

APPENDIX A: Interdisciplinary Team Checklist

Project Title: Tar Sands Lease Sale

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2010-0199-EA

File/Serial Number: EA-2010-0199

Project Leader: Roland Heath

DETERMINATION OF STAFF:

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

Rationale for Determination is required for all "NIs" and "NPs". Write brief issue statements for "PIs" and state that they are analyzed in detail in Chapter 4 of the EA

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)				
PI	Air Quality (including greenhouse gas emissions)	Emissions are anticipated from the proposed action and are discussed in Chapters 3 & 4 of the EA. Application of the identified lease notice(s) or stipulations(s) would be adequate for the leasing stage to disclose restrictions to minimize or eliminate potential impacts from mine development.	Mark Wimmer	10/18/2010
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	No designated ACECs are located in the project area as per GIS review.	Roland Heath	05/16/2011
NP	BLM Natural Areas	No designated BLM Natural Areas are located in the project area as per GIS review.	Roland Heath	10/12/2010
PI	Cultural Resources	A review of cultural resource records, including a Class I survey, indicates that there are known cultural resource sites within the proposed project area. Cultural resource inventories have not been completed for the entire project area. Class III intensive cultural inventories and consultations with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office will be completed for individual development plans. Potential impacts to NHRP eligible resources will be mitigated prior to any surface disturbing activities. Application of the identified lease notice(s) or stipulations(s) would be adequate for the leasing stage to disclose restrictions to minimize or eliminate potential impacts from mine development.	Cameron Cox	07/15/2011
NI	Environmental Justice	The proposed alternatives would not likely create disproportionately high and adverse human health impacts or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations since there are none in the project area.	Mark Wimmer	07/12/2011
NP	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	All prime or unique farm lands in the Uinta Basin must be irrigated to be considered under this designation, among other factors. No irrigated lands are located in the proposed action area; therefore this resource will not be carried forward for analysis."	Mark Wimmer	07/12/2011
PI	Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFW Designated Species	Four known Golden Eagle nest are within 0.5 mile of the parcels. Two of which are located in the parcel (sec 31 T4S R21E) and approximately 350 feet away from the vein. Burrowing owl nesting habitat is present on all	Daniel Emmett	03/02/2011

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		parcels except those found in section 30 and 31 of T4S R21E. Application of the identified lease notice(s) or stipulations(s) would be adequate for the leasing stage to disclose restrictions to minimize or eliminate potential impacts from mine development.		
NP	Floodplains	No HUD inventoried floodplains are present or near the parcels that are considered for leasing. Non HUD inventoried floodplains are not present or only in the upper region of drainage systems and would not be an issue with development. Site specific operations of the tar sand extraction may indicate some disturbance to these upper drainages.	James Hereford II	2/14/2013
NI	Fuels/Fire Management	There are no fuels projects proposed for the area. The increase of hazardous fuels should be minimal with the implementation of the reclamation guidelines.	Blaine Tarbell	07/07/2011
NI	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production	Leasing the land will not have any effect on geology, mineral resources, or energy production.	Betty Gamber	05/17/2011
NI	Hydrologic Conditions	Surface disturbance by the actual tar sand extraction would alter surface water flow patterns and potentially impact storm water required for analysis as required by Section 402 of the Clean Water Act. However this is only a leasing proposal and no actual surface disturbance would occur with leasing. Once actual development is proposed surface water flow patterns and storm water impacts would be analyzed.	James Hereford II	2/14/2013
PI	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds	Future surface disturbance associated with the development of the lease will likely lead to the spread of existing weeds and lead to the possible introduction of additional non-native plant species to the project area. Stipulations and/or notices are not warranted.	Aaron Roe	07/13/2012
NI	Lands/Access	Right-of-way holders are present in the project areas. R/W holders would be notified by BLM upon site specific proposals located on Federal surface. Class D roads identified on the County Transportation Map within the project areas may require a right-of-way be obtained by the county. Private and State surface occurs throughout the majority of the project area. Surface authorizations would need to be obtained from the surface owner(s) upon site specific proposals.	Cindy McKee	02/19/2010
NI	Livestock Grazing	Five of the tracts are within the McCoy Flat Allotment which is an active cattle grazing allotment. Four other tracts are outside of any BLM grazing allotment. Of the five parcels that are in the grazing allotment, four of them are on relatively steep hillsides on the east side of Asphalt Ridge which has limited accessibility for cattle grazing. Potential development of these four parcels would have no impact to livestock grazing. One tract (Sec. 27, S½SW¼, SW¼SE¼; Sec. 34, all) is on the gentle western slope of Asphalt Ridge, dominated by salt desert scrub with some sagebrush and perennial grasses. This tract is accessible to livestock grazing. On this tract, there is a guzzler water development that is used by both livestock and wildlife. There is also a long term range trend study on this. The current proposal is to lease these tracts for tar sands	Jannice Cutler	10/18/2010

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		development. Potential future development of tar sands operations on the leased parcel may have impacts to grazing which will be analyzed on a site specific basis when a mine plan is received (CFR 3141.08 (c2)). At that time implementation of the Green River District Office Reclamation Guidelines will help to reduce future potential impacts to grazing and rangeland health.		
PI	Migratory Birds	Migratory birds (passerines, Partners in Flight species, etc.) are present (see Appendix B). Application of the identified lease notice(s) or stipulations(s) would be adequate for the leasing stage to disclose restrictions to minimize or eliminate potential impacts from mine development.	Daniel Emmett	03/01/2011
NI	Native American Religious Concerns	Tribal consultation letters were sent on 5/24/2011. Responses were received from the Pueblo of Laguna and the Hopi Tribe. The Pueblo of Laguna have determined that the undertaking will not have a significant impact. The Hopi Tribe has requested copies of SHPO consultation for cultural resource inventories of the project: those inventories will be forwarded to the Hopi Tribe for review as they are completed.	Cameron Cox	07/15/2011
NP	Non-WSA Lands with Wilderness Character	None present as per Vernal RMP GIS data.	Roland Heath	05/16/2011
NI	Paleontology	The act of leasing will not affect paleo resources. Two known paleo localities are present in T5S R21E Section 23. Several other localities are in nearby sections but out of the lease area. To be protective of the paleo resources, any future surface disturbing activity will require a paleo survey conducted by a permitted paleontologist. The following lease notice would be sufficient to protect the resource: HIGH POTENTIAL PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES The lessee/operator is given notice that lands in this lease have been identified as having high potential for paleontological resources. Planned projects should be consistent with BLM Manual and Handbook H8270-1, Chapter III (A) and III (B) to avoid areas where significant fossils are known or predicted to occur or to provide for other mitigation of possible adverse effects (RX, NF, ESR). Modifications to the Surface Use Plan of Operations may be required in order to protect paleontological resources from surface disturbing activities in accordance with Section 6 of the lease terms and 43 CFR 3101.1-2.	Betty Gamber	05/17/2011
NI	Rangeland Health Standards	Refer also to the vegetation, soils, water and threatened, endangered and special status species discussions as well as livestock grazing. Leasing of the tracts will not impact Rangeland Health. Future development of the leases could impact Rangeland Health but the potential impacts will be addresses in site specific NEPA analysis when a mine plan is received. At that time implementation of the Green River District Office Reclamation Guidelines will help to reduce future potential impacts to grazing and rangeland health. The proposed project is in the McCoy Flat Allotment.	Jannice Cutler	10/18/2010

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		Rangeland Health Assessments were done on the McCoy Flat Allotment in 2003. The allotment was found to be meeting the Utah standards for rangeland health. The potential project development on the east side of Asphalt Ridge would not impact rangeland health.		
NI	Recreation	Proposed project is entirely within the Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). No developed sites are present within the project area. The project area is in a limited to designated routes OHV section.	Jason West	05/18/2011
NI	Socio-Economics	Effects on social and economic values would be minimal and would not require further analysis due to the small-scale nature of the action when compared to the larger economy in the area.	Mark Wimmer	07/12/2011
PI	Soils	Potential for soil erosion due to surface disturbing actions. Application of the identified lease notice(s) or stipulations(s) would be adequate for the leasing stage to disclose restrictions to minimize or eliminate potential impacts from mine development.	Steven Strong	10/19/2010
NP	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	There are no currently listed threatened, endangered, or candidate plant species in the vicinity of the proposed project.	Aaron Roe	10/12/2010
PI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	All parcels are in sage grouse brooding and/or wintering habitat. The closest lek is approximately 3.4 miles away except for the tract in sec 34 T5S R21E which is within 0.27 mile. Application of the identified lease notice(s) or stipulations(s) would be adequate for the leasing stage to disclose restrictions to minimize or eliminate potential impacts from mine development.	Daniel Emmett	03/01/2011
SSP: PI Veg: PI	Vegetation Excluding USFW Designated Species	There are several known populations of Hamilton milkvetch (<i>Astragalus hamiltonii</i>), a bureau sensitive plant species in close proximity to the proposed parcels and which may be found within the parcels. Based off soil data Goodrich's beardtongue (<i>Penstemon goodrichii</i> ;) may also be present within the lease parcels. . Sandy soils may be potential habitat for <i>Yucca sterilis</i> . Application of the identified lease notice(s) or stipulations(s) would be adequate for the leasing stage to disclose restrictions to minimize or eliminate potential impacts from mine development. Surface contour mining will result in disturbance to the native plant communities. No stipulations or notices are warranted.	Aaron Roe	7/13/2012
PI	Visual Resources (VRM)	VRM Class III exists. Class III objectives state, 3. Class III Objective. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. Based on current mining technology, pit mines are the current technique that would be utilized in within this project. Pit mines as observed from residences in Vernal City (KOP) as well as travelers along highway 40 (KOP) traveling through the asphalt ridge area, and the Bonanza Highway (KOP) would notice mining activities	Jason West	05/18/2011

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		and current technology for tar sands extraction (Strip mining operations, and underground mining and associated facilities) would dominate the view of the casual observer. Application of the identified lease notice(s) or stipulations(s) would be adequate for the leasing stage to disclose restrictions to minimize or eliminate potential impacts from mine development.		
NI	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	At the development stage, project leads should determine if wastes would be produced as well as if wastes are presently located in the project area. If wastes would be produced or present in regulated quantities, the lead would need to coordinate with district/state HAZMAT coordinator to complete the review. When smaller quantities of wastes are present, use the following language: <u>Hazardous Waste:</u> No chemicals subject to reporting under SARA Title III in an amount equal to or greater than 10,000 pounds will be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of annually in association with the project. Furthermore, no extremely hazardous substances, as defined in 40 CFR 355, in threshold planning quantities, will be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of in association with the project. <u>Solid Wastes:</u> Trash would be confined in a covered container and hauled to an approved landfill. Burning of waste or oil would not be done. Human waste would be contained and be disposed of at an approved sewage treatment facility.	Mark Wimmer	07/12/2011
Surface: PI Ground: PI	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)	<u>Surface water:</u> Perennial waters are not located at or near the project area. Potential of impacts to surface water from disturbance and potential chemical contamination could occur under the proposed action assumptions. Mainly through potentially increasing the velocity, sedimentation, and depositional rates when flood events occur in the area. <u>Ground water:</u> Leasing will not affect groundwater, but potential exists for future groundwater effects from strip mining if developed.	James Hereford II Gr: Betty Gamber	2/14/2013 05/17/2011
NP	Waters of the U.S. (C.O.E.)	Waters of the U.S. are not present as identified by the U.S. Corp of Engineers. The project area contains only minor upland ephemeral drainages.	Stan Olmstead	02/24/2011
NP	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	No riparian or wetland habitat is present or near the project area. This is known by personal knowledge and Field Office GIS data inventory.	James Hereford II	2/14/2013
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	None present as per Vernal RMP GIS data.	Roland Heath	05/16/2011
NP	Wilderness/WSA	None present as per Vernal RMP GIS data.	Roland Heath	05/16/2011
NP	Wild Horses and Burros	None present as per Vernal RMP GIS data.	Mark Wimmer	07/12/2011
NI	Woodland/Forestry	The vegetation types within all of the parcels include 656 acres of pinyon juniper/sagebrush. Surface contour mining could result in disturbance to this community. Due to the small and sparse nature of the juniper in the project area, there is no forest produce value, therefore any	David Palmer	06/23/2011

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		impacts to woodlands is included in the vegetation section in chapters 3 and 4.		

FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator	<i>Unsigned</i>	--	--
Authorized Officer	<i>Unsigned</i>	--	--