid financial penalties from the FSA. These reclamation concerns are mitigated and addressed in the "special stipulations" attachment.
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved By:	Sharon Moore	Area Manager
	Name	Title
	Sharon Moore	3/2/06
	Signature	Date

Special Stipulations for Big Bear #1 Wildcat Well  
Section 16, T11N-R26E  
Musselshell County

1. Work is to be restricted to frozen or dry conditions.
2. Weed control is the responsibility of BWOC, Inc. for 3 years. To ensure that the proposed drilling activities do not enhance the introduction of noxious weeds onto this tract, all vehicles must be power-washed prior to entry.
3. If a good producing well is found BWOC will coordinate with SLO on the infrastructure needed to support this well such as all-weather roads, cattleguards, fencing, pipelines and other facilities. They will also be required to reclaim all areas of the pad site not needed to current CRP stand conditions. In addition they will be required to pay for any lost revenue from the CRP contract's acreage reduction to both the lessee and the Department.
4. BWOC will be responsible for reclaiming all disturbed areas to the current CRP contract standards and conditions as soon as their work is complete. They will be responsible for any financial penalties assessed by the FSA if the reclamation efforts fail to meet these standards.

**Brandenburg, Gary**

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**From:** Brandenburg, Gary  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2006 3:31 PM  
**To:** 'Karen.schanz@mt.usda.gov'  
**Subject:** Mineral exploration on CRP contract #165D

Karen,

As per our phone discussion today, BWOC, Inc. of Bryan, TX has requested a mineral exploration permit on the above-mentioned CRP contract. According to their application, the anticipated "spud date" is March 6, 2006.

The area of disturbance would be in the SWNWNE of Sec. 16, T11N-R26E. A more precise location of the drill site is at Latitude 46.720377 North: Longitude 108.460685 West. To access this point they plan to come off of Colony Road to the north at 2300 feet from the NE corner of the tract and then travel south across this CRP stand approximately 985 feet.

I envision the total area of disturbance to be around 2 acres. If this ends up as a dry hole, the DNRC will be responsible for reclaiming all disturbed areas to the current seed mix and conditions. This reclamation will take place immediately following the drilling activities. I'm guessing this to be around April 1<sup>st</sup>. However if this is a successful site we'll need to apply for a reduction in acreage on this contract.

If there is anything else you need please let me know. Thanks for your help!

Gary Brandenburg  
MT DNRC\Billings

2/28/2006