

The image shows three oil drilling rigs in a field. The rig on the left is blue and white, the middle one is white and blue, and the one on the right is red and white. They are set against a backdrop of snow-capped mountains under a cloudy sky. The foreground is a dry, grassy field.

Low Impact Drilling Operations

Alfred W. Eustes III
Colorado School of Mines
Petroleum Engineering Department

Low Impact Drilling

- Defined as rig equipment and drilling operations that minimize the disturbance to the environment.
- Wildlife and Habitats
 - Fragmentation
 - Harassment
- Land Disturbance
 - Locations
 - Access
- Discharges
 - Solids
 - Liquids
 - Gases
- People
 - Sound
 - View

How?

- Directional Drilling using Pads
- Zero Discharge Systems
- Purpose Built Rigs
- Performance

Directional Drilling on Pads



Questar's Winter Pad on the Pinedale Anticline

Zero Discharge Systems



Purpose Built Rigs



Helmerick and Payne Flex Rig



Ensign Self Skidding Rig

Performance

- Crews
 - Education
 - Training
- Operations
 - Efficiency
 - Speed