
**WILDLIFE MONITORING REPORT
FOR 2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT PERIOD**

Prepared for

**Uranerz Energy Corporation
(an Energy Fuels Company)**

By

**TRC Environmental Corporation
Laramie, Wyoming
TRC Project 51825/112362**

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Appendix E

Wildlife Survey Report

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A.1.0 INTRODUCTION

During the annual report period, Energy Fuels retained TRC Environmental Corporation to continue the wildlife monitoring program specified in the Mine Plan. This annual report includes the results of the 2015 raptor nest survey and greater sage-grouse lek surveys for the Nichols Ranch and Hank Units.

A.2.0 2015 SURVEY METHODS

A.2.1 Raptor Nest Survey

All known raptor nests within the permit area and a 0.5-mi buffer were located and surveyed by biologists from Wildlife Resources, LLC, of Big Horn, Wyoming from May 26 through June 12, 2015. Suitable habitats (e.g., cliffs, riparian areas) were searched a minimum of three site visits using binoculars and/or spotting scopes to locate nest structures, whitewash, or any other indicator of past or present raptor nesting (e.g., defensive or incubating raptors, the presence of juvenile raptors, repeated observations of raptors in the same general area). These surveys followed the protocol outlined in Appendix B of the Wyoming DEQ Coal Regulations. When a nest could not be looked into, the nest was classified as active if at least one adult was observed defending the nest. If no sign of occupancy was evident, the area below and around the nest was checked for signs of recent activity (mutes, pellets, feathers, prey remains, or young) in an attempt to verify occupancy. In addition, black-tailed prairie dog towns within the permit area and a 0.5-mi buffer were searched using binoculars and/or spotting scopes to locate burrowing owl nest locations. Most areas of the prairie dog towns were also searched by traversing the towns and examining burrows for whitewash or other sign of activity (i.e., mutes, feathers).

A.2.2 Greater Sage-grouse Lek Surveys

Eleven known greater sage-grouse leks or satellite leks within 2.0 mi of the Nichols Ranch ISR project area were searched for activity (three site visits) between April 2 and May 1, 2015, in accordance with the approved wildlife monitoring plan. None of these leks are located within either the Nichols Ranch or Hank Unit boundaries. Biologists drove to the area and used

binoculars and/or spotting scopes to locate the lek area and to count the peak number of male and female greater sage-grouse present during each survey. Three lek searches were conducted at each lek, and surveys were conducted from as close to sunrise as possible to 0.5 hour after sunrise.

A.3.0 2015 RESULTS

A.3.1 Raptor Nest Survey

Seventy-eight nests within the raptor nest survey area were surveyed by biologists from Wildlife Resources, LLC, of Big Horn, Wyoming, during the spring of 2015. Of the 78 nests, eight nests were determined to be active. Active nests included three red tailed hawk nests, one great horned owl nest, one prairie falcon aerie, one turkey vulture nest, one golden eagle nest, and one long eared owl nest. The red tailed hawk, great horned owl, turkey vulture, and prairie falcon nests were located in or near the Hank Unit survey area and the golden eagle and long eared owl nests were located near the Nichols Ranch Unit. Only two nests--the great horned owl nest and the golden eagle nest produced young. The locations and status of all 78 nests are described in Table A.1 and illustrated on Exhibit A.1. Four nest structures were newly recorded in 2015. The four new nests are located within the Hank Unit. The increase in the number of nests was likely due to increased familiarity of the field biologists with the project area (specifically the Hank Unit) associated with the rugged conditions and dense vegetation around that portion of the Pumpkin Buttes. Two of the new nests were also active in 2015 and were occupied by red tailed hawks.

A.3.2 Greater Sage-grouse Lek Surveys

Eleven leks were surveyed three times between April 2 and May 1, 2015, by biologists from Wildlife Resources, LLC, of Big Horn, Wyoming. Four of the leks (Windmill Satellite, Windmill, Hines NW, and North Butte Satellite) were determined to be active in 2015. The remaining 7 leks were inactive. The Windmill Satellite lek had a peak male attendance of 15 birds, compared to a peak of eight males observed at the lek in 2014. The locations of the leks are illustrated on Exhibit A.1 and additional lek data is presented in Table A.2, respectively.

Table A.1 Locations and Activity Status of Raptor Nests, Nichols Ranch ISR Project, 2015.

Unit	WLR/ BLM ID	SPECIES	TWN	RNG	Sec, qq/q	Easting	Northing	Date	Status	Production	Condition	Sub/Ht'	Nest/Ht'
Hank	A6-15	RETA	43	75	7, NW/NE	426149	4841190	5/26/2015	ACTI	N/A	GOOD	CTL/30'	Sticks/25'
Hank	A7-15	RETA	43	75	8, SW/NW	426924	4840775	5/26/2015	ACTI	N/A	GOOD	CTL/50'	Sticks/40'
Hank	4098	RETA	44	76	36, NE/NE	425170	4844450	6/1/2015	ACTI	N/A	GOOD	CTL/50'	Sticks/40'
Hank	4529	GRHO	43	75	7, NE/NW	425809	4841286	5/26/2015	ACTI	2 Class IV young	GOOD	CTL/45'	Sticks/30'
Hank	12893	TUVU	44	75	32, SW/SW	427060	4843210	5/27/2015	ACTI	N/A	GOOD	Hole	Dirt
Hank	13019	PRFA	43	75	5, NW/NW	427354	4843011	5/27/2015	ACTI	N/A		CLF	
Hank	3654	GRHO	43	75	7, NE/NW	425810	4841363	5/26/2015	INAC		GONE	CLF	Sticks/18'
Hank	3655	RETA	43	75	7, NW/NE	426126	4841173	5/26/2015	INAC		GONE	Tree fell	Sticks/30'
Hank	3658	GRHO	43	75	7, NW/NW	425538	4841443	5/26/2015	INAC		GONE	CTL/40'	Sticks/35'
Hank	4101	LOOW	43	76	1, NE/NE	425028	4842796	5/26/2015	INAC		POOR	JUL/18'	Sticks/12'
Hank	4102	PRFA	44	75	32, SW/SW	427040	4843215	5/27/2015	INAC			ROC	
Hank	4103	PRFA	44	75	32, SW/SW	427130	4843380	5/27/2015	INAC			ROC	
Hank	4106	LOOW	44	75	30, NE/SW	425968	4845500	6/1/2015	INAC		FAIR	JUL/15'	Sticks/8'
Hank	4115	UNRA	43	76	1, NW/SE	424626	4842237	5/26/2015	INAC		POOR	JUL/12'	Sticks/7'
Hank	4527	LOOW	43	76	1, NE/SE	425162	4841951	5/26/2015	INAC		GONE	JUL/16'	Sticks/12'
Hank	4528	GOEA	43	75	7, NW/NW	425405	4841428	5/26/2015	INAC		GONE	Tree fell	Sticks/35'
Hank	4531	GRHO	43	75	7, SE/NW	425852	4840885	5/26/2015	INAC		FAIR	CTL/35'	Sticks/25'
Hank	4533	BBMA	43	75	7, SW/SW	425535	4839860	5/26/2015	INAC		BBMA	CTL/35'	Sticks/15'
Hank	4536	GRHO	43	76	13, NE/NE	424825	4839733	5/26/2015	INAC		POOR	CTL/45'	Sticks/30'
Hank	6185	UNRA	43	76	13, NE/NE	424860	4839710	5/26/2015	INAC		GONE	dup of 4536	Sticks
Hank	6517	GRHO	43	75	8, NW/NW	426895	4841340	5/26/2015	INAC		GONE	CLF	Dirt/20'
Hank	6518	LOOW	43	75	7, SE/NE	426766	4840910	5/26/2015	INAC		POOR	JUL/15'	Sticks/10'
Hank	6521	UNRA	43	75	8, NW/SW	427150	4840503	5/26/2015	INAC		FAIR	JUL/14'	Sticks/10'
Hank	6522	UNRA	43	75	8, NW/SW	427191	4840479	5/26/2015	INAC		GONE	CTL/35'	Sticks/25'
Hank	6523	UNRA	43	75	8, NW/SW	427193	4840478	5/26/2015	INAC		POOR	JUL/18'	Sticks/10'
Hank	6524	UNRA	43	75	8, NW/SW	427203	4840367	5/26/2015	INAC		POOR	JUL/15'	Sticks/10'
Hank	6525	BBMA	43	75	8, SW/SW	427216	4840197	5/26/2015	INAC		GONE	Tree Fell	Sticks/12'
Hank	6534	RETA	43	75	8, SW/NW	426984	4840745	5/26/2015	INAC		GONE	CTL/50'	Sticks/40'
Hank	6535	RETA	43	75	8, SW/NW	426940	4840760	5/26/2015	INAC		GONE	CTL/10'	Sticks/10'
Hank	12340	BBMA	44	76	25, NE/NE	425109	4846310	6/1/2015	INAC		POOR	JUN	

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Table A.1 (Continued)

Unit	WLR/ BLM ID	SPECIES	TWN	RNG	Sec, qq/q	Easting	Northing	Date	Status	Production	Condition	Sub/Ht'	Nest/Ht'
Hank	12800	UNRA	43	75	7, SE/NE	426712	4840910	5/26/2015	INAC		FAIR	CTL/40'	Sticks/30'
Hank	12844	UNRA	43	75	5, NE/SW	427461	4842035	5/27/2015	INAC		FAIR	JUL/12'	Sticks/8'
Hank	12865	GRHO	44	76	25, NE/NE	425277	4846360	6/1/2015	INAC		POOR	CTL/30'	Sticks/25'
Hank	12902	UNRA	43	75	6, NW/NW	425247	4842889	5/26/2015	INAC		GONE	JUL/25'	Sticks/20'
Hank	13009	UNRA	43	75	5, NE/SW	427465	4842089	5/27/2015	INAC		GONE	JUL/15'	Sticks/12'
Hank	13010	UNRA	43	75	5, NE/SW	427610	4842276	5/27/2015	INAC		POOR	JUL/15'	Sticks/10'
Hank	13386	UNRA	44	75	30, SE/SE	426871	4845207	6/1/2015	INAC		POOR	JUN/20'	Sticks/12'
Hank	13471	UNRA	43	75	8, SW/SW	427209	4839955	5/26/2015	INAC		POOR	CTL/35'	Sticks/20'
Hank	13474	UNRA	43	75	7, NW/NW	425435	4841389	5/26/2015	INAC		FAIR	CTL/45'	Sticks/35'
Hank	13488	UNRA	43	75	6, SE/NE	426826	4842568	5/27/2015	INAC		FAIR	JUN/12'	Sticks/8'
Hank	13489	UNRA	43	75	8, NW/SW	427012	4840662	5/26/2015	INAC		POOR	JUN/15'	Sticks/10'
Hank	13491	UNRA	43	75	7, NE/NW	426029	4841226	5/26/2015	INAC		POOR	JUN/18'	Sticks/10'
Hank	13492	UNRA	43	75	8, NW/SW	427004	4840672	5/26/2015	INAC		FAIR	JUN/20'	Sticks/15'
Hank	13493	UNRA	43	75	8, NW/SW	427008	4840671	5/26/2015	INAC		GONE	JUN/20'	Sticks/15'
Hank	13496	UNRA	43	75	8, NW/SW	427185	4840383	5/26/2015	INAC		POOR	JUN/25'	Sticks/15'
Hank	13584	PRFA	44	75	32, SW/SW	427033	4843274	5/27/2015	INAC			CLF	
Hank	13587	UNRA	44	75	30, NW/SE	426255	4845466	6/1/2015	INAC		GONE	CTL/60'	Sticks/45'
Hank	13595	UNRA	43	75	8, SE/NW	427380	4841060	5/26/2015	INAC		FAIR	JUN/30'	Sticks/18'
Hank	12843	UNRA	43	75	8, NW/SW	427204	4840440	5/26/2015	INAC		FAIR	JUL/20'	Sticks/15'
Hank	11-15	UNRA	44	75	31, SE/NE	426768	4843928	6/1/2015	INAC		FAIR	JUN/12'	Sticks/10'
Hank	12-15	UNRA	44	75	32, SW/NW	427286	4844298	6/1/2015	INAC		FAIR	JUN/15'	Sticks/12'
Nichols Ranch	5486	RETA	43	76	16, SE/NW	419491	4839078	5/22/2015	INAC		POOR	CTL/55'	Sticks/40'
Nichols Ranch	5491	LOOW	43	76	16, SW/NW	418730	4839255	5/22/2015	INAC		GONE	CTL/40'	Sticks/30'
Nichols Ranch	5531	UNRA	43	76	17, NE/NW	417680	4839800	5/22/2015	INAC		GONE	CTL/40'	Sticks/30'
Nichols Ranch	5532	RETA	43	76	17, NW/NW	417390	4839590	5/22/2015	INAC		GONE	CTL/35'	Sticks/20'
Nichols Ranch	5533	RETA	43	76	17, NW/NW	417380	4839615	5/22/2015	INAC		POOR	CTL/45'	Sticks/30'
Nichols Ranch	5534	UNRA	43	76	16, SW/NW	418790	4839206	5/22/2015	INAC		GONE	CTL/25'	Sticks/20'
Nichols Ranch	5535	UNRA	43	76	16, SW/NW	418720	4839265	5/22/2015	INAC		POOR	CTL/25'	Sticks/20'
Nichols Ranch	13478	UNRA	43	76	16, SE/NW	419493	4839080	5/22/2015	INAC		GONE	CTL/50'	Sticks/20'
Nichols Ranch	5495	GOEA	43	76	21, NE/NW	419454	4837968	5/22/2015	ACTI	2 Class III young	GOOD	CTL/50'	Sticks/45'

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Table A.1 (Continued)

Unit	WLR/ BLM ID	SPECIES	TWN	RNG	Sec, qq/q	Easting	Northing	Date	Status	Production	Condition	Sub/Ht'	Nest/Ht'
Nichols Ranch	13495	LOOW	43	76	20, NE/NE	418653	4837762	5/22/2015	ACTI	N/A	GOOD	JUN/25'	Sticks/15'
Nichols Ranch	4497	UNRA	43	76	17, SE/SE	418438	4838503	5/22/2015	INAC		GONE	CTL/55'	Sticks/25'
Nichols Ranch	4498	UNRA	43	76	16, SE/SW	419268	4838365	5/22/2015	INAC		GONE	CTL/50'	Sticks/30'
Nichols Ranch	4499	UNRA	43	76	19, NE/NE	416802	4838238	5/22/2015	INAC		POOR	CTL/45'	Sticks/30'
Nichols Ranch	4500	GOEA	43	76	20, NE/NE	418591	4837803	5/22/2015	INAC		GONE	CTL/50'	Sticks/40'
Nichols Ranch	5487	RETA	43	76	19, NW/NE	416557	4837912	5/22/2015	INAC		GONE	CTL/60'	Sticks/50'
Nichols Ranch	5494	GOEA	43	76	20, NE/NE	418662	4837768	5/22/2015	INAC		GONE	CLF	Sticks
Nichols Ranch	5511	GRHO	43	76	20, NE/SE	418271	4837232	5/22/2015	INAC		GONE	Tree Fell	Sticks/35'
Nichols Ranch	5537	GOEA	43	76	17, SW/SE	418170	4838235	5/22/2015	INAC		GONE		
Nichols Ranch	11945	UNRA	43	76	20, NW/SE	418259	4837251	5/22/2015	INAC		POOR	CTL	
Nichols Ranch	11946	BBMA	43	76	20, NE/SE	418676	4837265	5/22/2015	INAC		GONE	CTD	BBMA nest
Nichols Ranch	11947	UNRA	43	76	21, NW/NW	418751	4838059	5/22/2015	INAC		POOR	CTL	
Nichols Ranch	11948	UNRA	43	76	20, SE/NE	418580	4837806	5/22/2015	INAC		FAIR	CTL	
Nichols Ranch	11949	UNRA	43	76	20, NE/SE	418100	4838187	5/22/2015	INAC		FAIR	CTL	
Nichols Ranch	12757	GOEA	43	76	19, SE/NE	417064	4837702	5/22/2015	INAC		GONE	CTL/50'	Sticks/40'
Nichols Ranch	12963	UNRA	43	76	20, NE/SE	418630	4837317	5/22/2015	INAC		POOR	CTL/50'	Sticks/20'
Nichols Ranch	12965	UNRA	43	76	19, SE/NE	417032	4837780	5/22/2015	INAC		POOR	CTL/40'	Sticks/30'
Nichols Ranch	12967	UNRA	43	76	16, NW/SW	419028	4838833	5/22/2015	INAC		GONE	Tree fell	Sticks/35'

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Table A.1 (Continued)

Footnotes:

¹ SPECIES CODES

AMKE = American Kestrel
BAEA = Bald Eagle
BUOW = Burrowing Owl
COHA = Cooper's Hawk
FEHA = Ferruginous Hawk
GOEA = Golden Eagle
GRHO = Great Horned Owl
LOOW = Long-eared Owl
MERL = Merlin
NOGO = Northern Goshawk
NOHA = Northern Harrier
OSPR = Osprey
PEFA = Peregrine Falcon
PRFA = Prairie Falcon
RETA = Red-tailed Hawk
SHHA = Sharp-shinned hawk
SWHA = Swainson's Hawk
TUVU = Turkey Vulture
UNAC = Unknown Accipiter
UNBU = Unknown Buteo
UNOW = Unknown Owl
UNRA = Unknown Raptor
BBMA = Black-billed Magpie

² BREEDING STATUS

ACTI = Active
INAC = Inactive

³ NESTING SUBSTRATE

CTD = Cottonwood Tree Dead
CTL = Cottonwood Tree Live
CLF = Cliff
ROC = Rock Cavity
JUL = Juniper Tree Live
JUN = Juniper Tree

<u>Lek I.D.</u>	<u>Sec. qd/q</u>	<u>Twn</u>	<u>Rng</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Air/ ground</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Cottonwood Creek 2	15, SE/SE	43	76	421621	4838450	Campbell	4/3/2015	7:15 AM	Clear, calm, 25	0	0	0	Ground	
							4/17/2015	7:10 AM	Partly cloudy, calm, 40	0	0	0	Ground	
							5/1/2015	7:00 AM	Clear, calm, 40	0	0	0	Ground	
Hines	16, NW/SE	43	75	429600	4838600	Campbell	4/2/2015	6:30 AM	Partly cloudy, 0-5 NW, 40	0	0	0	Ground	
							4/12/2015	6:10 AM	Cloudy, 5-10 N, 40	0	0	0	Ground	
							4/30/2015	5:50 AM	Clear, 10-15 N, 40	0	0	0	Ground	
Hines NW	17, NE/NE	43	75	428443	4839637	Campbell	4/2/2015	7:10 AM	Partly cloudy, 0-5 NW, 40	8	2	0	Ground	
							4/12/2015	6:10 AM	Cloudy, 5-10 N, 40	4	0	0	Ground	
							4/30/2015	6:15 AM	Clear, 10-15 N, 40	0	0	0	Ground	
Windmill	2, SE/SE	43	76	423323	4841666	Campbell	4/3/2015	6:34 AM	Clear, calm, 25	0	0	0	Ground	
							4/17/2015	6:20 AM	Partly cloudy, calm, 40	1	0	0	Ground	
							5/1/2015	6:02 AM	Clear, calm, 40	0	0	0	Ground	
Windmill Sat.	11, NE/NE	43	76	423429	4841417	Campbell	4/3/2015	6:30 AM	Clear, calm, 25	8	3	0	Ground	
							4/17/2015	6:30 AM	Partly cloudy, calm, 40	15	6	0	Ground	
							5/1/2015	6:15 AM	Clear, calm, 40	12	0	0	Ground	
Windmill North	35, SE/SE	44	76	423500	4843360	Campbell	4/3/2015	6:30 AM	Clear, calm, 20	0	0	0	Ground	
							4/17/2015	6:15 AM	Mostly clear, calm, 35	0	0	0	Ground	
							5/1/2015	6:00 AM	Clear, calm, 40	0	0	0	Ground	
Windmill NW	2, NE/SW	43	76	422599	4842051	Campbell	4/3/2015	6:45 AM	Clear, calm, 25	0	0	0	Ground	
							4/17/2015	6:45 AM	Partly cloudy, calm, 40	0	0	0	Ground	
							5/1/2015	6:40 AM	Clear, calm, 40	0	0	0	Ground	
North Butte Sat.	20, NE/SW	44	75	427450	4846946	Campbell	4/3/2015	6:50 AM	Clear, calm, 20	3	1	0	Ground	
							4/17/2015	6:35 AM	Mostly clear, calm, 35	3	0	0	Ground	
							5/1/2015	6:14 AM	Clear, calm, 40	8	0	0	Ground	

Table A.2 Location Greater-sage Grouse Leks and Number of Birds Observed, Nichols Ranch
ISR Project, 2015.

<u>Lek I.D.</u>	<u>Sec. q/q</u>	<u>Twn</u>	<u>Rng</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Air/ ground</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Gilbertz III	21, SE/SW	44	75	429307	4846518	Campbell	4/3/2015	7:00 AM	Clear, calm, 20	0	0	0	Ground	
							4/17/2015	6:40 AM	Mostly clear, calm, 35	0	0	0	Ground	
							5/1/2015	6:23 AM	Clear, calm, 40	0	0	0	Ground	
Gilbertz III Sat 21, SW/SW	44	75	428960	4846700	Campbell	4/3/2015	7:00 AM	Clear, calm, 20	0	0	0	Ground		
						4/17/2015	6:40 AM	Mostly clear, calm, 35	0	0	0	Ground		
						5/1/2015	6:23 AM	Clear, calm, 40	0	0	0	Ground		
Mud Spring Creek	33, NE/NE	44	75	430151	4844662	Campbell	4/3/2015	7:10 AM	Clear, calm, 20	0	0	0	Ground	
							4/17/2015	7:07 AM	Mostly clear, calm, 35	0	0	0	Ground	
							5/1/2015	6:50 AM	Clear, calm, 40	0	0	0	Ground	

Table A.2 (Continued)

