#### SMITH STEPHEN P

Form 4

February 16, 2012

## FORM 4

### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB 3235-0287 Number:

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES** 

January 31, Expires: 2005

**OMB APPROVAL** 

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue.

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

burden hours per response... 0.5

Estimated average

See Instruction 1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

SMITH STEPHEN P

Symbol

(Check all applicable)

NATURAL RESOURCE PARTNERS LP [NRP]

(Last)

(Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Month/Day/Year)

02/14/2012

X\_ Director Officer (give title

10% Owner Other (specify

200 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, 14TH **FLOOR** 

(Street)

(First)

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Applicable Line)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year)

\_X\_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

Issuer

below)

COLUMBUS, OH 43215

(State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)

(City)

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

(Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following

Reported

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Beneficial Ownership Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

(A)

Transaction(s) or (Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price

Common Units

3,551.5664 D

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

(9-02)

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1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number proof Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exerci Expiration Dat (Month/Day/Y	te	7. Title and A Underlying S (Instr. 3 and	Securities	8 1 2 (
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Phantom Units (1)	(2) (3)					02/28/2012	02/28/2012	Common Units	3,000	
Phantom Units (1)	(2) (3)					02/26/2013	02/26/2013	Common Units	3,000	
Phantom Units (1)	(2) (3)					02/11/2014	02/11/2014	Common Units	3,000	
Phantom Units (1)	(2) (3)					02/10/2015	02/10/2015	Common Units	3,000	
Phantom Units (1)	(2) (3)	02/14/2012		A	3,700	02/14/2016	02/14/2016	Common Units	3,700	
Phantom Units (1)	(2) (3)	02/14/2012		A	580	02/10/2015	02/10/2015	Common Units	580	
Phantom Units (1)	(2) (3)	02/14/2012		A	475	02/11/2014	02/11/2014	Common Units	475	
Phantom Units (1)	(2) (3)	02/14/2012		A	375	02/26/2013	02/26/2013	Common Units	375	

# **Reporting Owners**

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships				
1 8	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other	
SMITH STEPHEN P 200 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE 14TH FLOOR COLUMBUS, OH 43215	X				

## **Signatures**

Stephen P. Smith	02/16/2012			
**Signature of Reporting Person	Date			

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## **Explanation of Responses:**

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) The phantom units were granted to the reporting person under the issuer's long-term incentive plan.
- (2) The phantom units will be paid in cash based on the average closing price of the common units for the 20 trading days immediately prior to the date of vesting.
- (3) Award includes tandem distribution equivalent rights pursuant to which the quarterly distributions paid by the partnership on each unit will be accrued over the vesting period and paid on vesting.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.