



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

June 2006

**DECISION NOTICE
AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Dominion Exploration and Production 3-well Project
Federal Oil and Gas Leases UTU-78415, UTU-77263 and UTU-77262

USDA Forest Service
Manti-La Sal National Forest
Price, Utah

NE ¼ of Section 7 T15S, R6E, SLB&M, Sanpete County, Utah
SW ¼ of Section 28 T14S, R6E, SLB&M, Sanpete County, Utah
NE ¼ of Section 6 T16S, R6E, SLB&M, Emery County, Utah

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Decision and Reasons for the Decision

Background

Dominion Exploration & Production, Inc. (Dominion) submitted three separate Applications for Permit to Drill (APD) to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on October 17, 2005 proposing to drill three gas exploration wells on the Manti-La Sal National Forest. The proposed wells are designated as the Skyline Unit #1-6, Skyline Unit #8-7, and Skyline Unit #14-28 and are located within Federal Oil and Gas Leases UTU-77263, UTU-78415, and UTU-77262, issued by BLM on August 1, 1998, July 1, 1999 and July 1, 1998 respectively.

The APDs have two main sections. The first is the drilling plan that describes down-hole drilling operations. The second is the Surface-Use Plan of Operations (SUPO) that describes and contains plans for surface occupancy including proposed access, pad plans, timing of operations, reclamation, and measures proposed by the proponent to mitigate effects. A list of general Forest Service requirements was considered when preparing the SUPOs.

The proposed sites are within the Cottonwood and Huntington Canyon oil and gas analysis areas. Portions of the proposed access routes traverse part of the northeastern boundary of the Boulger-Black Canyon IRA and the southwestern section of the Rolfson-Staker IRA (see EA Figures 3 and 5). Dominion's purpose for this exploration project is to assess the economic resources of its lease holding. Exploratory drilling would provide the geologic data necessary to assess oil and gas potential. If economic quantities of natural gas are located, further development for recovery purposes would be implemented. Gas supplies are needed to meet future energy demands of the state and nation.

The Forest Service's purpose and need is to review and evaluate the proposed request from Dominion, and to evaluate the environmental effects of Dominion's SUPOs contained within their APDs. The Forest Service will also determine whether and under what terms and conditions to authorize access, construction, drilling, pipelines and reclamation. The decision must be made in accordance with the Manti-La Sal Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) management direction (page III-12) and be consistent with rights granted by Dominion's oil and gas leases and applicable laws and regulations. The environmental assessment (EA) documents the analysis of 3 alternatives to meet this need.

The Bureau of Land Management participated in the preparation of this analysis as a cooperating agency. They will prepare a separate decision document for their required decision on APD approval.

Decision Authority

This Decision Notice documents findings specific to a request by Dominion to conduct gas exploration activities in order to develop the gas reserves on National Forest System lands

administered by the Manti-La Sal National Forest. The drilling plans for the gas wells were analyzed in the EA.

The Forest Service is responsible for managing National Forest System lands under the National Forest Management Act of 1976 and other applicable laws and regulations. The Forest Supervisor, Manti-la Sal National Forest must decide whether or not to approve the SUPOs, which are contained in the APDs submitted to BLM. In addition, the Forest Supervisor can identify mitigations needed to protect non-mineral resources that will be incorporated into the approved SUPOs or required as conditions for approval. Authority for approval and enforcement of the SUPOs is provided in the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987 and must be consistent with regulations contained in 43 CFR 3100 and 36 CFR 228, Sub-Part E, as well as the rights and limitations on operations included in Federal Oil and Gas Leases UTU-77263, UTU-78415, and UTU-77262.

The BLM is responsible for leasing and administration of oil and gas leases and down-hole operations under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, and Federal Regulations contained in 43 CFR 3100. These authorizations enable Dominion to explore for and economically recover any available gas reserves consistent with the rights granted by the leases.

Decision

I, Alice B. Carlton, am the responsible Forest Service official for this project. The scope of my decision is limited to the specific National Forest System lands described in the EA and this Decision Notice. The decision I am making is site-specific. It is not programmatic and does not change Forest Plan direction for management of minerals or other resources in the project area.

I have considered the analysis of issues and alternatives contained in the EA for this project, Forest Plan and Forest Plan EIS, the FEIS for Oil and Gas Leasing on Lands Administered by the Manti-La Sal National Forest, and applicable laws.

I have decided to select Alternative 3 and consent to approval of the SUPOs conditioned upon the identified Best Management Practices (BMPs) and additional design features for the protection of National Forest System resources. The BMPs were incorporated into to the SUPO at the time that it was submitted. The BMP's and additional design features are found on pages 22 through 26 of the EA. General conditions of approval and design features are attached to this decision document. The general conditions identified in the attachment are derived from the FEIS for Oil and Gas Leasing on Lands Administered by the Manti-La Sal National Forest. The SUPOs with the identified design features are consistent with lease terms, conditions, and stipulations. This decision also necessitates issuance of a Road Use Permit (RUP), including improvements necessary to accommodate the identified use.

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR), published in the Federal Register on January 12, 2001, is currently enjoined from implementation pending litigation. However, if the RACR were in effect, this project would be permissible under the terms of the rule. The RACR prohibits road construction and reconstruction, and the cutting, sale, or removal of timber, within the IRA's unless the Responsible Official determines certain circumstances are found to exist. This project would be excepted from the prohibitions of the rule under 36 CFR 294.12(b) (7) because the construction of temporary roads to access drill pads is needed "in conjunction with continuation, extension, or renewal of a mineral lease on lands that are under lease by the

Secretary of the Interior as of January 12, 2001". Also, the RACR did not revoke, suspend, or modify any permit, contract, or other legal instrument authorizing use of National Forest System land issued prior to January 12, 2001; therefore, this project would be outside the scope of the RACR prohibitions under 36 CFR 294.14(a) because the leases were issued prior to January 12, 2001.

I have considered impacts to the roadless character of the Boulger-Black Canyon and Rolfson-Staker IRAs and impacts to the area's suitability for any potential wilderness designation in reaching my decision. These impacts are discussed in Chapter 3 of the EA, Section 3.2, and in the specialist report for impacts to roadless areas contained in the project record. Qualitative attributes that address the wilderness potential of the inventoried roadless area are discussed using six comparison elements. The six comparison elements address changes in natural integrity, apparent naturalness, remoteness or solitude, opportunities for primitive recreation, special features, and manageability. I believe that the natural integrity and apparent naturalness will be somewhat diminished through all phases (development, operations, and restoration) of the project, and some opportunities for semi-primitive recreation will be slightly affected, especially during the construction phase. The remoteness or solitude, special features, and manageability will not be appreciably changed by this project (see IRA reports in the project record).

The nine additional roadless characteristics identified in the Roadless Area Conservation Rule were evaluated and impacts are identified in the IRA specialist reports in the project record. The characteristics include soil, water and air resources; sources of public drinking water; diversity of plant and animal communities; habitat for TES and species dependent on large undisturbed areas of land; primitive and semi-primitive classes of recreation; reference landscapes for research study or interpretation; landscape character and integrity; traditional cultural properties and sacred sites; and other locally unique characteristics. There will be short term effects from movement of soil during construction and reclamation. There may be a negative effect on calving and fawning habitat, big game summer range, and migratory bird habitat if recreation usage changes or increases because of the project. Some of the opportunities for semi-primitive recreation will be affected slightly especially during construction, but there are many opportunities available in the IRA that will remain undisturbed.

This decision required careful consideration and balance of environmental protection and the lessee's rights and need to explore for and develop the natural gas reserves. Given the Forest Service mission of being stewards of the soil, air, and water resources, it is incumbent upon me to adhere to the direction given by national policy, agency mission, and Forest Plan guidance when making my decisions. I believe that this decision best balances the need to preserve and protect the integrity of watersheds and associated ecosystems present while providing for the exploration for and recovery of the mineral resources.

Other Alternatives Considered

In addition to the selected alternative, I considered two other alternatives. A comparison of these alternatives can be found in the EA Section 2.2.

Alternative 1 - No Action

Under the No Action alternative, current management plans would continue to guide management of the project area. The APDs would not be approved, including the SUPOs, and no access routes would be constructed / reconstructed to accomplish project goals. This alternative does not meet the purpose of and need for action, nor is it consistent with rights granted by the oil and gas lease. This alternative is analyzed in detail as a basis for comparison with other alternatives.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action with Best Management Practices

Under this alternative, the project would proceed without the additional design features included in the selected alternative. Impacts to recreation resources would be greater under this alternative. Impacts to wildlife, and wildlife habitat quality would be greater due to uncontrolled recreational use.

Public Involvement

The proposal was provided to the public and other agencies for comment during a 30-day comment period. A letter was prepared and sent to interested parties on the Agency's mailing list on November 2, 2005. A Legal Notice of Proposed Action and Opportunity to Comment was prepared, and published in three newspapers of record, the *Sun Advocate* on November 1, 2005, the *Emery County Progress* on November 1, 2005, and the *Sanpete Messenger* on November 2, 2005.

Finding of No Significant Impact

After considering the environmental effects described in the EA, I have determined that these actions will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment considering the context and intensity of impacts (40 CFR 1508.27). Thus, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. I base my finding on the following:

1. Both beneficial and adverse effects have been considered and disclosed in the EA.
2. There will be no significant effects on public health and safety, because impacts will be mitigated by compliance with Forest Service design features and the use of Best Management Practices (EA pages 22-26). This activity would not elevate the amount of oil and gas activity to levels that exceed the Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario of the Oil and Gas Leasing EIS (EA page 29).
3. There will be no significant effects on unique characteristics of the area, because no park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands or wild and scenic rivers are present within the project area. A "no historic properties affected" determination was made and the State Historic Preservation Officer concurred for the cultural site that is within the project area boundary (EA page 55).
4. The effects on the quality of the human environment are not likely to be highly controversial. Because a number of oil and gas wells have been drilled on the forest, there is no known scientific controversy over the impacts of the project (EA page 28).

5. We have considerable experience with the types of activities to be implemented. The effects analysis shows the effects are not uncertain, and do not involve unique or unknown risks.
6. The action is not likely to establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects. Any future actions would require additional site-specific environmental analysis and documentation (EA page 6).
7. The cumulative impacts are not significant.
8. The action will have no significant adverse effects on districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Utah State Historic Preservation Officer concurred that no historic properties would be affected (EA page 55).
9. The action will not adversely affect any endangered, threatened, sensitive, or candidate species or their habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (EA page 51). Detailed analysis can be found in the Biological Evaluation/Biological Assessment included in the project file.
10. The action will not violate Federal, State, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. Applicable laws and regulations were considered in the EA. The action is consistent with the Manti-La Sal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (see LRMP pages III-35 to III-36 and III-64 to III-66).

Consistency With The Land and Resource Management Plan

This decision to implement Alternative 3 is consistent with the intent of the forest plan's long term goals and objectives listed on LRMP page III-35 in that it implements those goals and objectives for energy development and conforms to other resource standards and guides in the LRMP. Goals and objectives for energy development include: (a) stipulations will be used as appropriate in leases, licenses, or permits and (b) oil and gas lease occupancy would be denied or limited by special stipulations (1) where slopes are steeper than 35 percent, (2) the erosion hazard rating is high and mitigation measures could be ineffective, (3) geologic hazard rating is high, and (4) key wildlife uses may be impaired.

The proposed temporary access roads, drill pads or pipeline are not proposed on slopes greater than 35 percent. Disturbed areas would be protected with proper erosion controls as prescribed in the BMPs. The temporary access roads, drill pads and pipeline are not proposed in any known geologic hazardous area such as land slides. The reconstruction of NFSR 50150 would include redesign and construction of the road to stabilize the potentially unstable area located approximately 3 miles south of highway 31 on NFSR 50150. The project was designed in conformance with LRMP standards and incorporates appropriate LRMP guidelines for minerals activities.

Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

Endangered Species Act

No effects are anticipated on any threatened or endangered species (EA page 51 and Biological Assessment contained in the project file).

National Historic Preservation Act

The State Historic Preservation Officer was consulted and has concurred with a determination of “no historic properties affected”, based on the design features incorporated in the project. Copies of the reports were sent to tribal governments for their review and comment (EA page 55). Tribal concurrence letters from the Hopi and Paiute tribes are in the project record. Archaeological reports have been completed and are maintained in the project record.

Executive Order 13186 - Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds

No impacts to migratory birds or migratory bird habitat are anticipated (EA page 49 and wildlife report contained in the project record).

Executive Order 12898 - Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations

No minority or low-income populations were identified during the public involvement within communities near or immediately surrounding the project area. No impacts to minority or low-income populations are anticipated.

Implementation Date

This project can not be implemented prior to five business days after completion of the 45 calendar day appeal period after publication of the Notice of Decision in the Sun Advocate newspaper or before the BLM approves the APD.

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 251.82 and 36 CFR 215.

215 Appeals

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 215. Appeals must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 215.14. Only individuals or organizations who submitted comments or otherwise expressed interest in the project during the comment period may appeal. Appeals must be postmarked or received by the Appeal Deciding Officer within 45 days of the publication of this notice in *Sun Advocate*. This date is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Timeframe information from other sources should not be relied on. Incorporation of documents by reference is not allowed. The Appeal Deciding Officer is the Regional Forester. Appeals must be sent to: Appeal Deciding Officer, Intermountain Region USFS, 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401; or by fax to 801-625-5277; or by email to: appeals-intermtn-regional-office@fs.fed.us. Emailed appeals must be submitted in rich text (rtf), Word (doc) or portable document format (pdf) and must include the project name in the subject line. Appeals may also be hand delivered to the above address, during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

251 Appeals

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 251.82. Appeals must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 251.90. The appeal must be postmarked or received by the Appeal Reviewing Officer within 45 days of the date of this decision. A notice of appeal, including the reasons for appeal, must be filed with: Regional Forester, Intermountain Region USFS, 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401; or by fax to 801-625-5277; or by email to: appeals-intermtn-regional-office@fs.fed.us. Emailed appeals must be submitted in rich text (rtf), Word (doc) or portable document format (pdf) and must include the project name in the subject line. Appeals may also be hand delivered to the above address, during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with Alice B. Carlton, Forest Supervisor, Manti – La Sal National Forest, 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501.

Approval



ALICE B. CARLTON
Forest Supervisor
Manti-La Sal National Forest

6/20/06
Date

Attachment 1 – General Conditions of Approval

- A pre-construction meeting including the responsible company representative(s), contractors, and the Forest Service must be conducted at the project site prior to commencement of surface-disturbing activities. The pad and road work must be construction-staked prior to this meeting. Site-specific requirements will be discussed at this time.
- The operator shall submit for approval, a maintenance plan for the site, the temporary access roads and that portion of any National Forest System Road to be used for project access. A road-use permit must be obtained from the Forest Service authorizing commercial use of National Forest System Roads. Requirements listed in the road-use permit must be followed. In the event of a discovery, an updated maintenance plan will be required
- The project engineer and surveyors must be certified by the State in which they reside or maintain their business. All surface-disturbing activities, including reclamation, must be supervised by a qualified, responsible official or representative of the designated operator who is aware of the terms and conditions of the APD and specifications in the approved plans
- Adequate signs must be posted along National Forest System Roads to warn the public of project related traffic.
- Move-in and move-out of the drill rig will not be allowed during holiday weekends and will be restricted during the big game hunting seasons as specified by the Forest Service.
- In the event of a discovery, a revised surface-use plan must be submitted to the Forest Service showing all needed production facilities. Production facilities will be subject to further environmental analyses and approval by the Forest Service.
- Establishment of campsites on the pad or at other locations on National Forest System lands by the operator or his contractors is subject to Forest Service approval.
- Unauthorized off-road vehicular travel is prohibited including ATVs.
- Section corners, survey markers and claim corners in the project area must be located and flagged by the operator prior to operations. The removal or disturbance of identified markers must be approved by the proper authority.
- Water needed for operations must be properly and legally obtained according to State water laws. The location of diversion, if on National Forest System lands, is subject to Forest Service approval.
- Fire suppression equipment must be available to all personnel on the project site. Equipment must include a minimum of one hand tool per crew member consisting of shovels, pulaskis, and chainsaws and one properly rated fire extinguisher per vehicle and/or internal combustion engine.
- All gasoline, diesel and steam-powered equipment must be equipped with effective spark arresters or mufflers. Spark arresters must meet Forest Service specifications discussed in the USDA Forest Service Spark Arrester Guide. In addition, all electrical equipment must be properly insulated to prevent sparks.

- The operator will be held responsible for damage and suppression costs for fires started as a result of operations. Fires must be reported to the Forest Service as soon as possible
- All accidents or mishaps resulting in resource damage and/or serious personal injury must be reported to the Forest Service as soon as possible.
- Vehicle operators must obey posted speed restrictions and observe safe speeds commensurate with road and weather conditions.
- All drilling fluids must be contained in the reserve pit. All appropriate measures must be taken to assure that leakage through the reserve pit does not occur and that fluids are not allowed to overflow. A minimum two feet freeboard is required.
- Sanitary facilities are required on site at all times during operations and construction. The installation of facilities other than self-contained chemical toilets is subject to State and Forest Service approval.
- Harassment of wildlife and livestock is prohibited. Dogs must be leashed.
- All merchantable timber removed or destroyed by construction or other project related activities will be purchased by the operator at fair market value. The Forest Service will conduct a timber cruise and appraisal after the final clearing limits have been staked. Slash burning will be conducted only at locations approved by the Forest Service under authorization or a burning permit. Burning of garbage and debris is prohibited.
- The reserve pit must be dry before it is backfilled and reclaimed. The pit must be fenced with 5 strand barbed wire at all times until it is reclaimed. Methods for drying the pit, other than natural evaporation, are subject to prior Forest Service approval.
- Unless otherwise specified in the Forest Service conditions for approval the Surface-Use Plan of Operations, contaminated soils and gravel in the project area and the contents of the reserve pit will be removed from the National Forest and disposed of at an approved facility. Exceptions may be granted if the operator can demonstrate non-toxicity through testing or isolation through encapsulation.
- The seed mix and other planting requirements are specified below. Reseeding will occur during the same season as disturbance occurs, at a density of approximately 20 lbs per acre.

Species	Amount	Species	Amount
#3 Agropyron trachycaulum	3 lbs/acre	Achillea millifolium	0.25 lb
#3 Bromus carinatus	3 lbs/acre	Agoseris glauca	0.25 lb
#2 Dactylis glomerata	2 lbs/acre	Antenneria microphylla	0.25 lb
#3 Elymus lanceolatus	3 lbs/acre	Aster eatoni	0.25 lb
#2 Elymus spicata	2 lbs/acre	Vicia americana	0.25 lb
#2 Koeleria macrantha	2 lbs/acre	Gernaium viscosimum	0.25 lb
#2 Poa fendleriana	2 lbs/acre	Artemisia tridentata	1.5 lbs
Lupinus argenteus	0.25 lb/acre		

- All trash, garbage and other refuse must be properly contained on the site during operations and periodically disposed of off-Forest at an approved refuse facility. Following completion of operations, all unnecessary equipment, materials and refuse must be removed from the forest as soon as possible.
- In general, the disturbed areas will be considered adequately re-vegetated when at least 90 percent of the original ground cover is re-established with seeded and desirable species, over 90 percent of the seeded area, within three years of planting. No noxious weeds will be allowed on the site; they must be treated as they occur. The operator is responsible for maintenance of reclamation facilities such as fences, barricades and temporary drainage structures until the desired reclaimed conditions are achieved. If the desired ground cover is not established at the end of each three year period, an analysis of why the area has not recovered will be performed by the operator and additional treatment and seeding will be required based on the results of the analysis.
- Straw, hay, feed, or pellets used on Utah National Forest's must be certified weed-free by the State of Utah.
- The company shall designate an on-site company representative responsible for project supervision for each phase of operation. This person must be on-site during operations to act as a contact and supervise operations.
- No ground disturbing work may commence until the Forest Service approves (in writing) the final plans for construction of the access road and drill pad on National Forest System lands.
- Before construction, reconstruction, or operation activities can commence, the operator shall file a Spill Contingency and Control Plan with the Forest Service. The plan must identify the potential for spills to occur, activities that could result in spills, substances that could be spilled, identify appropriate containment/cleanup actions, and identify equipment/materials to be maintained in vehicles and at the drilling pad to contain or neutralize spilled materials. The plan must identify potentially affected parties, required contacts, and time frames for cleanup in the event of a spill. The plan must be consistent with the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region VIII Oil and Hazardous Substances Regional Contingency Plan. Copies of MSDS Sheets must be available at the project site at all times for all chemicals stored on National Forest System lands for approved operations or used for drilling operations on National Forest System lands.
- Construction compaction of the pad material shall be 95 percent. The pad will be sloped to drain into the reserve pit. If necessary, the pit will be pumped out to reduce its contents and insure that overflow does not occur. Fluids will be disposed of off-Forest at a Utah State approved disposal site.
- All equipment shall be clean, operationally safe, and in good repair. Equipment shall be free of oil and grease, mud, soil, vegetative material and noxious weed seed prior to entering the Forest. The company shall make equipment available for inspection by the responsible Forest officer prior to entering the Forest.

Attachment 2 – Additional Design Features

The following Design Features were developed in response to internal concerns about possible direct and indirect impacts of the proposal. They were developed to further reduce possible impacts of the proposed action. These measures are in addition to the above BMPs, and are a condition of approval for Alternative 3.

Applicable to Skyline Unit #1-6 (Potters Ponds):

- A turn-around point for vehicles towing trailers would be constructed at the end of road improvement work on the Potters Canyon Road.
- A Forest Service gate with dual lock capability would be installed with barriers each side to keep unauthorized motorized vehicles off the temporary access road. Appropriate signage would also be installed. The gate would be kept locked at all times.
- Four campsite locations would be designed and constructed along the improved road, and a short spur road of less than 150 feet would be graveled into these locations. The area of acceptable motorized use would be defined with barrier rocks, log and block fencing, and signage.
- Hazardous dead spruce trees would be removed from along the reconstructed road, the temporary access road, and the well pad to a width as wide as the average height of standing trees. Trees would be removed and properly disposed of either under contract or by Dominion.
- Additional aggregate surfacing would be applied through Potters Ponds campground as needed for road maintenance. Magnesium chloride would be applied to the road surface during construction and drilling operations to control dust.
- Snowmobile crossing points would be established and signed at key locations, if drilling operations extend into the winter season with subsequent plowing of the Millers Flat Road.
- Upon reclamation of the well pad and temporary access road, recoverable aggregate could either be removed from NFS lands or reapplied on NFS Road 50271 and to the dispersed camping areas east of Potters Ponds.
- If gas is discovered, pipeline would be installed above ground on the upper side of the road and would be placed approximately 25 feet away from the road edge. The pipeline would be buried under the power lines and NFS Road 50271, and would continue above ground on the north side of NFS Road 52208.

Applicable to Skyline Unit #8-7:

- A turn-around point for vehicles towing trailers would be constructed at the end of road improvement work on South Skyline Drive and would be located approximately 200 feet south of the proposed temporary access road.
- A Forest Service gate with dual locking capability would be installed with barriers on both sides to keep unauthorized motorized vehicles off the temporary access road. Appropriate signage would also be installed. The gate would be kept locked at all times.
- Four campsite locations would be defined along the improved road, and a short spur road of less than 150 feet would be graveled into these locations. The area of acceptable motorized use would be defined with barrier rocks, log and block fencing, and signage.

- Illegal ATV routes originating off the reconstructed portion South Skyline Drive would be closed with barriers. Appropriate signage would be installed.
- A barrier consisting of either log and block or boulders with signage would be installed at an unauthorized ATV trail near the drill pad if the well goes into production and a pipeline is needed. Reclamation would require removal of the pipeline and closing the trail with water bars and signage.
- A gate would be installed at the junction of South Skyline Drive near U31 to provide a seasonal closure of the road during the spring snowmelt period.
- Signage would be installed to warn snowmobile users of plowed conditions if drilling operations extend into the winter season with subsequent plowing of South Skyline Drive.
- Upon reclamation of the well pad and temporary access road, recoverable aggregate can either be removed from NFS lands or reapplied northward on Skyline Drive, at the discretion of Dominion staff.
- If gas is discovered, a pipeline would be installed above ground on the unauthorized ATV trail, as shown in Figure 5. The pipeline would be installed in a manner that would avoid resource damage. Forest Service staff would require a detailed design document from Dominion demonstrating mitigation of resource impacts prior to pipeline construction.

Applicable to Skyline Unit#14-28 (Rolfson):

- A turn-around point for vehicles towing trailers would be constructed near the junction of the temporary access road and Rolfson Reservoir road.
- A Forest Service gate with dual locking capability would be installed with barriers on both sides to keep unauthorized motorized vehicles off the temporary access road. This would be designed to allow ATV access onto the trail system. Appropriate signage would also be installed. The gate would be kept locked at all times.
- A 100 foot graveled road spur would be constructed into Campsite #42 to accommodate increased Dispersed use (Figure 7).
- Snowmobile crossing points and signage would be installed at key locations, if drilling operations extend into the winter season with subsequent plowing of Miller Flat Road.
- Upon reclamation of the well pad and temporary access road, recoverable aggregate can either be removed from NFS lands or applied southward on Rolfson Canyon Road to a depth of 4 inches, at the discretion of Dominion staff.
- If gas is discovered, the pipeline must be installed within the road prism to avoid impacts to visual resources and to avoid introduction of noxious weeds.

Applicable to All Units:

- Appropriate signage would be installed in the area warning visitors about conditions.
- Productive wells shall be monitored remotely by telemetry when in production. Routine maintenance activities would occur over snow.

- Snow removal access to productive wells would be authorized only in an emergency, defined as serious damage to the environment or serious economic consequences to the well operation, and would be determined under joint BLM/FS consultations.
- Potentially suitable goshawk habitat near proposed drill sites would be surveyed prior to project activity at the sites. All active nests would be protected with a 0.5-mile buffer between March 1 and August 15, and a 30-acre buffer between August 16 and September 30. Project construction would not be authorized during elk calving period from May 1 to July 5 in fawning and calving habitat.
- Fugitive dust from project traffic would be properly controlled along NFS roads and temporary access roads.
- If pipelines are needed, the following restrictions would apply: (1) in order to protect elk calving habitat, pipelines would not be installed in suitable calving habitat between May 1 and July 5; (2) in order to protect goshawks and goshawk habitat, all suitable goshawk habitat would be surveyed prior to installation, and active nests would be protected with a 0.5 mile buffer between March 1 and August 15, and with a 30 acre buffer extending until September 30; (3) a pipeline corridor would not be constructed through suitable goshawk habitat; (4) in order to protect three-toed woodpeckers, pipelines would not be installed in suitable three-toed woodpecker habitat until after July 5.
- Surface reclamation of the drill pads and temporary access road must be completed within 1 year of well abandonment. All production equipment, including the pipeline must be removed from NFS lands and properly disposed.
- When wells are no longer economic, Dominion would remove above ground pipelines flush and plug subsurface pipelines and reclaim temporary access roads and pads to Forest Service specifications.