



April 6, 2020

Trent Taylor  
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## **RE: Bill Sanderson Gas Processing Plant Vegetation Inventory Summary – 2020 Update**

Trent Taylor,

Grouse Mountain Environmental Consultants (Grouse Mountain) would like to report on results from a vegetation inventory conducted for OE2 North LLC's (OE2) Bill Sanderson Gas Processing Plant (Plant) project located within section 27 T154N-R104W in Williams County, North Dakota. OE2 has submitted an application to the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) for siting of a facility for gas processing and compression equipment. OE2 contracted Grouse Mountain to conduct a vegetation inventory of trees, saplings, shrubs, and noxious weeds within the project area on March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Due to the vegetation inventory being conducted in early March, the results presented here may not represent all plant species present during the growing season. Specifically, Grouse Mountain was only able to identify those species of senesced grasses/forbs and/or dormant shrubs with features still intact enough for accurate identification. Please see summary findings for the proposed Bill Sanderson Gas Processing Plant below.

### **TREES, SAPLINGS, AND SHRUBS**

Within the proposed Plant boundary, silver buffaloberry (*Shepherdia argentea*) and western snowberry (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*) are prevalent within both the western and eastern drainages. Minimal Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*), common juniper (*Juniperus communis*), and Saskatoon serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) were found on the drainage slopes within the northwest corner of the project boundary. The Saskatoon serviceberry, Rocky Mountain juniper, and common juniper are located outside of the proposed construction footprint and near the fence line; these plants will not be disturbed during construction of the Plant.

Grouse Mountain identified silver buffaloberry with stems >1-inch diameter at breast height (DBH). These shrubs often grow close together to form thickets where accurate stem counts are difficult to conduct (Attachment B, Photos 1-3). Within the proposed Plant footprint, only one thicket of buffaloberry was identified within the southcentral portion of the Plant footprint (Attachment A). Grouse Mountain estimated



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three (3) buffaloberry bushes with stems >1-inch DBH within this thicket which was delineated as 0.01 acres (Attachment A and B, Photo 1).

Grouse Mountain identified western snowberry within the Plant footprint (Table 1, Attachment A). However, this shrub is growing primarily as single-stemmed shoots in colonies along the drainages where stems are <1-inch DBH (Attachment B, Photos 4-5). These colonies spread through underground rhizomes and can cause the transition of native grasslands into shrublands when not controlled.

### **NOXIOUS WEEDS**

Fourteen (14) species of noxious weeds are present within Williams County, ND; thirteen (13) are declared by the State of North Dakota and one (1) was added by the Williams county Weed Board. No noxious weeds were identified in the upland areas of the site, and Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) was the only noxious weed identified in the drainages within the plant footprint. This weed grew sparsely throughout the drainages and was primarily identified as individual plants or in populations comprised of less than 5 individual plants.

See Attachment C for a complete plant list from the surveyed area. Some plants were not able to be identified in their current condition with surveys being conducted outside of the growing season.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns or would like to request additional information regarding the field surveys.

Thank you,

***Katie Taylor***

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**ATTACHMENT A  
FIGURES**

**Figure 1. OE2 North LLC: Bill Sanderson Gas Processing Plant Vegetation Inventory  
Report Map**

R 104 W

26

T 154 N

35

34

Silver Buffaloberry

27

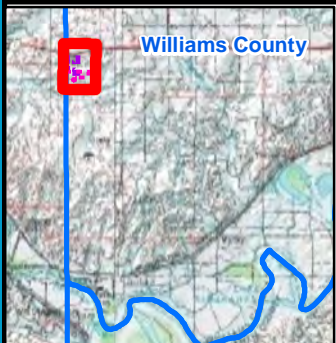
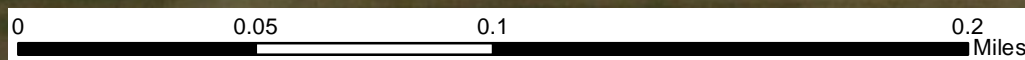
Photo 3

Photo 2

Photo 5

Photo 1

Photo 4



**Figure 1. OE2 North LLC: Bill Sanderson Gas Processing Plant Vegetation Inventory Report Map**

- Plant Boundary - Fence Line
- Plant Site Features
- Shrub Boundaries
- + Report Photo Points

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N  
 Projection: Transverse Mercator  
 Datum: North American 1983  
 Units: Meter  
 Scale: 1:2,562  
 Date: 4/6/2020  
 Created by: klawson  
 File Name: OUT-004\_Vegetation\_Map\_040320



**Attachment B**  
**Tree, Sapling, and Shrub Photographs**



*Photo 1. Silver buffaloberry thicket in the southern part of the Bill Sanderson Gas Processing Plant footprint.*



*Photo 2. Edge of a silver buffaloberry thicket in the western drainage within the Bill Sanderson Gas Processing Plant project boundary; outside of the proposed Plant footprint.*



*Photo 3. Various growth forms of silver buffaloberry within the northwest corner of the Bill Sanderson Gas Processing Plant project boundary; outside of the proposed Plant footprint.*



*Photo 4. Patch of western snowberry within the Bill Sanderson Gas Processing Plant footprint.*



*Photo 5. Large patch of western snowberry located just outside the Bill Sanderson Gas Processing Plant project boundary.*

**Attachment C**  
**Bill Sanderson Gas Processing Plant Inventory List**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Indicator Status	Comment(s)
<b><i>Within Drainages:</i></b>			
Western snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>	UPL	
Crested wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron cristatum</i>	UPL	
Silver buffaloberry	<i>Shepherdia argentea</i>	UPL	
Tufted hair grass	<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	FACW	
Big bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	FACU	
Prairie sandreed	<i>Calmovilfa longifolia</i>	UPL	
Common Yarrow	<i>Achillea milleflium</i>	UPL	
Tall hedgemustard	<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>	FACU	
Rose	<i>Rosa</i> spp.	FACU	
Green needlegrass	<i>Nassella viridula</i>	UPL	
Coneflower	<i>Echinecea</i> or <i>Rudbeckia</i> spp.	Unknown	Unable to identify to species at this time.
Unknown Sedge	<i>Carex</i> spp.	Unknown	Possibly threadleaf sedge, but unable to identify at this time.
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	FACU	Noxious weed
Rocky Mountain juniper	<i>Juniperus Scopulorum</i>	UPL	
Common juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	UPL	
Saskatoon serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	FACU	
Burdock	<i>Arctium</i> spp.	Unknown	
Cudweed sagewort	<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>	UPL	
Poa	<i>Poa</i> spp.	Unknown	Unable to identify to species at this time.
Western wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	FACU	
Tarragon/Green sagewort	<i>Artemisia dracunculus</i>	UPL	
<b><i>Within Upland:</i></b>			
Little bluestem		FACU	
Coneflower	<i>Echinecea</i> or <i>Rudbeckia</i> spp.	Unknown	Unable to identify to species at this time.
Blue grama	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	UPL	
Crested wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron cristatum</i>	UPL	
Prairie sandreed	<i>Calmovilfa longifolia</i>	UPL	
Prairie sagewort	<i>Artemisia frigida</i>	UPL	
Common yarrow	<i>Achillea milleflium</i>	UPL	
Prairie sandreed	<i>Calmovilfa longifolia</i>	UPL	
Cudweed sagewort	<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>	UPL	
Purple threeawn	<i>Aristida purpurea</i>	UPL	
Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum</i> spp.	UPL	
Candle anemone	<i>Anemone cylindrica</i>	UPL	
Tarragon/Green sagewort	<i>Artemisia dracunculus</i>	UPL	