

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, CO 81625-1129**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA-NUMBER: CO-100-2007-049 EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER/LEASE NUMBER: COC30337 Amendment

PROJECT NAME: Replacement of Existing Open Span Bridge Over Big Gulch With Three Culverts

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lot 1, Sec. 21, T7N, R93W, 6th PM, Moffat County, CO (Exhibit A)

APPLICANT: Pioneer Natural Resources USA, Inc. (Pioneer)

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The proposed action is subject to the following plan:

Name of Plans: Little Snake Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (ROD)

Date(s) Approved: April 26, 1989

Remarks: The proposed culvert crossing would be located within Management Unit 1, Eastern Yampa River (Little Snake Resource Management Plan). The objectives of Management Unit 1 are to realize the potential for coal, oil and gas resources. Realty actions such as rights-of-way, leases and permits, can be allowed on public land consistent with the objectives for this unit.

Results: The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3). The proposed action is in conformance with the objectives for this management unit.

NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION: The purpose of the proposed action is to allow Pioneer to remove an existing, open span 20-ft long bridge in poor condition over Big Gulch and replace it with three culverts to allow safe road access to their Alpha State 1-16 Well.

PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS: The NEPA log is posted on the Little Snake Field Office web site and published in the Craig Daily Press before the grant is issued to the applicant.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES: The proposed action is to approve an application for amendment to right-of-way (ROW) grant COC30337 to allow Pioneer to replace the bridge spanning Big Gulch in Lot 1, Section 21, T.7N., R.93W., with three culverts and compacted earth and gravel. Lot 1 of Section 21 is Federal surface/State minerals. ROW COC30337 was granted in 1980 and authorized an access road and well pads to allow development of oil and gas resources. Pioneer acquired the ROW by assignment approved on February 28, 2007 and needs to access the existing Alpha State 1-16 Well with heavy equipment.

Pioneer proposes to remove the bridge and replace it with three 6-ft corrugated metal pipe (CMP) oval culverts 40 feet in length. Culverts 40 feet in length would be necessary to achieve a stable slope for the road bed. The culverts would be installed side-by-side on an 8-inch bed of gravel or crushed rock. Compacted earth would be used to fill in the voids and stabilize the culverts. Two feet of gravel would be used as topping for the road surface, designed to be 12 feet in width. The culverts would be designed to pass a flow equal to the 10-year 24-hour storm event. Flows in excess of that amount, such as the 25-year 24-hour storm event, would pass around and over the crossing (Oil and Gas Gold Book, 4th Edition, Page 31).

Work is scheduled to begin after approval by BLM and take four days. All work will be done by licensed contractors. About 0.05 acre of channel bottom would be disturbed in Big Gulch. The work would be accomplished pursuant to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 14. This project is exempt from notification requirements of Nationwide Permit 14, as the projected impact is less than 0.10 acre.

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE: The “no action” alternative is that the proposed ROW amendment would not be approved and the existing bridge would remain in place. Pioneer does hold a valid ROW for the access road and well pads and has the right to amend the ROW grant, subject to approval by BLM and appropriate mitigation measures.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES/MITIGATION MEASURES

CRITICAL RESOURCES

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: There are no special designation air sheds or non-attainment areas nearby that would be affected by the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences: Short term increases of combustible engine emissions and fugitive dusts will result from installing new culverts and improving road drainage. It is not expected that pollutants resulting from these operations will cause impairment of the existing air quality or exceed ambient air quality standards.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Barb Blackstun 03/14/07

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Affected Environment: Not present.

Environmental Consequences: Not applicable.

Mitigative Measures: Not applicable.

Name of specialist and date: Jim McBrayer 03/12/07

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: Cultural resources, in this region of Colorado, range from late Paleo-Indian to Historic. For a general understanding of the cultural resources in this area of Colorado, see *An Overview of Prehistoric Cultural Resources, Little Snake Resource Area, Northwestern Colorado*, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resources Series, Number 20, *An Isolated Empire, A History of Northwestern Colorado*, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resource Series, Number 2 and *Colorado Prehistory: A Context for the Northern Colorado River Basin*, Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists.

Environmental Consequences: The proposed project, Bridge Replacement over Big Gulch, has not undergone a Class III cultural resource survey. The bridge was built in the early 1980s and is not historic. The proposed project will not affect cultural resources as long as they stay vertically and horizontally within the previous disturbance.

Mitigative Measures: The proposed project may proceed as described in this EA with the following mitigative measures in place: An archaeological monitor must be present during bridge replacement. The following standard stipulations apply for this project:

1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are encountered or uncovered during any project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate vicinity of the find and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO) at (970) 826-5000. Within five working days, the AO will inform the operator as to:

- Whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- The mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the identified area can be used for project activities again; and
- Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) (Federal Register Notice, Monday, December 4, 1995, Vol. 60, No. 232) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone at (970) 826-

5000, and with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

2. If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation costs. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

Name of specialist and date: Robyn Watkins Morris 03/19/07

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Affected Environment: The proposed action would not directly affect the social, cultural or economic well-being and health of Native American, minority or low-income populations. The project area is relatively isolated from population centers, so no populations would be affected by physical or socioeconomic impacts from the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Mike Andrews 03/05/07

FLOOD PLAINS

Affected Environment: An active floodplain is present at the Big Gulch bridge site. This floodplain is somewhat confined the existing bridge. Stream flow in Big Gulch is scouring banks along the stream meander. Big Gulch and its associated floodplain are entrenched between narrow banks and bank erosion is a natural process as Big Gulch increases its natural sinuosity and floodplain area. At the site of the existing bridge and its replacement, Big Gulch is flowing in a straight direction and the terrace banks and floodplain are fairly stable.

Environmental Consequences: The floodplain area where the bridge replacement would occur would likely have some disturbance due to the construction activity associated with installing the culverts and embankments. This disturbance is likely to be small and confined to the construction area.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Barb Blackstun 03/14/07

INVASIVE, NONNATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: Invasive species and noxious weeds occur within the affected area. Cheatgrass is common along road disturbances and other areas which do not have adequate perennial plant communities to inhibit its annual establishment; halogeton is also present and increasing in this area. Canada thistle and other biennial thistles are fairly common and can be established in the affected area, especially in road ditches. Russian knapweed, Hoary cress (whiteweed) and Dalmatian toadflax have been found in the area near the proposed project. Other species of noxious weeds are not known to be a problem in this area, but they can always be introduced by vehicle traffic, livestock and wildlife. The BLM, Moffat County, livestock operators, pipeline companies and oil and gas operators have formed the Northwest Colorado Weed Partnership to collaborate their efforts on controlling weeds and finding the best integrated approaches to achieve these results.

Environmental Consequences: The surface disturbing activities and associated traffic involved with construction of a culvert crossing will create an environment and provide a mode of transport for invasive species and other noxious weeds to become established. Construction equipment and any other vehicles and equipment brought onto the site can introduce these weed species. Wind, water, recreation vehicles, livestock and wildlife will also assist with the distribution of weed seed into the newly disturbed areas. The operator will be required to control any invasive and/or noxious weeds that become established within disturbed areas. All principles of Integrated Pest Management should be employed to control noxious weeds on public lands.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Mike Andrews 03/20/07

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: There is no habitat within the project area for any birds listed on the USFWS 2002 Birds of Conservation Concern list.

Environmental Consequences: There is no chance for take to occur.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny 03/12/07

NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS

A letter was sent to the Uinta and Ouray Tribal Council, Southern Ute Tribal Council, Ute Mountain Tribal Council and the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs on January 21,

1999. The letter listed the project that BLM would notify them on and the projects that would not require notification. No comments were received (letter on file at the Little Snake Field Office). This project requires no additional notification.

Name of specialist and date: Robyn Watkins Morris 03/19/07

PRIME & UNIQUE FARMLANDS

Affected Environment: Not present.

Environmental Consequences: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Barb Blackstun 03/14/07

T&E SPECIES – ANIMALS

Affected Environment: There are no threatened or endangered species or habitat for such species in the project area.

Environmental Consequences: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny 03/12/07

T&E SPECIES – PLANTS

Affected Environment: There are no federally listed threatened or endangered plant species within or in the vicinity of the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim 03/06/07

T&E SPECIES - SENSITIVE PLANTS

Affected Environment: There are no BLM sensitive plant species within or in the vicinity of the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim 03/06/07

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: If a release does occur, the affected environment would depend on the nature and volume of material released. If there are no releases, there would be no impact on the environment.

Environmental Consequences: Consequences would be dependent on the volume and nature of the material released. In most situations involving hazardous materials, there are ways to remediate the area that has been contaminated. Short-term consequences would occur, but they can be remedied, and long-term impacts would be minimal.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Mike Andrews 03/09/07

WATER QUALITY - GROUND

Affected Environment: The proposed action should not affect ground water quality.

Environmental Consequences: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Jennifer Maiolo 03/09/07

WATER QUALITY - SURFACE

Affected Environment: The project area is located on Big Gulch, a tributary of Lay Creek which drains into the Yampa River. All stream segments within the affected environment are presently supporting their classified uses.

Environmental Consequences: No substantial increase in sediment would be expected in Big Gulch resulting from the proposed project. Impacts from construction would be greatest shortly after project start and would decrease in time as a result of stabilization through revegetation and reclamation of disturbed areas. Increased sedimentation to the Yampa River during spring runoff or from high intensity summer/fall rainstorms would be the greatest potential impact to water quality. Although some sediment may be transported off site, much of the increase in sediment will be redeposited in floodplains of Big Gulch, prior to entering the Yampa River.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Barb Blackstun 03/14/07

WETLANDS/RIPARIAN ZONES

Affected Environment: The proposed project has the potential to impact riparian vegetation within Reach 1 of Big Gulch. This reach has never been assessed by an interdisciplinary team. This reach is described as being intermittent at best.

Environmental Consequences: The proposed removal of the existing bridge and the installation of three culverts with compacted earth and a gravel surfaced road crossing. About .05 acre of channel bottom would be disturbed in Big Gulch. Riparian vegetation disturbed as a result of this project will recover quickly. There is little potential for long term negative impacts to riparian vegetation as a result of this project.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny 03/15/07

WILD & SCENIC RIVERS

Affected Environment: Not present.

Environmental Consequences: Not applicable.

Mitigative Measures: Not applicable.

Name of specialist and date: Jim McBrayer 03/12/07

WILDERNESS, WSAs

Affected Environment: Not present.

Environmental Consequences: Not applicable.

Mitigative Measures: Not applicable.

Name of specialist and date: Jim McBrayer 03/12/07

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

HYDROLOGY – SURFACE

Affected Environment: The project area is located on Big Gulch, a tributary of Lay Creek

which drains into the Yampa River. All stream segments within the affected environment are presently supporting their classified uses.

Environmental Consequences: No substantial increase in sediment would be expected in Big Gulch resulting from the proposed project. Impacts from construction would be greatest shortly after project start and would decrease in time as a result of stabilization through revegetation and reclamation of disturbed areas. Increased sedimentation to the Yampa River during spring runoff or from high intensity summer/fall rainstorms would be the greatest potential impact to water quality. Although some sediment may be transported off site, much of the increase in sediment will be redeposited in floodplains of Big Gulch, prior to entering the Yampa River.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Barb Blackstun 03/14/07

SOILS

Affected Environment: The proposed project site is found within the Battlement fine sand loam soil-mapping unit. Slopes within this unit average 0 to 3 percent slope. This very deep, well drained soil is found on flood plains and stream terraces. The soil is derived from alluvium. This soil unit is well suited to irrigated hay and is capable of producing about 3 tons of grass hay per acre per year. Seasonal high water tables may be present throughout this soil unit. The hazard of flooding is rare.

Environmental Consequences: The culvert installation would have road base installed to add strength and stability to the travel way. The rocked inlets and outlets would help to stabilize soil and reduce potential erosion.

Mitigative Measures: Additional mitigation measures will be employed to prevent or reduce accelerated erosion if it begins to occur within the Big Gulch crossing and surface drainages affected by the access road.

Name of specialist and date: Barb Blackstun 03/14/07

VEGETATION

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located in the Foothill Swale ecological site. Dominant plants of the upland community include basin big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata tridentata*), greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*), rubber rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), scarlet globemallow (*Sphaeralcea coccinea*), basin wildrye (*Elymus cinereus*), western wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*), and Sandberg bluegrass (*Poa sandbergii*).

Environmental Consequences: The proposed action would impact a very small portion of the upland plant community. This impact would be very minimal within the larger landscape and not adversely impact the upland community as a whole.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim 03/06/07

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC

Affected Environment: The proposed project has the potential to impact riparian vegetation within Reach 1 of Big Gulch. This reach has never been assessed by an interdisciplinary team. This reach is described as being intermittent at best. This reach is not likely to support aquatic wildlife species.

Environmental Consequences: None.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny 03/14/07

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL

Affected Environment: The proposed project area provides year round habitat for pronghorn antelope, mule deer and elk including severe winter range habitat for mule deer and elk. A variety of small mammals, reptiles and songbirds may be found in the project area as well.

Environmental Consequences: Impacts include, but are not limited to, displacement into less suitable habitat, increased stress and loss of habitat. These impacts are more significant during critical seasons, such as winter or reproduction. Impacts would mostly occur from habitat modification or displacement during construction activities. Displacement from the project area could force mule deer and elk to use less suitable habitat and would likely increase stress during winter months when the animal's physical condition is already depleted. Construction of the access road and well pad, and drilling of wells during winter months (December 1 through April 30), should be avoided in order to protect wintering mule deer and elk. If construction is conducted during this time period, it could negatively impact wintering animals.

Most small mammals, birds and reptiles using the project area would be capable of avoiding construction equipment and should not be directly harmed by these activities. This should be considered a short-term negative impact that is not likely to harm populations of any species.

Mitigative Measures: CO-9. No surface disturbing activities between December 1 and April 30 in order to protect wintering mule deer and elk.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny 03/15/07

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, those brought forward for analysis will be formatted as shown above.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Fluid Minerals	JAM 3/9/07		
Forest Management	MAA 3/9/07		
Hydrology/Ground		JAM 3/9/07	
Hydrology/Surface			BB 03/14/07
Paleontology		JAM 3/9/07	
Range Management		JHS 3/6/07	
Realty Authorizations		MAA 3/5/07	
Recreation/Travel Mgmt		RS 3/9/07	
Socio-Economics		MAA 3/5/07	
Solid Minerals	JAM 3/9/07		
Visual Resources		JM 03/12/07	
Wild Horse & Burro Mgmt	MAA 3/9/07		

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: Cumulative impacts may result from renewed activity on this right-of-way when added to non-project impacts that result from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. The potential exists for future oil and gas development and rights-of-way throughout the Lay, CO area. Numerous producing and proposed wells and rights-of-way exist within a five-mile radius of the proposed action. Other past or existing actions near the project area that have influence on the landscape are wildfire, hunting, grazing, and ranching activities.

Surface disturbance increases the potential for erosion and sedimentation. Only a small reduction in available forage for livestock and wildlife would be anticipated for the proposed action. Some wildlife species may be temporarily displaced by construction of the culvert crossing and renewed activity at the well pad, but should return once construction is completed. Public access to the project area is restricted by a locked gate on private property, which reduces impacts to recreational users. Contrasts in line, form, color, and texture from development would impact the visual qualities on the landscape.

The cumulative effects of projected oil and gas development are minimized through Best Management Practices and required mitigation. Proper construction practices must comply with federal and state environmental regulations. Reasonably foreseeable fluid mineral and right-of-way development would occur under the guidelines of the Little Snake Resource Management Plan and the Colorado Oil and Gas Leasing and Development EIS.

STANDARDS:

PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITY (animal) STANDARD: The proposed project area provides productive habitat for a variety of wildlife species including big game, small mammals, song birds and reptiles. The removal of the bridge and replacement with 3 culverts will result in disturbance of less than 1 acre as a result of this project. Surrounding habitat is sufficient to ensure that populations are not negatively impacted by this project. This standard is currently being met and will continue to be met in the future.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny 03/12/07

SPECIAL STATUS, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES (animal) STANDARD: There are no threatened, endangered or special status animal species present in the project area. This standard does not apply.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny 03/12/07

PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITY (plant) STANDARD: The proposed action would disturb a very small amount of upland vegetation adjacent to Big Gulch. This disturbance would be extremely minimal within the larger plant community and would not affect the ability of this standard to be met. The No Action Alternative would not create any new disturbances. Both alternatives would meet this standard.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim 03/06/07

SPECIAL STATUS, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES (plant) STANDARD: There are no federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive plant species within or in the vicinity of the proposed action. This standard does not apply.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim 03/06/07

RIPARIAN SYSTEMS STANDARD: This project will result in approximately .05 acres being disturbed. This should not have a negative impact on the overall reach of Big Gulch. The disturbance should recover quickly and is not expected to result in long term problems for the riparian system. This project will not prevent this standard from being met.

Name of specialist and date: Timothy Novotny 03/15/07

WATER QUALITY STANDARD: The water quality standard is met. Upgrading this portion of the access road and providing unimpeded water flow with the culvert installation may reduce runoff from this site. All stream segments within the affected environment are presently supporting their classified uses.

Name of specialist and date: Barb Blackstun 03/14/07

UPLAND SOILS STANDARD: The portion of the right-of-way that will be used as a road is not expected to, nor will it, meet the upland soil standard. Soils will be compacted and infiltration rates will be greatly reduced. Vegetative cover will be bladed from the road way. Several Best Management Practices have been designed into the project that will reduce impacts to and conserve soil materials. Upland soil health will return to the access road disturbances after road abandonment and reclamation practices have been successfully achieved.

Name of specialist and date: Barb Blackstun 03/14/07

PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED: Uintah and Ouray Tribal Council, Colorado Native American Commission, Colorado State Historic Preservation Office.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
EA CO-100-2007-049

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the EA and all other available information, I have determined that the proposal and the alternatives analyzed do not constitute a major Federal action that would adversely impact the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an EIS is unnecessary and will not be prepared. This determination is based on the following factors:

1. Beneficial, adverse, direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts have been disclosed in the EA. Analysis indicated no significant impacts on society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests or the locality. The physical and biological effects are limited to the Little Snake Resource Area and adjacent land.
2. Public health and safety would not be adversely impacted. There are no known or anticipated concerns with project waste or hazardous materials.
3. There would be no adverse impacts to regional or local air quality, prime or unique farmlands, known paleontological resources on public land within the area, wetlands, floodplain, areas with unique characteristics, ecologically critical areas or designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.
4. There are no highly controversial effects on the environment.
5. There are no effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk. Sufficient information on risk is available based on information in the EA and other past actions of a similar nature.
6. This alternative does not set a precedent for other actions that may be implemented in the future to meet the goals and objectives of adopted Federal, State or local natural resource related plans, policies or programs.
7. No cumulative impacts related to other actions that would have a significant adverse impact were identified or are anticipated.
8. Based on previous and ongoing cultural surveys and through mitigation by avoidance, no adverse impacts to cultural resources were identified or anticipated. There are no known American Indian religious concerns or persons or groups who might be disproportionately and adversely affected as anticipated by the Environmental Justice Policy.
9. No adverse impacts to any threatened or endangered species or their habitat that was determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act were identified. If, at a future time,

there could be the potential for adverse impacts, treatments would be modified or mitigated not to have an adverse effect or new analysis would be conducted.

10. This alternative is in compliance with relevant Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and requirements for the protection of the environment.

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have determined that construction of the proposed culvert crossing on Big Gulch is in conformance with the approved land use plan. It is my decision to issue the amendment to the right-of-way grant with mitigation measures to Pioneer Natural Resources USA, Inc. The amendment is for removal of an existing bridge and construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of a culvert crossing located on public land in Lot 1, Sec. 21, T.7N., R.93W., 6th P.M., Moffat County, Colorado. The amended R/W grant expires on September 11, 2010, subject to the right of renewal. The ROW is subject to rental pursuant to 43 CFR 2803.1-2. The project will be monitored as stated in the Compliance Plan outlined below.

It is the policy of the Bureau of Land Management to grant ROW to occupy and use public land where such is consistent with resource values, the Bureau's planning system, and local government concerns. To this effect, no conflicts were found; the action does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. The action is consistent with the Little Snake Resource Management Plan. The proposed use, as planned and mitigated, is a suitable use of the land, which will not conflict with the present or known future use of the area. The action is consistent with Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976 (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761) and the regulations authorizing use of federal land under 43 CFR 2800.

MITIGATION MEASURES: See Exhibit B, Stipulations.

COMPLIANCE PLAN(S):

Compliance Schedule: The amended right-of-way will be on a five-year compliance schedule.

Monitoring Plan: The right-of-way, as amended, will be monitored during the term of the right-of-way for compliance with the grant, stipulations, POD, and pertinent regulations until final abandonment is approved; monitoring will help determine the effectiveness of mitigation and document the need for additional mitigative measures.

Assignment of Responsibility: Responsibility for implementation of the compliance schedule and monitoring plan will be assigned to the Realty staff in the Little Snake Field Office. The primary inspector will be the Realty Specialist.

SIGNATURE OF PREPARER:

DATE SIGNED:

SIGNATURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWER:

DATE SIGNED:

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

DATE SIGNED: