U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2008-197-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC73135 (reissue COC37781)

PROJECT NAME: Moon Lake power line to Utah

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian,
T. 2 N., R. 104W.,
sec. 1, N½SW¼, SE¼SW¼, S½SE¼,
sec. 2, W½NE¼, N½NW¼, SE¼NE¼,
T. 3 N., R. 104W.,
sec. 34, SW¼SW¼,
sec. 35, lot 3, 4.

APPLICANT: Moon Lake Electric

ISSUES AND CONCERNS: COC 37781 was issued August 6, 1984 but erroneously relinquished in whole in 1988 when it should have been relinquished in part. Only 5,800 feet of the 15,000 feet authorized was actually constructed. The case file has been closed and sent to National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Moon Lake has provided documents from their files. BLM proposes to reissue the existing ROW and the new proposed line as a new grant.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction: Northwest Pipeline (NWP) is installing a Cathodic Protection Station (CPS) on their existing pipeline located in Utah at: Salt Lake Meridian, T. 7 S., R. 25 E., sec 25. The power source is on the west end of the Rangely Field in Colorado. The Vernal Field Office (VFO) will analyze and authorize the NWP CPS.

Proposed Action: This application is for the construction of an overhead power line to serve Northwest Pipeline. An area map is attached as Exhibits A. The power line will be overhead, single phase, 7.2/12.5kV lines. It will consist of wood poles, extending 35 - 40 feet out of the ground with cross arms supporting aluminum conductors. The power line will meet or exceed the National Electrical Safety Codes (NESC). The structures are designed with adequate clearances for raptor protection. Raptor deterrents can be added if required by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The lines will be used year around.

Moon Lake has determined that the line can be built following the existing pipeline corridor and using only the existing disturbance. Because of this commitment by the proponent, application of the standard cultural mitigation provided in this environmental assessment (EA) will be adequate.

The new construction will be 9,200 feet and will take approximately 26 poles. The legal encumbrance of the entire line would be 6.9 acres, as originally authorized. New construction would encumber approximately 4.2 acres.

A 50 foot wide construction easement to allow for maneuvering the pole and equipment and a 20 foot wide permanent easement are requested. Total potential disturbance would be 10.6 acres.

Construction will begin within 90 days of BLM approval and will take 4-6 days to complete. Construction will be confined to the requested right-of-way (ROW). The construction crew will consist of 4 to 6 workers using 2 crew trucks and a rubber-tired vehicle to auger the holes and position the pole. Soil from the holes will be compacted around the poles. Any open holes left overnight will be covered with planks to protect people and wildlife from injury. No blade work, clearing, or excavation will be required during construction with the exception of the holes for the poles and anchors. Moon Lake will hand-pull the conduit when possible so driving along the ROW between poles will be avoided.

All access will be from existing roads and along the ROW. All surface disturbances will be kept to a minimum and confined to the ROW. Rubber tired vehicles will be used for construction. No blade work will be needed. Moon Lake will do all rehabilitation as required by BLM.

Moon Lake Electric will keep the power lines in safe and usable condition at all times in accordance with the NESC. If use of the power line is discontinued for a period of one year or longer and is no longer needed in the future, Moon Lake will remove it at their expense and will restore the right-or-way, as much a possible, to its original condition.

The wood poles and non-reflective conductors which tend to blend in with the background and are not extremely noticeable will be used. Vegetation consists mainly of prairie grasses, prickly pear cactus, greasewood, and sagebrush.

Moon Lake Electric will do everything in reason within its power to prevent fires on or near the construction area during the construction of said line and throughout the term of the right-of-way. Each vehicle used on the job will be equipped with a radio and fire extinguisher. All litter will be taken off the job site.

Construction and maintenance activities will not be performed when soil conditions are too wet to adequately support vehicles and equipment except in emergency situations. If equipment creates ruts in excess of three inches deep, all construction or maintenance will be postponed if possible until conditions are suitable. If maintenance is required for immediate repair of the power line, Moon Lake Electric will be responsible for the rehabilitation of disturbed areas.

There will be no polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) or any hazardous material used in the construction, operation, or maintenance of these power lines.

Moon Lake Electric employees, contractors, and agents will protect all public survey monuments and markers from disturbance. Moon Lake Electric is an equal opportunity employer and will not exclude any person from employment due to race, creed, color, national origin, or disability.

The appropriate person to contact about the proposed right-of-way grant is Aaron Weight, Right-of-Way Coordinator at 435-722-5416.

No Action Alternative: The power line would not be constructed and there would be no associated impacts. Moon Lake's customer would not be able to operate their cathodic protection station.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD: None

NEED FOR THE ACTION: The purpose of the proposed action is to manage multiple uses on Public Lands in a manner that avoids, minimizes, reduces, or mitigates potential impacts to other resource values.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Pages 2-49 thru 2-52

Decision Language: "To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values."

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a

finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: This Proposed Action is located in rural northwest Colorado in the White River Basin, more than ten miles from special designation air sheds or non-attainment areas. The access to Dinosaur National Monument a Class II area is located within 10 miles and is managed for a Class I for SO_2. Although specific air quality monitoring data are not available for the White River Basin, data have been collected in the region. The cities of Grand Junction (south), Steamboat Springs (northeast), and Parachute (southeast) all host air quality monitoring stations.

Available monitoring data at Grand Junction, Steamboat Springs, and Parachute indicate that the area is likely to be in the attainment category, meaning that the ambient concentrations of criteria pollutants are less than the applicable air quality standards (NAAQS and CAAQS). The White River resource area and field office has been classified as either attainment or unclassified for all air pollutants (NAAQS and CAAQS standards), and most of the area has been designated for the prevention of significant deterioration class II for the PSD areas nearby. Because the historic air quality in the White River Basin has been good, small changes in air quality may have noticeable and localized effects, especially on visibility.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action includes new construction of 9,200 feet of new electrical line and the installation of 26 electrical poles. Visible dust may increase locally due to construction and vehicle traffic during installation of the electrical line. Non-criteria pollutants such as visibility, nitric oxide, and total suspended particulates (TSP) may experience slight, temporary increases as a result of the Proposed Action (no national ambient air quality standards have been set for non-criteria pollutants). Any potential increase in emissions would likely fall within NAAQ and CAAQ standards.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No impacts would occur

Mitigation: None Identified

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The Moon Lake Power Line to Utah (CO-110-2008-197-EA) has been covered by several old inventories at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Collins and Jennings 1980, Compliance Dated 11/24/1980 and Woodward-Clyde Consultants 1985, Compliance Dated 6/1/1985). Each survey was for a pipeline, one covered a 50 foot wide corridor, and one a 100 foot wide corridor. Neither recorded any cultural sites in the location of

the current project. The current project location lies within the previously disturbed areas of these pipeline corridors.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would not adversely impact any known cultural resources, as all of the work would be done within the confines of the previously disturbed area.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there would be no surface disturbance resulting in no impacts to cultural resources**.**

Mitigation: The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project 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 uncovered during any project or construction activities, the holder is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the holder as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the holder will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the holder 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 holder will be responsible for mitigation cost. 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 holder will then be allowed to resume construction.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, 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.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located within Upland Stony Loam, Clayey Saltdesert, and Loamy Saltdesert ecological sites, which are dominated by salt tolerant vegetation. The dominate plant community for these sites consist of greasewood, Wyoming big sagebrush, and various saltbushes such as shadscale, Gardner saltbush, mat saltbush, and fourwing saltbrush. The understory of these shrubs is dominated by western wheatgrass, salina wildrye, and squirreltail. Cheatgrass and halogeton are both annual plant species that are

undesirable, invasive, and non-native plants which are present within the locality of the proposed action. Both of these species are highly adapted to disturbed soils.

Drought conditions, outside of this current year, have been very prevalent within the project area, which has hampered the successful establishment of reclaimed plant species of other projects in this area. As a result, undesirable and invasive annual plant species (i.e. halogeton, cheatgrass) have become dominate in portions of previously disturbed areas which provide little resource value and hinder efforts to meet Public Land Health Standards.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Implementation of the proposed action would result in disturbance of up to 10 acres to maneuver digger/derrick trucks to set poles and string wire. This disturbance would create gateways for the establishment of weeds from adjacent rangelands (Cheatgrass and Halogeton) as well as potentially transport weed seeds from other areas onto the site. Weed species found in the area are effectively controlled by the establishment of seeded species within disturbed areas. The proposed seed mix from the White River ROD/RMP (Standard Seed Mix #1), which includes non-native species, is recommended because its associated plant species are highly adapted to this site (heavy clay soils) and offer the greatest opportunity to establish vegetation cover. Limiting factors for successful reclamation of the site includes soils with a high clay content, low annual precipitation, drought prone, and cheatgrass establishment on the adjacent rangelands. These mitigated non-native species have demonstrated themselves to have the greatest ability to establish, provide soil protection, and offer a competitive interaction against invasive, non-native species such as cheatgrass.

Prompt reclamation with successful establishment would help prevent cheatgrass and halogeton from establishing on disturbed sites. If other noxious weeds were to invade the site, prompt control would prevent movement to the adjacent plant communities.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Under the no action alternative, no new disturbance would occur therefore preventing the potential spread and introduction of noxious/non-native weed species.

Mitigation: The applicant shall monitor the disturbed and reclaimed areas for the presence of invasive, non-native, and/or noxious plant species that have become established as a result of the proposed action. The applicant will be responsible for controlling cheatgrass, noxious weeds, and/or problem weeds should they occur and/or increase in density as a result of the proposed action.

Upon detection of noxious, non-native, and/or invasive plant species, the applicant will control their presence before seed production using materials and methods as outlined in the White River ROD/RMP and/or authorized in advance by the White River Field Office Manager. Application of herbicides must be under field supervision of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides must be registered by the EPA and pesticide use proposals must be approved by the BLM.

Equipment used for the project will be thoroughly cleaned prior to the start of the project and after completion of the project to prevent the spread of noxious weeds to and from the project area.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: There is a large array of migratory birds that nest in the lower elevation sagebrush steppe and Utah juniper habitats along Raven Ridge from early May through late July. Several of these species are listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC); those whose nesting activity could be potentially influenced by the proposed action include the ferruginous hawk, burrowing owl, loggerhead shrike, sage sparrow, and Brewer's sparrow. Ferruginous hawks return to this area beginning in late February, however, there are no known ferruginous hawk nests within 0.5 mile, or within line-of-sight of the proposed right-of-way or powerline. An elongate 42-acre prairie dog colony that is largely superimposed on the pipeline corridor which parallels the western end of the proposed powerline may support nesting burrowing owl, but none has been reported from this area to date. Burrowing owls, an uncommon breeder in the project area, return to nest in active prairie dog colonies in late March. Sage sparrow are among the earliest returning migrants, arriving by mid-March, but tend to nest on timeframes typical of other passerines (i.e., early May through mid-July). Brewer's sparrow and loggerhead shrike return to these areas by early to mid-April. The sparrows are among the most abundant and widely distributed breeding birds in these low-elevation sagebrush and desert shrubland habitats. Loggerhead shrike, though uncommon, are also widely and regularly distributed in shrublands along woodland margins and where intermixed with taller shrub forms (e.g., greasewood, basin big sagebrush).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: In the event this project is constructed during the winter of 2008/09 (prior to 1 March, 2009), any impact to migratory bird nesting activity or habitat would be effectively avoided. Any work conducted beyond March 1, 2009 would be subject to survey/clearance requirements to determine the presence/absence of nesting ferruginous hawk and burrowing owl. In the event installation occurred synchronous with the May-July nesting season, it would likely disrupt breeding pairs in close proximity to the individual pole locations. However, because this project is relegated to the edge of an existing herbaceous corridor, nest density is likely considerably lower than average. Moreover, the short-term and low intensity nature of powerline installation would discount its potential to disturb ongoing nest activity. It is estimated that in the worse case, the project could disturb up to 21 acres of nesting habitat (100' x 9300') involving 4-6 breeding pair of Brewer's and sage sparrow. Due to the habitat involved and their low overall nest density, it is unlikely that the project would involve loggerhead shrikes.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have any potential to disrupt nesting activity of migratory birds.

Mitigation: The proponent has committed to designing the power poles to industry standards that provide sufficient conductor separation to prevent raptor electrocution.

In the event project work extends beyond March 1, 2009, the proponent would be responsible for conducting raptor nest surveys consistent with most-current WRFO nest survey protocols to determine the presence/absence of nesting ferruginous hawk and burrowing owl. Nests located within 0.25 mile of the project may be subject to timing restrictions that extend from 1 March to 15 August.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE ANIMAL SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: The project area is composed predominantly of Wyoming big sagebrush ridgelines and benches at an elevation of about 5900 feet. Herbaceous understories in this area are widely degraded and tend to be dominated by either cheatgrass or crested wheatgrass. Two existing powerlines traverse the project locale, a 69-kv line, installed in 1956, parallels a 50 meter-wide pipeline corridor along which the proposed action is aligned. A 138-kv line, constructed in 1974, runs roughly perpendicular to the proposed route and intersects its western end.

The Dripping Rock basin, north of Raven Ridge, was formerly and may persist in being occupied by greater sage-grouse. These arid, lower-elevation sagebrush habitats are not normally considered optimal nesting and brood-rearing habitat, but nonetheless, a lek complex with considerable evidence of nearby nesting was located about 0.8 mile from this project. Records substantiate that this site remained active until at least 1989. Lekking and the onset of the reproductive period for sage-grouse begins at these elevations as early as March 1, however, there has been no recent sage-grouse use documented at this site. The 138-kV powerline is within sight and about 570 meters (0.36 mile) west of the lek sites. The 69-kV powerline paralleling the proposed action is beyond line of sight and about 0.9 mile from these lek sites.

The project area hosts small, scattered towns of white-tailed prairie dog as potential habitat and/or prey base for the State-listed and BLM-sensitive burrowing owl, BLM-sensitive ferruginous hawk, and individuals from a reintroduced population of the federally endangered black-footed ferret. The reproductive period for white-tailed prairie dogs begins about mid-March. There are 4 white-tailed prairie dog towns totaling about 58 acres within 0.5 mile of the proposed powerline. The largest of the towns (42 acres), is an elongate town that is largely superimposed on a pipeline right-of-way which the proposed action parallels. The remaining 3 towns comprise 8, 4, and 4 acres. These towns are separated from their nearest neighbor by about 0.5 mile. Ferruginous hawk and burrowing owl are discussed in the Migratory Bird section.

The project area lies about 1 mile north of designated black-footed ferret recovery and management areas in Utah and Colorado. These sites are associated with an experimental, non-essential population area where, since 2001, ferrets have been released annually in an effort to develop a self-sustaining population. Raven Ridge, although unsuitable habitat for ferrets is not an impediment to ferret movements. Released ferrets have demonstrated rapid dispersal across Raven Ridge to large prairie dog complexes to the north, but there is no evidence to suggest that ferrets occupy or remain associated with the small and dispersed prairie dog towns in the project

vicinity. Based on local radio-telemetry data from ferrets inhabiting northwest Colorado and northeast Utah, prairie dog resources in the project area are capable of sustaining only the most transient and short-term use by ferret and are incapable of supporting a breeding pair.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: At the present time, there remains a small probability that sage-grouse continue to use sagebrush habitats in the vicinity of the project proposal for nesting (i.e., birds breeding at an undocumented lek site within 4 miles of the project). Although it is generally accepted that sage-grouse tend to avoid elevated structures that can ostensibly be used by large avian predators, it is not known whether avoidance results from a generalized behavioral response or experience. This project closely parallels (within 350 feet) and intersects long-established powerlines that have not been, or in the case of the 138-kV line, cannot be furnished with perch deterrent devices. Installing perch deterrents on that portion of the line that intersects suitable expanses of habitat would be expected to aid in reducing the additive influence of parallel powerlines by offering some benefit in reducing harassment and/or mortality of sage-grouse by large raptors. Although there may be construction or operational constraints involved, it would also be increasingly desirable from the wildlife perspective if this powerline were located on the opposite (southerly) edge of the existing pipeline corridor. Relocation would decrease the lateral separation between the proposed and existing 69-kV powerline from 350 feet to about 130 feet and further reduce the effective influence of installing an additional powerline.

There is no reasonable probability that the prairie dog town paralleled or bisected by the powerline corridor (1785 meters) would be occupied by ferret or that the surface or subsurface (18 24-inch diameter auger holes) disturbance associated with the project would have any adverse influence on ferrets or their prey base. However, transient use of these prairie dog towns by dispersing ferret might be reasonably anticipated. Raptor perch deterrents applied to this line would be expected to reduce the additive risk (parallel powerlines) of dispersing ferrets being exposed to avian predators.

Work conducted prior to March 1, 2009 would avoid any potential to influence reestablished or residual reproductive activity by sage grouse or the reproductive activities of prairie dogs.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have any potential to disrupt activities or modify habitats associated with special status species.

Mitigation: Powerline installation should be conducted prior to March 1, 2009 to avoid a number of potential wildlife issues, including raptor nesting, sage-grouse reproductive display and nesting functions, and prairie dog and nongame bird reproductive activities.

In consideration of natural reoccupation or future efforts to reestablish sage-grouse west of Rangely, and as an aid in reducing the availability of effective perches that may aggravate mortality of dispersing ferret, the proponent will be required to install perch deterrents on the crossarms and pole-tops of those poles that will be located in the following legal subdivisions:

T2N R104W section 2: Lots 2, 3 (~NWNE, NENW)
T3N R104W sections 34, 35

It is requested that the proponent consider the feasibility of aligning this power line on the southerly side of the existing pipeline corridor. Relocation would decrease the lateral separation between the proposed and existing 69-kV power line from 350 feet to about 130 feet and further reduce the effective influence of installing an additional power line on a number of wildlife-related resources.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: The land health standards are not broadly met in the landscape surrounding the proposed project, particularly in the case of herbaceous understory composition and its direct and indirect influence on sage-grouse and non-game bird and mammal populations. However, these effects cannot be remedied without high levels of management intervention and their persistence is not attributed to current management. Too, long-established power lines have likely depressed the utility of surrounding wildlife habitats. The proposed action would have no substantive effect on vegetative conditions, but would probably contribute incrementally to behavioral avoidance and elevate local mortality of non-game species along and adjacent to the utility corridor. Conditions imposed on power line design are expected to reduce the additive effects of this parallel line to discountable levels and thereby avoid contributing to further deterioration of the land health standard.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: There are no plant species listed, proposed, or candidate to the Endangered Species Act, nor plants considered sensitive by the BLM, that are known to inhabit areas potentially influenced by the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would have no conceivable influence on special status species or associated habitats.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have potential to influence special status species or associated habitats.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: The proposed and no-action alternatives would have no influence on populations or habitats of plants associated with the Endangered Species Act or BLM sensitive species and, as such, would have no influence on the status of applicable land health standards.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: Fuels, oils, chemicals, and lubricants would be used during the project, and solid waste (human waste, garbage, etc.) would be generated during activities.

There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials have been identified that would be used, stored or disposed of at sites included in the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Accidental spills or leaks associated with equipment failures, refueling or maintenance of equipment, and storage of fuel, oil, or other fluids could cause soil, surface water and/or groundwater contamination. With proper mitigation impacts would be temporary.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under the no-action alternative.

Mitigation: The following items should be added as conditions of approval.

Solid wastes (garbage) and sewage from portolets would be properly disposed of offsite in an approved facility.

The release of any chemical, oil, petroleum product, produced water, or sewage, etc, (regardless of quantity) must be reported by the lease holder, to the Bureau of Land Management – WRFO Hazardous Materials Coordinator at (970) 878-3800.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: This project is entirely within the Dripping Rock Creek watershed and drains into the White River. The water quality classification of tributaries to the White River (segment 22) near the Utah border is Aquatic Life Warm 2, Recreation 1b, and Agriculture.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action includes the new construction of 9,200 feet of electrical line and the installation of 26 electrical poles. The pole installation is not likely to impact surface waters due to the localized nature of the disturbance. Access to the pole installation points and maintenance could result in surface disturbance that is linear and might concentrate runoff in locations and cause erosion. Any erosion that would occur could result in increased sedimentation to downstream waters. All the drainages in the area of the project are ephemeral and slopes are generally gentle, so any impacts would be indirect.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No impacts identified.

Mitigation: See the Soils section for erosion mitigation.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: It is extremely unlikely that this project would result in an exceedence of state water quality standards.

WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: There are no riparian or wetland areas associated with or potentially influenced by the project. The proposed action is separated from nearest perennial system supporting riparian vegetation (i.e., White River) by over 10 miles of ephemeral channel.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would have no conceivable potential to influence downstream channel conditions or associated riparian or wetland vegetation.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have any potential to influence riparian or wetland resources.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: Neither alternative would have any effective influence on the status of land health standards characterizing downstream channel conditions or riparian/wetland communities.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No ACEC, flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, Wilderness, or Wild and Scenic Rivers exist within the area affected by the proposed action. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

SOILS

Affected Environment: The powerline passes near one area with steep slopes, there are no fragile soils or landslide areas within 30 meters of the powerline. The soil complexes near the powerline are shown in the table below.

Soil Classifications within 30 Meters of the Project (greater than 1 Acre in size)	
Soil Complex	**Acres Potentially Impacted**
Tabyago-Cedarknoll association, 2-8% slopes	23
Potts-Begay fine sandy loams, 2-7%slopes	5
Chipeta-Walknolls Complex, 5-15% slopes	19

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: When placing power poles, rubber vehicles are used to access the pole location and place the pole. An auger is used to drill a hole, the pole is placed, and the soil is replaced. Ground disturbance is typically limited to the location of the pole. Additional disturbance could occur to access the power pole locations for

installation and/or maintenance. These impacts would be more pronounced when soils are saturated. The holder has committed to do reclamation if rutting on the access occurs, but no definition is given for when reclamation would occur.

The Chipeta-Walknolls Complex soils in this area have runoff characteristics that are medium, and the hazard of water erosion is high, these soils occur on the east side of the pipeline right-of-way. The other soils have a medium hazard for water erosion.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No impacts to soils would likely occur.

Mitigation: The following should be applied as conditions of approval.

All construction or maintenance will be postponed when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches or more, unless otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer (AO). Emergency maintenance may occur when saturated soil conditions exist without prior approval of the AO, but timely notification is required.

If access to pole locations for construction and/or maintenance result in ruts that are 3 inches or deeper, the holder will notify the AO and initiate reclamation activities including seeding with a BLM approved seed mix, mulching and installation of water bars or other means to reduce the concentration of storm water along tire ruts.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: With mitigation this action is unlikely to reduce the productivity of soils impacted by surface disturbing activities.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The proposed powerline passes through three different ecological sites outlined below:

Ecological Sites within a 30 Meter Buffer of the Proposed Action	
Ecological Site	**Acres Potentially Impacted**
Upland Stony Loam/Upland Shallow Loam	23
Loamy Saltdesert/Sandy Saltdesert	5
Clayey Saltdesert/Saltdesert Breaks	19

Vegetation within these ecological sites generally consist of salt-tolerant desert shrubs and grasses such as; Gardner saltbush, salina wildrye, squirreltail, Indian ricegrass, low rabbitbrush, galleta, shadscale, big sagebrush, shadscale, and western wheatgrass. Cheatgrass and halogeton are two invasive/non-native species that are present within the locality of the project.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would be considered short-term disturbance to a mid to low seral class of saltdesert shrub community for a

total of about10 BLM acres. These short-term soil and vegetation disturbances would be offset by successfully reclaiming the disturbed area with a seed mix that is suited for this ecological site. As this area has a component of cheatgrass and halogeton (undesirable, non-native, and annual plant species) within the plant community, successful re-vegetation efforts would slightly increase desirable plant species within the rangelands.

Without successful reclamation of seeded species within this harsh landscape, a potential exist to increase the ground cover of undesirable plant species that invade disturbed sites. Limiting factors for successful reclamation of the site includes soils with a high clay content, low annual precipitation, drought, grazing use, and cheatgrass (invasive, non-native, and annual grass) establishment on the adjacent rangelands.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Under the no action alternative, no new disturbance would occur to current vegetative communities.

Mitigation: Promptly re-vegetate all disturbed areas with Standard Seed Mix #1 of the White River ROD/RMP, B-19, Appendix B (see table below) or the Modified Standard Seed Mix #2 as authorized for the Chevron Rangely Field. Seeding rates in the White River ROD/RMP are shown as pounds of Pure Live Seed (PLS) per acre and apply to drill seeding. For broadcast application, double the seeding rate and then harrow to insure seed coverage. Applied seed must be certified and free of noxious weeds.

Standard Seed Mix #	Species (Variety)	Lbs PLS/Acre
1	Siberian wheatgrass (P27)	3
	Russian wildrye (Bozoisky)	2
	Crested wheatgrass (Hycrest)	3

OR ALTERNATIVE

Seed Mix	Species (Variety)	Lbs PLS/Acre
Modified Standard Mix #2- Chevron Field	Western wheatgrass (Arriba)	4
	Crested wheatgrass (Nordan)	3
	Pubescent wheatgrass (Luna)	4
	Russian wildrye (Vindall)	3
	Annual Sunflower (VNS)	2

Note: Seed Rates shown are drill seed rates. For broadcast seeding, double the Lbs PLS/Acre

The applicant shall be required to achieve a reclamation success rate of sufficient vegetative ground cover from reclamation plant species within three growing seasons. The reclamation shall be comparable of that of the nearby undisturbed plant communities at a Potential Natural Community (PNC) state in relation to the seed mix as deemed appropriate by the BLM.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial)*:* Early seral ecological sites associated with the proposed action lack desirable plant species at an appreciable density and frequency level, thus they are not meeting standards. This is largely due to the prevalence of cheatgrass and halogeton within the vegetative understory. Mid seral ecological sites at the proposed action locality have acceptable components within the plant community and are meeting standards for public land health.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: There are no aquatic habitats associated with or potentially influenced by the project. The proposed action is separated from nearest aquatic habitat (i.e., White River) by over 10 miles of ephemeral channel.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would have no conceivable potential to influence conditions or animals associated with aquatic habitats.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have any potential to influence conditions or animals associated with aquatic habitats.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): Neither alternative would have any effective influence on the status of land health standards characterizing downstream aquatic habitats.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The project area is generally encompassed by ranges used during the winter by deer and elk. Its close proximity to woodland and topographic cover offered by Raven Ridge likely contributes to persistent and higher density use by deer and elk from October through May, but no special use functions have been attributed to this area by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. A small number of pronghorn use the area inconsistently, but on a year-round basis.

The abundance and composition of nongame bird communities associated with this project area's predominant Wyoming big sagebrush habitats are considered representative and complete with no obvious deficiencies in composition. Small mammal populations and distribution are poorly documented; however, the 7 or so species potentially occurring in this habitat type tend to be widely distributed throughout the State and the Great Basin or Rocky Mountain regions. No narrowly distributed or highly specialized species or subspecific populations are known to occur in this area. Herbaceous understories in this area are widely degraded and tend to be dominated by either cheatgrass or crested wheatgrass. It is likely that the small mammal community reflects this condition and is composed primarily of those species tolerant of disturbed lands (e.g., deer mouse, northern grasshopper mouse, Ord's kangaroo rat, least chipmunk) and deficient in those that select for well-developed understories (e.g., sagebrush and long-tailed voles).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Particularly because activity would be confined to a pre-existing linear corridor and effective topographic and vegetative cover are available nearby, powerline installation, even during the winter months, would

represent a low-intensity, transient, and short-term impact that would have minor and temporary influence on big game distribution and habitat utility**.** Conditions of frozen soil and dormant vegetation would also serve to minimize any substantial soil disturbance and the risk of aggravating dominance of weedy annuals. Although the effects would be discountable, installation occurring prior to early March would also avoid the reproductive season of all nongame animals.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have any potential to influence conditions or animals associated with terrestrial habitats.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): The project locale does not fully meet the land health standards for terrestrial animal communities. Historical influences, including rangeland degradation and powerline siting, have resulted in long term modifications that have likely suppressed the suitability and utility of habitat for all resident wildlife. This project, as conditioned, would not contribute to pre-existing influences associated with powerlines (as raptor perches) or degraded herbaceous understories, and as such, would not interfere with current status of the land health standard.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Access and Transportation		X	
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire Management		X	
Forest Management	X		
Geology and Minerals		X	
Hydrology/Water Rights		X	
Law Enforcement		X	
Noise		X	
Paleontology			X
Rangeland Management			X
Realty Authorizations			X
Recreation		X	
Socio-Economics		X	
Visual Resources		X	
Wild Horses	X		

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: The proposed project is located in an area mapped as Mesa Verde Formation, Undivided (Tweto 1979) which the BLM, WRFO has classified as a potential fossil yield classification (PFYC) of 4. These formations are known to contain a high occurrence of significant fossil resources. The proposed project has been covered by several paleontological inventories (Bilbey et al 1998, Compliance Dated 11/25/1998 and Woodward-Clyde Consultants 1985, Compliance Dated 6/1/1985). Neither recorded any fossil resources in the location of the current project. The current project location lies completely within previously disturbed areas.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: As this area has been surveyed twice and no resources were found, and the project would be in previously disturbed area, there should be no effect to fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there would be no surface disturbance resulting in no impacts to fossil resources.

Mitigation: The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing paleontological sites, or for collecting fossils. If fossil materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the holder is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the holder as to:

- whether the materials appear to be of noteworthy scientific interest
- the mitigation measures the holder will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not feasible).

If the holder 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 holder will be responsible for mitigation cost. 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 holder will then be allowed to resume construction.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located in Pasture 3 of the Artesia allotment (06308), which is authorized for sheep use by Morapos Sheep Company. Grazing use by sheep in the allotment can be authorized from December 1st through April 20th and is outlined in the table below:

Allotment		Livestock		Grazing Period		%PL	Type Use	AUM's
Name	Number	Kind	Number	Begin	End			
Artesia	06314	Sheep	4321	12/1	2/28	100	Active	2557
Artesia	06314	Sheep	4182	3/1	4/20	100	Active	1402

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The individual proposed action would have minimal impacts on the authorized grazing use because the amount of potential new surface disturbance (10 BLM acres) is nominal in regards to the scale of the allotment (44,026 BLM acres).

The 10 BLM acres of disturbance that has occurred is considered a short term disturbance with successful rehabilitation. Therefore, there is no opportunity of long-term active Animal Unit Month (AUM) loss associated with the individual proposed action. An AUM is the amount of forage necessary for the substance of 5 sheep (1 cow) for a period of 1 month. However, previously this allotment has entailed considerable impacts from oil and gas activities, which have resulted in a reduction and fragmentation of available rangelands and in a loss of forage for grazing use.

Without successful reclamation of seeded species within this harsh rangeland, a potential exist to increase the ground cover of undesirable plant species that invade disturbed sites, thus decreasing available forage for livestock.

Potential impacts to livestock include a modification in sheep distribution, reduction in available forage, injury/loss to livestock, and impediments to livestock grazing and movement.

Overall, this individual proposed action would have no significant direct impact on the authorized AUMs in the allotments. However, the cumulative impacts from past, present, and possible future oil and gas activities may have a long-term effect on the native rangeland's carrying capacity, thus influencing authorized AUMs. This possible affect would be determined during the grazing permit renewal process which includes an evaluation of forage capacity available for livestock. It is foreseeable that the grazing permit holder could lose a portion of permitted active AUMs due to a loss of forage and fragmentation of the rangelands associated with oil and gas development within the authorized BLM grazing allotment.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: Any livestock control facilities and/or rangeland improvements impacted during this operation will be replaced or repaired to their prior condition.

REALTY AUTHORIZATIONS

Affected Environment: The proposed project is located along an existing utility corridor. Rio Blanco County (RBC) Road 99 generally parallels the corridor, which crosses several numbered and unnumbered BLM roads. Part of the power line route was originally authorized under COC37781, but was totally relinquished and closed due to an administrative error. The route would parallel or intersect existing linear rights-of-way including:

SERIAL #	HOLDER	FACILITY TYPE
COC011243	Northwest Pipeline	natural gas pipeline (Ignacio-Sumas)

SERIAL #	HOLDER	FACILITY TYPE
COC17801	ETC Canyon	natural gas pipeline
COC29366	MidAmerica/Enterprise	NGL pipeline
COC37784	Chevron Pipeline	CO2 pipeline
COC40644	DOE WAPA	power transmission line
COC62466	MidAmerica/ Enterprise	NGL pipeline
COC67494	Northwest Pipeline	natural gas pipeline
COC68665	Moon Lake Electric	69 KV power line

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is in an area already disturbed by roads, pipelines and power lines. The portion of COC37781 which was built and should not have been relinquished would be retroactively authorized under the new number COC73135. The right-of-way would be 50 feet wide for construction to allow manipulation of the poles and line without going out of the ROW. The permanent ROW would be 20 feet wide, 9,200 feet long and would encumber 4.2 additional acres. The existing power line is approximately 7,677 feet long, 20 feet wide and encumbers 3.524 acres. Combined length for COC73135 would be 16,877 feet and the acreage would be 7.748 acres, more or less. The holder should provide an as-built map. The VFO would analyze and issue authorization for the NWP CPS.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: The proposal would not be authorized or constructed.

Mitigation: The holder is responsible for obtaining all appropriate state and local permits. Construction of the line shall not begin until Northwest Pipeline has processed their application through the Vernal Utah Field Office.

The holder shall provide the BLM Authorized Officer with data in a format compatible with the WRFO's ESRI ArcGIS Geographic Information System (GIS) to accurately locate and identify the right-of-way and all constructed infrastructure, within 60 days of construction completion. Acceptable data formats are: (1) corrected global positioning system (GPS) files with sub-meter accuracy or better; (2) ESRI shapefiles or geodatabases; or at last resort, (3) AutoCAD .dwg or .dxf files. Option 2 is highly preferred. In ALL cases the data must be submitted in UTM Zone 13N, NAD 83, in units of meters. Data may be submitted as: (1) an email attachment; or (2) on a standard compact disk (CD) in compressed (WinZip only) or uncompressed format. All data shall include metadata, for each submitted layer, that conforms to the Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata from the Federal Geographic Data Committee standards. Questions should be directed to WRFO BLM GIS staff at (970) 878-3800.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: This action is consistent with the scope of impacts addressed in the White River ROD/RMP. The cumulative impacts of energy related development, such as utility service to energy facilities, are addressed in the White River ROD/RMP for each resource value that would be affected by the proposed action.

REFERENCES CITED:

Bilbey, Sue Ann, Emmett Evanoff, Paul Murphy, and Evan Hall
1998 Paleontological Sensitivity Survey for Mid-America Pipeline Company Rocky Mountain Loop Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. Uinta Paleo, Vernal Utah.

Collins, Susan and Calvin Jennings
1980 Cultural Resource Inventory: MAPCO's Rocky Mountain Liquid Hydrocarbons Pipeline. Laboratory of Public Archaeology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins.

Tweto, Ogden
1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

Woodward-Clyde Consultants
1985 Cultural and Paleontological Resource Inventory Investigations along the Chevron Carbon Dioxide and Phosphate Slurry Pipeline Corridors, Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. Woodward-Clyde Consultants, Walnut Creek, California.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: none

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Bob Lange	Hydrologist	Air Quality, Wastes (Hazardous or Solids), Water Quality (Surface and Ground), Hydrology and Water Rights, and Soils.
Ken Holsinger	Botanist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Michael Selle	Archeologist	Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources
Matthew Dupire	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species, Vegetation , Rangeland Management
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds, Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife, Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Bob Lange	Hydrologist	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness, Access and Transportation, Recreation, Visual Resources
Jim Michels	Fire / Fuels Technician	Fire Management
Jim Michels	Fire / Fuels Technician	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Linda Jones	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Melissa J. Kindall	Range Technician	Wild Horses

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

CO-110-2008-197-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION/RATIONALE: It is my decision to authorize the proposed action to construct, operate, maintain, and terminate 9,200 ±- feet of new overhead electrical power line in addition to 5,800 feet ± of existing line which was previously authorized under COC37781, with the following mitigation:

MITIGATION MEASURES:

1. The holder is responsible for obtaining all appropriate state and local permits. Construction of the line shall not begin until Northwest Pipeline has processed their application through the Vernal Utah Field Office.

2. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project 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 uncovered during any project or construction activities, the holder is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the holder as to:
    - whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
    - the mitigation measures the holder will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
    - a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

    If the holder 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 holder will be responsible for mitigation cost. 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 holder will then be allowed to resume construction.

3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, 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.

4. The applicant shall monitor the disturbed and reclaimed areas for the presence of invasive, non-native, and/or noxious plant species that have become established as a result of the proposed action. The applicant will be responsible for controlling cheatgrass, noxious weeds, and/or problem weeds should they occur and/or increase in density as a result of the proposed action.

5. Upon detection of noxious, non-native, and/or invasive plant species, the applicant will control their presence before seed production using materials and methods as outlined in the White River ROD/RMP and/or authorized in advance by the White River Field Office Manager. Application of herbicides must be under field supervision of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides must be registered by the EPA and pesticide use proposals must be approved by the BLM.

6. Equipment used for the project will be thoroughly cleaned prior to the start of the project and after completion of the project to prevent the spread of noxious weeds to and from the project area.

7. Power line installation should be conducted prior to March 1, 2009 to avoid a number of potential wildlife issues, including raptor nesting, sage-grouse reproductive display and nesting functions, and prairie dog and nongame bird reproductive activities.

8. In consideration of natural reoccupation or future efforts to reestablish sage-grouse west of Rangely, and as an aid in reducing the availability of effective perches that may aggravate mortality of dispersing ferret, the proponent will be required to install perch deterrents on the crossarms and pole-tops of those poles that will be located in the following legal subdivisions:
   T2N R104W section 2: Lots 2, 3 (~NWNE, NENW).
   T3N R104W sections 34, 35.

9. It is requested that the proponent consider the feasibility of aligning this power line on the southerly side of the existing pipeline corridor. Relocation would decrease the lateral separation between the proposed and existing 69-kV power line from 350 feet to about 130 feet and further reduce the effective influence of installing an additional power line on a number of wildlife-related resources.

10. Solid wastes (garbage) and sewage from portolets would be properly disposed of offsite in an approved facility. The release of any chemical, oil, petroleum product, produced water, or sewage, etc, (regardless of quantity) must be reported by the lease holder, to the Bureau of Land Management – WRFO Hazardous Materials Coordinator at (970) 878-3800.

11. All construction or maintenance will be postponed when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches or more, unless otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer (AO). Emergency maintenance may occur when saturated soil conditions exist without prior approval of the AO, but timely notification is required.

12. If access to pole locations for construction and/or maintenance results in ruts that are 3 inches or deeper, the holder will notify the AO and initiate reclamation activities including seeding with a BLM approved seed mix, mulching and installation of water bars or other means to reduce the concentration of storm water along tire ruts.

13. Promptly re-vegetate all disturbed areas with Standard Seed Mix #1 of the White River ROD/RMP, B-19, Appendix B (see table below) or the Modified Standard Seed Mix #2 as authorized for the Chevron Rangely Field. Seeding rates in the White River ROD/RMP are shown as pounds of Pure Live Seed (PLS) per acre and apply to drill seeding. For broadcast application, double the seeding rate and then harrow to insure seed coverage. Applied seed must be certified and free of noxious weeds.

Standard Seed Mix #	Species (Variety)	Lbs PLS/Acre
1	Siberian wheatgrass (P27)	3
	Russian wildrye (Bozoisky)	2
	Crested wheatgrass (Hycrest)	3

OR ALTERNATE

Seed Mix	Species (Variety)	Lbs PLS/Acre
Modified Standard Mix #2- Chevron Field	Western wheatgrass (Arriba)	4
	Crested wheatgrass (Nordan)	3
	Pubescent wheatgrass (Luna)	4
	Russian wildrye (Vindall)	3
	Annual Sunflower (VNS)	2

Note: Seed Rates shown are drill seed rates. For broadcast seeding, double the Lbs PLS/Acre

14. The applicant shall be required to achieve a reclamation success rate of sufficient vegetative ground cover from reclamation plant species within three growing seasons. The reclamation shall be comparable of that of the nearby undisturbed plant communities at a Potential Natural Community (PNC) state in relation to the seed mix as deemed appropriate by the BLM.

15. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing paleontological sites, or for collecting fossils. If fossil materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the holder is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the holder as to:
    - whether the materials appear to be of noteworthy scientific interest
    - the mitigation measures the holder will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not feasible)

16. If the holder 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 holder will be responsible for mitigation cost. 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 holder will then be allowed to resume construction.

17. The holder shall provide the BLM Authorized Officer with data in a format compatible with the WRFO's ESRI ArcGIS Geographic Information System (GIS) to accurately locate and identify the right-of-way and all constructed infrastructure, within 60 days of construction completion. Acceptable data formats are: (1) corrected global positioning system (GPS) files with sub-meter accuracy or better; (2) ESRI shapefiles or geodatabases; or at last resort, (3) AutoCAD .dwg or .dxf files. Option 2 is highly preferred. In ALL cases the data must be submitted in UTM Zone 13N, NAD 83, in units of meters. Data may be submitted as: (1) an email attachment; or (2) on a standard compact disk (CD) in compressed (WinZip only) or uncompressed format. All data shall include metadata, for each submitted layer, that conforms to the Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata from the Federal Geographic Data Committee standards. Questions should be directed to WRFO BLM GIS staff at (970) 878-3800.

18. Any livestock control facilities (fences, cattleguards, etc.) and/or rangeland improvements impacted during this operation will be replaced or repaired to their prior condition.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Compliance monitoring should be performed at five year intervals by White River Field Office staff.

NAME OF PREPARER: Linda Jones

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Caroline Hollowed

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: _____
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 02/24/09

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A – General map
Exhibit A-1 – Perch deterrent installation

MOON LAKE POWER LINE

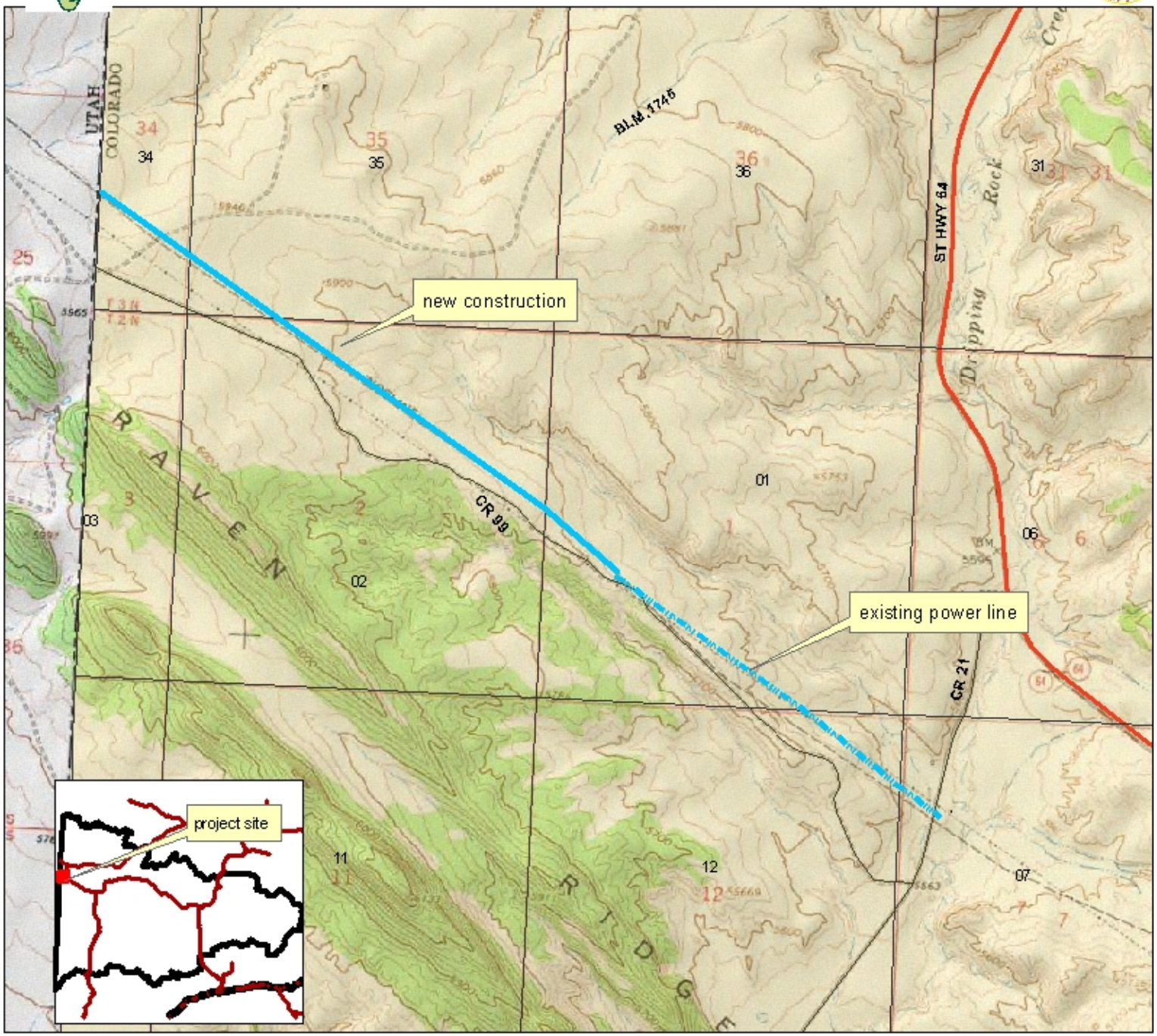

EXHIBIT A

COC73135 NEW
COC37781 PREVIOUS

CO-110-2008-197-EA

6th PM
T2N, R103 W, sec 7
T2N, R104W, sec 1,2
T3N, R104W, sec 34, 35

PLSS_Sections_GCDB2008
BLM
CDW
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2/18/2009 LLJ

Feet
0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000

Sources:
BLM, USGS, CDOW, etc.

Disclaimer:
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MOON LAKE POWER LINE - PERCH DETERRENTS

EXHIBIT A-1

COC73135 NEW
COC37781 PREVIOUS

CO-110-2008-197-EA

6th PM
T2N, R104W, sec 2
T3N, R104W, sec 34, 35

GCDB_2008poly_WRFO
PLSS_Sections_GCDB2008
BLM
CDW
County
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State
County

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2/18/2009 LLJ

Feet
0 250 500 1,000 1,500

Sources:
BLM, USGS, CDOW, etc.

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