



Scoping Newsletter

Dear Reader:

The National Park Service is reviewing a proposal submitted by Pioneer Natural Resources, USA to drill and produce Bivins A-248 well from a surface location approximately 984 feet outside of the park boundary. The well site would be located in a grassy low lying canyon area, as shown, in the attached figure. The well would be directionally drilled to reach a bottomhole location under the park. If the well is produced, a production facility would be constructed on the site and a sales pipeline would be constructed from the well to an existing natural gas pipeline. When the well is plugged and abandoned, the landowner would decide on the best use of the site.

The purpose of the analysis is two fold: 1) carry out the compliance responsibilities under various statutes including the National Environmental Policy Act, and 2) determine whether the directional well qualifies for an exemption under NPS regulations at 36 CFR 9.32(e). An exemption may be issued if the NPS determines that the operation poses "no significant threat of damage to park resources..." The scope of this letter inquiry is limited to the scope of the regulations which includes those activities occurring only within the park boundary.

An Important element of the proposal review process is public participation. Therefore, your input on issues and concerns about the project is needed. As Superintendent of Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument, I invite you to participate in this scoping process.

Sincerely,
Karren C. Brown
Superintendent

Overview of the Process

- Public Scoping period (closes February 21, 2006)
- Prepare an environmental assessment
- Public review of environmental assessment
- Analyze public comment
- Prepare decision document
- Announcement of decision on Pioneer Natural Resource's proposal

What does the scoping period mean? Scoping is done in the initial phase of a project to seek input from a variety of sources. The input is used to identify issues, areas requiring additional study, and topics that will be analyzed in the EA process. This is an opportunity for you to provide us with your suggestions, comments, and concerns regarding this pipeline project at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area.

Resources and Concerns

Initial internal project scoping identified the following resources and concerns for consideration in the environmental assessment.

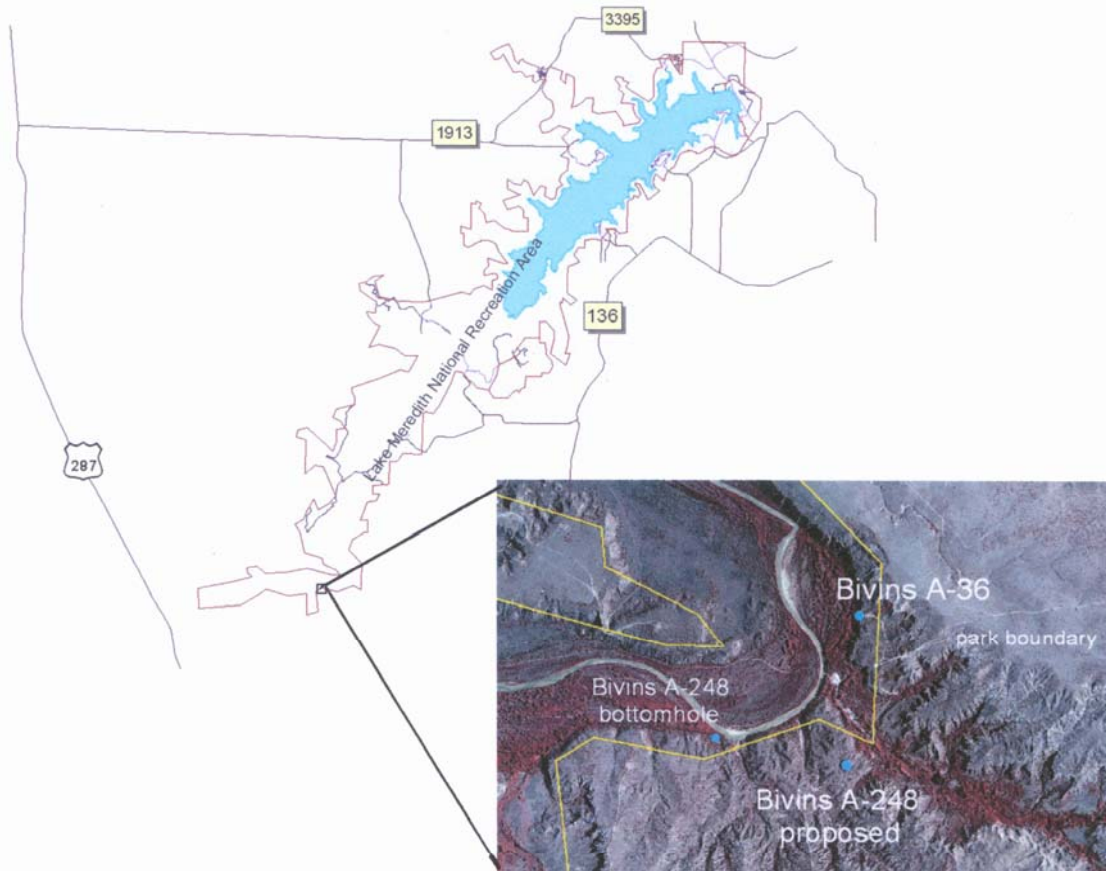
| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Air Quality | Cultural resources |
| Geology and Soils | Visitor uses |
| Vegetation | Adjacent landowners |
| Floodplains/wetlands | Natural soundscapes |
| Water Resources | Fish and Wildlife |
| Species of Concern | |

Alternatives to be evaluated in the environmental assessment are:

1. No Action (the Bivins A- 248 well would not be drilled)
2. Proposed Action. Under the proposed action, PNR would drill and produce the Bivins A-248 well from the proposed site outside the boundaries of Lake Meredith National Recreation Area.

Project location

Location of proposed well site in relation to Lake Meredith National Recreation Area



Please let us know by February 21, 2006:

1. Do you have any ideas to share about issues/concerns, or are there any issues/concerns about the project that you think we should consider?
2. Are there any other alternatives that you think we should consider?
3. Do you have other comments and suggestions for us to consider in the environmental assessment (EA)?

If you wish to comment on the scoping brochure or on any other issues associated with the project, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods.

- You may submit written comments to:
Superintendent
P.O. Box 1460
Fritch, Texas 79036-1460
- You may also comment via electronic mail (e-mail) to: **lamr_interpretation@nps.gov**. Please submit e-mail comments as a text file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name, e-mail address and return mailing address in your e-mail message.
- You may directly input comments into the NPS Planning Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) web page (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov>).
- You may hand deliver comments to Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, 419 E. Broadway, Fritch, Texas, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

If you wish to be added to the park's mailing list for this and other announcements, please be sure to indicate that in your response, and we will add you to the park's mailing list.
