



Collaboration, Conservation and Commitment on the Pinedale Anticline

For Immediate Release

June 19, 2007

Ultra, Shell and Questar Fund Three-Year Habitat and Vegetation Study on the Pinedale Anticline

Pinedale, WY- Ultra Resources, Inc., Shell Exploration & Production Company, and Questar Market Resources will fund a habitat and vegetation inventory of the Pinedale Anticline Project Area (PAPA). The study will gather data to assist management efforts of habitat exposed to ongoing natural gas development operations on the Anticline. TRC Environmental Corporation (TRC), an environmental consulting firm based in Laramie, Wyoming, has been contracted to conduct the study. The habitat and vegetation inventory project will be conducted in collaboration with biologists at the Pinedale Bureau of Land Management and Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

"TRC is pleased to have the opportunity to be a part of this important study. It is encouraging that Shell, Ultra, and Questar are taking a proactive stewardship role in an area that is so rich in both wildlife and natural resources", said Diane Thomas Project Manager for TRC

The 198,034-acre Pinedale Anticline is primarily dominated by big sagebrush communities and contains large seasonal and year-round concentrations of greater sage-grouse, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope. Ultra, Shell and Questar are currently exploring and developing the significant natural gas resource of the Pinedale Anticline, 2nd largest gas field in the United States, and have recently proposed a new, long-term management approach for operations.

The three-year inventory effort will analyze habitat needs of greater sage-grouse, pronghorn antelope and mule deer within the Anticline's sagebrush and shrub-dominated communities. Data will include:

- Descriptions of vegetation types and coverage conditions
- Assessment of the vegetative condition, health and potential management needs of the habitat
- Account for the presence of wildlife and provide information on each species' use of specific habitats

Inventory results will be used to facilitate habitat management, reclamation-restoration related efforts and identify short and long-term habitat improvement needs as well as potential habitat mitigation projects.

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The inventory will also provide useful information for other ongoing Ultra, Shell and Questar sponsored research including the Western Ecosystems Technologies Sublette Mule Deer Study, the Wildlife Conservation Society's Pronghorn Study, and the Wyoming Wildlife Consultants' Greater Sage-grouse Study. TRC currently provides annual wildlife monitoring for the Pinedale Anticline, which is also funded by Ultra, Shell and Questar, as well as BP America and Yates Petroleum.

The study is expected to begin in 2007 and run through 2009.

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