

**SCOPING STATEMENT
HANNA DRAW COALBED METHANE
EXPLORATION PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**
Barrett Resources Corporation

Bureau of Land Management
Rawlins Field Office

Description of Project

Barrett Resources Corporation (Barrett) of Denver, Colorado, has notified the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rawlins Field Office, that the company proposes to explore and potentially develop a coalbed methane (CBM) project on gas/oil leases located within the administrative boundary of the BLM's Rawlins Field Office. The exploration project would encompass four areas located in Townships 23 and 24 North, Range 81 West, Carbon County, Wyoming (Figure 1). The total project area encompasses approximately 3,200 acres, of which 1,280 acres are federal surface and mineral estate. Barrett will also apply for a right-of-way (ROW) to construct, operate, and maintain a 20-mile pipeline to connect the field with an existing interstate pipeline if the field proves productive (Figure 2). The ROW would generally follow the pipeline route described in the MetFuel environmental impact statement (EIS) (BLM 1993), but would extend a few miles further south than MetFuel's proposed pipeline.

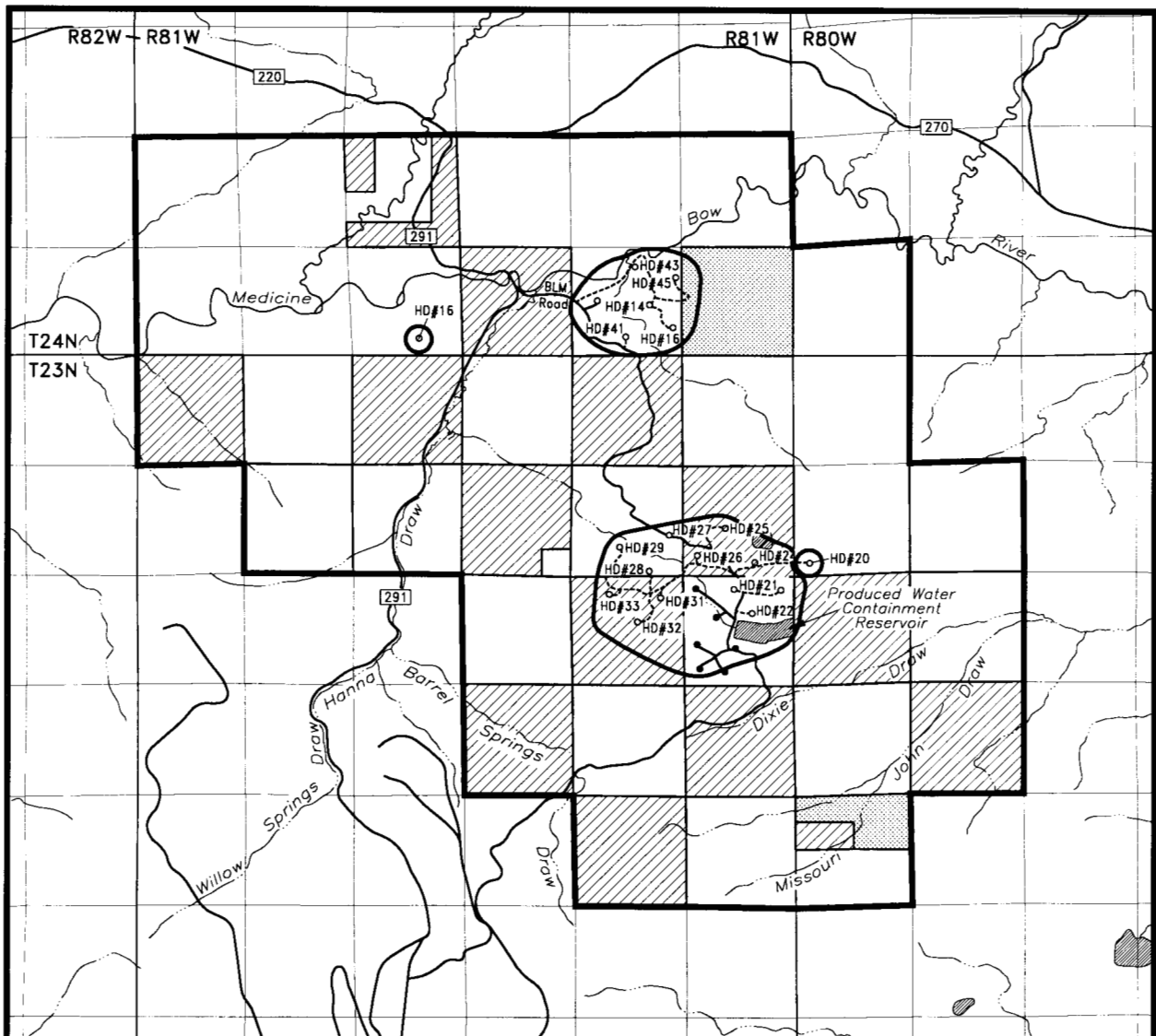
Ancillary facilities would include access roads, gas gathering lines, water collection lines, a pod (gas metering and venting facility), a compressor station, the 20-mile long interconnect pipeline, and a produced-water reservoir (Figure 1). The exploration project would include drilling, completing, and producing approximately 18 wells for evaluation. The federal action for this project would include the permitting of six wells, associated exploration facilities, and, if the field proves economically viable, production facilities on federal surface.










Well spacing density would generally be equivalent to eight wells per section. Initial drilling operations are proposed to begin in the third quarter of 2001.

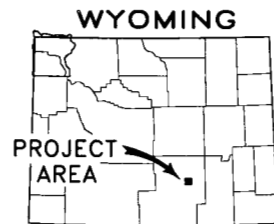
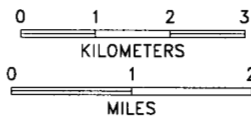
The primary objectives of the exploration project would be to:

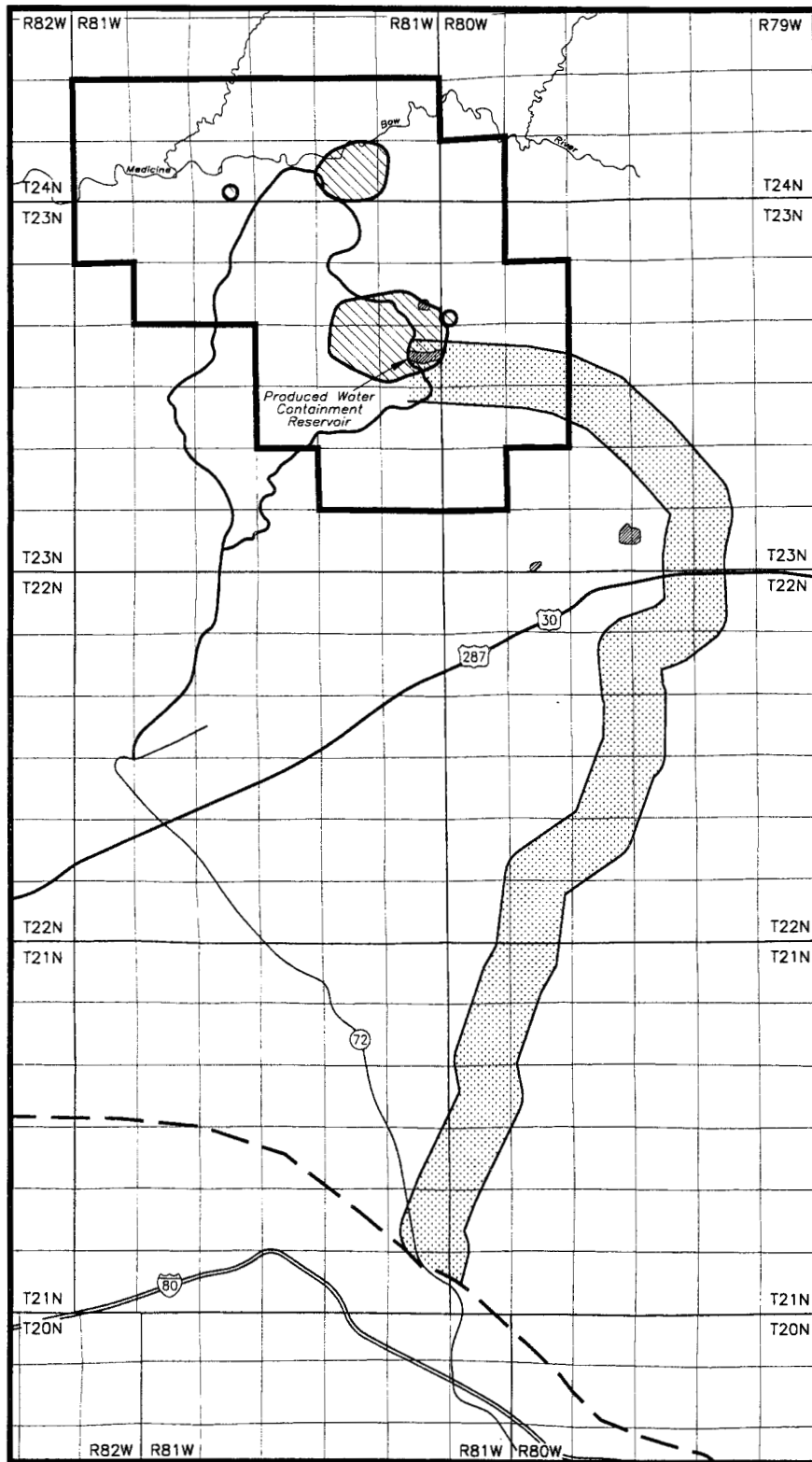
- determine the economically productive coal seams,
- identify economical drilling and completion techniques,
- determine if coal dewatering can be achieved,
- assess produced water quantity and quality, and
- identify the preferred depths/pressure windows for economic gas production.






It is anticipated that the exploratory project would be sufficient to evaluate the economic feasibility of producing CBM from the coal seams in the area and if it is deemed successful, additional development plans beyond the scope of the Hanna Draw CBM Exploration Project EA would require further environmental analysis.

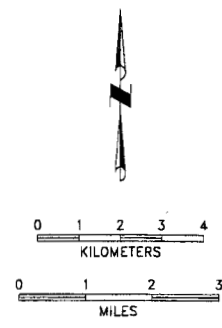
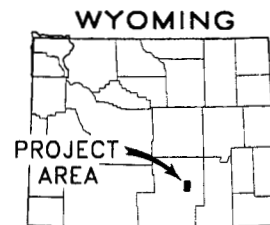


-  HANNA DRAW FEDERAL UNIT
-  EXPLORATORY PROJECT AREA
-  PROPOSED WELL LOCATION AND NUMBER
-  EXISTING WELL LOCATION
-  BLM LAND
-  STATE LAND
-  PRIVATE LAND
-  EXISTING IMPROVED ROAD
-  PROPOSED ROAD





-  HANNA DRAW FEDERAL UNIT
-  EXPLORATORY PROJECT AREA
-  PROPOSED PIPELINE CORRIDOR
-  EXISTING IMPROVED ROAD
-  EXISTING PIPELINE



Approximately 8 days would be required to drill, log, and case each well utilizing a conventional rotary drilling rig and associated rig equipment. Two additional days would be required to run a bond log, perforate, and set a pump with a completion rig. The estimated size of a drill site location is 180 ft x 240 ft, with some limited site disturbance required to place the drill rig on level ground. A 65-ft wide x 145-ft long x 10-ft deep reserve pit also would be constructed adjacent to each drill site location to hold drilling fluids and cuttings. The estimated maximum surface disturbance required at each drill site location would be 1.2 acres. Drilling depths would generally be about 4,000 ft.

Each well would require a water discharge line, a gas line, and a power source. A network of waterlines exists on private lands in the project area. Short new lines (up to 6-inch diameter high density polyethylene) would be required to collect produced water on the two federal sections; these would connect to the existing network. Water lines would converge in a water containment reservoir (Figure 1). Gas lines (made of up to 3-inch diameter high density polyethylene) from exploratory wells would be tied into a small pod for gas metering and subsequent venting. Power would be supplied by gas-driven engines, propane generators, or gas-powered generators fueled by produced gas.

Each well would be continuously production tested for an estimated 6 to 12 months to fully evaluate the commercial feasibility of any further development. Venting would be conducted in accordance with Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission regulations. Once the permitted venting limit is reached, wells would either be put into production or shut-in for later production. Routine daily maintenance, including daily pump changes, would be required during the evaluation period. If the wells prove to be nonproductive or uneconomical, the wells would be abandoned and all disturbed areas would be reclaimed to BLM or private landowner specifications.

The proposed project area is currently accessed by existing developed and undeveloped roads. A road network would be developed that would include new and upgraded roads. Two existing improved roads act as the primary routes into the area. Roads into individual well sites would be constructed in accordance with BLM standards.

No uncontained surface discharge is proposed at this time. Water produced during initial completion operations would be contained in reserve pits at each well location. All subsequent produced water would be contained in the reservoir, for which Barrett would obtain the required discharge permits. Produced water quality would be monitored in accordance with state and federal regulations.

If the exploratory field is economically productive, a small compressor (e.g., 400 horsepower) would be installed. Gas volumes would dictate the amount of compression required. Similarly, the 20-mile long pipeline would be constructed only if Barrett deems it viable to transport gas from the field.

Relationship to Existing Plans and Documents

Resource Management Plan. The Great Divide Resource Management Plan (RMP) (BLM 1990) directs management of BLM-administered lands within the analysis area. The objective for management of oil and gas resources, as stated in the RMP, is to provide for leasing, exploration, and development of oil and gas while protecting other resource values. The development of CBM within the Hanna Draw CBM Exploration Project area would be in conformance with the RMP. The EA that would be prepared on the Barrett proposal would incorporate the appropriate decisions, terms, and conditions of use described in the RMP.

MetFuel Coalbed Methane Environmental Impact Statement. The Hanna Draw CBM Exploration Project area is completely within the MetFuel Hanna Basin Coalbed Methane Project Area, for which an EIS was prepared by the BLM Rawlins Field Office (BLM 1993). The *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) analysis for Barrett's proposed exploration project would be tiered to the MetFuel EIS and would include existing information and analysis where appropriate. BLM would update information and conduct additional analyses where needed.

Use Authorizations. Use authorizations (i.e., ROWs, permits) for roads, pipelines, and well site facilities would be addressed through the BLM's Application for Permit to Drill (APD) and Sundry Notice permitting process as long as the facilities remain on-lease and are owned and operated by the unit operator. Most activity would occur within the boundaries of the Hanna Draw exploratory project area. Any facility located off-lease would require individual ROW permits.

Lease Stipulations. Some leases within the proposed area include special stipulations, in addition to the standard lease terms, on occupancy. These stipulations are designed to protect surface resources such as soils, water, and wildlife by restricting periods of activity and areas of disturbance. Application of these lease stipulations would be handled on a case-by-case basis for each APD submitted to the BLM.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

On reviewing the Barrett proposal, the BLM has determined that an EA would be required. The impact analysis presented in the EA would allow for one of two decisions to be made by the BLM Rawlins Field Office Manager. The first is whether to sign a Decision Record with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) which would allow the exploration project to proceed. The second decision is to identify whether the project, as proposed, would result in significant impacts and would require preparation of an EIS.

This scoping statement has been prepared to enable government agencies, the general public, and other interested parties to participate in and contribute to the analysis process. Public input is important in establishing the scope of analysis for any NEPA document, and the BLM encourages participation to:

- identify reasonable development alternatives to be considered in the environmental document;
- identify environmental/socioeconomic issues of concern related to the proposed project; and
- determine the depth of analysis for issues addressed in the environmental document.

Identified Resource Management Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities

As appropriate, information and analysis for the EA would be tiered and obtained from the MetFuel EIS (BLM 1993). In addition to the issues addressed in that EIS, BLM has identified the need to update information on the following:

- potential impacts to wildlife habitats within the analysis area, including sage grouse and raptors;
- impacts to surface and ground water resources;
- potential impacts to cultural and historical values within the analysis area;
- potential impacts to listed, or proposed for listing, threatened and endangered plant and animal species (including potential effects on downstream listed fish species); and
- cumulative effects of drilling and development activities when combined with other ongoing and proposed developments on lands within the BLM Rawlins Field Office area.

The list is not meant to be all-inclusive, but rather serves as a starting point for public input and as a means of identifying the resource disciplines needed to conduct the analysis.

Interdisciplinary Team

Based on the current understanding of issues, concerns, and opportunities and established objectives from other plans, an interdisciplinary team (IDT) made up of the following specialists and skills has been identified:

- Air Quality Specialist;
- Archaeologist;
- Coal Specialist;
- Environmental Scientist (surface protection);
- Geologist;
- Hydrologist;
- Interdisciplinary Team Leader;
- NEPA Specialist;
- Petroleum Engineer;
- Public Affairs Specialist;
- Range Management Specialist;
- Realty Specialist;
- Recreation Planner;
- Soil Scientist;
- Wildlife Biologist;
- Paleontologist; and
- Noise Specialist.

Schedule for Public Input

Government agencies, the public, and other interested parties are encouraged to participate throughout the environmental analysis. Comments on this scoping statement should be submitted by April 27, 2001 to:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Rawlins Field Office
Attn: Brenda Vosika Neuman
P.O. Box 2407
Rawlins, WY 82301
Email: <rawlins_wymail@blm.gov>
(Please refer to the Hanna Draw CBM Exploration Project
in your email comment.)

An open house will be held on April 17, 2001, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Hanna City Hall. Personnel from Barrett and BLM will be on hand to explain the proposed project and accept scoping comments from the public. There will also be an opportunity to submit comments on the proposal.

Public Participation

The following individuals and organizations will receive this scoping statement:

FEDERAL OFFICES

Bridger-Teton National Forest, Pinedale Ranger District	U.S. Bureau of Land Management Washington, D.C., Office	U.S. Department of Interior, Natural Resources Library
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Wyoming State Office Library, Denver	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Highway Administration Library of Congress	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation U.S. Department of Energy	U.S. Forest Service
Natural Resource Conservation Service Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service,	U.S. Geological Survey
Soil Conservation Service	Air Resources Division	U.S. Government Printing Office
U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers	NEPA/Section 106 Specialist	U.S. Representative Barbara Cubin
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs		U.S. Senator Mike Enzi
		U.S. Senator Craig Thomas

STATE AGENCIES

Dept. of Employment, Research & Planning Division	Wyoming Dept. of Commerce Div. of Economic & Commercial Development	Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
Governor Jim Geringer	Wyoming Game and Fish Department	Wyoming Public Service Commission
State Land Officer	Wyoming Highway Commission	Wyoming Recreation Commission
State Representatives	Wyoming Office of Federal Land Policy	Wyoming State Engineer's Office
State Senators		Wyoming State Geological Survey
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality		Wyoming State Historical Preservation Office

Scoping Statement, Hanna Draw CBM Exploration Project EA

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Carbon County Commissioners
Carbon County Planning Commission

Carbon County Public Library
Carbon County

Carbon County Road and Bridge
Carbon County Chamber of Commerce

MUNICIPALITIES

City of Bairoil
Mayor - Hanna
Mayor - Medicine Bow

Mayor - Saratoga
Mayor - Sinclair
Medicine Bow Town Council

Rawlins Chamber of Commerce
Rawlins City Manager
Rawlins Planning Commissioner

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

Francis Brown
Eastern Shoshone Tribal Council
Comanche Tribal Council
Crow Tribal Administration
Clifford Duncan
Northern Arapahoe Tribal Council

Northern Cheyenne Cultural
Committee
Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
Ogalala Sioux Tribal Council
Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council
Shoshone Tribal Cultural Center
Shoshone and Northern Arapahoe
Tribes

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
Uinta Ute Cultural Rights and
Protecti ons Office
Uinta-Ouray Tribal Council
Ute Mountain Tribe
Ute Tribal Council
Haman Wise, Sr.

LOCAL MEDIA

Casper Star-Tribune
Denver Post
KCWY TV
KFBC Radio
KRAL - Rawlins

KTWO - Casper
KTWO TV - Casper
KUWR - University of Wyoming
Laramie Boomerang

Laramie News Service
Rawlins Daily Times
Rocky Mountain News
Saratoga Sun

**OTHER AGENCIES, INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES, INDIVIDUALS, GRAZING PERMITTEES,
LEASE AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY HOLDERS, LANDOWNERS, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

American Museum of Natural History
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
Anderson Oil Co.
Arch of Wyoming
Scott Archer
James Alan and Betty C. Archard,
Trustees
Craig Barber
Barlow & Haun, Inc.
Richard H. Bate
Robert L. Bayless
Marcia L. Beals
Dallas Bennett
Ken Besel
Terry L. and Janet L. Binger
Bio Environmental Associates
Biodiversity Associates,
Friends of the Bow
Bjork, Lindley, Danielson, & Baker,
P.C.
Michael J. Blevins
Doug Blewitt
Powd Boles
Roger R. Borrego
Bow River Ranches

Roland E. Bowen
Dennis J. Brabec
Steven Brady
G.W. Brashier
Robert J. and Gwenn D. Brewer
Howard M. and Audrey Brokaw
James M. and Joanne H. Bryan
Van K. Bullock
Cabot Oil and Gas Production Co.
Tim Calvert
Vanessa Cameron
Lewis F. and Comie M. Capehart
Carbon County Coalition
Carbon County Farm Bureau
Carbon County Stockgrowers
Brice Carpenter
James L., Jr., and Patricia Ann Chant
Citizens Oil & Gas Support Center
Del Clair
Rita A. Clark
Coleman Oil & Gas
Colorado Interstate Gas Co.
Colorado State University
Jim Combs
Nancy H. Comeau

Conoco Inc.
Conservancy of the Phoenix
Leroy J. and Margaret M. Cope
Leon Corpuz, Jr.
Robert J. and Patricia L. Corrado
Council of Governments
Cowboy 3-Shot Sage Grouse
Foundation
Gerald D. and Judith N. Cox
Kathy Crofts
Connie L. Cruickshank
Mike E. Cruickshank
Dana Meadows Ranch
Defenders of Wildlife
David R. Deleuil
Donald and Mary Dixon
Richard Ducharme
Dudley & Associates, LLC
Brenda Dawn and James E. Dyer
Earth Tech
Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund Inc.
Patrick Eastman
Elk Mountain Ranch, LLC
Elk Mountain Trading Co.
Energy Analysts

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Environmental Defense Fund	Jack Kersting	Henry G. and Teresa Perez
David L. Evans	Richard G. Kinder	Petrogulf Corporation
Field Museum of Natural History	Nubit L. Kite	Petroleum Association of Wyoming
Department of Geology	Klabzuba Oil and Gas	PFUSA
Byron Fitzgerald	Lawrence D. Korkow	Margaret and Roger Pilgrim
Flying J Oil and Gas	Jerry E. Kromrey	Robert Pixler
Forrest Construction Inc.	G.A. Larsen	Platte River Power Authority
Dale Foisberg	Karen Larsen	Platte Valley Construction
Dwight France	Sain Larsen	Pat R. and Faye Porter
John W. France	D.E. and M.C. Lawson, Trust	Poulson, Odell & Peterson
Virgil Franklin	David E. Lieb	Powder River Basin Resource Council
Chris Frost	Marjorie P. Lunden	Predator Project
Gary Holson Environmental Planning	Ernest R. Manierre	PTI Communications
Earl J. and Bette Jo Gorman	Marathon Oil Co.	Public Lands Advocacy
Thomas A. and Jeanne Graebert	Michael D. Martin	Purves Environmental
David M. Gregory	James F. and Vicki J. Martzke	Q Creek Land and Lives tock, LLC
Richard Gregory	Joe Maxson	RAG Shoshone Coal Corp.
Greystone	Mary Kay Maxson	Randall Ramsey
Roy L. and Marie E. Hall	McElvain Oil and Gas Properties	Noah C. and Julia Ravia
Lavern Hammarsten	Lee G. and Barbara J. McKean	Joseph C. Reiker
Wes Handley	McKee Ranches	River Gas Corp.
Max D. and Naomie Hardy	Terrence M. McNulty	Curtis Rochelle
Alton Harris on	Medicine Bow Conservation District	Rocky Mountain Casing Crews Inc.
Don Hartley	Miller Estate Company	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
John and Lois Haun PTS	Gert Milliken	Joseph S. Rose
Richard F. Hawes	Trent Morgan	Rosebud Coal Sales Co.
Hayden Wing Associates	Bruce Morley	Rodger A. and Mary E. Roush
William C. Heisner, Jr.	Jimmy D. Morrison	Irwin Rubenstein
Bobbie Herman	Orvie E. and Carolyn Morrison	Salisbury Livestock Co.
Darlene G. and Carrie Herman	Lance Morrow	Santa Fe Snyder Corporation
Ivan Herold	Moe Morrow	Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins
Hyland Enterprises	Candy Moulton	Conservation District
Earline Hittel	Murie Audubon Society	Thomas R. Sarver, Jr.
John A. Hochenauer	National Weather Service	Tony Scarpelli
Kevin Van Hook	National Wildlife Federation	Robert Scherer
Kirby C. Hornbeck	Natural Resources Defense Council	Linda L. Schisel
Humane Society of the U.S.	The Nature Conservancy	Schmid Oilfield Services, Inc.
Mary E. Hunt	Bernard J. Nieder	SeaCrest Group
Neil Hurst	Nine V Ranch	Seminole Boat Club
Oliver D. Ihasz	Rick Obernotle	William K. Shaffer
IHS Energy Group	OCI Wyoming LP	Sierra Club
Independent Petroleum Association	R.K. O'Connell	Lorraine T. Sikocinski
of Mountain States	OCTA	Charles W. and Evelyn M. Simon
Industrial Gas Resources	OEPC	Sinclair Oil Corporation
Gerald Jacob	Steve Olsen	Frederick M. Slattery, Jr.
Catherine J. and John V. Jaramillo	Jim Orpet	Judith A. Smith
Mary Ann Jerome	Pacific Power & Light	Louis H. and Mabel Southerland
Bob Johnson	Bert Palm	Southwest Wyoming Industrial
M.C. Johnson	Brad Palm	Association
Johns-on-Fermelia Co.	Casey Palm	Southwest Wyoming Mule Deer
Bill Jones	Gerald and Nancy Palm	Foundation
Leroy and Margaret Jons	Palo Production Co.	Jim States, Ph. D.
Julander Energy Co.	Roy D. Parr	Margaret Steinwender
Kaiser-Francis Oil Company	Barbara Parsons	Robert F. Stewart
Ken Kamon	Sandra Earlene Patterson	Larry D. Stolworthy
Fred R. Kelly, Jr.	People for Wyoming	John P. Strang
Lois M. Kelly	People for the West	SWEDA/Den Costantino
Stanley W. Kempa	Lauriel Peters	Swift Creek Consulting

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Three Forks Ranch Corp.	Joseph S. and Charlott L. Vold	Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists
Thunder Basin Consulting	Mary F. Waldron	Wyoming Association of Professional Historians
LaVonne Tlustos	Angel R. Wegner	Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
Tim Tlustos	Donald M. Welch	Wyoming Mining Association
Harry L. Todd, Jr.	WESTECH	Wyoming Natural Diversity Database
Mike Todd	Western Ecosystems	Wyoming Outdoor Council
Raymond L. Todd	Western Wyoming College,	Wyoming Public Lands Council
Trigon-Sheehan, LLC.	Archaeological Services	Wyoming Sportsman's Association
Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association	Western Wyoming Mule Deer Foundation	Wyoming State Journal
Trout Unlimited	Dick Wildermann	Wyoming Wilderness Association
Uintah Engineering & Land Surveying	Wilderness Society	Wyoming Wildlife Federation
URS, Woodward Clyde	Wildlife Management Institute	Wyoming Woolgrowers Association
US Energy/Crested	Wildlife Society	Yates Petroleum Corp.
US West Communications	Williams Field Services	Gordon Yellowman
University of Wyoming, Department of Range Land Ecology	Wolf Continental Divide Trail Society	Jim Zapert
Gary Vivion	Wyoming Advocates for Animals	Art Zeiger
Robert Vivion, Jr.	Wyoming Association of Municipalities	Richard Charles Zielinski

Literature Cited

- U.S. Bureau of Land Management. 1993. Final MetFuel Hanna Basin coalbed methane project environmental impact statement. Prepared for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Great Divide Resource Area, Rawlins District Office, Rawlins, Wyoming, by Mariah Associates, Inc., Laramie, Wyoming. FES-93-1.
- _____. 1990. Great Divide Resource Area record of decision and approved resource management plan. Prepared by U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Great Divide Resource Area, Rawlins District Office, Rawlins, Wyoming. BLM-WY-PT-91-010-4410. 74 pp.