

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

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**NUMBER:** DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0116-EA

**CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER:** COD-032678 (Carney 44Y34)  
COD-051900 (F.V. Larson B 17X and F.V. Larson B 10)

**PROJECT NAME:** Produced Waterline (buried) Replacement CS#30 to CS#39; and  
Water Injection Line Replacement F.V. Larson B 10 to a tie-in north.

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** 6<sup>th</sup> P.M.  
T2N, R102W,  
Sections 34, 35, & 36,

**APPLICANT:** Chevron USA, Inc.

**ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** none

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:**

***Background/Introduction:*** The proposal for the produced water line replacement from Collection Station (CS) # 30 to CS# 39 is located partially within the original 40 ft right-of-way that was approved, and partially in an area of new disturbance due to an off-set of 15-20 ft. The proposal for the water injection line replacement/reroute is located mostly on the opposite side of the existing road from the current injection line location. This will get the line out of the drainage. The actions are similar to those analyzed in environmental assessment (EA) CO-110-2006-097-EA, which analyzed 10 Applications for Permit to Drill (all on separate pads) and associated roads and pipeline disturbances.

**Proposed Action:** White River Field Office (WRFO) received two sundry notices for replacement of waterlines within Chevron USA, Inc.'s Rangely-Weber-Sand Unit. Sundry notice (SN) #1 was received February 25, 2010 for a buried produced water injection line replacement from Collection Station #30 to Collection Station #39. Sundry Notice #2 was received March 11, 2010 for a buried water injection line replacement/reroute from F.V. Larson B 10.

SN#1- Produced Water Line Replacement: Chevron USA, Inc. proposes to install a new produced water line from Collection Station #30 to Collection Station #39 which would replace an existing line. Currently, the existing line has many small leaks which necessitate the replacement of this line. The existing line will be left in place, and the new line will be installed approximately 15-20 ft offset the existing line to minimize new surface disturbance. The old line will be flushed with water and capped on each end, and at every opening. The line would transport produced water from CS#39 and CS#34 to a common tie in point north of CS #30.

The new water line is proposed to consist of 8 inch and 10 inch steel pipe with a poly pipe internal lining. The total length of the line will be approximately 8,800 ft in length and buried to a depth of 42 inches inside the typical 40 foot right of way (ROW).

Desired start date is June 1<sup>st</sup>, with a completion date of October 31<sup>st</sup>, yielding a project duration of approximately 5 months.

The right-of-way will be fully reclaimed to BLM specifications and stipulations.

SN#2- Water Injection Line Replacement/Reroute: Chevron USA, Inc. proposes to install a new water injection line from F.V. Larson B 10 to a tie-in point approximately 1,074 ft to the north of the location which would replace the existing line. The existing line has had two leaks and the line is now shut-in, which necessitates the replacement of this line. The existing line was installed in a natural drainage and will be left in place. The old line will be drained, flushed with fresh water and capped on each end. The new line will be installed on the opposite side of the existing road to avoid the drainage.

The new water injection line is proposed to consist of high pressure 3 inch fiberglass pipe rated at 2,500 psi. The total length of the line will be approximately 1,074 ft in length and buried to a depth of 42 inches. The ROW needed will only be approximately 25 ft since the existing road will be utilized as a working surface for installation.

Desired start date is June 6, 2010, with a completion date of August 31, 2010, yielding a project duration of approximately 3 months.

The right-of-way will be fully reclaimed to BLM specifications and stipulations.

**No Action Alternative:** The produced injection line replacement would be denied.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD:** None.

**PURPOSE & NEED FOR THE ACTION:** The purpose of the proposed action is to manage the exploration and development of mineral resources on Public Lands in a manner that avoids, minimizes, reduces, or mitigates potential impacts to other resource values.

The purpose of the action is to provide the opportunity to transport injection water across BLM surface. The need for the action is established under the authority of Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) to respond to the request to transport injection water across BLM surface.

Decision to be Made: The BLM will decide whether or not to approve the water injection line replacement(s)/reroute(s), and if so, under what conditions.

**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: 2-5

Decision Language: “Make federal oil and gas resources available for leasing and development in a manner that provides reasonable protection for 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:

**INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS RECORD CHECKLIST**

<b>DETERMINATION OF STAFF:</b>		
<b>Determination</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination*</b>
<b>Natural, Biological and Cultural Resources</b>		
PI	Air Quality	See discussion below
PI	Soils	See discussion below
PI	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	See discussion below

<b>DETERMINATION OF STAFF:</b>		
<b>Determination</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination*</b>
PI	Water Quality (Surface/Ground	See discussion below
NP	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	The nearest known system which supports riparian vegetation is the White River which is separated from the project area by approximately 0.5 miles of ephemeral channel.
PI	Vegetation	See discussion below
PI	Invasive, Non-native Species	See discussion below
NP	Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Plant Species	There are no plant species listed, proposed, or candidate to the Endangered Species Act, or plants considered sensitive by the BLM, that are known to inhabit areas influenced by the proposed action. The proposed action would have no conceivable influence on special status species or associated habitats.
PI	Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animal Species	See discussion below.
NI	Migratory Birds	The proposed waterline routes will follow existing disturbance (i.e., pipeline corridors or roads) and will involve minimal vegetation removal. Much of the vegetation within the existing corridor is in a degraded state and generally does not provide adequate forage or cover resource for nesting birds.
NP	Wildlife, Aquatic	The nearest known system which supports riparian vegetation is the White River which is separated from the project area by approximately 0.5 miles of ephemeral channel.
NI	Wildlife, Terrestrial	This heavily developed portion of Coal Oil Basin is inhabited year-round by a small resident herd of pronghorn which are acclimated to routine oil and gas production activities. The proposed waterline replacements will be located adjacent to existing corridors or roadways to minimize disturbance. Raptors may opportunistically forage throughout the project area however; there are no known nests within several miles of the pipeline corridor. See discussion regarding reclamation in TES Animal Species section.
NP	Wild Horses	The proposed action is not located within a designated wild horse management area.
NP	Cultural Resources	There are no known resources in the project area. The area is covered by an inventory (Larralde 1981) and much of the line is in previous disturbance.
NI	Paleontology	The proposed action is in areas mapped as Mancos Shale and Quaternary Alluviums neither considered significant fossil bearing formations. (Tweto 1979, Armstrong and Wolny 1989)

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for impact analyzed in detail in the EA

## **NATURAL, BIOLOGICAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **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. Industrial facilities in White River Basin include coal mines, soda ash mines, natural gas processing plants and power plants. The White River Basin has been classified as either attainment or unclassified for all air pollutants National Ambient Air Quality and Colorado Ambient Air Quality (NAAQS and CAAQS) standards, and most of the area has been designated for the prevention of significant deterioration class II for the prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) areas nearby at Dinosaur National Monument. Because the historic air quality in the White River Basin has been good, small changes in air quality may have noticeable localized effects, especially on visibility.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* Pipeline installation will require removing topsoil over the trench, trenching and soil storage, installation of the pipeline, refilling the trench, spreading the topsoil, reclamation and installation of stormwater BMPs as needed. As vegetation establishes in the reclaimed areas, the only dust production that is likely is due to vehicles traveling into sites for pipeline maintenance.

The proposed action would result in very minor increases in the level of inhalable particulate matter during installation and construction, specifically particles ten microns or less in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>) associated with fugitive dust. In addition, increases in the following criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide, ozone (secondary pollutant), nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide would also occur due to combustion of fossil fuels during installation and recoat activities. Non-criteria pollutants such as visibility, nitric oxide, air toxics (e.g. benzene) and total suspended particulates (TSP) may also experience slight, temporary increases as a result of the Proposed Action (no national ambient air quality standards have been set for non-criteria pollutants). Even with these increased pollutants, this project is unlikely to result in an exceedance of NAAQ and CAAQ standards and is likely to be under PSD thresholds.

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

*Mitigation:* None Identified

### **SOILS**

*Affected Environment:* This area is almost entirely in soils identified as saline where the vast majority of the disturbance in and near the proposed pipeline right of way (ROW) will be. Many of these areas have poor and saline soils that would likely be difficult to reclaim, soil types are shown below.

**Soil Classifications within 30 Meters of the Project (greater than 1 Acre in size)**

<b>Soil Classification</b>	<b>Range Site Description</b>	<b>Potentially Impacted</b>
Chipeta silty clay loam, 3-25% slopes	Clayey Saltdesert	27
Billings-Torrifluvents complex, gullied, 0-5% slopes	Alkaline Slopes	8
Cliffdown-Cliffdown Variant complex, 5-65% slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	7

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* The installation of the pipeline would result in the loss of vegetative cover, increasing the potential for water erosion and soil loss during excavation. Compaction due to construction activities would reduce aeration, permeability and water-holding capacities of the soils. An increase in surface runoff could be expected from these areas and they are likely to be less resilient to erosion from surface runoff, potentially causing increased sheet, rill and gully erosion. During reclamation activities surface runoff should be minimized through the site or the soils would become destabilized before reclamation succeeds.

Potential impacts to soils from the pipeline installation would include removal of vegetation, mixing of soil horizons, soil compaction, increased susceptibility to erosion, loss of topsoil productivity and contamination of soils with petroleum constituents. If reclamation is successful, impacts from this project will be minor and localized to disturbed areas. Many of these areas have saline and unstable soils that would likely be more difficult to reclaim. The use of the BLM seed mix number 1, specified in the vegetation section for reclamation activities will increase the likelihood of success. Some of the species such as Fourwing saltbush and Nuttall saltbush are specifically suited to saline soils.

Contamination of surface and subsurface soils can occur from leaks or spills of chemicals during both of the proposals, fuels and lubricants and could also result in soil contamination. Such leaks or spills could compromise the productivity of the affected soils. Depending on the size and type of spill, the impact to soils would primarily consist of the loss of soil productivity. Typically contaminated soils would be removed and disposed of in a permitted facility or would be bioremediated in place.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* Contamination of surface and subsurface soils can occur from leaks or spills of chemicals during both of the proposals, fuels and lubricants and could also result in soil contamination. Such leaks or spills could compromise the productivity of the affected soils. Depending on the size and type of spill, the impact to soils would primarily consist of the loss of soil productivity. Typically contaminated soils would be removed and disposed of in a permitted facility or would be bioremediated in place.

*Mitigation:* The following should be attached as conditions of approval.

- 1) All construction and drilling activity shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless there are safety concerns or activities are otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer.

- 2) If salt is observed on the surface of soils during reclamation activities the AO will be notified and a plan will be developed with approval of the BLM to improve reclamation on the site.
- 3) If erosion features such as riling, gullyng, piping and mass wasting occur on disturbed surfaces subject to reclamation, the erosion features will be addressed immediately after observation by contacting the AO and submitting a plan to assure successful soil stabilization with BMPs to address the erosion problems.

*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.

## **WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID**

*Affected Environment:* There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored, or disposed of at sites included in the project area. The operator does not identify in their APD submissions any hazardous substances to be used during operations associated with this project.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* No listed or extremely hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities are proposed for use in this project. While commercial preparations of fuels and lubricants proposed for use may contain some hazardous constituents, they would be stored, used, and transported in a manner consistent with applicable laws such that generation of hazardous wastes is not anticipated. All left-over chemicals and materials will be hauled off-site for use or disposal. Solid wastes would be properly disposed of off-site at an approved facility.

Accidental releases associated with equipment failures, equipment maintenance and refueling, and storage of fuel, oil, other fluids, and chemicals could cause soil, surface water, and/or groundwater contamination. With implementation of the mitigation measures described below, impacts would likely 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.

1. The release of any chemical, oil, petroleum product, produced water, or sewage, etc, must be contained immediately, cleaned up as soon as possible, and reported by the project proponent to the Bureau of Land Management according requirements specified in the Notice to Lessees and Operators of Onshore Federal and Indian Oil and Gas Leases (NTL-3A).

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

*Affected Environment:* All the sites for this project are the Stinky Water Creek and Dead Dog Draw which is a tributary to the White River. Stinky Water Creek is in Segment 22 which includes all tributaries to the White River from a point above Douglas Creek to the Utah border. This section is use protected and is classified for the protection of aquatic life warm 2, primary contact recreation, and agriculture.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* Potential impacts to the surface waters include increased runoff; erosion and sedimentation due to soil disturbance associated with construction activities. The magnitude of the impacts to surface water resources would depend on the proximity of the disturbance to drainage channels, slope aspect and gradient, degree and area of soil disturbance, soil character, duration of construction activities, and the timely implementation and success/failure of mitigation measures.

The western section of the pipeline crosses three ephemeral channels in the headwaters of Stinking Water Creek and one crossing on Dead Dog Draw. Each of these crossing will be open trench. With the mitigation below that requires the pipeline to be installed at least 4 feet below the existing channels and to repair any erosion on these channels caused by the old pipeline, impacts from this proposed action should be reduced.

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

*Mitigation:* The following should be attached as conditions of approval.

1. Provide for erosion-resistant surface drainage by adding necessary drainage facilities and armoring prior to fall rain or snow. When erosion is anticipated, sediment barriers shall be constructed to slow runoff, allow deposition of sediment, and prevent it from leaving the site. In addition, straining or filtration mechanisms may also contribute to sediment removal from runoff.
2. Install the pipeline at least 4 feet below the existing channel bed in the tributaries to Stinking Water Creek and Dead Dog Draw. Repair any erosion in these channels that may have been caused by the old pipeline routes.

*Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality:* It is unlikely that the pipeline installation would result in an exceedence of state water quality standards. Cumulative impacts from this activity and others may eventually impact sediment yields to the degree that they impact listing.

## **VEGETATION** (includes a finding on Standard 3)

*Affected Environment:* The proposed action is located within Alkaline Slope and Clayey Saltdesert ecological sites, which are dominated by salt tolerant vegetation. The dominate plant community for these sites consist of greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*) and various

saltbrushes such as shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), Gardner saltbrush (*Atriplex gardneri*), mat saltbush (*Atriplex corrugate*), and fourwing saltbrush (*Atriplex canescens*). Other brushes intermixed in the area are rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*) and big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*). The understory of these shrubs is dominated by western wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*), Colorado wildrye (*Elymus salinus*), and squirreltail (*Sitanion hystrix*). Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) is an undesirable, invasive, and alien plant species that is present within the locality of the proposed action.

Drought conditions are very prevalent within the Coal Oil Basin area, which has hampered the successful establishment of reclaimed plant species of other projects in this area. Therefore, undesirable and invasive annual plant species (i.e. halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*), cheatgrass) have become dominate in portions of previously disturbed areas which provide little resource value and hinder efforts to meet Public Land Health Standards.

The proposed action would disturb a mid to low seral class of desert shrub community for a total of 0.62 acres. The short-term soil and vegetation disturbances would be offset in the long-term by 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 within the plant community, successful re-vegetation efforts would slightly increase desirable plant species within the rangelands.

Previously this area has entailed considerable impacts from oil and gas activities from a network of well pads, pipeline corridors, and access roads, which have resulted in a fragmentation and reduction of available, productive ecological sites.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* None

*Mitigation:* Promptly revegetate all disturbed areas associated with the proposed action, including all cut and fill slopes and topsoil stockpiles, with Standard Seed Mix #1 of the White River ROD/RMP (B-19, Appendix B). 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 and seed certification tags must be submitted to the Area Manager within 14 days of seeding. The applicant will be responsible for eradicating cheatgrass, noxious weeds, and/or problem weeds should they occur and/or increase in density as a result of the proposed action. The applicant will use materials and methods as outlined in the White River ROD/RMP or authorized in advance by the authorized officer (AO).

*Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities* (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The proposed action would disturb a small segment of the Alkaline Slope and Clayey Salt-desert ecological sites. Therefore, the action would further fragment these areas to a minimal degree.

## **INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES**

*Affected Environment:* The vegetation type of the area is a salt desert shrub type; dominate plant species are matt saltbush, Gardner saltbush, various forbs and grasses. Generally plant cover does not exceed 10%. The plant community is the result of the soils which contain high amounts of clay and salt, which produces austere growing conditions.

Noxious weeds which occur in the area include halogeton and cheatgrass. Both of these species are highly adapted to disturbed soils. Both of these species are effectively controlled by establishment of seeded species. There is always the opportunity for other noxious weed species to be transported onto the proposed action locations by construction and support equipment

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* The proposed seed mix contains non-native species. This seed mix was recommended because the plant species are highly adapted to this site and offer the greatest opportunity to establish vegetation cover and the resultant soil stabilization. These non-native species have not been found to move offsite or interbreed with the adjacent plant species.

Prompt reclamation would 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:* There would be no impacts.

*Mitigation:* - The applicant will be responsible for eradicating cheatgrass, noxious weeds, and/or problem weeds should they occur and/or increase in density as a result of the proposed action. The applicant will use materials and methods as outlined in the White River ROD/RMP or authorized in advance by the authorized officer (AO). Application of herbicides must be under field supervision of an EPA certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides must be registered by the EPA and pesticide use proposals (PUP's) must be approved by the BLM.

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

*Affected Environment:* The project area is broadly encompassed by white-tailed prairie dog habitat. White-tailed prairie dogs, a BLM sensitive species, and their burrow systems are important components of burrowing owl habitat, as well as potential habitat for reintroduced populations of black-footed ferret. Burrowing owls, also a BLM sensitive species are uncommon in this Resource Area. These birds return to occupy a maintained burrow system in early April and begin nesting soon after. Most birds have left the area by September.

Under the auspices of a non-essential, experimental population rule, black-footed ferrets have been released annually in Coyote Basin (eight miles southwest) and Wolf Creek (13 miles northeast) of Rangely Oil Field since 1999 and 2001, respectively. The rule applies to any ferrets that may occupy or eventually be released in northwest Colorado and northeast Utah. Although there is no direct continuity between Coyote Basin or Wolf Creek and the project site (i.e., lesser physical barriers and habitats unoccupied by prairie dog), there is potential for ferrets to colonize

and successfully breed in Rangely Oil Field. Ferrets are wholly reliant on prairie dogs for food and shelter. Ferret breeding activities begin in early March, with birthing beginning in early May. Young ferrets generally begin to emerge by mid-July. There have been no verified sightings of ferrets, nor any known reproduction occurring in Rangely Oil Field.

Brewer's sparrow, a BLM sensitive species, are common throughout the oil field where appropriate habitat exists (sagebrush communities). This species typically returns in late-April and May and begins nesting in earnest in the latter part of May. Young are fledged by mid to late July.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* This project would have no short or long term influence on prairie dog abundance or distribution by itself or as habitat for black-footed ferret or burrowing owl. The pipeline route was surveyed by BLM biologists in March 2010 and was found to have relatively minor involvement with prairie dog burrows/mounds. It is highly unlikely that any subsurface disturbance associated with this proposed action would intersect a prairie dog burrow system occupied by a ferret. The nearest known burrowing owl nest is located approximately 1.25 miles from the project area. Pipeline installation would have no conceivable influence on nesting burrowing owls or important habitat. Prompt and effective pipeline reclamation would provide an herbaceous component that would benefit white-tailed prairie dogs, their associates and other resident wildlife.

The vegetation communities that are involved with the proposed action are predominately salt desert shrub types which typically do not provide suitable nesting habitat for Brewer's sparrow. Any involvement with sagebrush types would be nominal.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There would be no potential influence on prairie dogs or their burrowing systems as habitat for burrowing owl and black-footed ferret in the case of a no action alternative.

*Mitigation:* To avoid intact, healthy saltbush communities, the proposed pipeline ROW should parallel the existing ROW as closely as possible between UTM points 0174181 (Easting) / 4446279 (Northing) and 0174991 / 4446272 (Zone 13; NAD 83).

All flowlines and rights-of-way involved in this action will be reclaimed and reseeded with the appropriate seed blend recommended by the Authorized Officer.

*Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species:* Public Land Health Standards for those special status species associated with white-tailed prairie dogs, including black-footed ferret and burrowing owl, in the Rangely Oil Field are currently met. As conditioned, this project would have no adverse influence on populations, available extent of suitable habitat, or the reproductive activities of these three species. Thus, there would be no influence on meeting the land health standard. Small incremental gains in perennial grass cover associated with successful reclamation and subsurface tillage associated with flowline installation may be expected to bolster local populations of prairie dogs and potentially benefit individual burrowing owl and black-footed ferret—effects consistent with continued meeting of the Land Health Standards.

**ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:**

No flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, 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.

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

Other Elements	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Visual Resources			X
Fire Management		X	
Forest Management	X		
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		
Rangeland Management		X	
Realty Authorizations		X	
Recreation			X
Access and Transportation			X
Geology and Minerals	X		
Areas of Environmental Concern	X		
Wilderness	X		
Wild and Scenic Rivers	X		
Cadastral	X		
Socio-Economics		X	
Law Enforcement		X	

**VISUAL RESOURCES**

*Affected Environment:* The proposed action is located within a Visual resource Management (VRM) IV classified area. The visual resource objective within VRM Class IV areas is to provide for activities that may have major modifications to the character of the landscape and to the casual observer the activities may attract attention and may dominate the view but they were mitigated to lessen the visual impact.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* The area of the proposed action has a history of oil drilling and the presence of the required infrastructure to develop this resource. The main time of visual impact is during the construction of the pipeline when the heavy equipment required for completing the task will contrast in color with the surrounding area

and the activity will generate dust. Traffic on the natural surface and graveled roads will also generate dust. The disturbance that is generated as a result of the proposed action will add to the overall disturbance of the area but the added presence of disturbance related to development will not dominate the view. Because the disturbance is related to the pipeline and there is no above ground features, the level of change to the characteristic landscape would be low, and the objectives of the VRM IV classification would be retained.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* Under this alternative there would be no additional impacts to the visual resources.

*Mitigation:* None

## **RECREATION**

*Affected Environment:* Recreation in the area of the proposed action primarily consists of OHV activities. The road networks in the area are used to ride ATV's, motorcycles and some four wheel drive vehicles modified for above average off highway travel. Some unauthorized trails have been created that cross country in areas where roads have not been built, especially up steep slopes, in attempts to create challenging routes for the above average off highway experience. Other uses in the area are hunting, access to areas north of the field, and target shooting.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* The proposed action will traverse multiple numbered and unnumbered BLM roads that connect to Rio Blanco County Road 46 and State Highway 64. It is expected that traffic will increase during the installation of the pipelines. Increased traffic will increase the probability of contact with the OHV users on the road network.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* Under the no action Alternative, there would be no increase in use of the road network and no increased interactions with OHV users.

*Mitigation:* Obey all posted speed limits in the area and keep speeds on the BLM roads below 25 mph in areas that do not have a posted speed limit to allow for adequate reaction time in the event of encountering a recreational OHV user.

## **ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION**

*Affected Environment:* The area of the proposed action has multiple BLM roads, numbered and unnumbered, which were created for the exploration and development of oil. As a result of the numerous roads in the area OHV use has increased. OHV recreation has resulted in numerous unauthorized trails installed to create shortcuts or to challenge the abilities of the above average OHV driver.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* Disturbances created as a result of the installation of the pipelines will generate attention as possible new routes for the OHV users. The pipelines could possibly be used as short cuts to get to other roads in the area or as another challenging route in which to test a vehicle or drivers ability. If these disturbances are not revegetated and travel deterrents created along the right of way, the OHV users will use them which will not allow the area to adequately recover. For access into the area the BLM roads are mostly natural dirt surfaced and extensive traffic on them will cause road degradation and result in large amounts of dust in when conditions are dry.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* No new disturbances in the area and the public will continue to use the established routes.

*Mitigation:* Roads will be maintained in the current or better condition throughout the project. Dust abatement will be used to add safety to the travel routes and to limit the amounts of fugitive dust.

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

#### **REFERENCES CITED:**

Armstrong, Harley J, and David G. Wolny

1989 Paleontological Resources of Northwest Colorado: A Regional Analysis. Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, Colorado.

Larralde, Signa L.

1981 Cultural Resource Inventory of a Sample of BLM Lands in the Rangely Oil Field, Rio Blanco County, Northwestern Colorado. Nickens and Associates Consulting Archaeologist, Montrose, Colorado.

Tweto, Ogden

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

**PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED:** Rio Blanco County, Colorado Division of Wildlife

**INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:** The proposed action was presented to, and reviewed by the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on 03/09/2010, 03/29/2010.

Date

<b>Interdisciplinary Team Members</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Area of Responsibility</b>	<b>Date Signed</b>
Bob Lange	Hydrologist	Air Quality, Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology, and Water Rights, Wastes, Hazardous or Solid, and Soils	7/9/2010
Jill Schulte	Botanist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Threatened and Endangered Plant Species	5/24/10
Mike Selle	Archeologist	Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources	5/24/10
Matthew Dupire	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species, Vegetation , Rangeland Management	6/14/2010
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds, Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife, Wetlands and Riparian Zones	06.30.10
Jim Michels	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness, Access and Transportation, Recreation	6/28/2010
Jim Michels	Forester/ Fire / Fuels Technician	Fire Management, Forest Management	6/28/2010
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals	06/24/2010
Linda Jones	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations	6/28/2010
Jim Michels	Natural Resource Specialist / Outdoor Recreation Planner	Visual Resources	6/28/2010
Melissa J. Kindall	Range Technician	Wild Horse Management	04/20/10

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

## DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0116-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 addition of the mitigation measures listed below.

### **MITIGATION MEASURES:**

#### *Site-Specific Mitigation*

##### Soils

- 1) All construction and drilling activity shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless there are safety concerns or activities are otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer.
- 2) If salt is observed on the surface of soils during reclamation activities the AO will be notified and a plan will be developed with approval of the BLM to improve reclamation on the site.
- 3) If erosion features such as riling, gulying, piping and mass wasting occur on disturbed surfaces subject to reclamation, the erosion features will be addressed immediately after observation by contacting the AO and submitting a plan to assure successful soil stabilization with BMPs to address the erosion problems.

##### Wastes, Hazardous or Solid

- 4) The release of any chemical, oil, petroleum product, produced water, or sewage, etc, must be contained immediately, cleaned up as soon as possible, and reported by the project proponent to the Bureau of Land Management according requirements specified in the Notice to Lessees and Operators of Onshore Federal and Indian Oil and Gas Leases (NTL-3A).

##### Water Quality, Surface and Ground

- 5) Provide for erosion-resistant surface drainage by adding necessary drainage facilities and armoring prior to fall rain or snow. When erosion is anticipated, sediment barriers shall be constructed to slow runoff, allow deposition of sediment, and prevent it from leaving the site. In addition, straining or filtration mechanisms may also contribute to sediment removal from runoff.

- 6) Install the pipeline at least 4 feet below the existing channel bed in the tributaries to Stinking Water Creek and Dead Dog Draw. Repair any erosion in these channels that may have been caused by the old pipeline routes.

#### Vegetation

- 7) Promptly revegetate all disturbed areas associated with the proposed action, including all cut and fill slopes and topsoil stockpiles, with Standard Seed Mix #1 of the White River ROD/RMP (B-19, Appendix B). Seeding rates in the 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 and seed certification tags must be submitted to the Field Manager within 14 days of seeding. The applicant will be responsible for eradicating cheatgrass, noxious weeds, and/or problem weeds should they occur and/or increase in density as a result of the proposed action. The applicant will use materials and methods as outlined in the White River ROD/RMP or authorized in advance by the authorized officer (AO).

#### Invasive, Non-native Species

- 8) The applicant will be responsible for eradicating cheatgrass, noxious weeds, and/or problem weeds should they occur and/or increase in density as a result of the proposed action. The applicant will use materials and methods as outlined in the White River ROD/RMP or authorized in advance by the White River Field Office Manager. Application of herbicides must be under field supervision of an EPA certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides must be registered by the EPA and pesticide use proposals (PUP's) must be approved by the BLM.

#### Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animal Species

- 9) To avoid intact, healthy saltbush communities, the proposed pipeline ROW should parallel the existing ROW as closely as possible between UTM points 0174181 (Easting) / 4446279 (Northing) and 0174991 / 4446272 (Zone 13; NAD 83).
- 10) All flowlines and rights-of-way involved in this action will be reclaimed and reseeded with the appropriate seed blend recommended by the Authorized Officer.

#### Recreation

- 11) Obey all posted speed limits in the area and keep speeds on the BLM roads below 25 mph in areas that do not have a posted speed limit to allow for adequate reaction time in the event of encountering a recreational OHV user.

#### Access and Transportation

- 12) Roads will be maintained in the current or better condition throughout the project. Dust abatement will be used to add safety to the travel routes and to limit the amounts of fugitive dust.

#### *Notifications, Information Sharing, & SOPs*

- 13) The *designated Natural Resource Specialist* will be notified 24 hours prior to beginning all construction-related activities associated with this project that result in disturbance of surface soils via email or by phone. Construction-related activities may include, but are not limited to, pad and road construction, clearing pipeline corridors, trenching, etc. Notification of all

construction-related activities, regardless of size, that result in disturbance of surface soils as a result of this project is required.

- 14) In an attempt to track interim and final reclamation of federal actions related to the development of federal mineral resources, the operator shall provide the *designated Natural Resource Specialist* with geospatial data in a format compatible with the WRFO's ESRI ArcGIS Geographic Information System (GIS); GIS point and polygon features. These data will be used to accurately locate and identify all geographic as-built (i.e., constructed and design implemented) features associated with this project and included in the Application for Permit to Drill (APD) or Sundry Notice (SN), as appropriate.
- These data shall be submitted within 60 days of construction completion. If the operator is unable to submit the required information within the specified time period, the operator shall notify the *designated Natural Resource Specialist* via email or by phone, and provide justification supporting an extension of the required data submission time period.
  - GIS *polygon* features may include, but are not limited to; full well pad footprints (including all stormwater and design features), constructed access roads/widths, existing roads that were upgraded/widths, and pipeline corridors.
  - Acceptable data formats are: (1) corrected global positioning system (GPS) files with sub-meter accuracy or better; (2) ESRI shapefiles or geodatabases; or, (3) AutoCAD .dwg or .dxf files. If possible, both (2) and (3) should be submitted for each as-built feature. Geospatial 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 shall be directed to WRFO BLM GIS staff at (970) 878-3800.

If the operator is unable to send the data electronically, the operator shall submit the data on compact disk(s) to:

BLM, White River Field Office  
Attn: Natural Resource Specialist  
220 East Market Street  
Meeker, Colorado 81641

Internal and external review of the reporting process and the adequacy of the associated information to meet established goals will be conducted on an on-going basis. New information or changes in the reporting process will be incorporated into the request, as appropriate. Subsequent permit application processing may be dependent upon successful execution of this request, as stated above.

- 15) If for any reason the location or orientation of the geographic feature associated with the **proposed action changes**, the operator shall submit updated GIS "As-Built" data to *designated Natural Resource Specialist* within 7 calendar days of the change. This information shall be **submitted via Sundry Notice**.
- 16) The *designated Natural Resource Specialist* will be notified 24 hours prior to beginning all reclamation activities associated with this project via email or by phone. Reclamation activities may include, but are not limited to, seed bed preparation that requires disturbance

of surface soils, seeding, constructing exclosures (e.g., fences) to exclude livestock from reclaimed areas.

17) All seed tags will be submitted to the *designated Natural Resource Specialist* within 14 calendar days from the time the seeding activities have ended via Sundry Notice. The sundry will include the purpose of the seeding activity (i.e., seeding well pad cut and fill slopes, seeding pipeline corridor, etc.). In addition, the SN will include the well or well pad number associated with the seeding activity, if applicable, the name of the contractor that performed the work, his or her phone number, the method used to apply the seed (e.g., broadcast, hydro-seeded, drilled), whether the seeding activity represents interim or final reclamation, an estimate of the total acres seeded, an attached map that clearly identifies all disturbed areas that were seeded, and the date the seed was applied.

18) The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted electronically via email and as a hard-copy to WRFO Reclamation Coordinator, Brett Smithers ([brett\\_smithers@blm.gov](mailto:brett_smithers@blm.gov)). Please submit the hardcopy to:

BLM, White River Field Office  
220 East Market Street  
Meeker, Colorado 81641  
Attn: Brett Smithers

The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted annually for all actions that require disturbance of surface soils on BLM-administered lands as a result of the proposed action. Actions may include, but are not limited to, well pad and road construction, construction of ancillary facilities, or power line and pipeline construction. The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted by September 30<sup>th</sup> of each calendar year, and will include the well number, API number, legal description, UTM coordinates (using the NAD83 datum, Zone 13N coordinate system), project description (e.g., well pad, pipeline, etc.), reclamation status (e.g., Phase I Interim, Phase II Interim, or Final), whether the well pad or pipeline has been re-vegetated and/or re-contoured, percent of the disturbed area that has been reclaimed, method used to estimate percent area reclaimed (e.g., qualitative or quantitative), technique used to estimate percent area reclaimed (e.g., ocular, line-intercept, etc.), date seeded, photos of the reclaimed site, estimate of acres seeded, seeding method (e.g., broadcast, drilled, hydro-seeded, etc.), and contact information for the person(s) responsible for developing the report. The report will be accompanied with maps and GIS data showing each discrete point (i.e., well pad), polygon (i.e., area where seed was applied for Phase I and/or Phase II interim reclamation or area reclaimed for final reclamation), or polyline (i.e., pipeline) feature that was included in the report. Geospatial data shall be submitted: for each completed activity electronically to the designated BLM staff person responsible for the initial request and in accordance with WRFO geospatial data submittal standards (available from WRFO GIS Staff, or on the WRFO website). Internal and external review of the WRFO Reclamation Status Report, and the process used to acquire the necessary information will be conducted annually, and new information or changes in the reporting process will be incorporated into the report.

19) The operator will be required to meet with the WRFO reclamation staff in March or April of each calendar year and present a comprehensive work plan. The purpose of the plan is to

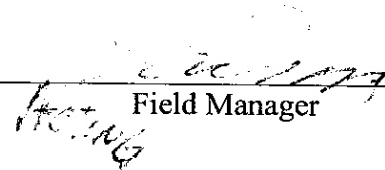
provide information pertaining to reclamation activities that are expected to occur during the current growing season. Operators shall also provide a map that shows all reclamation sites where some form of reclamation activity is expected to occur during the current growing season.

**COMPLIANCE/MONITORING:** On-going compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by the BLM White River Field Office staff during and after construction. Specific mitigation developed in this document will be followed. The operator will be notified of compliance related issues in writing, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), will be provided 30 days to resolve such issues.

**NAME OF PREPARER:** Briana Potts

**NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:** Caroline Hollowed

**SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:**

  
Field Manager

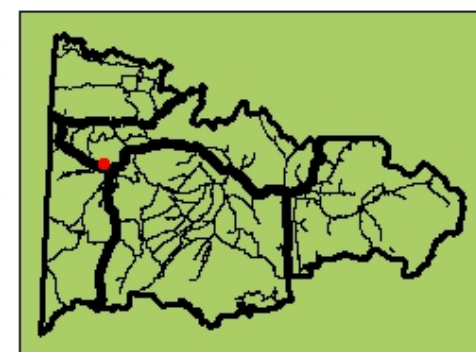
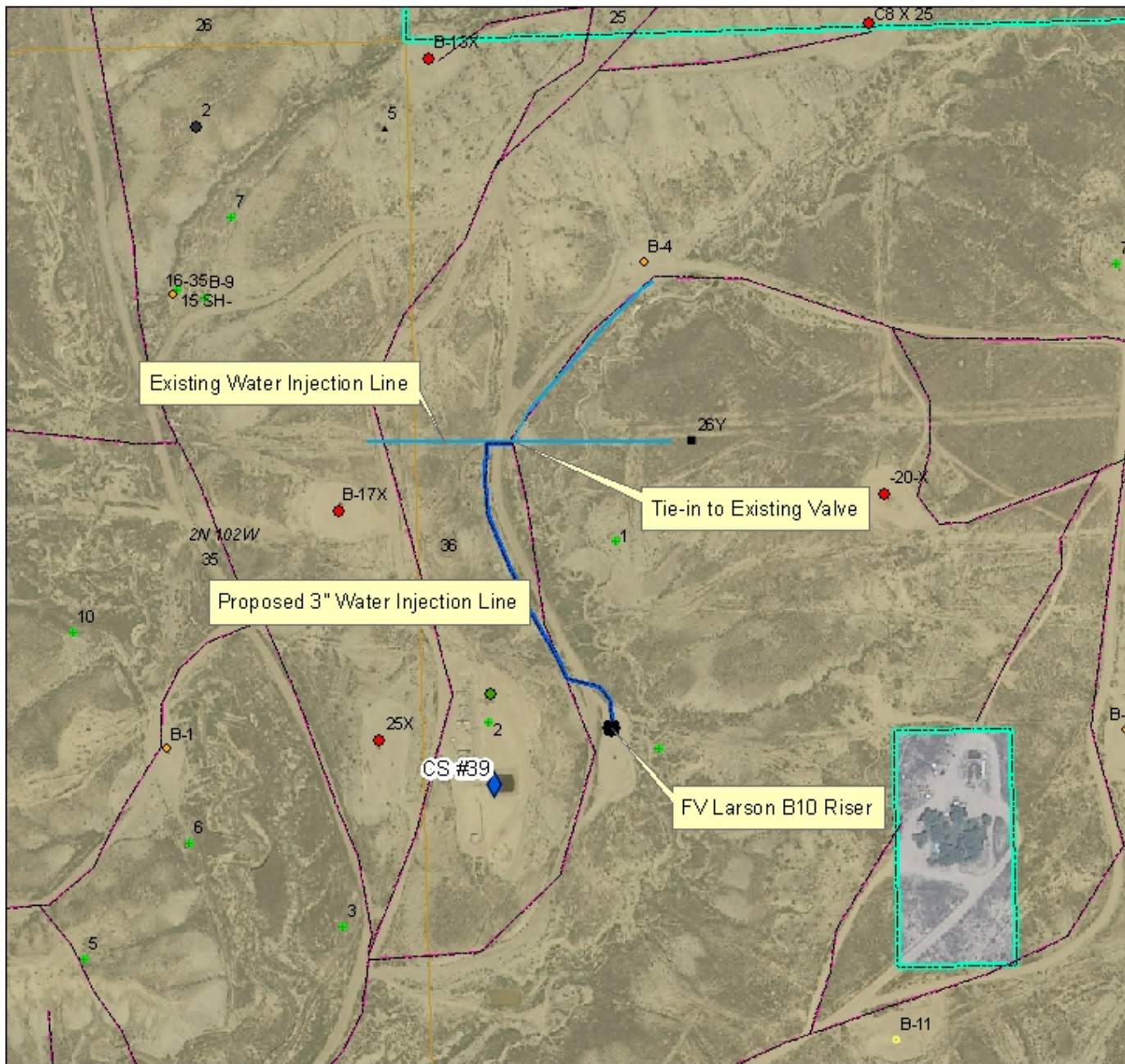
**DATE SIGNED:**

7/19/2010

**ATTACHMENTS:** Project Map Chevron CS #30 – CS #39  
Project Map FV Larson B10 Water Injection Line



# FV Larson B10 Water Injection Line Re-route



Source:  
BLM, USGS, CDOW, etc.

Disclaimer:  
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