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-110-2008-080-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC 58177

PROJECT NAME: Replacement of Out-Dated Power Lines with New Lines in the Wilson Creek Area

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 2 N., R. 94 W.,
Sec. 2, lot 1, SE¼NE¼, N½SE¼

T. 3 N., R. 94 W.,
Sec. 34, SE¼NE¼, NE¼SW¼, N½SE¼;
Sec. 35, SW¼, S½SE¼

APPLICANT: White River Electric Association, Inc. (WREA)

ISSUES AND CONCERNS: None

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction: Chevron North America Exploration (Chevron) has requested that White River Electric Association, Inc. (WREA) construct new, 25 kV, 3-phase overhead power lines to seven of their existing well sites in the Wilson Creek Oil Field.

Proposed Action: These seven wells are presently being fed electrically by Chevron's old 4.16 kV power lines. The existing power line is in very poor repair and will soon become a safety hazard because of rotting poles, clearance issues, and lack of bird/wildlife protection. Once these seven wells are supplied power from WREA's electrical system, the old 4.16 kV power lines will be removed by Chevron.

To supply the electrical needs of Wells #14, #26, #30, #61, construction of short taps off WREA's existing 25 kV power line north of the Wilson Creek Substation is needed. The take-off points to Wells #14 and #61 are actually on private ground; however the wells and 863 feet of the power line will be located on Federal land.
To feed the needs of Well #57, WREA will follow the existing 4.16 kV route down the ridge to the southwest from the Wilson Creek Substation.

To provide the electrical needs of Well #38, and then on to #31, will be a new line since the existing 4.16 kV power line crosses canyons with spans beyond 1,200 feet in length, which is considered not feasible or safe to construct—except in special conditions. As shown on the enclosed maps, the proposed right-of-way to Wells #38 and #31 make the best use of existing pipeline rights-of-way, existing two-track roads, and WREA's 69 kV right-of-way. This route has been studied at length and it is believed that any alternate route would either be extremely difficult to construct, and not as safe to construct, or would have to be fed from another source at a much greater distance. With this proposed right-of-way, WREA will keep tree/brush clearing to a minimum and may not have to do any serious dirt disturbance.

It is estimated that it will take 63 new powerpoles to replace the old line. Equipment to be used will be a 2 ton, 4-wheel drive digger/derrick truck and basic utility trucks. A tracked digger/derrick for setting poles may be used where there is limited access. It is anticipated that this job will take 40 days to complete. All poles will be electrically safe and mitigated against perching by raptors when there is less than 60" of spacing between energized conductors. Total length of powerlines on BLM will be 3,581 feet while the total project requires 4,468 feet of powerlines.

Process of Power Line Removal:

- The removal process will not require the cutting of any roads or right-of-ways to the old power lines. Vehicle equipment will use existing roads and well locations, and open flatter areas that can be driven upon, to perform the removal work and minimize soil disturbance.
- The power poles will be cut off at ground level by men on foot. The buried portion of the poles will be left in the ground. This will greatly minimize the disturbance to the soil and vegetation.
- The wire conductors will be disconnected from the poles and then spooled up on power spoolers, or similar equipment. The spooling equipment will be located on existing roadways and will locations, and flatter open areas during spooling operations. All wire will be removed from Federal land and disposed of properly.
- The cut off power poles will be pulled or lifted from the power line routes using cable and winching equipment, or other lifting equipment. The winching and lifting equipment will be located on existing roadways and well locations, and flatter open areas during winching or lifting operations. All power poles and associated equipment will be removed from Federal Land and disposed of properly.

Soil Disturbance Reclamation:

- Any areas where there is damaged soil will be re-seeded with a seed mix recommended by the BLM.
- Most areas where soil damage could occur are not accessible by powered equipment. In these areas the spreading of seed and raking it into the soil will be done by hand. In flatter work areas where soil damage might occur, mechanical equipment will be used for seeding depending on the size of the damaged areas.

Removal Timing:

- It is expected that the timing of getting the new power lines installed by WREA will be in the summer and early fall.
- Chevron plans on removing the oil power lines during the summer of 2009. It would not be safe or practical to remove the power lines during the bad weather months of the year (i.e. snow and mud).

No Action Alternative: Under the no action alternative, the application would be denied and the situation would remain in its present state.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD:

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: The entire White River Field Office (WRFO) area has been classified as either attainment or unclassified for all air pollutants, and most of the area has been designated for the prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) class II. The proposed action is more than ten miles from any special designation air sheds or non-attainment areas. Unfortunately, no air quality monitoring data is available for this area. However, air quality conditions near the proposed location (Grand Junction, CO) indicate generally good air quality for this region.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action includes the installation of a number of electrical lines, most in or parallel to existing electrical line right-of-ways. Visible dust is likely to increase due to construction and vehicle traffic during operations activities.

The proposed action would increase the level of inhalable particulate matter, specifically particles ten microns or less in diameter (PM_{10}) associated with fugitive dust. The Colorado Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) estimates the maximum PM_{10} levels (24-hour average) in rural portions of western Colorado to be near 50 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu g/m^3$). This project is not likely to exceed this western Colorado dust standard.

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

Mitigation: None identified

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed power line replacement route has been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Conner 2008, Compliance Dated 7/23/2008) with no new cultural resources identified along the route. Given the steepness of the surrounding terrain it is considered unlikely that undetected resources will be located outside the inventoried area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action will not impact any known cultural resources. It is considered unlikely that undetected resources would be impacted.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to cultural resourced under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: 1. 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.

2. 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 primary noxious weeds of concern present throughout the project area include houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), musk thistle (*Carduus nutans),* and bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare.)* Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) is a non-native invasive annual grass species present to some extent in many plant communities throughout northwestern Colorado including the project area; and it will readily invade disturbed sites.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action has the potential to create sites suitable for the establishment and proliferation of noxious weeds and invasive species. If the proposed mitigation is adhered to there will be a low likelihood that noxious or invasive species will invade and proliferate on the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: The holder will be required to monitor the project area for the life of the project to detect the presence of noxious weeds and/or invasive species. It will be the holder's responsibility to eradicate any such plants using materials and methods approved in advance by the Authorized Officer. All areas where construction activities disturb the soil surface will be promptly re-vegetated using the appropriate WRFO native seed mixture (listed in the Vegetation section).

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: The project area involves mountain shrub communities and aspen stands which provide nesting habitat for a variety of migratory birds. Representative species that nest in the mountain shrub habitats include green-tailed towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*), blue-gray gnatcatchers (*Polioptila caerulea*), and Virginia's warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*). Aspen stands provide nesting habitat for a variety of species such as broad-tailed hummingbirds (*Selasphorus platycercus*), red-naped sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*), flammulated owls (*Otus flammeolus*), and violet-green swallows (*Tachycineta thalassina*). Raptors such as red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and Cooper's hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*) are also likely to nest in the aspen stands.

There are no specialized or narrowly endemic species known to inhabit the project area. However, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recognizes flammulated owls, red-naped sapsuckers, and Virginia's warblers as being "birds of conservation concern". The Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list identifies birds that, without conservation actions, may become candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Most songbirds return to summer breeding ranges in April, begin nesting in earnest in late May or early June, and have fledged young by mid-August. There will be some direct habitat loss as brush and trees are cleared within 25 meters of each pole, however the relatively small amount of vegetation removal should have no influence on the availability of nest sites on a local level. If brush clearing, construction activities, or line removal activities were to occur during the nesting period, it is possible that some nests may be abandoned due to increased disturbance or inadvertently destroyed. Delaying activities as late in the summer as possible (e.g., August) would help to minimize the potential for nest failures. After the initial disturbance, it is expected that the power line would have negligible influence on the nest success of local populations in the long-term.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no potential for disturbance to nesting migratory birds.

Mitigation: See conditions regarding aspen habitat in the Terrestrial Wildlife and Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animal Species sections.

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

Affected Environment: Northern goshawks (*Accipter gentilis*) are a BLM sensitive species and are the only special status wildlife that may occur in the project area. In this locale, the birds typically situate nests in stands of large, mature aspen with heavier, well-developed canopies on mid-slope benches and drainage bottoms. The project, as proposed, intersects potential habitat on that powerline segment between the 31 and 38 locations (about 2,067 feet). This segment follows an old alignment that has since grown in and is indiscernible in 2005 aerial photographs. Although aspen is distributed throughout the project area, the remaining alignments are separated

sufficiently from potential habitat or are situated along aspen margins representing poor nesting habitat (i.e., along intervening well access roads, along narrow, open stringers of aspen, or paralleling narrow ridgeline corridors along the interface of steep subtending aspen and xeric mountain shrub).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: It is likely that northern goshawks nest in the aspen stands within the project area, but the likelihood of powerline installation adversely influencing an active nest are confined to an approximate 1,320 feet reach between the 31 and 38 locations. Particularly since the proponent desires that its powerline corridors be cleared of woody growth, which may be expected to affect the long-term integrity of this aspen stand for raptor nesting, BLM proposes that a corridor be established that skirts the stand to the south. The objectives of an alternate alignment should strive to effectively avoid long term involvement of aspen, reduce the frequency of corridor clearing and the need for establishing a route for subsequent vehicle use. This condition is consistent with a number of land use decisions in the White River ROD/RMP (i.e., pages 2-28 and 2-32: avoidance of long-term seral conversion of aspen, page 2-30: avoidance of aspen fragmentation). With these provisions in place, BLM believes there is no need to conduct raptor nest surveys or impose protective timing limitations.

There would be little risk of direct mortality since the proposed action includes measures designed to protect raptors from electrocution.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no effect on special status wildlife species or habitat under the no action alternative.

Mitigation: A new powerline corridor should be established between the 31 and 38 locations in T2N, R94W, section 2 SE. This corridor should skirt the southern margin of the aspen stand and avoid the involvement of any aspen. If feasible, it would be desirable and suggested that the old powerline poles (free of conductor) along the bypassed segment remain in place.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered Species: As conditioned (i.e. circumventing suitable habitat, perch deterrents), replacement of the power lines would have negligible influence on the condition or function of habitat for special status wildlife species and therefore, would have no influence on continued maintenance of associated land health standards.

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: Power line installation 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, and lubricants will be used during the project construction, and solid waste (human waste, garbage, etc.) will be generated during activities. There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials have been identified that will 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.

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

Mitigation: Garbage and sewage will be contained onsite and then hauled to an approved disposal site.

The release of any chemical, oil, 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: The proposed action includes the removal of old electrical poles and lines and the installation of a number of new electrical lines. This project will be along the divide of Yellow Creek and the Lower Piceance watersheds.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Construction of the electrical lines will cause temporary disturbances during construction activities that are unlikely to impact surface or groundwater with proper practices and reclamation. This area is industrial in nature and therefore impacts are expected to be relatively minimal.

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

Mitigation: None Identified

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: It is unlikely that these activities would result in an exceedence of state water quality standards due to the minimal disturbance proposed. .

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, Wilderness, wetland/riparian communities (see Wildlife, Aquatic section); ACEC's 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 (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The proposed action includes the removal of old and the installation of new electrical lines. This project is generally in steep country with poor soils

Soil Classifications within 98 Feet		
Type of Soil Concern	**Approx. Acres Impacted**	**Stipulation**
Landslide Area	43	NSO-1
Fragile Soils	6	CSU 1

Landslide Areas have been identified as having No-Surface Occupancy (NSO 1) stipulation in the 1997 White River ROD/RMP. Fragile soils on slopes greater than 35 percent are areas that have been identified as having Controlled Surface Use (CSU 1) stipulation in the 1997 White River ROD/RMP. The White River ROD/RMP allows for exceptions and modifications to the NSO stipulation:

- If the proposed action utilizes land treatments and soil stabilization practices that will demonstrate a high probability of reducing soil loss…and
- If the proposed action would not cause slumping or mass movement as demonstrate through engineering and design criteria.

This action includes the use of a 2 ton, 4-wheel drive digger/derrick truck and basic utility trucks. A tracked digger/derrick for setting poles may be used where there is limited access. No additional roads or access routes will be built. Electrical lines are not "occupancy" since they are not a "facility", but instead they are a linear feature, and as such the poles are not considered a violation of the NSO stipulation. Since the holder will not be creating new access for

maintenance, they have the option to use a tracked digger on steeper terrain, and only the current pole locations or periodic locations will need to be accessed this meets the spirit of items 3 and 4 in the modification criteria. When only removal is needed it will be done by hand crews.

The White River ROD/RMP requires that areas with fragile soils present an engineered construction/reclamation plan unless an exception has been granted based on additional soils information that shows soils do not meet the fragile soils criteria. Since no further soils information was provided by the holder the plan of development submitted by the holder may meet the engineered plan required, if the plan addresses the following specific concerns:

- How soil productivity will be restored.
- How surface runoff will be treated to avoid accelerated erosion such as riling, gullying, piping and mass wasting.

Where fragile soils are along the electrical line will be required to achieve the goals described above. The holder has not submitted such a plan or indicated any special measures for these areas to protect fragile soils. Mitigation will require immediate action if any of the erosion indicators are observed (see the mitigation).

Soil Types in the Project Area, within 98 Feet of Surface Disturbance	
Soil Complex	**Acres Impacted**
Jerry-Thornburgh-Rhone complex, 8-65%slopes	47
Rhone-Northwater-Lamphier loams, 3-50%	2
Mergel-Redthayne-Dollard complex, 8-65%slopes	7

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: If successful, best management activities during construction should minimize the risk of potential impacts of the project. This is especially important in the selection of the pole locations. Since most of the pole locations have already been accessed during the initial construction, this project may be considered similar to maintenance actions which were approve when the original action to put in the powerline. Restoring the productivity of these soils will be entirely dependent on reducing disturbance and successful reclamation when necessary. The holder has described mitigation, such as only using vehicles on flat ground, reclamation and removing old poles by hand crews that meet the requirements of mitigation to address fragile soils.

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

Mitigation: If soil productivity is diminished compared to pre-disturbance conditions after initial reclamation activities, than reseeding, hydromulching or other efforts will be made to reclaim soil productivity along the electrical lines.

If erosion features such as riling, gullying, piping and mass wasting occur along the pipeline right-of-way at anytime in the future these erosion features will be addressed immediately after observation by contacting the AO and submitting a reclamation plan with BMPs to address the erosion problems.

The holder will keep disturbance to a minimum on the landslide slopes identified as Torriorthents, cool-Rock outcrop complex and Mergel-Redthayne-Dollard complex soils identified in the Rio Blanco Soil survey.

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

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The proposed action will occur on/through Brushy Loam (90%) and Loamy Slope (10%) range sites. These sites support mountain shrub, aspen and some big sagebrush plant communities. Detailed descriptions of these plant communities can be found in the White River Resource Area Draft Resource Management Plan (10/94) and the White River Resource Area Draft EIS on Grazing Management (1981). The table below provides a list of plant species found in each of these communities.

Ecological Site / Woodland Type	**Plant Community Appearance**	**Predominant Plant Species in the Plant Community**
Brushy Loam	Deciduous Shrub / Grass Shrubland	Serviceberry, oakbrush, snowberry, mountain brome, slender wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, Letterman and Columbia needle grasses
Loamy Slopes	Mix Shrub / Grass Shrubland	Mountain mahogany, bitterbrush, serviceberry, mountain big sagebrush, beardless bluebunch wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, June grass, Indian rice grass

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action will disturb the existing vegetation temporarily altering the structure and functionality of the affected plant communities. Depending on environmental conditions during and soon after project construction, some of the herbaceous vegetation will most likely survive and quickly recover after construction.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: All areas of earthen disturbance will be promptly re-vegetated using Native seed mix #6 from the White River ROD/RMP listed below

Species	***Variety***	***Lbs PLS/acre***
Bluebunch wheatgrass	Secar	2
Slender wheatgrass	Primar	2
Big Bluegrass	Sherman	1
Canby bluegrass	Canbar	1
Mountain Brome	Bromer	2

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial)*:* Vegetation in the project area currently meets the

Standard and is expected to continue to meet the Standard following successful re-vegetation of all areas disturbed by project implementation.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: There are no wetlands or riparian systems that would be potentially affected by the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Replacement and installation of the power lines would have no effect on aquatic wildlife or habitat.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no effect on aquatic wildlife or habitat under the no action alternative.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): Replacement of the power lines would have no conceivable influence on the condition or function of aquatic habitats or wildlife associated with them, and therefore, would have no influence on continued maintenance of associated land health standards.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The project area is delineated by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) as summer range for both elk (*Cervus canadensis*) and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*). Summer range is defined as the area where 90% of the animals are located from spring until the first heavy snowfall. The area may also be used by large numbers of elk during the winter as the project occurs along the border of CDOW's delineated elk winter range. Winter range is defined as the area where 90% of the elk herd is located from the first heavy snowfall until spring in average winters. The Wilson Creek Field is long established and, particularly on private or mixed land holdings, summering big game are remarkably acclimated to routine oil field activity. From mid-August through the fall hunting seasons, animals are conditioned to use the area's very steep terrain to avoid existing roads and pipeline corridors—sites that are coincident with this project proposal.

Mature aspen stands in the area provide nesting habitat for raptors such as red-tailed hawks and Cooper's hawks, as well as Migratory Birds of Conservation Concern, such as red-naped sapsuckers and flammulated owl. There are no narrowly endemic terrestrial wildlife species known to inhabit the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Direct habitat loss associated with brush clearing along the power line route (i.e. within 82 feet of power poles) will be relatively small and distributed across the project area so there would be minimal impacts to terrestrial

wildlife. Wildlife may be disturbed during construction activities however these activities are expected to be of short duration (~40 days) and will not occur during critical time periods (e.g., fawning/calving in early spring or winter). Construction of the power line through or near aspen stands would, especially in the case of the 31-38 segments, require the removal and adverse modification of a mature stand of aspen. Reestablishing the original meter segment, including corridor preparation and periodic maintenance, would unnecessarily compromise the long term integrity of this aspen stand for disturbance intolerant species.

Line replacement and removal activities that occur along existing corridors and roads (virtually the entire project) during the proposed late summer/early fall period would have no effective influence on big game or adjacent migratory bird, including raptor, nesting activity. As mentioned in the proposed action, raptors would be protected from electrocution either by line design or by using perch deterrents.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impact to terrestrial wildlife populations.

Mitigation: See condition for new right-of-way corridor in Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animal section above.

In the event this project is implemented during the raptor nesting season (15 April through 15 August, a raptor survey, using protocols established by the WRFO, may be required on portions of the line. BLM biologists will establish survey requirements and review and approve of results prior to issuing a notice to proceed. If nests are found, appropriate timing limitations as established in the White River ROD/RMP shall be imposed. For nests of non-special status raptor species, there will be no development activities within ¼ of identified nests from February 1 through August 15 (or until dispersal of young).

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): On a landscape scale the project area currently meets Public Land Health Standards for animal communities. As conditioned (e.g., limiting activities during critical times, protecting nest sites, and protecting wildlife from electrocution risks), the proposed action can be implemented with minimal impacts to terrestrial wildlife in the project area.

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	

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
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		

ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION

Affected Environment: The majority of the proposed action (approximately 3700 feet) occurs within the Wilson Creek Travel Management area (WCTMA) as defined by CO-110-2004-032-EA the Wilson Creek Transportation Management Plan and Resource Management Plan Amendment. All motorized travel is restricted to designated routes.

Access to the WCTMA is provided by RBC 9 and BLM 1544. The majority of the roads within the planning area were/are developed and maintained for oil and gas operations and public utilities. The roads are also used for local range management activities and hunting season recreation. See map #1 for a overview of the WCTMA and designated routes.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: If travel is necessary to complete the action, it may create the appearance to other public land users that cross-country motorized travel is acceptable in the WCTMA once again. Additionally routes may be developed to follow routes used during pole replacement.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: Minimize all cross-country travel in the WCTMA. No cross-country travel may be allowed during the big game hunting seasons.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: The proposed action is within the C9 Danforth Hills fire management polygon. Managing naturally ignited wildland fires through appropriate management response (AMR) to a size of 200 acres is recommended for this polygon. The planned routes for the proposed action are located in mountain shrub, Mountain Big Sage and aspen vegetation types. Vegetation will continually dry out and become available for ignition as the summer months progress.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The increase in off road activity and the equipment used during installation of the new power lines will increase the potential for ignition during the summer months. Any clearing of tress and /or brush will increase the amount of available fuels and it will increase fire intensity around the pole structures potentially threatening them. Where power lines travel through aspen stand, the potential for arching exists which in turn may also become an ignition source. If the area around the pole structures is not properly maintained brush will regenerate and grow up to the poles increasing the threat of wildland fire.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there would be no environmental consequences.

Mitigation: Remove brush and trees within a 25 foot perimeter of the power pole structures to lessen the threat of wild land fire. Brush that is removed shall be chipped or mulched and scattered to reduce the accumulation of fuels in the areas around the pole structures. Remove aspen trees where there is a potential for arching. Removed aspen tress shall be either cut into 4 foot sections and placed along the roads for fire wood collection or chipped and scattered to reduce fuel accumulations within the corridor.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located in the Wilson Creek oil field area. Aspen and mountain shrub communities are present within the area of the proposed action. This area has been actively developed in the past with multiple rights of ways traversing the hill sides.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed right of way for the power line segments generally follows existing disturbances. This will reduce the amount of new disturbance created in the area. One segment that does not follow an existing disturbance is the portion that runs from well 38 to well 31. This portion is routed through young aspen and mature aspen stands. The proposed route would create a corridor that will divide these aspen stands. It is estimated that 6 to 8 pole structures are needed which would require the removal of aspen for pole installation, which based on topography and vegetation in this proposed route would require the creation of access routes to the pole locations. These access routes would further fragment the stands and remove a large amount of mature aspen through corridor clearing and the removal of aspen trees that may interfere with the power line. Forestry concurs with the statement in the Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animal Species section, in that an alternate route that skirts the edges of the aspen stands involved would effectively reduce stand fragmentation and is also preferred as it will reduce the amount of mature aspen removed.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Under this alternative, there would be no environmental consequences.

Mitigation: A new power line corridor should be identified and established from well 38 to well 31 that will skirt the southern edge of the aspen stands involved and utilize existing disturbances. Clearing areas around the all pole structures shall be done to mitigate for wildland

fire as well as for construction purposes. The holder may clear around the pole structures up to 25 feet as well as any tree where arcing may cause a spark or interrupt the electrical supply. The alignment should avoid the larger, more mature aspen and concentrate along the perimeter of the aspen stands or in previously disturbed areas where the smaller regenerating aspen are located. The holder shall not clear vegetation in manner that would create a continuous corridor. The White River ROD/RMP page 2-22 states that woodlands removed as a result of development will be purchase prior to removal. The amount of aspen that will be removed as a result of interference and construction, aside from the proposed route between wells 38 and 31, is estimated to be 3 cords. There will be no charge for the materials due to the small amount created by the proposed action outside of the proposed route between the 38 and 31 well locations. Any materials greater than 4 inches in diameter will be cut into 4-foot sections and placed along the roads for fire wood collection. Materials less than 4 inches in diameter will be scattered.

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located in an area generally mapped as the Iles Formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM, WRFO has classified as a PFYC 5 fossil formation meaning it is known to produce scientifically important fossil resources, including dinosaurs.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There is a potential to impact scientifically important fossil if it should become necessary to excavate into the underlying rock formation to construct the power line. However, if the excavations are limited to auger holes for the power poles the impact to significant fossils is likely to be minimal should any be present.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to fossil resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: 1. 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, and
- 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 project occurs in the Devil's Hole pasture of the Smith/Crawford allotment (06625). On even numbered years (2008) there are livestock in this pasture from mid July through mid November. On odd numbered years livestock are present from mid August through mid November. Most livestock grazing use occurs in areas of less steep topography which to some extent includes the ridge-tops where most of the construction activities will occur.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The increased activity associated with project implementation will likely negatively impact livestock grazing due to cattle avoiding the affected areas thus temporarily decreasing rangelands available for grazing. Construction activities could also temporarily affect livestock control in the project area if gates are left open or fences taken down. Other temporary impacts to livestock grazing may include such influences as a slight reduction in available forage (AUMs) and negative influences on rangeland improvements (e.g., silting of reservoirs related to soil disturbances, fence line integrity).

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: Assure that fence-lines are maintained in a functional state throughout construction activities to prevent unintended livestock movement into or out of the project area. Any affected fence lines must be repaired to a functional state at least as good as or better than their original condition before construction began.

REALTY AUTHORIZATIONS

Affected Environment: The project area is located in extremely steep and rough terrain being hard to access. There isn't a utility corridor in this location.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is for the removal and replacement of a power line that was constructed by Texaco as part of their field operations. The old 4.16 kV power line isn't up to present day standards and is inadequate for today's power demands. The new 25 kV, 3-phase line will supply more power to the 7 well locations in the Wilson Creek Field.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: Use of pesticides shall comply with the applicable Federal and state laws. Pesticides shall be used only in accordance with their registered uses and within limitations imposed by the Secretary of the Interior. Prior to the use of pesticides, the holder shall obtain from the authorized officer written approval of a plan showing the type and quantity of material to be used, pest(s) to be controlled, method of application, location of storage and disposal of

containers, and any other information deemed necessary by the authorized officer. Emergency use of pesticides shall be approved in writing by the authorized officer prior to such use.

The holder shall be responsible for weed control on disturbed areas within the limits of the right-of-way. The holder is responsible for consultation with the authorized officer and/or local authorities for acceptable weed control methods (within limits imposed in the grant stipulations).

The holder shall protect all survey monuments found within the right-of-way. Survey monuments include, but are not limited to, General Land Office and Bureau of Land Management Cadastral Survey Corners, reference corners, witness points, U.S. Coastal and Geodetic benchmarks and triangulation stations, military control monuments, and recognizable civil (both public and private) survey monuments. In the event of obliteration or disturbance of any of the above, the holder shall immediately report the incident, in writing, to the authorized officer and the respective installing authority if known. Where General Land Office or Bureau of Land Management right-of-way monuments or references are obliterated during operations, the holder shall secure the services of a registered land surveyor or a Bureau cadastral surveyor to restore the disturbed monuments and references using surveying procedures found in the Manual of Surveying Instructions for the Survey of the Public Lands in the United States, latest edition. The holder shall record such survey in the appropriate county and send a copy to the authorized officer. If the Bureau cadastral surveyors or other Federal surveyors are used to restore the disturbed survey monument, the holder shall be responsible for the survey cost.

No construction or routine maintenance activities shall be performed during periods when the soil is too wet to adequately support construction equipment. If such equipment creates ruts in excess of 3 inches deep, the soil shall be deemed too wet to adequately support construction equipment.

Construction holes left open over night shall be covered. Covers shall be secured in place and shall be strong enough to prevent livestock or wildlife from falling through and into a hole.

Unless otherwise agreed to by the authorized officer in writing, power lines shall be constructed in accordance to standards outlined in "Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power lines," Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., 1981. The holder shall assume the burden and expense of proving that pole designs not shown in the above publication are "eagle safe." Such proof shall be provided by a raptor expert approved by the authorized officer. The BLM reserves the right to require modifications or additions to all power line structures placed on this right-of-way, should they be necessary to ensure the safety of large perching birds. Such modifications and/or additions shall be made by the holder without liability or expense to the United States.

RECREATION

Affected Environment: The proposed action occurs within the White River Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). BLM custodially manages the ERMA to provide for unstructured recreation activities such as hunting, dispersed camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and off-highway vehicle use. The area is located within Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) game management unit (GMU) 211. The primary recreation use within the

planning area is hunting and the Wilson Creek area is one of the only publicly accessible hunting areas within GMU 211 outside of the Yampa River corridor to the north. Hunters using motorized conveyance and those hunters that chose to walk or use livestock frequent the area with slightly more hunters opting for motorized access. There have been historic problems with hunters trespassing on private lands adjacent to BLM lands and with the creation of non-system motorized routes. Overnight camping, although not prevalent in the area, does occur along Sheriff Ridge in a single large camp area and an area in the Devil's Hole Mountain vicinity with many more camping along BLM 1544 prior to the private land gate. One BLM Special Recreation Permit for upland big-game outfitting is permitted within the travel management area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: If the proposed action occurs within the fall big game hunting season – more specifically during the following date ranges: 8/28/2008-8/31/2008, 9/12/2008-9/14/2008, 9/19/2008-9/21/2008, 10/16/2008-10/19/2008, 10/31/2008-11/2/2008, it is likely that the action will disrupt the hunting activity and produce safety issues with respect to travel and the use of weapons in the process of hunting. This impact will be further exposed if equipment travels off of designated motorized routes.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: Construction will be avoided during the Big Game Hunting Seasons.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed action would be located in an area with both VRM II and VRM III classifications. Class II Objective. The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Class III Objective. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would replace existing visual features with the same visual features. No additional change to the characteristic landscape would occur, and the objectives of both the VRM II and VRM III classification would be retained.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no environmental impacts.

Mitigation: None.

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

REFERENCES CITED:

Conner, Carl E.
2008 Class III Cultural Resources Inventory for the Proposed 25-kV Power Line Replacement Project in the Wilson Creek Oil Field in Rio Blanco County, Colorado for White River Electric Association. Grand River Institute, Grand Junction, Colorado.

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

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED:

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
Mary Taylor	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species, Vegetation , Rangeland Management
Heather Sauls/Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds, Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife, Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness, Access and Transportation, Recreation,
Jim Michels	Fire/Fuels Technician	Fire Management
Jim Michels	Fire/Fuels Technician	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Penny Brown	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Keith Whitaker	Natural Resource Specialist	Visual Resources
Melissa J. Kindall	Range Technician	Wild Horses

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

CO-110-2008-080-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 approve the proposed action with the following mitigation measures.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. The holder will be required to monitor the project area for the life of the project to detect the presence of noxious weeds and/or invasive species. It will be the holder's responsibility to eradicate any such plants using materials and methods approved in advance by the Authorized Officer. All areas where construction activities disturb the soil surface will be promptly re-vegetated using the appropriate WRFO native seed mixture (listed in the Vegetation section).

4. A new power line corridor should be established between the 31 and 38 locations in T2N, R94W, section 2 SE. This corridor should skirt the southern margin of the aspen stand and avoid the involvement of any aspen. If feasible, it would be desirable and suggested that the old power line poles (free of conductor) along the bypassed segment remain in place.

5. Garbage and sewage will be contained onsite and then hauled to an approved disposal site.

6. The release of any chemical, oil, 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.

7. If soil productivity is diminished compared to pre-disturbance conditions after initial reclamation activities, than reseeding, hydromulching or other efforts will be made to reclaim soil productivity along the electrical lines.

8. If erosion features such as riling, gullying, piping and mass wasting occur along the pipeline right-of-way at anytime in the future these erosion features will be addressed immediately after observation by contacting the AO and submitting a reclamation plan with BMPs to address the erosion problems.

9. The holder will keep disturbance to a minimum on the landslide slopes identified as Torriorthents, cool-Rock outcrop complex and Mergel-Redthayne-Dollard complex soils identified in the Rio Blanco Soil survey.

10. All areas of earthen disturbance will be promptly re-vegetated using Native seed mix #6 from the White River ROD/RMP listed below

Species	***Variety***	***Lbs PLS/acre***
Bluebunch wheatgrass	Secar	2
Slender wheatgrass	Primar	2
Big Bluegrass	Sherman	1
Canby bluegrass	Canbar	1
Mountain Brome	Bromer	2

11. In the event this project is implemented during the raptor nesting season (15 April through 15 August, a raptor survey, using protocols established by the WRFO, may be required on portions of the line. BLM biologists will establish survey requirements and review and approve of results prior to issuing a notice to proceed. If nests are found, appropriate timing limitations as

established in the White River ROD/RMP shall be imposed. For nests of non-special status raptor species, there will be no development activities within ¼ of identified nests from February 1 through August 15 (or until dispersal of young).

12. Remove brush and trees within a 25 foot perimeter of the power pole structures to lessen the threat of wild land fire. Brush that is removed shall be chipped or mulched and scattered to reduce the accumulation of fuels in the areas around the pole structures. Remove aspen trees where there is a potential for arching. Removed aspen tress shall be either cut into 4-foot sections and placed along the roads for fire wood collection or chipped and scattered to reduce fuel accumulations within the corridor.

13. A new power line corridor should be identified and established from well 38 to well 31 that will skirt the southern edge of the aspen stands involved and utilize existing disturbances. Clearing areas around the all pole structures shall be done to mitigate for wildland fire as well as for construction purposes. The holder may clear around the pole structures up to 25 feet as well as any tree where arcing may cause a spark or interrupt the electrical supply. The alignment should avoid the larger, more mature aspen and concentrate along the perimeter of the aspen stands or in previously disturbed areas where the smaller regenerating aspen are located. The holder shall not clear vegetation in manner that would create a continuous corridor. The White River ROD/RMP page 2-22 states that woodlands removed as a result of development will be purchase prior to removal. The amount of aspen that will be removed as a result of interference and construction, aside from the proposed route between wells 38 and 31, is estimated to be 3 cords. There will be no charge for the materials due to the small amount created by the proposed action outside of the proposed route between the 38 and 31 well locations. Any materials greater than 4 inches in diameter will be cut into 4-foot sections and placed along the roads for fire wood collection. Materials less than 4 inches in diameter will be scattered.

14. 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, and
- 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.

15. Assure that fence-lines are maintained in a functional state throughout construction activities

to prevent unintended livestock movement into or out of the project area. Any affected fence lines must be repaired to a functional state at least as good as or better than their original condition before construction began.

16. Use of pesticides shall comply with the applicable Federal and state laws. Pesticides shall be used only in accordance with their registered uses and within limitations imposed by the Secretary of the Interior. Prior to the use of pesticides, the holder shall obtain from the authorized officer written approval of a plan showing the type and quantity of material to be used, pest(s) to be controlled, method of application, location of storage and disposal of containers, and any other information deemed necessary by the authorized officer. Emergency use of pesticides shall be approved in writing by the authorized officer prior to such use.

17. The holder shall be responsible for weed control on disturbed areas within the limits of the right-of-way. The holder is responsible for consultation with the authorized officer and/or local authorities for acceptable weed control methods (within limits imposed in the grant stipulations).

18. The holder shall protect all survey monuments found within the right-of-way. Survey monuments include, but are not limited to, General Land Office and Bureau of Land Management Cadastral Survey Corners, reference corners, witness points, U.S. Coastal and Geodetic benchmarks and triangulation stations, military control monuments, and recognizable civil (both public and private) survey monuments. In the event of obliteration or disturbance of any of the above, the holder shall immediately report the incident, in writing, to the authorized officer and the respective installing authority if known. Where General Land Office or Bureau of Land Management right-of-way monuments or references are obliterated during operations, the holder shall secure the services of a registered land surveyor or a Bureau cadastral surveyor to restore the disturbed monuments and references using surveying procedures found in the Manual of Surveying Instructions for the Survey of the Public Lands in the United States, latest edition. The holder shall record such survey in the appropriate county and send a copy to the authorized officer. If the Bureau cadastral surveyors or other Federal surveyors are used to restore the disturbed survey monument, the holder shall be responsible for the survey cost.

19. No construction or routine maintenance activities shall be performed during periods when the soil is too wet to adequately support construction equipment. If such equipment creates ruts in excess of 3 inches deep, the soil shall be deemed too wet to adequately support construction equipment.

20. Construction holes left open over night shall be covered. Covers shall be secured in place and shall be strong enough to prevent livestock or wildlife from falling through and into a hole.

21. Unless otherwise agreed to by the authorized officer in writing, power lines shall be constructed in accordance to standards outlined in "Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power lines," Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., 1981. The holder shall assume the burden and expense of proving that pole designs not shown in the above publication are "eagle safe." Such proof shall be provided by a raptor expert approved by the authorized officer. The BLM reserves the right to require modifications or additions to all power line structures placed on this right-of-

way, should they be necessary to ensure the safety of large perching birds. Such modifications and/or additions shall be made by the holder without liability or expense to the United States.

22. Construction will be avoided during the Big Game Hunting Season.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Compliance should be conducted every 5 years.

NAME OF PREPARER: Penny Brown

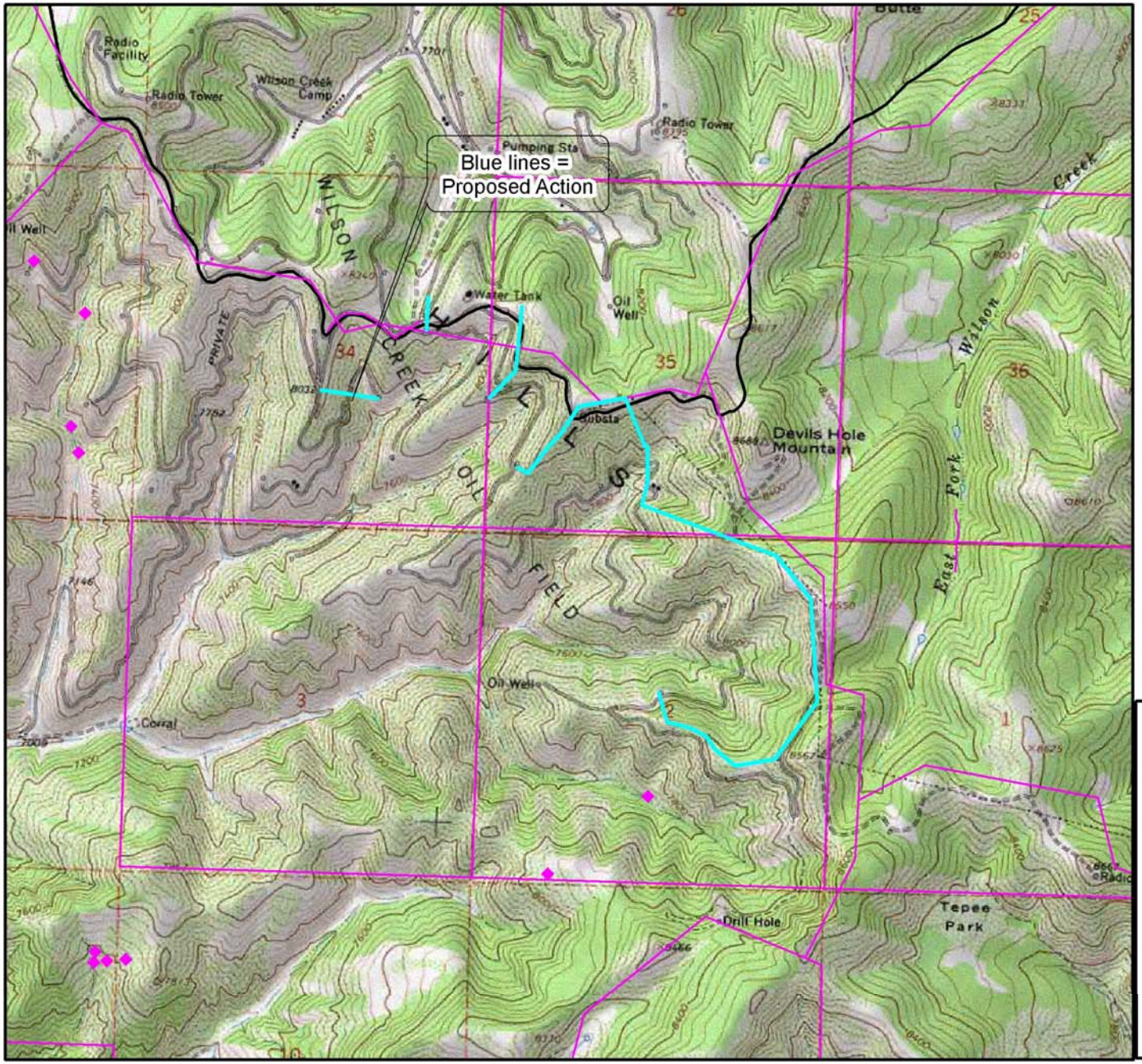
NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Caroline Hollowed

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 8 Dec 2008

ATTACHMENTS: General Location Map of the Proposed Action

CO-110-2008-080-EA



Legend

- Projects: polygon
- Projects: line
- Projects: point
- Field office boundary
- ACEC's

N

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

11/10/08