



Western Plains Petroleum Ltd.

Western Plains Petroleum to Commence Drilling on Blackfoot Property

For Immediate Release

March 17, 2011

CALGARY, ALBERTA – Western Plains Petroleum Ltd. (TSXV:WPP) (“**Western Plains**” or the “**Company**”) announces that, as an update to its press release of February 10, 2011, in respect of a proposed 3 well (1.0 net well to the Company) drilling program, the first well of the program is expected to be spudded this weekend. The remaining 2 wells on adjacent sections are expected to be spudded until after break-up. All 3 drilling locations are located on the Blackfoot property in the Lloydminster heavy oil area of Alberta, in which the Company acquired a net 33.33% interest in August 2010. Drilling and completion of each well is expected to cost approximately \$380,000 (\$126,000 net to the Company) and will be funded from the Company’s working capital. The Company is the operator of these interests.

Also post break-up, the Company is planning to spud a well (0.5 net to the Company) on its Kitscoty property, located approximately 13 kilometres northwest of Lloydminster, Alberta. The Company acquired 100% of the petroleum and natural gas rights in the Kitscoty property at an Alberta Crown land sale on a 50/50 basis with an industry partner in early 2011 [or late 2010].

About Western Plains Petroleum Ltd.

Western Plains is a Lloydminster, Alberta, based junior heavy oil producer with interests located in the Lloydminster area in both Saskatchewan and Alberta. The common shares of the Company trade on the TSX Venture Exchange under the symbol WPP.

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Reader Advisory

This news release includes management's assessment of future plans and operations, wells to be drilled, timing of drilling of wells, re-activation activities, production estimates and planned capital expenditures, which may constitute forward-

looking statements under applicable securities laws and necessarily involve risks including, without limitation, risks associated with oil and gas development, production, competition from other producers, inability to retain drilling rigs and other services, delays resulting from or inability to obtain required regulatory approvals, and the inability to fund required capital expenditures. Actual future results may differ materially from those assumed or described in such forward-looking statements as a result of the impact of issues, risks and uncertainties whether described herein or not, which Western Plains may not be able to control. The reader is therefore cautioned not to place undue reliance on such forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements contained in this news release are made as of the date hereof and Western Plains undertakes no obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by applicable securities laws. The forward-looking statements contained in this news release are expressly qualified by this cautionary statement.