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MERIDIAN RESOURCE CORP Form S-8 POS May 18, 2010

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 18, 2010

Registration No. 333-83737

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549 Post-Effective Amendment No. 1

to

FORM S-8

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933 THE MERIDIAN RESOURCE CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Texas 76-0319553

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

(I.R.S Employer Identification No.)

1401 Enclave Parkway, Suite 300, Houston, Texas

77077

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(Zip Code)

Meridian Resource Corporation Geoscientist Well Bonus Plan Meridian Resource Corporation TMR Employee Trust Well Bonus Plan

(Full title of the plan)

Paul D. Ching

Chief Executive Officer, President and Chairman of the Board

The Meridian Resource Corporation 1401 Enclave Parkway, Suite 300 Houston, Texas 77077 (281) 597-7000

(Name, address, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P.

Fulbright Tower

1301 McKinney, Suite 5100

Houston, Texas 77010-3095

Attention: Roger K. Harris

Telephone: (713) 651-5151

Facsimile: (713) 651-5246

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer o

Accelerated filer o

Non-accelerated filer b (Do not check if a smaller

Smaller reporting company o

reporting company)

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 (the Post-Effective Amendment) to the Form S-8 Registration Statement, Registration No. 333-83737, filed on July 26, 1999 (the Registration Statement), which registered an aggregate amount of 2,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and an equal number of associated rights pursuant to the Shareholder Rights Agreement, dated May 5, 1999, between The Meridian Resource Corporation, a Texas corporation (the Company), and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, is being filed in order to remove from registration securities remaining unsold under such Registration Statement.

On May 13, 2010, pursuant to an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of December 22, 2009, as amended, among the Company, Alta Mesa Holdings, LP, a Texas limited partnership (Alta Mesa), and Alta Mesa Acquisition Sub, LLC, a Texas limited liability company and a wholly owned subsidiary of Alta Mesa (Merger Sub), the Company merged with and into Merger Sub (the Merger), with Merger Sub continuing as the surviving company.

As a result of the Merger, the Company has terminated all offerings of its securities pursuant to the Registration Statement. Accordingly, pursuant to Item 512(a) of Regulation S-K promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Company hereby removes from registration any and all securities of the Company previously registered but not sold or otherwise issued under the Registration Statement as of the filing of this Post-Effective Amendment.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to Form S-8 to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Houston, State of Texas, on May 18, 2010.

THE MERIDIAN RESOURCE CORPORATION

By: /s/ Paul D. Ching
Paul D. Ching

Chief Executive Officer, President and

Chairman of the Board

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

/s/ Paul D. Ching	Chief Executive Officer	May 18, 2010
	(Principal Executive Officer)	
Paul D. Ching	President, Director and Chairman of the Board	
/s/ Lloyd V. DeLano	Chief Accounting Officer	May 18, 2010
	(Principal Accounting Officer)	
Lloyd V. DeLano		
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/s/ E. L. Henry	Director	May 18, 2010
E. L. Henry		
E. E. Helliy		
/s/ John B. Simmons	Director	May 18, 2010
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John B. Simmons		
/s/ Fenner R. Weller, Jr.	Director	May 18, 2010
Fenner R. Weller, Jr.		