



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
**Uncompahgre Field Office**  
**2465 South Townsend Avenue**  
**Montrose, Colorado 81401**  
**[www.co.blm.gov](http://www.co.blm.gov)**



In Reply Refer to:  
COC-70174 (CO-S05)

November 18, 2011

Dear Interested Party,

The Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office (BLM) has released a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on a 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line proposed by Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. (Tri-State).

Tri-State has applied for a right-of-way (ROW) grant that would cross public land for approximately 4.7 miles and include a 100 foot-wide ROW for the East Montrose Electric System Improvement Project transmission line. Tri-State is also requesting approximately 9.5 miles of existing, new and upgraded access on public lands to construct and maintain the transmission line. The ROW would be 30-50 foot wide for access routes on public lands. The proposed project is located within the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area and planning area in Montrose County, Colorado in Townships 49 and 50 North, Ranges 8 and 9 West, NMPPM.

The purpose of the EA is to evaluate the environmental effects of constructing, operating and maintaining the proposed transmission line and access roads on public lands and consider the effects of the project as a whole. The EA is an informational document that will be used to decide whether or not to grant, and if so under what conditions, Tri-State's request for the project ROW. The Draft EA and FONSI are available on the BLM website at:  
[http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM Information/nepa/ufo.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM%20Information/nepa/ufo.html)

Written comments will be accepted for 30 days from your receipt of this letter. Written comments should address the Draft EA and FONSI. Your written comments may be submitted by mail, email, or fax to:

BLM-UFO, Teresa Pfifer  
2465 South Townsend Avenue  
Montrose, Colorado 81401  
Email: [tpfifer@blm.gov](mailto:tpfifer@blm.gov)  
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Sincerely,  
/s/ Barbara Sharrow

Barbara Sharrow  
Uncompahgre Field Office Manager