

CARTER NICK  
Form 4  
February 24, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

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

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
CARTER NICK

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
NATURAL RESOURCE PARTNERS LP [NRP]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
  
(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
5260 IRWIN ROAD  
  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
02/22/2012

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
President & COO

HUNTINGTON, WV 25705

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
\_\_\_\_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price
Common Units <sup>(1)</sup>	02/22/2012		M		10,000	A	\$ 27,000
Common Units <sup>(1)</sup>	02/22/2012		D		10,000	D	\$ 26.9 <sup>(1)</sup>
Common Units							210
						I	By Spouse

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form**

SEC 1474 (9-02)

**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)

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. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Phantom Units <sup>(2)</sup>	<u>(5)</u>	02/22/2012		M	10,000	02/22/2012	02/22/2012	Common Units	10,000
Phantom Units <sup>(2)</sup>	<u>(3)</u> <u>(4)</u>					02/12/2013	02/12/2013	Common Units	14,000
Phantom Units <sup>(2)</sup>	<u>(3)</u> <u>(4)</u>					02/11/2014	02/11/2014	Common Units	14,000
Phantom Units <sup>(2)</sup>	<u>(3)</u> <u>(4)</u>					02/10/2015	02/10/2015	Common Units	15,000
Phantom Units <sup>(2)</sup>	<u>(3)</u> <u>(4)</u>					02/14/2016	02/14/2016	Common Units	16,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
CARTER NICK 5260 IRWIN ROAD HUNTINGTON, WV 25705			President & COO	

## Signatures

Nick Carter 02/24/2012

     \*\*Signature of Reporting Person

    Date

## 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 common units were deemed to have been purchased and sold on the date of vesting of the phantom units listed in Table II, which were paid in cash on a one for one basis based on the average closing price of the common units for the 20 trading days immediately preceding the date of vesting.

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- (2) The phantom units were granted to the reporting person under the issuer's long term incentive plan.
- (3) The phantom units will be paid in cash based on the average closing price of the common units for the 20 trading days immediately preceding the date of vesting.
- (4) 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.
- (5) As described in Footnote 1, upon vesting, the phantom units were paid in cash on a one for one basis based on the average closing price of the common units for the 20 trading days immediately preceding the date of 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.