

MORIAN S REED  
Form 4  
February 29, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31, 2015  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 \*  
**MORIAN S REED**

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)

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

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

**601 JEFFERSON, SUITE 3600**

(Street)

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

**HOUSTON, TX 77002**

(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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |           |                           |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|-----------|---------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |   |           |                           |
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | Code  | V   | Amount   |   |           |                           |
| Common Units <u>(1)</u>         | 02/28/2012                           |  | M                              | 3,000   | <u>A</u><br><u>(1)</u>  | <u>2</u>   | 2,094,991   | D         |                           |
| Common Units <u>(1)</u>         | 02/28/2012                           |  | D                              | 3,000   | <u>D</u><br><u>(1)</u>  | <u>2</u>   | \$<br>26.4  | 2,091,991 | D                         |
| Common Units                    |                                      |  |                                |   |   |  | 600,972   | I         | By MOCOL Properties, L.P. |
| Common Units                    |                                      |  |                                |   |   |  | 3,044,937   | I         | By Shadder Investments    |

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

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SEC 1474  
(9-02)

**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 (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 |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--|-----------------|---|-------------------------------|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V (A) (D)  | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date | Title   |                               |
| Phantom Units <sup>(3)</sup>               | <u>(2)</u>   | 02/28/2012                           |  | M                              | 3,000  | 02/28/2012   | 02/28/2012      | Common Units  | 3,000                         |
| Phantom Units <sup>(3)</sup>               | <u>(4)</u> <u>(5)</u>                                  |                                      |  |                                |  | 02/26/2013   | 02/26/2013      | Common Units  | 3,375                         |
| Phantom Units <sup>(3)</sup>               | <u>(4)</u> <u>(5)</u>                                  |                                      |  |                                |  | 02/11/2014   | 02/11/2014      | Common Units  | 3,475                         |
| Phantom Units <sup>(3)</sup>               | <u>(4)</u> <u>(5)</u>                                  |                                      |  |                                |  | 02/10/2015   | 02/10/2015      | Common Units  | 3,580                         |
| Phantom Units <sup>(3)</sup>               | <u>(4)</u> <u>(5)</u>                                  |                                      |  |                                |  | 02/14/2016   | 02/14/2016      | Common Units  | 3,700                         |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                  | Relationships |           |         |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| MORIAN S REED<br>601 JEFFERSON, SUITE 3600<br>HOUSTON, TX 77002 |               |           | X       |       |

## Signatures

S. Reed Morian                      02/29/2012  
 \*\*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).
- (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.
- (2) 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. 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.