

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
73544 Hwy 64
Meeker, CO 81641**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2004-093-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC-10179
COC-10700

PROJECT NAME: Evergreen “Re-entry” wells

<u>LEGAL DESCRIPTION:</u>	7C-12-4S-104	T4S R104W Sec 12 NWSE COC-10179
	3C-14-4S-104	T4S R104W Sec 14 NESW COC-10179
	11C-14-4S-104	T4S R104W Sec 14 SENW COC-10179
	11C-11-4S-104	T4S R104W Sec 11 SENW COC-10179
	6C-23-4S-104	T4S R104W Sec 23 NESW COC-10700

APPLICANT: Evergreen Operating Corp.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Proposed Action: The applicant proposes to drill 5 gas wells. Some wells will require the re-construction of access roads & well pads. Some wells will be on existing producing locations, which will be expanded. One and a half miles of reclaimed roads will be improved. New disturbance associated with drill pad construction will be about one acre. The buried pipelines would parallel the routes of access roads. The original and existing wells were drilled prior to 1997. Total new disturbance for the proposed action would be approximately one acre. The associated surface disturbance for each well would be as follows:

7C-12-4S-104; 2100 feet of existing road, 30 feet wide, will be upgraded. About 1.1 acre of the old reclaimed drill pad will be re-built.

At the onsite inspection we discussed making the low water crossing of Evacuation Creek perpendicular to the creek. If the well is a producer, Evergreen will be required to rock the stream crossing and the approaches. All excess material from the construction and sediment from stream flow events will have to be hauled from the creek crossing. A locked gate will be placed about 100 yards west of the stream crossing to control access.

3C-14-4S-104; this drill pad will be adjacent to the 3-14-4S-104 producing well pad. There will be about 1 acre of new disturbance.

11C-14-4S-104; this drill pad will be on the 11-14-4S-104 producing well pad. The production facilities will have to be moved during the drilling operations.

11C-11-4S-104; this location was the site of the 11-11 well which was a dry hole and has since been plugged and abandoned. No new disturbance is anticipated.

6C-23-4S-104; this location was the site of the 6-32 well which was a dry hole and has since been plugged and abandoned. No new disturbance is anticipated. Evergreen will have to fix the head cut on access road 500 feet north of the proposed location.

If wells are producers, areas not needed for production facilities would be contoured and seeded. If wells are non producers, well would be plugged and surface areas would be contoured back to as near original contours as possible and seeded. Subsequent seeding may be required to establish sufficient vegetation for approval of the final abandonment of the location.

No Action Alternative: There would be no additional environmental impacts from the no action alternative.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD:

NEED FOR THE ACTION: To respond to the request by the applicant to exercise lease rights and develop hydrocarbon reserves.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Page 2-5

Decision Language: “Make federal oil and gas resources available for leasing and development in a manner that provides reasonable protection for other resource values.”

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a

finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: There are no special designation air sheds or non-attainment areas nearby that would be affected by the proposed action. During periods of low precipitation, air quality in the area of the proposed action is often diminished by dust caused by human disturbance.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would result in short term, local impacts to air quality during and after construction, due to dust being blown into the air. After adequate vegetation is reestablished, blowing dust should return to pre-construction levels.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No increase in dust will occur.

Mitigation: No additional mitigation is needed.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: 7C-12-4S-104 well pad and access road: The proposed location and access road has been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Knox, 1981, Compliance Dated 8/18/1981, Gordon et al 1981, Compliance dated 9/10/1982) and part of the access road route monitored (Hartley and Babcock 1982, Compliance Dated 1/12/1982) due to the presence of an open camp site along the access road.

3C-14-4S-104 well pad and access road: The proposed location and access road have inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Knox 1980, 1981, Compliance Dates 5/13/1980 and 7/14/1981) with one open camp site noted and avoided by moving the well location west to avoid the site.

11C-14-4S-104 well pad and access road: The proposed well pad location has been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Knox 1981, Compliance Dated 6/30/1981) with no cultural resources identified in the well pad and road area.

11C-11-4S-104 well pad and access road: The proposed pad location and road has been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Kinzie 1977, Compliance Dated 10/31/1977, Gordon et. al 1981, Compliance Dated 9/10/1982) with no cultural resources recorded in the well pad and road area.

6C-23-4S-104 well pad and access road: The proposed well pad location and access road route have been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Babcock and Hartley 1981, Compliance Dated 12/4/1981) with efforts to route the road around and away from a known site to the west.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: 7C-12-4S-103 well pad and access road: Provided that all mitigation stipulations are adhered to site 5RB 1802 will not be impacted by the proposed well pad and access right of way construction

3C-14-4S-104 well pad and access road: Provided that all mitigation stipulations are adhered to site 5RB 1181 will not be impacted by the proposed well pad and access right of way construction

11C-14-4S0104 well pad and access road: there are no new impacts anticipated for known cultural resources.

11C-11-4S-104 well pad and access road: there are no new impacts anticipated for known cultural resources.

6C-23-4S-104 well pad and access road: Provided that all mitigation stipulations are adhered to site 5RB 1181 will not be impacted by the proposed well pad and access right of way construction

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to cultural resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: For all well pads and access roads: 1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has

been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

3. All construction activities must absolutely be confined to the existing, rehabilitated well pad and access road foot prints.

4. 7C-12-4S-103 well pad and access road: Site 5RB 1802 must be avoided and all construction personnel are prohibited from leaving the well pad and access road construction areas. If there are any questions about avoiding the site the holder shall engage an approved archaeological consultant to ensure that the site is avoided by the project.

5. 3C-14-4S-104 well pad and access road: Site 5RB 1181 was initially avoided by moving the well pad to the west of the site. The current proposal must also avoid the site and restrict all personnel are prohibited from leaving the well pad and access road construction areas. If there are any questions about avoiding the site the holder shall engage an approved archaeological consultant to ensure that the site is avoided by the project.

6. 2C-9-4S-103 well pad and access road: because the proposed well pad is outside of the previously disturbed area but within the existing inventory area a monitor of all construction excavations in the alluvium is required.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: The majority of the project sites are on previously disturbed areas with exception of the 7C well which would disturb 1 acre of pinyon/juniper woodland.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Following abandonment of the wells these sites would be reclaimed. With the proposed seed mix these sites would be stabilized in approximately two years. If the applicant complies with the requirements for control of noxious weeds there would be no adverse impacts associated with noxious weeds. The seed mix contains non-native species which have been shown to establish and stabilize soils. These species have not been shown to move offsite or to hybridize with adjacent native species

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts.

Mitigation: Application of herbicides must be under field supervision of an EPA-certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides must be registered by the EPA and application proposals must be approved by the BLM.

Seed species used in reseeding disturbed areas will be based on the seed mixes identified in table B1 and B2. These mixes are based on range sites as determined by soils.

Seed Mix #	Species (Variety)	Lbs PLS/ Acre	Range sites
3	Pubescent wheatgrass (Luna)	4	Deep Loam,
	Western wheatgrass (Rosanna)	2	Loamy 10"-
	Crested wheatgrass (Ephraim)	1	14", Loamy
	Indian ricegrass (Nezpar)	1	Breaks, Loamy
	Orchardgrass (Paiute)	1	Slopes, Rolling
	Alternates: Fourwing saltbush,		Loam, Valley
	Intermediate wheatgrass, Cicer Milkvetch (Monarch)		Bench

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: Non-game populations associated with these ranges are widespread and common throughout sagebrush and pinyon-juniper habitats in this Resource Area (e.g., green-tailed and spotted towhee, vesper and lark sparrows). There are no specialized or narrowly endemic species known to occupy the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Although this action would represent an incremental and longer term reduction in the extent of sagebrush and pinyon-juniper habitat available for migratory bird breeding functions, implementation of this project would have no measurable influence on the abundance or distribution of breeding migratory birds even at the smallest landscape scale.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Incremental reductions of sagebrush rangelands would not occur at this time or place.

Mitigation: None.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE ANIMAL SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: There are no threatened, endangered or sensitive animal species occurring within the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: None.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: There are no threatened, endangered or sensitive animal species occurring within the project area. Thus, this standard is not applicable.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: There are no threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species occurring within the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: None

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: There is no reasonable likelihood that the proposed action or no action alternative would have an influence on the condition or function of Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive plant species. Thus, there would be no effect on achieving the land health standard.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored or disposed of at this site.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: No listed or extremely hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities are proposed for use in this project. While commercial preparations of fuels and lubricants proposed for use may contain some hazardous constituents, they would be stored, used and transported in a manner consistent with applicable laws, and the generation of hazardous wastes would not be anticipated.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under the no-action alternative.

Mitigation: The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: Wells 11C-11-4S-103; 11C-14-4S-103; 3C-14-4S-103; and 6C-23-4S-103 are in Davis Canyon; Well 7C-12-4S-103 is in Evacuation Creek. All of these drainages are tributary to the White River in Utah. As required by the Clean Water Act, the state

of Utah has designated the White River from the Colorado-Utah state line to its confluence with the Green River as fully supporting of all of its beneficial use classifications. This stream reaches beneficial use classifications are: Recreation and Aesthetics, 2B; and Aquatic Life Use Support, 3C. Four parameters have been listed on the Numeric Criteria for this reach. These are: dissolved oxygen, 5.5 mg/l; pH, 6.5-9.0; maximum Fecal Coliform, 2000/100mL; and maximum Total Coliform, 5000/100mL. For these parameters, a fully supporting rating indicated the criterion was not exceeded in more than 10% of the samples collected. While the highest level of water quality protection does not apply to these waters, they are protected for their existing uses and from further degradation as a result of non-point source (sediment) pollution. Efforts need to be made to keep sediment from leaving the site.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Fragile watersheds that have very high erosion potential (i.e. Cottonwood Creek) are frequently high in salts and can contribute to increased salinity loads to the White River and the Colorado River Basin. Annual runoff is dynamic and dependent on some aspects we control, such as the amount of vegetation retained for watershed protection and vegetation density. Depleting this vegetation cover needed to protect watersheds from raindrop impact and runoff could cause long-term erosion and water quality problems for Cottonwood Creek and on downstream. BMPs are needed to re-establish a protective vegetative cover and to collect sediment during runoff events

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Impacts from the no-action alternative are not anticipated

Mitigation: Apply Conditions of Approval, (BMPs) listed in Appendix B, in the White River ROD/RMP to help minimize surface disturbing impacts.

All activity shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: The water quality of the drainages discussed above is well within the criteria set by the state, thus meeting the land health standard. The proposed action will not change this status.

WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: Well # 7C-12-4S-104 lies at the end of a 2-track road that is approximately 0.4 miles long. The existing two-track road crosses Evacuation Creek, a perennial stream. The location of the crossing essentially lacked riparian character (no vegetation present at on site visit).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The potential exists for sediment deposition into Evacuation Creek from road upgrade construction. Compaction from heavy equipment is also possible. The road upgrade and well will increase the number of vehicles crossing Evacuation Creek. This road and creek crossing is currently only accessible by foot or all-terrain vehicles.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No sedimentation, compaction or increase in traffic would occur at this time or place.

Mitigation: If the well is a producer, Evergreen will construct a low water crossing perpendicular to Evacuation Creek and rock the stream crossing and the approaches. All excess material from the construction/road upgrade will be hauled from the creek crossing. Additionally, a locked gate will be placed approximately 100 yards west of the stream crossing to control vehicle access.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: This project would not jeopardize the viability of riparian systems. It would have no significant consequence on terrestrial habitat condition, utility, or function, nor have any discernible affect on riparian systems at any landscape scale. This public land health standard will thus be met.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No ACECs, flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, Wilderness, or Wild and Scenic Rivers exist within the area affected by the proposed action. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The soils have been mapped in an order III soil survey by Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and are available from the office for review. Refer to the table below for the type of soils affected by the proposed action.

Well Number	Soil Number	Soil Name	Slope	Range site	Salinity	Runoff	Erosion Potential	Bedrock
6C-23-4S-103	10	Blazon, moist-Rentsac Complex	6-65%	Pinyon-Juniper woodland	2-4	Rapid	Moderate to very high	10-20
3C-14-4S-103	47	Kobar silty clay loam	0-3%	Deep Clay Loam	<2	Medium	Slight	>60
11C-14-4S-103 7C-12-4S-103	74	Rentsac-Moyerson-Rock Outcrop complex	5-65%	PJ Woodlands/Clayey Slopes	<2	Medium	Moderate to very high	10-20
11C-11-4S-103	95	Uffens loam	0-5%	Alkaline Slopes	4-8	Slow	Moderate	>60

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Short-term impacts would be expected from any surface disturbing activity. Impacts from the proposed action would be loss of the protective vegetation cover, possible increase in salt and sedimentation during storm events and soil compaction from equipment. These impacts would continue until successful re-vegetation has occurred.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: In the no-action alternative, neither the surface disturbance nor the impacts to soils resources would occur.

Mitigation: Re-establish vegetation as soon as allowable for favorable control of erosion problems that may occur. Best management practices will need to be implemented if salts leaching from soils become a problem on the surface.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: The proposed action will not affect the achievement of the Land Health Standard.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Project sites are mostly previously disturbed. The exception is well 7C which is on a pinyon/juniper site.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Following well abandonment these sites would be reclaimed and over time would revert back to the previous vegetation type. The pinyon/juniper sites are expected to take between 30 to 50 years to reestablish this type and 300 years to develop a mature community. Sage and greasewood communities are expected to require 20 to 30 years to develop mature communities.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): These sites do not currently meet the indicators for vegetation health. Following reclamation these sites would develop and meet the standards.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: There is no aquatic wildlife within this project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: None.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): There is no aquatic wildlife within this project area. Thus, this standard is not applicable.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: All wells for this package fall within Severe Winter Range for elk as designated in the White River Resource Management Plan (RMP). All pads are located within existing disturbance except for Well #7C-12-4S-104. All locations were examined for raptor nests. None were found during on-site visits. Total new surface disturbance for this package is approximately 2.1 acres.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The construction of this project will result in a long-term increase of road traffic associated with commercial oil/gas related activities. The development of commercial oil/gas facilities results in incremental reductions of severe winter range habitat for elk. Additionally, it will result in increased activity in an area holding moderate potential for nesting by raptors, as well as an increase in the disturbance from additional road traffic.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Failure to construct this well package would reduce short-term construction activity levels in this area as well as longer term activity associated with increased road traffic related to commercial oil/gas development. No net loss of severe winter range habitat would occur at this time or place.

Mitigation: All wells for this package fall within designated Severe Winter Range for elk. As a condition of approval, the BLM may preclude development activities for up to 60 days from December 1 through April 30. Local weather conditions will dictate whether this condition is in effect or not. It is the responsibility of Evergreen to contact the BLM to determine whether this condition is in effect prior to initiating surface disturbing activities.

A current raptor survey must be obtained from the BLM for these wells if construction and completion activities for this well package will not be completed prior to February 1. It is the responsibility of Evergreen to contact the BLM to obtain a current survey.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): This project would not jeopardize the viability of any animal population. It would have no significant consequence on terrestrial habitat condition, utility, or function, nor have any discernible affect on animal abundance or distribution at any landscape scale. This public land health standard will thus be met.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Access and Transportation			X
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire Management	X		
Forest Management		X	
Geology and Minerals			X
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		
Law Enforcement		X	
Paleontology			X
Rangeland Management		X	
Realty Authorizations		X	
Recreation			X
Socio-Economics		X	
Visual Resources			X
Wild Horses	X		

ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION

Affected Environment: BLM Roads 1062, 1222, 1227 and 1234 as well as Rio Blanco County Road 25 will be affected. Motor vehicles in the project area are limited to existing routes yearlong.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: An increase in traffic would be expected along all affected routes while wells are being constructed. If wells are producers, very low periodic traffic will occur for the duration the wells are in operation.

Additionally, three unnamed previously disturbed two-track routes will be upgraded to facilitate well traffic accessing wells 6C-23, 11C-14 and 7C-12.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: None.

GEOLOGY AND MINERALS

Affected Environment: The surface geologic formation of well 11C-11 is quaternary alluvial and the surface geology for 7C-12, 11C-14, 3C-14 and 6C-23 is Wasatch. Evergreen's targeted zone is in the Mesa Verde. During drilling potential water, coal and gas

zones will be encountered from surface to the targeted zone. These wells are located on existing Federal Oil and Gas leases COC-10179 and COC-10700.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Cementing procedure of the proposed actions isolates the formations and will prevent the migration of gas, and water between formations. The coal zones located the Mesa Verde will also be isolated during this procedure. Development of these wells will deplete the hydrocarbon resources in the targeted formation.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: Wells 7C-12-4S-104, 3C-14-4S-104, 11C-14-4S-104 and 6C-23-4S-104 are all located in an area mapped as the Mesa Verde (Tweto 1979) which the BLM has classified as a Category 1 Formation meaning it is a known producer of scientifically important fossil resources. Well 11C-11-4S-104 appears to be located in an area mapped as the Wasatch Formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM has classified as a Category I Formation meaning it is a known producer of scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Wells 7C-12-4S-104, 3C-14-4S-104, 11C-14-4S-104, and 6C-23-4S-104,; if at any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation to level the pad or excavate a sufficiently large reserve/blooiie pit for the drilling operation there is a potential to adversely impact scientifically important fossil resources. Well 11C-11-4S-104; if at any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation to level the pad or excavate a sufficiently large reserve/blooiie pit for the drilling operation there is a potential for the excavation to adversely impact scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to fossil resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: All wells: if it becomes necessary to excavate into the previously undisturbed bedrock formation to construct an adequate sized reserve/blooiie pit then a paleontological monitor shall be present for all such excavations into the bedrock formations.

If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage.

RECREATION

Affected Environment: The proposed action occurs within the White River Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). BLM custodially manages the ERMA to provide for unstructured recreation activities such as hunting, dispersed camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and off-highway vehicle use.

The project areas and the surrounding Evacuation Creek most closely resemble Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class of Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM). SPM recreation setting is typically characterized by a natural appearing environment with few administrative controls, low interaction between users but evidence of other users may be present. SPM recreation experience is characterized by a high probability of isolation from the sights and sounds of humans that offers an environment that offers challenge and risk.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The public will lose approximately 5 acres of dispersed recreation potential while wells are in operation. The public will most likely not recreate in the vicinity of these facilities and will be dispersed elsewhere. If action coincides with hunting seasons (September through November) it will most likely disrupt the experience sought by those recreationists.

With the introduction of new well pads, roads, and re-entry to abandoned wells, an increase in traffic could be expected increasing the likelihood of human interactions, the sights and sounds associated with the human environment and a less naturally appearing environment. It could be suggested that the increase in human influences and associated activities may result in the loss of recreation experiences and settings described by a SPM and modify the area's ROS class that may resemble that of Roaded Natural (RN). Roaded Natural is characterized as a natural setting where modifications, such as constructed roads and other human facilities are easily noticed although remain visually subordinate.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No loss of dispersed recreation potential and no impact to hunting recreationists.

Mitigation: None.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: This project is in a Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class 2 area. The objective of this class is to retain the existing characteristic landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The applicant has proposed to use previously disturbed sites for these wells. Re-vegetation on this project will minimize visual impacts. Therefore; the standards for VRM Class 2 will be met.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No visual impacts would occur.

Mitigation: Earth tone colors will be required for production equipment.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: The White River PRMP/FEIS analyzed cumulative impacts of resource-area-wide oil and gas development.

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Scott, John. M.

2003 Carbon Energy’s Columbine Springs Federal 7-11-4S-104 and Federal 13-24-4S-104 Well Pads and Access Roads: A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory, Rio Blanco County, Colorado.

Tweto, Ogden

1978 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED:

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Caroline Hollowed	Hydrologist	Air Quality
Tamara Meagley	NRS	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Tamara Meagley	NRS	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Mike Selle	Archeologist	Cultural Resources Paleontological Resources
Robert Fowler	Forester	Invasive, Non-Native Species
Glenn Klingler	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds
Glenn Klingler	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Wildlife
Marty O’Mara	Hazmat Collateral	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Caroline Hollowed	Hydrologist	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Glenn Klingler	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	ORP	Wilderness
Caroline Hollowed	Hydrologist	Soils
Robert Fowler	Forester	Vegetation
Glenn Klingler	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Terrestrial and Aquatic
Chris Ham	ORP	Access and Transportation
Ken Holsinger	Natural Resource Specialist	Fire Management

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Robert Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Robert Fowler	Forester	Rangeland Management
Penny Brown	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	ORP	Recreation
Max McCoy	NRS	Visual Resources
Valerie Dobrich	NRS	Wild Horses

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

CO-110-2004-093-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION/RATIONALE: It is my decision to approve the proposed action with the mitigation as listed below.

MITIGATION MEASURES: For all well pads and access roads: 1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

3. All construction activities must absolutely be confined to the existing, rehabilitated well pad and access road foot prints.

4. 7C-12-4S-103 well pad and access road: Site 5RB 1802 must be avoided and all construction personnel are prohibited from leaving the well pad and access road construction areas. If there are any questions about avoiding the site the holder shall engage an approved archaeological consultant to ensure that the site is avoided by the project.

5. 3C-14-4S-104 well pad and access road: Site 5RB 1181 was initially avoided by moving the well pad to the west of the site. The current proposal must also avoid the site and restrict all personnel are prohibited from leaving he well pad and access road construction areas. If there are any questions about avoiding the site the holder shall engage an approved archaeological consultant to ensure that the site is avoided by the project.

6. 2C-9-4S-103 well pad and access road: because the proposed well pad is outside of the previously disturbed area but within the existing inventory area a monitor of all construction excavations in the alluvium is required.

7. Application of herbicides must be under field supervision of an EPA-certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides must be registered by the EPA and application proposals must be approved by the BLM.

8. Seed species used in reseeding disturbed areas will be based on the seed mixes identified in table B1 and B2. These mixes are based on range sites as determined by soils.

Seed Mix #	Species (Variety)	Lbs PLS/ Acre	Range sites
3	Pubescent wheatgrass (Luna)	4	Deep Loam,
	Western wheatgrass (Rosanna)	2	Loamy 10"-
	Crested wheatgrass (Ephraim)	1	14", Loamy
	Indian ricegrass (Nezpar)	1	Breaks, Loamy
	Orchardgrass (Paiute)	1	Slopes, Rolling
	Alternates: Fourwing saltbush, Intermediate wheatgrass, Cicer Milkvetch (Monarch)		Loam, Valley Bench

9. The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.

10. Re-establish vegetation as soon as allowable for favorable control of erosion problems that may occur. Best management practices will need to be implemented if salts leaching from soils become a problem on the surface.

11. All wells: if it becomes necessary to excavate into the previously undisturbed bedrock formation to construct an adequate sized reserve/blooiie pit then a paleontological monitor shall be present for all such excavations into the bedrock formations.

12. If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage.

13. All activity shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer.

14. If the well is a producer, Evergreen will construct a low water crossing perpendicular to Evacuation Creek and rock the stream crossing and the approaches. All excess material from the construction/road upgrade will be hauled from the creek crossing. Additionally, a locked gate will be placed approximately 100 yards west of the stream crossing to control vehicle access.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING:

NAME OF PREPARER:

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: *Caroline P. Hallownd 7/8/04*

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: *Hunt T. Walter*
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: *07/08/04*

ATTACHMENTS: Map of the location of the proposed action.

Location of Proposed Action CO-110-2004-093-EA

