

St. Croix Operating, Inc.  
Vaquero #1  
NENW Section 11, T3S R50W  
Washington County, Colorado

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**WILDLIFE PROTECTION PLAN**

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St. Croix Operating, Inc. (St. Croix) has drafted this plan in accordance with Rules 304.c.(17) and 1201.a.

St. Croix is committed to protecting the wildlife resources in this project area. The Vaquero #1 well pad is not located within any designated High Priority Habitat. There is Greater Prairie Chicken Production Area habitat within one mile of the location. It is also not located within Black Bear habitat. An Alternative Location Analysis process per Rule 304.b.(2).B.viii was not conducted because this is not located within or near any designated High Priority Habitat.

This plan covers one oil and gas location – the Vaquero #1.

The location and access road are situated within irrigated cropland.

St. Croix's implementation of COGCC Rules 1202.a and 1202.b are listed below.

<b>1202.a.(1)</b>	This location is not located in black bear habitat.
<b>1202.a.(2)</b>	There are no plans to withdraw or discharge into surface waters.
<b>1202.a.(3)</b>	St. Croix will not situate new staging, refueling, or Chemical storage areas within 500 feet of the Ordinary High Water Mark ("OHWM") of any river, perennial or intermittent stream, lake, pond, or wetland as part of this project.
<b>1202.a.(4)</b>	St. Croix is not proposing to construct or utilize any type of pit with this project.
<b>1202.a.(5)</b>	During flowline construction, if St. Croix's operations warrant leaving trenches open for more than 5 consecutive days during construction of Pipelines regulated pursuant to the Commission's 1100 Series Rules, Operator will install wildlife escape ramps at a minimum of one ramp per 1/4 mile of trench.
<b>1202.a.(6)</b>	When conducting interim and final Reclamation for the location and access road pursuant to Rules 1003 and 1004, St. Croix will use seed mixes as per Surface Owner's approval and intended future usage of the location. When conducting Reclamation for the off-location flowline, St. Croix will use CPW-recommended seed mixes for Reclamation when consistent with the Surface Owner's approval and any local soil conservation district requirements.

<b>1202.a.(7)</b>	If St. Croix installs a fence on location, they will use CPW-recommended fence designs when consistent with the Surface Owner's approval and any Relevant Local Government requirements.
<b>1202.a.(8)</b>	St. Croix will conduct all vegetation removal necessary for Oil and Gas Operations outside of the nesting season for migratory birds (April 1 to August 31). For any vegetation removal that must be scheduled between April 1 to August 31, Operator may implement appropriate hazing or other exclusion measures prior to April 1 to avoid take of migratory birds. If hazing or other exclusion measures are not implemented, Operator will conduct pre-construction nesting migratory bird surveys within the approved disturbance area prior to any vegetation removal during the nesting season. If active nests are located, Operator will provide work zone buffers around active nests.
<b>1202.a.(9)</b>	St. Croix is not proposing to construct or utilize any type of pit with this project.
<b>1202.a.(10)</b>	This oil and gas location is not located between 500 feet and 1000 feet hydraulically upgradient from a High Priority Habitat identified in Rule 1202.c.(1).Q–S.
<b>1202.b</b>	St. Croix is not proposing to construct any flowline or utility crossings of perennial streams identified as aquatic High Priority Habitat.

St. Croix proposes the below best management practices for their operations.

**ALL PHASES:**

- Minimize the amount of traffic on lease roads within 3 hours of sunrise and sunset as much as possible during all phases.
- No feeding of wildlife will be allowed on location.
- Inform and educate employees and contractors on wildlife conservation practices, including no harassment or feeding of wildlife.
- At this location, St. Croix will not situate new staging, refueling, or Chemical storage areas within 500 feet of the Ordinary High Water Mark ("OHWM") of any river, perennial or intermittent stream, lake, pond, or wetland.
- This location will have no pits.
- No pipelines are currently proposed to be constructed with this project.
- This location is not within 1000 feet of a High Priority Habitat.
- Avoid dust suppression activities within 300 feet of the ordinary high water mark of any reservoir, lake, wetland, or natural perennial or seasonally flowing stream or river.

**CONSTRUCTION PHASE:**

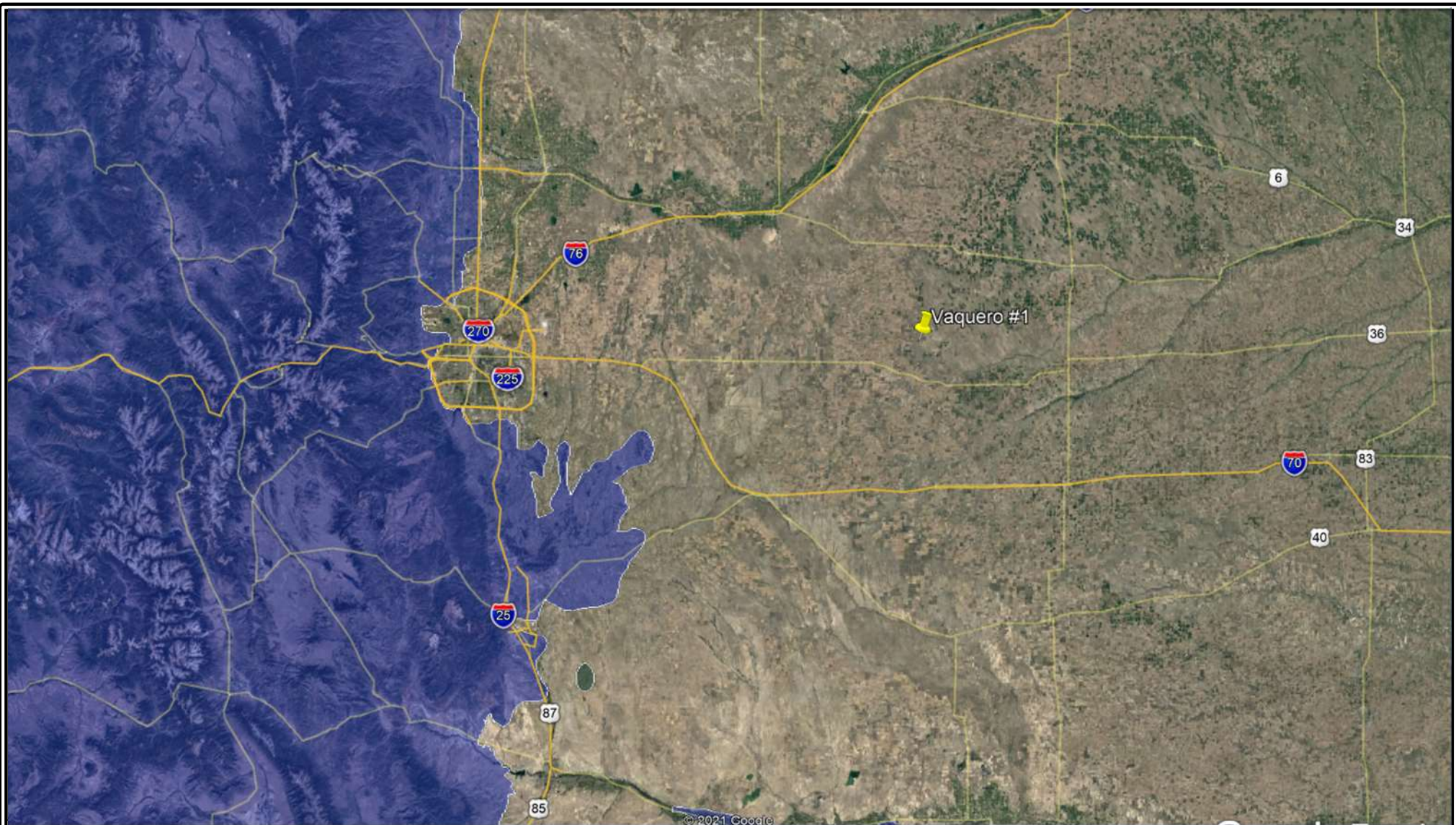
- If St. Croix plans to conduct any vegetation removal necessary for construction during the nesting season for migratory birds (April 1 to August 31), a pre-construction nesting migratory bird survey will be conducted within the approved disturbance area.

#### **DRILLING PHASE:**

- Operator will utilize a pit-less, closed loop system for drilling. Wells shall be drilled, completed, and operated using closed-loop pitless systems for containment and/or recycling of all drilling, completion, flowback and produced fluids.

#### **PRODUCTION PHASE:**

- Install exclusionary devices to prevent bird and other wildlife access to equipment stacks, vents, and openings.
- Install screening or other devices on the stacks and on other openings of heater treaters or fired vessels to prevent entry by migratory birds
- During off-flowline reclamation, wildlife-friendly seed mixes will be used with permission from the surface owner.



Vaquero #1  
St. Croix Operating, Inc.  
NENW S11 T3S R50W  
Black Bear Habitat Map

**Legend**



Black Bear Habitat



0 ft 15 Miles 30 Miles



Prepared By:  
Ardor Environmental LLC







August 8, 2021

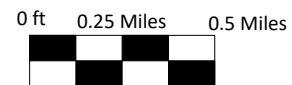




Vaquero #1  
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Wildlife Habitat Drawing

**Legend**

- |  |                      |   |                      |   |   |
|--|----------------------|---|----------------------|---|---|
|  | 1 Mile Radius        |  | Working Pad Surface  |  | Proposed Off-Location Flowline          |
|  | Oil and Gas Location |  | Proposed Access Road |  | Greater Prairie Chicken Production Area |



Prepared By:  
Ardor Environmental LLC

September 29, 2021