

SMITH STEPHEN P
 Form 4
 February 29, 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 *
 SMITH STEPHEN P

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)
 200 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, 14TH FLOOR
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 02/28/2012

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)

COLUMBUS, OH 43215

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 ⁽¹⁾	02/28/2012		M		3,000	A ⁽¹⁾	\$ 26.4
Common Units ⁽¹⁾	02/28/2012		D		3,000	D ⁽¹⁾	\$ 26.4 ⁽²⁾

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

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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.

- (3) The phantom units were granted to the reporting person under the issuer's long-term incentive plan.
- (4) 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.
- (5) 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.

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