

Craig Kevin J
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 *
Craig Kevin J

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)
VP-Business Development

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 ⁽¹⁾ | 02/22/2012 | | M | | 5,000 | A | 11 |
| Common Units ⁽¹⁾ | 02/22/2012 | | D | | 5,000 | D | \$ 26.9 ⁽¹⁾ |

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

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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) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Phantom Units ⁽²⁾ | <u>(5)</u> | 02/22/2012 | | M | 5,000 | 02/22/2012 02/22/2012 | Common Units | 5,000 |
| Phantom Units ⁽²⁾ | <u>(3)</u> <u>(4)</u> | | | | | 02/12/2013 02/12/2013 | Common Units | 6,000 |
| Phantom Units ⁽²⁾ | <u>(3)</u> <u>(4)</u> | | | | | 02/11/2014 02/11/2014 | Common Units | 8,000 |
| Phantom Units ⁽²⁾ | <u>(3)</u> <u>(4)</u> | | | | | 02/10/2015 02/10/2015 | Common Units | 8,000 |
| Phantom Units ⁽²⁾ | <u>(3)</u> <u>(4)</u> | | | | | 02/14/2016 02/14/2016 | Common Units | 9,000 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Craig Kevin J 5260 IRWIN ROAD HUNTINGTON, WV 25705 | | | VP-Business Development | |

Signatures

Kevin J. Craig 02/24/2012
 **Signature of Date
 Reporting Person

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).
- 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
- (1) 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.
 - (2) The phantom units were granted to the reporting person under the issuer's long term plan.

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- (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.