

APPENDIX R. FLUID MINERALS BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

APPENDIX R- FLUID MINERALS BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPS)

Best Management Practices (BMP) are state-of-the-art mitigation measures applied on a site-specific basis to reduce, prevent, or avoid adverse environmental or social impacts. BMPs are applied to management actions to aid in achieving desired outcomes for safe, environmentally sound resource development by preventing, minimizing, or mitigating adverse impacts and reducing conflicts. For each proposed action, a number of BMPs may be applied as necessary to mitigate expected impacts. The following typical environmental Best Management Practices (BMP) may be applied on individual Applications for Permit to Drill and associated rights-of-way in the Vernal Field Office on a case-by-case basis. These procedures are consistent with current national guidance and the Surface Operating Standards and Guidelines for Oil and Gas Development (Gold Book), 2007. This list is not all inclusive and may be modified over time as conditions change and new practices are identified.

- Interim reclamation of the well and access road will begin as soon as practicable after a well is placed in production. Facilities will be grouped on the pads to allow for maximum interim reclamation. Interim reclamation will include road cuts and fills and will extend to within close proximity of the wellhead and production facilities.
- All above ground facilities including power boxes, building doors, roofs, and any visible equipment will be painted a color selected from the latest national color charts that best allows the facility to blend into the background.
- All new roads will be designed and constructed to a safe and appropriate standard, “no higher than necessary” to accommodate intended vehicular use. Roads will follow the contour of the land where practical. Existing oil and gas roads that are in eroded condition or contribute to other resource concerns will be brought to BLM standards within a reasonable period of time.
- Final reclamation of all oil and gas disturbance will involve recontouring of all disturbed areas, including access roads, to the original contour or a contour that blends with the surrounding topography and revegetating all disturbed areas.
- Raptor perch avoidance devices will be installed on all new powerlines and existing lines that present a potential hazard to raptors.
- All powerlines to individual well locations (excluding major power source lines to the operating oil or gas field) and all flow lines will be buried in or immediately adjacent to the access roads where feasible.
- In developing oil and gas fields, all production facilities may be centralized to avoid tanks and associated facilities on each well pad where necessary to address resource issues.
- Multiple wells will be drilled from a single well pad wherever feasible.
- Noise reduction techniques and designs will be used to reduce noise from compressors or other motorized equipment.
- Seasonal restrictions on public vehicular access will be evaluated where there are wildlife conflict or road damage/maintenance issues.
- Monitoring of wildlife to evaluate the effects of oil and gas development
- Avoiding placement of production facilities on hilltops and ridgelines;
- Screening facilities from view;
- Bioremediating oil field wastes and spills; and
- Using common utility or Right-of-Way corridors containing roads, powerlines, and pipelines.