

Duhring Resource Company – Lots 7, 8 & 13, Sheffield Township, Warren County, 27 wells, roads and tank batteries

Visual and Recreation Concerns: CL1 (Concern Level) travel corridors within these lots include: State Route 948, and the NCNST (North Country National Scenic Trail). The South Branch of Tionesta Creek is a CL2 travel corridor. There are several heavily used dispersed campsites (CL2) situated along the South Branch of Tionesta Creek accessed via a non-system road just south of the intersection of FRs 148 and 446.1

Access to wells in Lots 8 and 13 will be via FR 148 and constructed off an existing non-system road. All wells will be located within MA 2.2 and situated within Variety Class B (Common) and classified within Scenic Class 4. The ANF Proposed LRMP (USDA-FS May 2006, p. III-12) specifies that the SIO (Scenic Integrity Level) of this area remain low. A Low SIO should *appear altered*. *Deviations from the valued landscape character may begin to dominate the landscape being viewed, but they should borrow valued attributes such as size, shape, edge effect and pattern of natural openings, vegetative type changes, or architectural styles that may occur elsewhere.* Once well sites are constructed, the SIO of the area will remain Low. No mitigation measures are prescribed at this time.

Access to well sites 7-17, 7-18 and 7-19 will be via newly constructed non-system spur roads off of FR 148. Access to the other 7 wells will be via FR 103 and spur roads constructed off of FR 103. These wells will be situated within Variety Class B (Common) and classified within Scenic Class 2. The ANF Proposed LRMP (USDA-FS May 2006, p. III-11) specifies that the SIO of this area remain moderate. A moderate SIO should *appear slightly altered*. *The valued landscape character appears slightly altered. Noticeable deviations must remain visually subordinate to the landscape being viewed.* Once well sites 7-13, 7-14, 7-15 & 7-16 are constructed, the SIO of the area will remain moderate. Once well sites 7-17, 7-18, 7-19, 7-20, 7-21 & 7-22 are constructed, the SIO of moderate will not be met. Wells 7-17 – 7-22 have the potential of being seen from CL1 travel corridor of State Route 948 and well 7-18 has the potential of being seen from the NCNST. To mitigate these visual and recreation concerns the following mitigation measures are prescribed:

Mitigation Measures:

1. Maintain a vegetative buffer of at least 200 feet between well 7-18 and the NCNST and well 7-19 and the South Branch of Tionesta Creek.
2. Maintain a vegetative buffer of at least 100 feet between well sites 7-20, 7-21 & 7-22 and State Route 948.
3. Foreground stumps shall be pulled and scattered at least 100' between the NCNST and SR 948 and the wells or disposed of in a pit.
4. Slash shall be pulled back 25' from the edge of open roads and will be loped and scattered to a 3' depth for an additional 75' feet along the NCNST and SR 948.
5. Design layout of new roads to minimize visual impacts to the NCNST and SR 948 (no straight line road clearances and no views of wells and tank batteries). Plantings and/or vegetative cuttings may be needed at the entrance to the

roadways to help feather the visual effects (gravel road appearance) from motorists traveling SR 948 of hikers using the NCNST.

6. If needed, plant vegetation to screen activities from the NCNST and SR 948. Trees and/or shrubs shall be planted in groups of 3, 5 or 7 and should include native species such as hemlock and/or white pine.
7. Minimize the use of security lights when possible. If lights are necessary, they should be placed so they are not visible from the NCNST and SR 948
8. No OGM ATV activity will be permitted on the NCNST.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Julie A. Moyer

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