United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Environmental Assessment
for the Cameo to Shoshone Power Line Project

Grand Junction Field Office
2815 H Road
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506

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CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1 IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND:

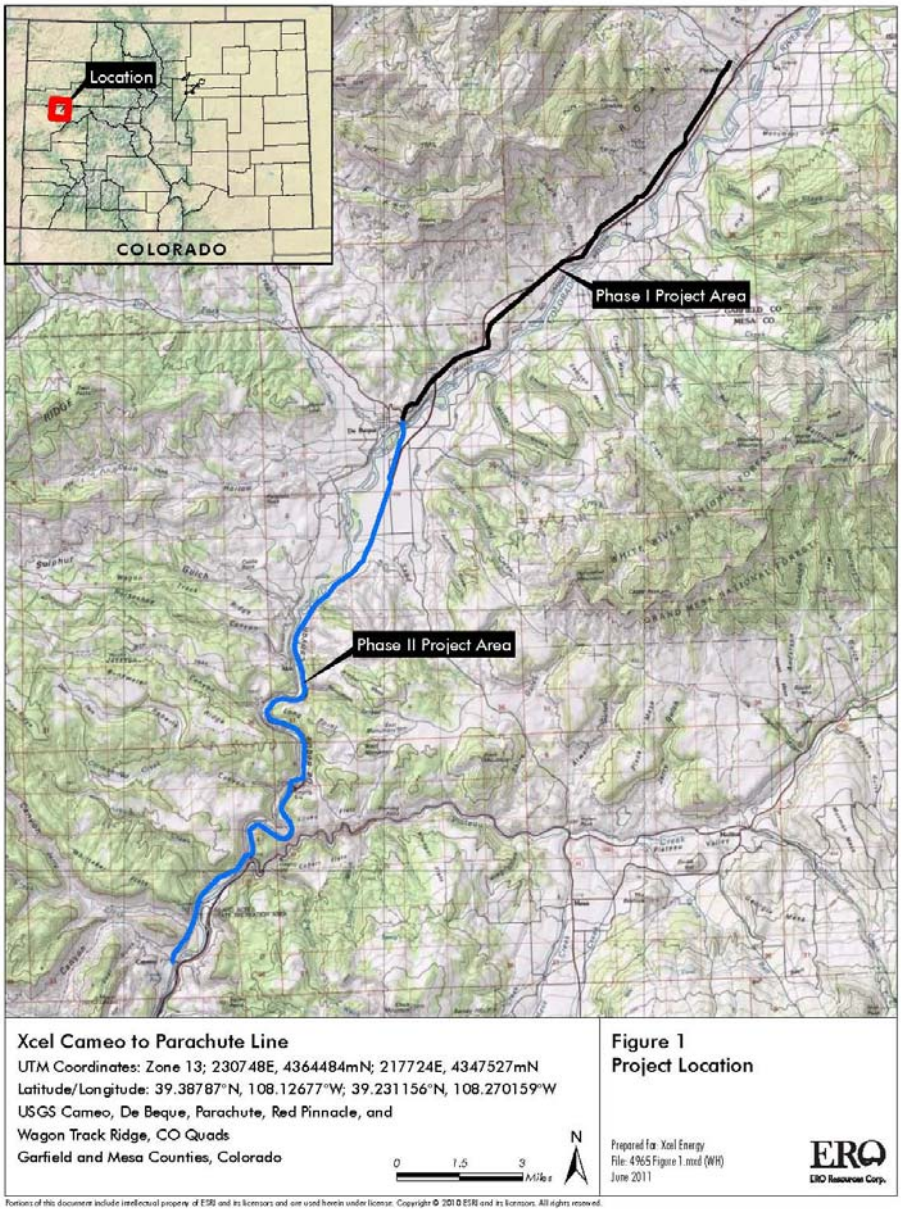
This EA has been prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to analyze a power line right-of-way (ROW) application amendment, short-term ROW for extra workspace, and ROW renewal applications received from Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo). PSCo has requested the approval of a right-of-way (ROW) amendment to allow for access routes across public land and renewal of the existing ROW. The road ROWs that have been requested would provide legal access to the existing power line. PSCo has authorization to travel along the ROW and conduct maintenance activities on the existing power line under the existing ROW grant, but lacks authorization to use all of the access roads necessary for maintenance. PSCo also needs to use extra workspace areas during their planned maintenance activities for laydown of poles. Additionally, potential impacts to federally listed plants were not addressed under the existing authorization. These potential impacts need to be resolved through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) before maintenance activities can proceed in certain locations.

Public Service Company (PSCo) has provided notification that they plan to do maintenance activities on an existing and authorized 69 kV power line along Interstate 70 (I-70) located primarily in De Beque Canyon, Colorado. The transmission line Phase II maintenance area extends from their Cameo substation to De Beque, Colorado. The work is required in order to replace aging infrastructure. PSCo needs to provide uninterrupted electrical serves to the community of De Beque for both safety and everyday activities. PSCo currently does not have authorization to travel off of the ROW to access to the power line. PSCo needs to obtain authorization to use existing access roads that connect to the power line to gain access for scheduled and future maintenance activities. PSCo's grant will also expire on October 27, 2012 and needs to be renewed before the date of expiration. PSCo has also applied to renew their existing ROW grant from Cameo to Shoshone.

The planned maintenance would take place in two phases. Phase I includes maintenance activities on the transmission line from the De Beque substation (De Beque) to the Grand Valley substation (Parachute), and Phase II includes the transmission line from De Beque to the Cameo substation (Cameo). The power line right-of-way (ROW) is in a corridor where PSCo obtained land right (easements and permits) on private, federal, and state lands. Federal lands crossed by the power line include U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM; lands managed by both Grand Junction Field Office [GJFO] and Colorado River Valley Field Office [CRVFO]); U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR); Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT); and Colorado State Parks. Detailed maps (POD Sheets 1 through 11 in Attachment A) that display the power line, ownership and management, and proposed activities including impact area are attached. The majority of the power line alignment in the CRVFO is located on private land. The BLM Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO) has been designated as the lead for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis of this project.

The total dimensions of the area included in the BLM ROW grant amendment are 16.36 miles in length, 30 to 50 feet in width, and 59.97 acres in area. These dimensions are not for the entire granted ROW; the Phase I and Phase II (Figure 1) maintenance projects are subsets of the entire length.

Figure 1: Project Overview



For Phase I and Phase II, total maintenance access routes lengths on BLM-owned lands are 3.4 miles (8.18 acres) and there are 32 BLM access points, of which 19 are drive-in and 13 are walk-in access. An additional SF 299 was submitted for a short-term ROW allowing for extra workspace for pole maintenance. The total area requested for construction, outside of the existing 30-foot ROW, is 21.5 acres (BLM lands). These extra workspace areas are illustrated

on the POD map sheets (Sheet 1 through 11). Requirements for temporary use areas are discussed in greater detail in the POD.

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: C 35161 and C 35161-01

PROJECT NAME: Cameo to Shoshone Power Line Project

PLANNING UNIT: Grand Junction Field Office

1.2 PROJECT LOCATION AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Power Line:

Sixth Principal Meridian

T. 6 S., R. 89 W.,	
sec. 1,	NW¼NE¼, NE¼NW¼, SE¼NW¼, and NE¼SW¼;
sec. 2,	lots 1, and 3;
sec. 6,	lot 7, and SW¼SE¼;
T. 5 S., R. 90 W.,	
sec. 35,	SE¼SW¼, and SW¼SE¼;
T. 6 S., R. 90 W.,	
sec.1,	N½SW¼, and NW¼SE¼;
sec. 3,	S½NW¼, and NW¼SW¼;
sec. 4,	lots 3, and 4, S½NE¼, SE¼NW¼, and NE¼SE¼;
sec.5,	lot 1;
T. 6 S., R. 91 W.,	
sec. 7,	lots 7, and 8, and SW¼NE¼;
sec. 8,	lot 3;
T. 6 S., R. 95 W.,	
sec. 25,	NW¼SW¼;
T. 7 S., R. 96 W.,	
sec. 14,	SE¼NE¼;
T. 8 S., R. 96 W.,	
sec. 7,	lot 1;
T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	
sec. 14,	SW¼SE¼;
sec. 22,	NE¼SE¼, and S½SE¼;
sec. 23,	SW¼NW¼, and NW¼SW¼;
sec. 27,	NW¼NE¼, and NE¼NW¼;
T. 9 S., R. 97 W.,	
sec. 17,	SW¼NE¼, NE¼SW¼, and SW¼SW¼;
sec. 19,	NE¼NE¼, SW¼NE¼, SE¼NE¼, and W½SE¼;
sec. 30,	LOT 4, NW¼NE¼, S½NE¼, SE¼SW¼, NE¼SE¼, and S½SE¼;
sec. 31,	lots 1 – 3, NW¼NE¼, NE¼SW¼, and W½SE¼;
T. 10 S., R. 97 W.,	
sec. 6,	lots 1, and 2, S½NE¼, W½SE¼, and SE¼SW¼;
sec.7,	lot 3, and SE¼NW¼;
T. 9 S., R. 98 W.,	

sec. 36,	SE¼NE¼;
T. 10 S., R. 98 W.,	
sec.12,	SW¼SE¼;
sec.13,	N½NE¼, and SE¼NE¼;
sec. 14,	SE¼SE¼;
sec. 23,	NE¼NW¼;
T. 11 S., R. 98 W.,	
sec. 2,	lot 19.

See the attached Plan of Development for the legal description of access roads and temporary workspace.

1.3 PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose for the action is to provide the (proponent with the) opportunity to use public land located in the GJFO and CRVFO for permanent access, extra workspace for special maintenance activities (Phase II), and continued use of an existing power line through renewal and amendment of the ROW grant (C 35161), conducted in an environmentally responsible manner with minimal impacts to natural resources. The need for the action is established by the BLM's responsibility under Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), 1976 to respond to a request for a ROW grant authorizing use of public land for roads.

1.4 PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

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: Grand Junction Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: JANUARY, 1987 (Amended: 1993, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, & 2001)

Decision Number/Page: 2-29

Decision Language: To respond in a timely manner, to requests for utility authorizations on public land while considering environmental, social, economic, and interagency concerns.

Name of Plan: Glenwood Springs Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: JANUARY, 1984 (Revised 1988, Amended: 1991, 1999, 1997, & 2009)

Decision Number/Page: 38

Decision Language: To respond, in a timely manner, to requests for utility and communication facility authorizations on public land while considering environmental, social, economic, and interagency concerns.

In January 1997, the Colorado State Office of the BLM approved the Standards for Public Land Health and amended all RMPs in the State. Standards describe the conditions needed to sustain public land health and apply to all uses of public lands.

Standard 1: Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, land form, and geologic processes.

Standard 2: Riparian systems associated with both running and standing water function properly and have the ability to recover from major disturbance such as fire, severe grazing, or 100-year floods.

Standard 3: Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat's potential.

Standard 4: Special status, threatened and endangered species (federal and state), and other plants and animals officially designated by the BLM, and their habitats are maintained or enhanced by sustaining healthy, native plant and animal communities.

Standard 5: The water quality of all water bodies, including ground water where applicable, located on or influenced by BLM lands will achieve or exceed the Water Quality Standards established by the State of Colorado.

Because standards exist for each of these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in Chapter 3 of this document.

1.5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1.5.1 Scoping: NEPA regulations (40 CFR §1500-1508) require that the BLM use a scoping process to identify potential significant issues in preparation for impact analysis. The principal goals of scoping are to allow public participation to identify issues, concerns, and potential impacts that require detailed analysis.

Persons/Public/Agencies Consulted: External scoping was conducted, by posting this project on the Grand Junction Field Office NEPA website, this was the primary mechanism used by the BLM to initially identify issues. Internal scoping for the project included presentation and discussion of the project at a BLM interdisciplinary meeting (IDT).

External Scoping: No issues were identified during public scoping.

Internal Scoping: Presence of cactus and cultural resources within the project area were identified as concerns during IDT scoping. The following issues were identified during internal scoping:

1. How would the proposed action affect Colorado Hookless cactus?
2. Would significant historic and prehistoric cultural resources be affected by the proposed action?

1.6 DECISION TO BE MADE

The BLM will decide whether to approve the proposed Cameo to Shoshone Power Line project which includes: ROW grant amendment for access routes (phase 2), short-term ROW (phase 2), and the ROW renewal based on the analysis contained in this Environmental Assessment (EA). The BLM may choose to: a) accept the project as proposed, b) accept the project with modifications/mitigation, c) accept an alternative to the proposed action, or d) not authorize the project at this time. The finding associated with this EA may not constitute the final approval for the proposed ROW amendment, short-term ROW, and renewal.

To permit the action, it would also have to be consistent with other existing authorized activities in the project area. If permitted, this action would include development of appropriate stipulations that would be consistent with the goals, objectives and decisions of the Grand Junction Resource Area Resource Management Plan as well as with applicable policies, regulations, and laws.

CHAPTER 2 - PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this chapter is to provide information on the Proposed Action and Alternatives. Alternatives considered but not analyzed in detail are also discussed.

2.2 ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED IN DETAIL

2.2.1 Proposed Action

The proposed action is to amend PSCo's power line ROW grant (C 35161) to include authorization to use existing access roads to access the existing power line for maintenance activities, approval of extra workspace under a short-term ROW, and to renew the grant for the entire length of the power line, which includes approximately 46.5 acres. The power line is located along the I-70 corridor and within the West-wide Energy Corridor in both the GJFO and the CRVFO (Figure 2). The major aspects of the Proposed Action are described below. A complete description of the Proposed Action can be found in the Plan of Development (Attachment A).

The maintenance work is planned to begin once authorization is received to use the access roads and would be take 6 to 8 months to complete. The traffic control plan would be implemented in multiple locations along I-70. Some of the maintenance would be conducted using a helicopter to deliver materials, due to the difficult terrain.

The transmission line would be accessed using private property or BLM lands, where feasible in lieu of accessing from CDOT right-of-way. However, due to terrain, there are multiple areas, where using CDOT right-of-way is the only feasible option for access. In these instances, PSCo and CDOT identified access points that would be used to reach various segments of the transmission line. Access locations are listed in Table 1.

Figure 2: Proposed Power Line Renewal, Maintenance, and Access

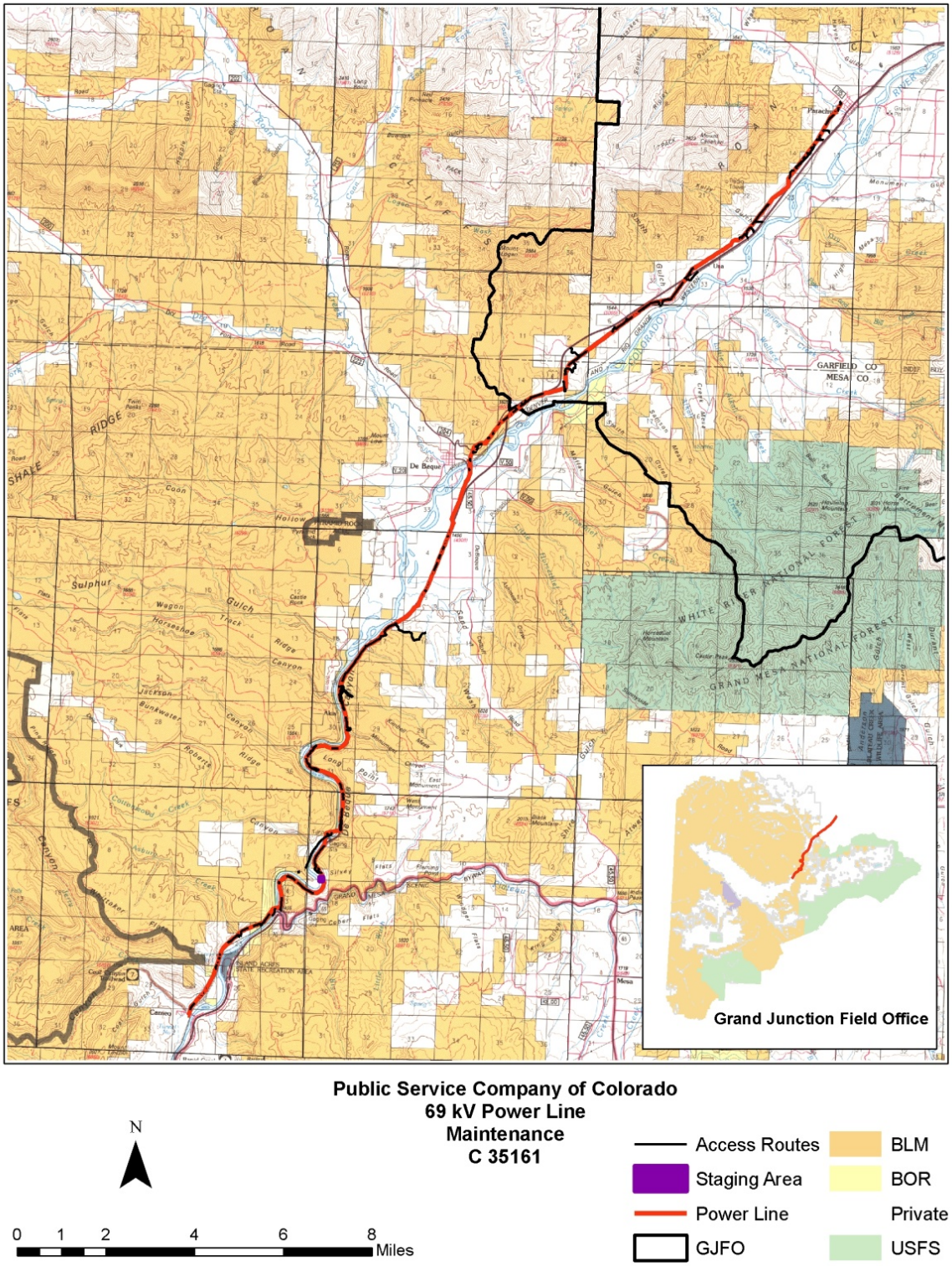


Table 2.2 – 1: Drive in Access Locations

ACCESS POINT	TOWNSHIP/RANGE	SECTION	QUARTER-QUARTER	TOTAL AREA (ACRES)	TOTAL LENGTH (MILES)
BLM Access Pt 4	T. 10 S., R. 97 W.,	6	NW¼SE¼	0.56	0.23
BLM Access Pt 7	T. 9 S., R. 98 W.,	36	SE ¼ NE ¼	0.60	0.25
BLM Access Pt 7	T. 9 S., R. 97 W.,	31	NW¼SW¼	0.36	0.15
BLM Access Pt 11	T. 9 S., R. 97 W.,	19	SE¼	1.76	0.72
BLM Access Pt 13 (BLM)	T. 9 S., R. 97 W.,	16	S½NW¼	2.04	0.84
BLM Access Pt 13 (Prvt)	T. 9 S., R. 97 W.,	16	SW¼NE¼	0.80	0.33
BLM Access Pt 13 (BLM)	T. 9 S. R. 97 W.	17	SE¼NE¼	1.28	0.53
BLM Access Pt 14	T. 8 S., R 97 W.,	27	NW¼NE¼, NE¼NW¼	1.22	0.50
BLM Access Pt 15	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	22	SW¼SE¼	0.16	0.06
BLM Access Pt 16	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	22	SE¼SE¼	0.12	0.05
BLM Access Pt 17	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	22	SE¼SE¼	0.24	0.10
BLM Access Pt 18	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	22	SE¼SE¼	0.02	0.01
BLM Access Pt 19	T. 8 S , R. 97 W.,	22	SE¼SE¼	0.07	0.03
BLM Access Pt 20	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	22	NE¼SE¼	0.06	0.02
BLM Access Pt 21	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	22	NE¼SE¼	0.05	0.01
BLM Access Pt 23	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	22	NE¼SE¼	0.05	0.02
BLM Access Pt 24	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	23	NW¼SW¼	0.06	0.02
BLM Access Pt 25	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	23	SW¼NW¼	0.26	0.11
BLM Access Pt 26	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	23	SW¼NW¼	0.17	0.07
BLM Access Pt 27	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	13	SE¼NW¼	0.49	0.20
BLM Access Pt 27	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	14	SW¼SE¼	0.32	0.13
BLM/Prvt Access Pt 27 (Prvt)	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	23	NW¼NE¼	0.56	0.23
BLM/Prvt Access Pt 1 (BLM)	T. 10 S., R. 97 W.,	7	SW¼SW¼	0.44	0.18
BLM/Prvt Access Pt 1 (Prvt)	T. 10 S., R. 97 W.,	7	SW¼SW¼	0.89	0.37
BLM/Prvt Access Pt 4 (BLM)	T. 7 S., R. 96 W.,	14	SE¼NW¼	0.22	0.09
BLM/Prvt Access Pt 4 (Prvt)	T. 7 S., R. 96 W.,	14	SE¼	1.73	0.94
			BLM total	**10.55**	**4.32**
			Private total	**3.98**	**1.87**
			Total	**14.53**	**6.19**

At most of the access points, work would consist of 5-10 people and 1-3 trucks. Workers would park at the access point and walk to or cross country drive to the transmission line where terrain allows, replacing insulators and transmission pole components.

PSCo would also stop vehicle travel at structure number 1220 on private access route 13 located in 6th PM, T. 10 S., R. 98 W., sec. 23, NE¼. Any travel along the power line route to the NE of structure number 1220 would only be conducted on foot, or the access route along the irrigation canal would be used instead of travel along the ROW.

Equipment would include:
Drive-in Access

- Pickup (3; 3 to 5 people)
- Rubber Tired Backhoe/trackhoe (1; 1 operator)

- Flex-track (1; 1 operator)
- Bucket Truck (2; 2 operators, 2 personnel)
- Boom Truck (1; 1 operator, 1 personnel)
- Air Compressor (1; personnel noted above)
- Hand tools including shovels and jackhammers (various numbers; personnel noted above)

Walk-in/Fly-in Access:

- Helicopter (1; 1 operator, various personnel on ground as well, normally 3 to 5 ground personnel)
- Hand tools including shovels and jackhammers (various numbers; personnel noted above)
- Air Compressor (1; personnel noted above)

<u>Helicopter</u>

1. The helicopter would not set down in the ROW.
2. All materials would be delivered by a winch line.
3. The distance from the ground to the helicopter would vary, due to terrain, but generally the distance would be between 200-300 feet.
4. The helicopter does not plan to set down outside the ROW, except:
   a) where permission has been granted in the designated staging area on CDOT and/or private property or,
   b) in the event of an emergency.

Generally, digging holes is most cost effective using a compressor, versus hand digging holes. Additionally, hand digging holes for transmission structures, in areas of solid rock is not feasible and other mechanical means may be necessary. It can be assumed that holes would be mechanically dug, unless other circumstances dictate otherwise (see POD).

As shown on the project map, the specific maintenance activities at each transmission line structure are identified. As required by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), PSCo will submit a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). The SWMP measures at each access point are generally explained in this CDOT permit. Additionally the map also shows if materials would be delivered using a helicopter or by a truck.

2.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative PSCo's applications for use of permanent access routes, extra workspace, and renewal of their power line ROW grant (C 35161) would be denied. PSCo would only be allowed to use their existing power line ROW located in the GJFO and CRVFO as an access route during maintenance activities. The use of the proposed access roads in the GJFO would not be allowed. Under this alternative the power line ROW would also expire and PSCo would need to submit an application for a new power line, or reclaim the existing power line.

CHAPTER 3 - AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND EFFECTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section provides a description of the human and natural environmental resources that could be affected by the Proposed Action and presents comparative analyses of the direct, indirect and cumulative effects on the affected environment stemming from the implementation of the actions under the Proposed Action and other alternatives analyzed.

This EA draws upon information compiled in the Grand Junction Resource Area RMP (BLM 1987) and the Glenwood Springs RMP (BLM 1984).

3.1.1 Elements Not Affected

The following elements, identified as not being present or not affected will not be brought forward for additional analysis:

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern – There are no ACECs within the project area.

Range – The project area is primarily located in a narrow canyon containing Interstate 70 and no permitted grazing areas.

Forestry – There are no forestry areas that would be affected in the proposed action.

Farmlands, Prime and Unique – There are no prime and unique farmlands in the project area.

Wilderness – There are no wilderness areas within the boundaries of the project.

Geology- not identified as an issue in scoping and resources would not be affected.

Paleontology- not identified as an issue in scoping and resources would not be affected.

Mineral Resources- not identified as an issue in scoping and resources would not be affected.

Social- not identified as an issue in scoping.

Economic- not identified as an issue in scoping.

Environmental Justice – This project would have no adverse impacts to minority or low income populations.

Air Quality- The proposed action involves minimal surface disturbance and would not threaten air quality locally or on regionally.

Soils- The proponent would implement a State approved Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) which would sufficiently mitigate potential erosion from minimal surface disturbance associated with the proposed project. With implementation of mitigation measures built into the design of the proposed action, no substantial impacts to soil resources are anticipated result.

Wild Horse and Burro – Not present.

Table 3.1–1 Potentially Impacted Resources

Resources	Not Present On Location	No Impact	Potentially Impacted	Mitigation necessary	Comments included in EA text	BLM Evaluator Initial & Date
PHYSICAL RESOURCES						
Air and Climate	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	ND 2/8/12
Geological	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	DSG 10/11/11
Mineral Resources	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	DSG 10/11/11
Soils	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	ND 2/8/12
Water (surface & subsurface, floodplains)	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	ND 10/14/11
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES						
Invasive, Non-native Species	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	MT 12/5/11
Sensitive Species	☐	☒	☒	☒	☐	HLP 10/31/11, ARL 11/8/11
Threatened or Endangered Fish and wildlife	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒	HLP 10/31/11
Threatened or Endangered Species	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	ARL 11/8/11
Vegetation, Forestry	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	SC 11/4/11
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	CARS 11/1/11
Wildlife	☐	☐	☒	☒	☒	HLP 10/31/11
HERITAGE RESOURCES AND HUMAN ENV.						
Cultural or Historical	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	ALR 10/26/11
Paleontological	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	DSG 10/11/11
Tribal & American Indian Religious Concerns	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	ALR 10/26/11
Visual Resources	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	CPP 10/12/11
Social	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	CE 10/27/11
Economic	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	CE 10/27/11
Environmental Justice	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	CE 10/27/11
Transportation and Access	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	CPP 10/12/11
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	AEK 10/12/11
LAND RESOURCES						
Prime or Unique Farmlands	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Recreation	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	CPP 10/12/11
Special Designations (ACEC, SMAs etc.)	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	CPP 10/12/11
Wild and Scenic Rivers	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	CPP 10/12/11
Wilderness	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	CPP 10/12/11
Range Management	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	SC 10/14/11
Wild Horse and Burros	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	JRD 10/14/11
Land Tenure, ROW, Other Uses	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	CARS 11/11/11

3.1.2 Past, Present, Reasonably Foreseeable Actions

NEPA requires federal agencies to consider the cumulative effects of proposals under their review. Cumulative effects are defined in the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

regulations 40 CFR §1508.7 as "…the impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency…or person undertakes such other actions." The CEQ states that the "cumulative effects analyses should be conducted on the scale of human communities, landscapes, watersheds, or airsheds" using the concept of "project impact zone" or more simply put, the area that might be affected by the proposed action. The area that may be affected by this project includes the 5th code watershed that contains the project area. To assess past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions that may occur within the affected area a review of GJFO NEPA log and our field office GIS data was completed. The following list includes all past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions known to the BLM that may occur within the affected area:

Past Actions:
The power line is located primarily immediately adjacent to Interstate 70 or in close proximity to the interstate. The I-70 corridor contains other utilities such as natural gas pipelines, telephone lines, access roads, and urban development. There is also oil and gas development near the project area. Phase I of the project includes the town of De Beque and associated development. Phase II of the project in the GJFO is located primarily between Palisade, Colorado and De Beque, Colorado with sparse development.

Present Actions:
Ongoing Actions – Black Hills Energy, LLC is currently drilling a natural gas well in the De Beque canyon off of I-70. There is a temporary surface water line and a central water handling facility associated with the ongoing drilling. Other oil and gas development continues to occur on public land adjacent to the immediate project area.

Reasonably Foreseeable Actions
It is reasonable to assume that there would be development of other utilities and facilities along portions of the ROW. As the town of De Beque continues to develop and grow, new utilities, buildings, and other facilities may be routed in close proximity to the existing power line. The exact facilities associated with possible development are not known at this time.

Long-term plans propose development of a riverfront trail for recreational use. The exact location and specifications of such a trail is not known at this time.

This list of past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions was considered when analyzing cumulative effects in sections 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, and 3.5 below.

3.2 PHYSICAL RESOURCES

3.2.1 Water (surface and groundwater, floodplains) (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Current conditions:

The proposed project area is situated entirely within water quality stream segment 2b of the Lower Colorado River Basin. Water quality stream segment 2b of the Lower Colorado River Basin is defined as: Main stem of the Colorado River from immediately below the confluence with Rifle Creek to immediately above the confluence of Rapid Creek.

Table 1 identifies stream classifications and water quality standards for Lower Colorado Basin stream segment 2a as outlined in CDPHE, Regulation No. 37.

Table 3.2 - 1:	Classifications	Numeric Standards					
Stream Segment		Physical and Biological	Inorganic (mg/l)		Metals (ug/l)		
COLCLC02a	Aq Life Warm 1 Recreation E Water Supply Agriculture	T=TVS(WS-II) $_{o}$C D.O. = 5.0 mg/l pH = 6.5-9.0 E.Coli=126/100ml	NH_3(ac/ch)=TVS Cl_2(ac)=0.019 Cl_2(ch)=0.011 CN=0.005	S=0.002 B=0.75 NO_2=0.05 NO_3=10 Cl=250 SO_4=WS	As(ac)=340 As(ch)=0.02(Trec) Cd(ac/ch)=TVS CrIII(ac)=50(Trec) CrVI(ac/ch)=TVS Cu(ac/ch)=TVS	Fe(ch)=WS(dis) Fe(ch)=1000(Trec) Pb(ac/ch)=TVS Mn(ch)=WS(dis) Mn(ac/ch)=TVS Hg(ch)=0.01(tot)	Ni(ac/ch)=TVS Se(ac/ch)=TVS Ag(ac/ch)=TVS Zn(ac/ch)=TVS

CDPHE-WQCC 2010a

The CDPHE ―Status of Water Quality in Colorado – 2010 was reviewed to determine the current status of assessment and determination of water quality for stream segments 2a of the Lower Colorado River Basin. Stream segment 2a was reported to have water quality that was fully supporting agriculture, water supply, and primary contact recreation while existing information was insufficient to make a determination for Aquatic life warm 1. The cause for water quality not supporting all designated uses has been identified as sedimentation/siltation from unknown sources. Thus, the Colorado Integrated Reporting Category (IR) value assigned to stream segment 2a the ―Status of Water Quality in Colorado – 2010 document was 2, In Colorado, the majority of the assessed surface water bodies fall into IR Categories 1, 2, and 3. Colorado has elected to place segments where not all uses have been assessed in IR Category 2. In some cases, a complete assessment of all uses cannot be completed do to the lack of data, but the data that is available indicates that at least some of the uses that were assessed are fully supporting (CDPHE-WQCC 2010c).

The 2010 CDPHE-WQCC Regulation No. 93 Section 303d List of Impaired Waters and Monitoring and Evaluation List, was reviewed to determine if Lower Colorado River stream segment 2a was listed. Stream segment 2a of the Lower Colorado River basin was not identified on the 303(d) list. However, segment 2a was identified on the State's Monitoring & Evaluation List for potential sediment impairments (CDPHE. 2010b).

Because stream segment 2a of the Lower Colorado River currently is not identified on the 303(d) list, it therefor meets Public Land Health Standard 5 (water quality).

Groundwater quality:

A review of the USGS Groundwater Atlas of the Colorado indicates the proposed action would be situated within the boundaries of the Colorado River alluvial aquifer system. The primary source of groundwater near the project area is contained within shallow, localized, alluvial/colluvial deposits adjacent to stream courses. Alluvial ground water, although relatively insignificant in terms of total volume withdrawn (surface water is primary source), is important for irrigation, public and domestic water supply, and livestock uses (Topper et al., 2003).

The valley-fill deposits or alluvium in the Colorado River basin consist generally of unconsolidated boulders, cobbles, gravel, sand, silt, and clay. The thickness of the alluvium can be extremely variable depending on location. Alluvium in the upper reaches of the basin tends to be thin due to increased slopes and higher flow velocities. Thicker deposits tend to accumulate in the lower reaches. Alluvium is very limited or nonexistent in the canyon sections of the Colorado River, such as the Gore, Glenwood, DeBeque, Ruby, and Horsethief Canyons where bedrock is exposed (Topper et al., 2003).

Static water levels in alluvial deposits are related to the adjacent river or creek stage. Generally, the alluvial water levels will be high in the spring and early summer due to snowmelt and increased runoff, dropping through the summer and fall, and will remain low throughout the winter (Topper et al., 2003). A summary of the hydraulic characteristics and water quality for the Colorado River alluvial aquifers follows:

Table 3.2 – 2	**Colorado River Basin**
Aquifer characteristics	Unconsolidated boulders, cobbles, gravel, sand, silt, and clay
Primary uses	Domestic and agricultural
Water levels	1-70 feet
Well data	1,369 completed wells 90% <130 feet deep mean depth = 72 feet
Yield	1-1,600 gpm 90% yield <50 gpm mean = 34 gpm
Water quality	Highly variable in different river valleys. Can be high in TDS and sulfate where the Eagle River overlies evaporites, in areas associated with hot springs (Glenwood Springs and Dotsero), and where irrigation return flows are prevalent (Grand Valley). Locally potable and used for domestic uses.

Table data from Topper et al., 2003

Environmental Consequences:

No Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

No direct or indirect impacts would result from the no-action alternative.

Finding on Public Land Health Standard 5:

The no-action alternative would have no impact on Public Land Health Standard 5 (water quality).

Cumulative Effects:

The no-action alternative would not result in any cumulative impacts to water quality. The current finding for Public Land Health Standard 5 would be unaffected by the no-action alternative.

Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

In general the proposed action would have no measurable direct or indirect impacts to water quality, surface/ground water hydrology, or water rights. However, the proposed staging area is situated in alluvial gravels associated with the floodplain of the Colorado River and therefore represents a point of vulnerability to water quality if this area is utilized to store potentially harmful substances such as engine coolant or fuel. In the event of a spill, water quality in the near stream alluvial aquifer and surface water in the Colorado River would be directly impacted. These impacts would include water quality degradation jeopardizing fully supporting uses in stream segment 2a (e.g. water supply, primary contact recreation, agriculture). Indirect impacts from such a spill could include loss of bank stabilizing riparian vegetation which may leave stream banks and floodplains adjacent and downstream to the spill more vulnerable to erosion. Increased erosion from these areas would increase sedimentation to the Colorado River further deteriorating water quality from existing conditions. The severity of both direct and indirect impacts would depend on the volume and type of contaminant spilled.

Finding on Public Land Health Standard 5:

Requiring adherence to the protective and mitigation measures outlined below would ensure that the proposed action would have no direct or indirect impacts to water quality. Public Land Health Standard 5 would continue to be meeting within the project area following implementation.

Cumulative Effects:

Cumulative effects to water quality could occur in the event of substantial spills or leaks of harmful substances in staging areas located on or immediately adjacent to alluvial deposits of the Colorado River. These impacts could include loss of bank stabilizing vegetation and decreased water quality due to incremental

increase in sedimentation to stream segment 2a of the Lower Colorado River Basin.

Protective/Mitigation Measures for other Agencies:

1. Areas located on alluvial or immediately adjacent to deposits associated with the Colorado River should not be utilized to store potentially harmful substances. If potentially harmful substances are stored in these areas then secondary containment structures should be installed.

2. Overnight storage of heavy equipment or materials should not be permitted on areas located within the active floodplain of the Colorado River.

3. Areas located on alluvial or immediately adjacent to deposits associated with the Colorado River should not be utilized as sites to re-fuel helicopters or heavy equipment. Likewise, maintenance of heavy equipment or helicopters should not be permitted in these areas.

With implementation of the protective/mitigation measures outlined above, potential direct or indirect effects to water resources described under the proposed action would not occur.

3.3 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

3.3.1 Invasive, Non-native Species#

Current Conditions:

This general area was inventoried for noxious weeds by BLM weed crews during the 2004 field season. Crews were primarily focused on finding state-listed A and B noxious weeds. Crews did not pull off on the shoulder of I-70 to access small parcels of BLM due to traffic safety concerns. Although we do not know the exact species that are present on each of the access roads, some inferences can be made about the general area based on the species that were found in the greater De Beque area.

There is a good chance that several nuisance annual species (cheatgrass, mustards, Russian thistle, etc.) would be found on or near the access roads. These species are found nearly everywhere there has been a disturbance. Sites close to the river may contain Russian knapweed, which is very common along the riparian corridor.

Environmental Consequences:

No Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

If the access roads are not used for maintenance, there would be less of a chance for either: weed spread to other areas by vehicles associated with the maintenance, or by contaminated vehicles bringing in new weeds to the access

roads. The chances are not nil however, since others (public, agency) would use these roads periodically.

Cumulative Effects:

From a pure weed prevention standpoint, any disturbance, no matter what the agent, opens the opportunity for weeds to get a foothold. Added effects of no actions, ultimately reduces the chance for weed spread.

Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

The project is not expected to be a big impact from a weed perspective in either the short or long term. The access routes already exist, and there is not expected to be large-scale disturbance. Roads would be used for a limited amount of time. The company's weed plan outlined in the POD should be sufficient for mitigating weed impacts.

Cumulative Effects:

The cumulative effects of projects where existing routes are used for maintenance would have a potential impact from a weed perspective since vehicles are a primary vector of weed seed.

3.3.2 Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Current conditions:

Plants:

The proposed project crosses through occupied habitat for two Federally Threatened plant species: Colorado hookless cactus and DeBeque phacelia. A rare plant survey was conducted for the proposed maintenance and access roads during May, 2011. At the direction of the GJFO and CRVFO Ecologists the surveys primarily focused on 5 species: Colorado hookless cactus, DeBeque phacelia, Naturita milkvetch, DeBeque milkvetch, and Adobe thistle. The species list was determined by a BLM and Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) record review, and habitat assessment. Due to the close proximity of Interstate 70, the railroad tracks, and W½ Road surveys only included a 20 meter buffer of the power line and access roads, instead of the standard 100 meter buffer. Survey results were: four populations of Colorado hookless cactus totaling 100 individuals; no DeBeque phacelia was located, but 5.64 acres of suitable habitat was mapped; 2 populations of Naturita milkvetch; and 1 population of DeBeque milkvetch. No Adobe thistle was recorded. About 248 acres of potential and occupied Colorado hookless cactus habitat was identified in the project area, generally between the Colorado River near the De Beque substation north along the transmission line corridor approximately to the W½ Road bridge over I-70. Prior to beginning survey work, a reference location for DeBeque phacelia was visited. The reference population was in bloom. Due to the close proximity of the Colorado hookless cactus and historic

occurrences of DeBeque phacelia Section 7 consultation with FWS is required for the maintenance.

There are no documented occurrences of any Threatened, Endangered or BLM Sensitive plants in the Parachute to Shoshone portion of the ROW alignment. A small amount of potential habitat exists along the alignment.

Due to the project area's proximity to I-70 and the railroad the majority of the power line route was not evaluated for land health standards. No determination has been made for whether or not the project area meets Public Land Health Standard 4. While the project area supports both Threatened and Sensitive Plant Species, issues with weeds and fragmentation were noted in the rare plant surveys. With the exception of areas near the city of De Beque and De Beque Canyon, much of the power line is on private land, which is not assessed for Land Health Standards.

Fish and Wildlife (including migratory birds):

The action area includes designated critical habitat for the Colorado Pikeminnow and Razorback Sucker. The Colorado River and its 100-year floodplain is considered critical habitat for these species. Within the action area the 100-year floodplain would have historically included some of the construction and access points; however the 100-year floodplain has been altered by the addition of the rail road and Interstate 70 so that the current 100-year floodplain does not include construction or access points.

Other special status fish known to occur in the Colorado River within the project area include the BLM sensitive bluehead sucker, flannelmouth sucker and roundtail chub.

Bald Eagles are known to nest west of De Beque, north of interstate 70, in this area the power line runs south of 70. The power line is adjacent to Bald Eagle winter foraging habitat and Bald Eagle roost sites. In addition Peregrine Falcons are known to nest in De Beque canyon near the confluence of Plateau Creek and the Colorado River. The power line does not cross any Gunnison or Greater sage grouse habitat.

Numerous migratory birds are known to utilize the Colorado River corridor for breeding, nesting and migration; including the American white pelican, great blue heron, and Canada goose. An active heron rookery occurs within the action area at approximately mile marker 57 on I-70.

Environmental Consequences:

No Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Under the No Action Alternative maintenance would still occur, however unauthorized access roads would not be used. Impacts to the DeBeque phacelia, Naturita and DeBeque milkvetch would be reduced as these species were found near the access roads; however impacts to the Colorado hookless cactus would remain, since cacti were found within the power line ROW. With fewer access

points increased traffic in the ROW would be expected, and opportunities for avoiding impacts to cacti may be reduced.

Impacts to special status fish and wildlife and migratory birds through maintenance could still occur however indirect impacts through disturbance of nesting birds may be increased because of the potential for increased traffic along the ROW without authorization of additional access points.

Cumulative Effects:

The No Action alternative is not anticipated to create any new impacts, or contribute to new cumulative effects on T&E or SSS plants, fish and wildlife. The power line has been in place for roughly 100 years, and the routine maintenance is not likely to facilitate any changes to the area. The project area has high levels of historic human disturbance and habitat fragmentation, including existing paved roads (W½ Road, I-70), an active railroad corridor, the power line, an existing De Beque substation, the rural townsite of De Beque which has contributed to use and recreation in the action area. On private lands, industrial development has occurred and continues to spread in the area. There is a trend of increasing recreation with increasing population and motorized uses next to urbanizing areas. Oil and Gas development also has impacted nearby habitat areas. Natural factors affecting Colorado hookless cactus have been documented in and near the project area, including elk, rabbit, and insect damage, in populations about 1 to 2 miles north/northeast of the project area.

Proposed Action

Plants:

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Portions of the Project area are within suitable and occupied Colorado hookless cactus, DeBeque phacelia, Naturita milkvetch, and DeBeque milkvetch habitat. Portions of the project are also within proposed critical habitat for the DeBeque phacelia. The Colorado hookless cactus and the DeBeque phacelia are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The maintenance and use of proposed access roads could result in direct and indirect impacts to both threatened and BLM sensitive plants. Due to the close proximity of the Colorado hookless cactus and historic occurrences of DeBeque phacelia Section 7 consultation with FWS was required for the proposed action. Consultation has been completed for the proposed action, and a determination of May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect was made for both the Colorado hookless cactus and DeBeque phacelia (ES/GJ-6CO-11-F-005, TAILS 65413-2011-F-0055).

Based on the location of suitable habitat and the number of cacti within the project ROW, the Project could potentially result in indirect or direct effects to the Colorado hookless cactus. Within the potential and occupied Colorado hookless cactus habitat, CNHP has documented about 2.2 acres of cactus habitat within the project ROW (0.92 within access road ROW and 1.28 within transmission line ROW). Additionally, the Project could indirectly or directly

affect to the DeBeque phacelia. About 8.48 acres of proposed critical habitat occurs within the existing transmission line ROW (2.76 acres), proposed short-term ROW (4.33 acres) and proposed project access ROW along existing roads (1.38 acres). Within the W½ Road area proposed critical habitat, about 2.34 acres was identified in the field as providing suitable conditions for the Phacelia (0.75 acres within the transmission line ROW, 1.23 acres for temporary ROW, and 0.35 acres within the access road ROW). Effects could occur from increased soil compaction at pole replacement sites, increased soil erosion from the use of existing access roads, use of herbicide/pesticides to control noxious weed infestations, and dust from use of existing roads and disturbance from pole replacement activities. However, design features integrated into the proposed action include measures to avoid or minimize these impacts.

Inadvertent direct impacts could occur from construction equipment and workers within and adjacent to the approved ROW. Inadvertent direct effects could include individual plants being destroyed and/or habitat being crushed by machinery or replacement utility poles. While impacts are a possibility, PSCo is committed to avoiding destruction of any individual. Inadvertent direct impacts could occur to unknown/undetected plants, and would be minimal. Any unrecorded/new cacti documented during construction would be avoided and the minimization measures would be applied to these individuals. Because the Phacelia is an annual species and dust suppression and construction timing limitations are included in the design features, no impacts to photosynthesis and reproduction from dust are anticipated.

To avoid and minimize effects to sensitive resources in the project area, an adaptive management approach has been developed for monitoring project activities during maintenance. In sensitive areas in the vicinity of known special status plant populations, a biological monitor would be employed by PSCo and would coordinate with BLM ecologists. Construction activities would take place outside of blooming times for both the Colorado hookless cactus and DeBeque phacelia. Specifically these locations are access roads and pole/anchor/crossarm installation and/or replacement in the vicinity of poles 956 through 958, 971, and 975 through 983. In close coordination with BLM, the biological monitor would be responsible for ensuring avoidance of cacti (using flagging, barrier fencing, or other methods for marking locations) by truck or pedestrian traffic associated with maintenance. The biological monitor would coordinate with on-site supervisors and staff to identify designated access and parking areas to minimize surface disturbance to potential seed base areas, including omitting reseeding activities in identified phacelia habitat. In locations where a pole location shift has been identified, the biological monitor would ensure compliance with specific details coordinated with BLM. For all populations within 100 meters of a structure proposed for maintenance or an access road proposed for use during maintenance activities, activities would only occur outside the blooming season. In addition, dust abatement by using water would occur to prevent impacts from dust and would be coordinated as needed through the biological monitor. PSCo would

contact BLM prior to future maintenance in sensitive areas to determine if a biological monitor or any other protective measures are necessary to avoid impacts to listed species.

While there is the possibility for inadvertent take of cactus, the minimization and design features and conservation measures should assume avoidance. If in the course of maintenance activities it becomes apparent that individual cacti cannot be avoided, transplant options would be explored in coordination with the USFWS. Any unrecorded/new cacti documented during construction would be avoided and the minimization measures/design features would be applied to these individuals.

Two populations of Naturita milkvetch were located and mapped during the survey. The two populations are within 55 feet and 30 feet of the existing access road, with the closer population being partially screened by mature vegetation. Infrequent use of the access road is unlikely to result in direct or indirect impacts if vehicle traffic is limited to the existing road, and a biological monitor is on scene to assist in identifying sensitive areas. However, one population of DeBeque milkvetch was located within the existing roadbed proposed for use during Xcel maintenance operations. Direct and indirect effects are anticipated as the plants are growing in the running surface of the access road. All recorded milkvetch (Naturita and DeBeque) was found along the access road for pole #1047. Prior to access road use the biological monitor would determine presence of the DeBeque milkvetch. If present, impacts would be reduced by placement of temporary fencing. While individual plants may be crushed, the majority of the population would be protected. Impacts to the Naturita milkvetch would be minimized by ensuring that all maintenance traffic is limited to the existing road and turnaround locations. The biological monitor would determine if temporary fencing is required to protect the Naturita mikvetch. If determined necessary, temporary fencing would be installed prior to use of the access road for maintenance activities.

Fish and Wildlife (including migratory birds):

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Proposed maintenance activities would be conducted outside of the influence zone of the Colorado River and its 100-year floodplain. All work would be done via existing access roads with minimal ground disturbance. The proposed action would have no effect on the Colorado pikeminnow and Razorback sucker. Similarly, no impacts to the BLM sensitive bluehead sucker, flannelmouth sucker and roundtail chub are anticipated.

To avoid direct impact to raptors (including Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons) through the potential for electrocution would be mitigated by adherence to the Suggested practices for avian protection on power lines: State of the art in 2006 (APLIC, 2006). The Bald Eagle nesting location within the action area is adjacent to an existing gravel pit, and is over one mile from the power line. In

addition the corridor within which the maintenance activity would occur is currently heavily impacted through traffic on I-70, development on private lands within the corridor and other related activities. As a result the additional activity of maintaining the power line through vehicular access is not expected to result in any indirect impacts to sensitive species because current and historic human disturbance in the area is high.

Impacts to raptors and the heron rookery as a result of helicopter flights could occur if flights occur during the nesting season and are within a distance that could affect nesting birds. As a result the following Design Features have been incorporated into the Project Plan of Development. To protect sensitive nesting areas the following seasonal and geographic restrictions would apply while nests are active (defined as occupied nest through fledging of young). A biological monitor would be employed to evaluate nesting activities, if work within the seasonal timeframes provided is desired. If the biological monitor finds no active nesting, coordination with BLM would occur to ensure agreement on the ability to use a helicopter within the timeframes and nest buffers provided below:

- For the heron rookery identified near I-70 mile marker 57, no helicopter flight patterns would infringe on a buffer extending ¼ mile horizontally and vertically from the rookery boundary (shown in the raptor survey report) during active nesting (generally April 1 to July 30; Kingery et al. 1998);
- For the Bald Eagle nest site identified near I-70 mile marker 58, no helicopter flight patterns would infringe on a buffer extending ½ mile horizontally and ¼ mile vertically from the nest (shown in the raptor survey report) during active nesting (generally March 1 to June 30; Kingery et al. 1998); and
- For the potential Peregrine falcon nest site identified between I-70 mile marker 49 and 50, biological monitoring following BLM raptor survey protocol would occur on June 1 to evaluate the nest site for activity. If no activity is documented, there would be no restrictions for this potential nest location. If nesting activity is documented, no helicopter flight patterns would infringe on a buffer extending ½ mile horizontally and ¼ mile vertically from the nest location (shown in the raptor survey report) during active nesting (generally June 10 to July 30; Kingery et al. 1998 and CDOW 2008 with best professional judgment).

Finding on Public Land Health Standard 4:

The proposed action is not anticipated to affect the action area's ability to meet Public Land Health Standard 4. No determination has been made for whether or not the project area meets Public Land Health Standard 4, due to the project area's proximity to I-70 and the railroad. While the project area supports both threatened and sensitive plant, fish and wildlife species, issues with weeds and fragmentation were noted in the rare plant surveys. With the exception of

areas near the city of DeBeque and DeBeque Canyon, much of the power line is on private land, which is not assessed for Land Health Standards.

Cumulative Effects:

While the proposed action (maintenance, legal access, and ROW grant renewal) is not expected to contribute to cumulative effects, the project area has high levels of historic human disturbance and habitat fragmentation, including existing paved roads (W ½ Road, I-70), an active railroad corridor, the power line (in place for 100 years), an existing De Beque substation, the rural town site of De Beque which as contributed to use and recreation in the action area. On private lands, industrial development has occurred and continues to spread in the area. There is a trend of increasing recreation with increasing population and motorized uses next to urbanizing areas. Oil and Gas development also has impacted nearby habitat areas. Natural factors affecting Colorado hookless cactus have been documented in and near the project area, including elk, rabbit, and insect damage, in populations about 1 to 2 miles north/northeast of the project area.

Protective/Mitigation Measures:

Conservation measures for both the Colorado hookless cactus and the DeBeque phacelia include:

•A BLM approved biological monitor would be employed by Xcel and would coordinate with BLM Ecologists. The biological monitor would be on scene while work is being completed in the known sensitive areas.

•Construction monitoring (biological monitor) would ensure that known individuals and suitable habitat are avoided and that all other conservation measures are implemented as planned.

•Silt fencing, wattles, and other stormwater management and best management practices (BMPs) would be installed in order to reduce sedimentation and erosion. A Stormwater Management Plan has been prepared and a stormwater permit has been obtained.

•The need for dust abatement would be determined by the biological monitor and/or BLM and would include spraying the access roads and other construction areas with water. No magnesium chloride would be applied for dust abatement. If determined necessary, water uses and depletion would be covered under the BLM PBO for small depletions.

•All construction and staging activities on BLM land would be confined to approved ROWs to ensure that the special status plants are not affected. Any activity outside approved ROWs would require prior approval by the BLM Ecologist.

•The top 3-6 inches of topsoil would be set aside and replaced after construction to minimize impact to the cactus seed bank, which can persist for 15 years. Replacement of topsoil would also discourage invasive weeds such as cheatgrass and Russian thistle.

•No reseeding would take place in areas of known or potential suitable habitat identified during surveys for the DeBeque Phacelia.

•Construction activities between poles 956 through 958, 971, and 975 through 983 would be restricted to the non-blooming season for these species (mid-April through June; CNHP 2011).

•All weed treatments would be conducted in accordance with the appropriate Integrated Weed Management Plans and consultations (GJFO, CRVFO).

•In DeBeque phacelia proposed critical habitat and suitable habitat, construction and maintenance activities would be limited to dry conditions to avoid damaging clay soil and seedbeds.

•PSCo would contact BLM prior to future maintenance in sensitive areas to determine if a biological monitor or any other protective measures are necessary to avoid impacts to listed species. Known sensitive areas are between power line pole # 937 to 983, and at pole # 1047.

•Prior to conducting any maintenance activities on the Parachute to Shoshone portion of the ROW, PSCo would contact the BLM with a plan of operations, including proposed access points. A site-specific NEPA analysis would be initiated and any mitigation measures applied to the activities.

•The following locations are considered sensitive areas and standard design features as described above would be implemented to avoid impacts to special status plant species. The additional site specific avoidance measures listed would also be implemented.

Pole #956, (proposed for cross-arm replacement)

- Several cacti within 5-10 feet of the pole and others on either side of the ROW. Biological monitor would have to be on site to direct parking and vehicle activity to avoid direct impacts to cacti.

Pole #957

- Access for maintenance would occur from SW to pole

Pole #958

Pole #963

- Protect and minimize surface disturbance to seed bank in vicinity of single dead cacti recorded

Pole #971
- Cut existing pole at base (about 1 to 2 feet above ground surface) and leave underground portion in ground
- Access directly from the road if possible, from the north

Pole #976, (Cacti immediately adjacent to access road and approximately 20 feet from pole)
- Cut existing pole at base (about 1 to 2 feet above ground surface) and leave underground portion in ground
- Access pole location from south and east of pole
- Install anchors at same locations

Access for pole # 1047
- Remain on existing designated access/turnaround locations
- Determine status of De Beque mikvetch, install barrier fence as needed

Conservation measures for sensitive wildlife include:

•Adherence to the Suggested practices for avian protection on power lines: the state of the art in 2006 available from Heidi Plank (GJFO wildlife biologist) or through the following website:
http://www.aplic.org/uploads/files/2643/SuggestedPractices2006(LR-2).pdf

•A biological monitor would be employed to evaluate nesting activities, if work within the seasonal timeframes provided is desired. If the biological monitor finds no active nesting, coordination with BLM would occur to ensure agreement on the ability to use a helicopter within the timeframes and nest buffers provided below:

- For the heron rookery identified near I-70 mile marker 57, no helicopter flight patterns would infringe on a buffer extending ¼ mile horizontally and vertically from the rookery boundary (shown in the raptor survey report) during active nesting (generally April 1 to July 30; Kingery et al. 1998);
- For the Bald Eagle nest site identified near I-70 mile marker 58, no helicopter flight patterns would infringe on a buffer extending ½ mile horizontally and ¼ mile vertically from the nest (shown in the raptor survey report) during active nesting (generally March 1 to June 30; Kingery et al. 1998); and
- For the potential Peregrine falcon nest site identified between I-70 mile marker 49 and 50, biological monitoring following BLM raptor survey protocol would occur on June 1 to evaluate the nest site for activity. If no activity is documented, there would be no restrictions for this

potential nest location. If nesting activity is documented, no helicopter flight patterns would infringe on a buffer extending ½ mile horizontally and ¼ mile vertically from the nest location (shown in the raptor survey report) during active nesting (generally June 10 to July 30; Kingery et al. 1998 and CDOW 2008 with best professional judgment).

3.3.3 Vegetation (grasslands, forest management) (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Current conditions:

The ROW grant amendment segment of the power line on BLM land occurs in De Beque Canyon, between Cameo and the town of De Beque, and over several small stretches northeast of De Beque. The main vegetation along the power line in these areas is Pinyon-Juniper with an understory of sagebrush (*Artemisia spp*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier utahensis*), shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatum*), Mormon tea (*Ephedra viridis*), rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus spp.*), four-winged saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia polyacantha*), yucca (*Yucca* spp.), phlox (*Phlox hoodii* ssp.), bottlebrush squirreltail (*Sitanion hystrix*), Indian ricegrass (*Achantherum hymenoides*), galleta grass (*Hilaria jamesii*), poa (*Poa spp.*), sand dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*), Salina wildrye (*Elymus salina*), needle and thread grass (*Stipa comate*), cheatgrass (*Anisantha techtorum*) and annual wheatgrass (*Eremopyrum triticeum*). Small areas of greasewood flats also occur with the main vegetation being greasewood, shadscale, four-winged saltbush, rabbit brush, sagebrush, galleta grass, annual wheatgrass and cheatgrass.

Colorado hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), a threatened species, occurs in a few areas along the ROW and is discussed in section 3.3.2, Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species.

Finding on Public Land Health Standard 3:

Private land is not generally inventoried for land health standards by the BLM and a large portion of the project is on private land. The portion of the power line on BLM land is considered unclassified for Land Health Standards as due to the proximity of the power line, it has not been inventoried. From observation there is good production and a variety of healthy native perennial plants which would indicate that overall the ROW is meeting Land Health Standard 3.

Environmental Consequences:

<u>No Action</u>

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Under the No Action Alternative only the access roads that are currently being used would continue to be used. Impacts to vegetation on these roads would remain the same with vegetation not occurring in the two tracks due to soil compaction from the traffic. Overall, impact to vegetation would be low as the current access roads are not extensively used and are a small percentage of the project area.

Cumulative Effects:

Cumulative effects would be minimal under the No Action Alternative. There is always the possibility of invasive, noxious weeds being introduced from vehicle traffic that could affect the current vegetation.

Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

The proposed project would affect vegetation until the maintenance project is completed from vehicles and equipment driving over the plants on the access roads. Once the project is completed, the access roads that were closed would be closed again and reseeded under the POD. No significant impacts to vegetation are expected from the proposed project and Land Health Standard 3 would be expected to remain the same as before the proposed project.

Cumulative Effects:

Minimal cumulative effects are expected from the proposed project with only the slight possibility of invasive, noxious weeds becoming a problem that would affect the vegetation. Land Health Standard 3 would be expected to remain the same under the Proposed Action and No Action alternatives.

3.3.4 Wetlands & Riparian Zones (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Current conditions:

The proposed project is located adjacent to I-70 and the Colorado River. The existing power line crosses the Colorado River 4 times within the project area. The condition of the riparian zone located along the Colorado River was assessed in 1993 and 2004. During both of these assessments the reaches located within the project area were found to be in Proper Functioning Condition (PFC). The riparian community along the Colorado River supports native obligate and facultative species such as cottonwoods, willows, rushes, sedge, and wood's rose. Even though all of the Colorado River within the project area was found to be in PFC many areas have not reached their potential.

Some portions of the riparian zone along the Colorado River within the project area have been degraded by invasive species and road encroachment, and proximity of the railroad. Invasive species such as tamarisk and Russian knapweed are present within the riparian zone. I-70 and the Union Pacific railroad are also located within close proximity to the river and the riparian zone within the majority of the project area. The potential extent of the riparian zone has been restricted in many locations due to the proximity of I-70 and the railroad. Power line poles are generally located away from the riparian zone in the adjacent uplands. The power line is primarily located on the top of benches on the east side of the river. The proposed gravel storage area near the helicopter landing site on private land is located immediately adjacent to the riparian zone along the Colorado River.

Standard 2 for Public Land Health in Riparian systems requires riparian systems with both standing and running water to function properly. Properly functioning riparian systems have the ability to recover from major disturbances such as those associated with fire, grazing, and flooding. An assessment of the Public Land Health Standards was completed in the RHRA and the project area was found to be meeting or meeting with problems.

Environmental Consequences:

No Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Potential impacts to the riparian zone from the proposed use of new access roads or extra workspace would not occur under the No Action alternative; however impacts from continued use and authorized maintenance within the existing ROW could still occur. Direct and indirect impacts to the riparian zone associated with already authorized maintenance activities would still occur. These impacts could include direct removal or damage to vegetation during stringing of the line or access to poles. Soil disturbance would be limited but sedimentation transport into the riparian zone may slightly increase above background levels in some isolated locations.

Finding on Public Land Health Standard 2 (Riparian systems):

The land health standard 2 for riparian systems would continue to be met under the No Action alternative. Direct and indirect impacts to the riparian zone located along the Colorado River would be the same as current impacts. This alternative would not change the rating reaches of the Colorado River located within the project area.

Cumulative Effects:

There would be no new cumulative effects under the No Action alternative.

Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Direct and indirect impacts to the riparian zone under the proposed action would be similar to those described in the No Action alternative. Under this alternative there may be increased impacts associated with the use of access routes that are located off of the existing ROW route. Most of the proposed access routes are located on the east side of Interstate 70 and away from the riparian zone along the Colorado River. PSCo has proposed to use an existing road located along the Government Highline Canal. Riparian vegetation along the canal is sparse due to steep slopes and close proximity to the access road. Impacts to riparian vegetation under the proposed action would be minimal. The largest impacts may occur at the gravel storage area near the helicopter landing area on private land. The gravel storage area is located immediately adjacent to the Colorado River. The historic use of this area is the same as the proposed use; therefore no measurable increase in impacts is expected from this proposed use.

Parking or storing equipment with riparian areas could cause direct impacts to vegetation and bank stability. Storage of equipment, driving, or parking within riparian areas should not be allowed. These activities should be restricted from occurring within 100' of riparian areas located on public land.

Finding on Public Land Health Standard 2 (Riparian systems):

The land health standard 2 for riparian systems would continue to be met under the Proposed Action alternative. Impacts to land health would be similar to the No Action alternative and the current rating of PFC is not expected to be impacted by this proposal.

Cumulative Effects:

Due to the limited scope of the proposed action there would be no measurable cumulative effects under this alternative.

Protective/Mitigation Measures:

Vehicle travel or equipment parking and storage for the proposed maintenance or future maintenance actives should not be allowed within riparian areas located inside of the ROW.

3.3.5 Wildlife (includes fish, aquatic and terrestrial) (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Current conditions:

The action area includes habitat for Chucker, Mule Deer, Elk, Black Bear, Mountain Lion, Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep and numerous other resident birds and mammals. Portions of the action area are within mule deer winter concentration areas and severe winter range, as well as elk winter concentration areas. Currently mapped bighorn production areas suggest the majority of the production occurs on the Little Book Cliffs Wilderness Study Area (WSA), however Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has evidence to suggest lambing occurs along the lower benches of the Colorado River northeast of the WSA. In addition to those special status fishes addressed above in section 3.3.2, the Colorado River contains brown trout, white sucker, longnose sucker, carp, speckled dace, and other less abundant species.

Environmental Consequences:

No Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Under the No Action Alternative maintenance would still occur, however unauthorized access roads would not be used. With fewer access points increased traffic in the ROW would be expected, and disturbance wildlife may be increased because of the potential for increased traffic along the ROW without authorization of additional access points. No impacts to native and sport fish would be expected under this alternative.

Finding on Public Land Health Standard 3:

No determination has been made for whether or not the project area meets Public Land Health Standard 3. Due to the project area's proximity to I-70 and the railroad the majority of the power line route is unclassified. While the project area supports fish and wildlife species, the habitat is highly fragmented and has heavy anthropogenic influences. The no action alternative would not affect the area's ability to meet Public Land Health Standard 3.

Cumulative Effects:

The No Action alternative is not anticipated to have any cumulative effects on fish and wildlife. The power line has been in place for roughly 100 years, and the routine maintenance is not likely to facilitate any changes to the area. The project area has high levels of historic human disturbance and habitat fragmentation, including existing paved roads (W½ Road, I-70), an active railroad corridor, the power line, an existing De Beque substation, the rural town site of De Beque which as contributed to use and recreation in the action area. On private lands, industrial development has occurred and continues to spread in the area. There is a trend of increasing recreation with increasing population and motorized uses next to urbanizing areas. Oil and Gas development also has impacted nearby habitat areas.

Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

The proposed action of maintaining the power line would not impact the Colorado River or the current 100-year floodplain of the River. BMP's identified and proposed in section 3.3.2 would help eliminate offsite movement of soils and potential sedimentation concerns for trout and other sediment intolerant fishes. Impacts to non-special status fish are not anticipated. The corridor within which the maintenance activity would occur is currently heavily impacted through traffic on I-70, development on private lands within the corridor and other related activities. As a result the additional activity of maintaining the power line through vehicular access is not expected to result in any indirect impacts to wildlife because current and historic human disturbance in the area is high. Impacts to lambing rocky mountain bighorn sheep could occur if helicopter flights occur at low elevations particularly during the lambing season. Because the rocky mountain bighorn sheep population resides north of the Colorado River access to the power line ROW via helicopter should be conducted from the south side of the Colorado River from April 15 to June 30 annually to avoid impacts to lambing sheep.

Finding on Public Land Health Standard 3:

No determination has been made for whether or not the project area meets Public Land Health Standard 3. Due to the project area's proximity to I-70 and the railroad the majority of the power line route is unclassified. While the project area supports fish and wildlife species, the habitat is highly fragmented and has

heavy anthropogenic influences. The proposed action is not anticipated to affect the action area's ability to meet Public Land Health Standard 3.

Cumulative Effects:

The No Action alternative is not anticipated to have any cumulative effects on fish and wildlife. The power line has been in place for roughly 100 years, and the routine maintenance is not likely to facilitate any changes to the area. The project area has high levels of historic human disturbance and habitat fragmentation, including existing paved roads (W½ Road, I-70), an active railroad corridor, the power line, an existing De Beque substation, the rural town site of De Beque which as contributed to use and recreation in the action area. On private lands, industrial development has occurred and continues to spread in the area. There is a trend of increasing recreation with increasing population and motorized uses next to urbanizing areas. Oil and Gas development also has impacted nearby habitat areas.

Protective/Mitigation Measures:

Access to the power line ROW via helicopter should be conducted from the south side of the Colorado River from April 15 to June 30 annually to avoid impacts to lambing sheep.

3.4 HERITAGE RESOURCES AND HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

3.4.1 Cultural Resources

Current Conditions:

A records search of the general project area, and a Class III inventory covering 58.5% of the Area of Potential Effect (APE), as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), was completed by ERO Resources, a Colorado BLM permitted cultural resource contracting firm (GJFO CRIR 15911-01 and 15911-04). Lands excluded from the cultural resource inventory were excluded because private land owners did not give permission for cultural survey, or slopes exceeded 30% and were considered unsafe and unlikely to have cultural resources. Conditions of the existing cultural environment are incorporated by this reference but the following briefly summarizes cultural resources in the APE.

ERO **reevaluated 16 sites** (5ME81, 5ME815.3, 5ME931, 5ME1228, 5ME1229, 5ME4677.4, 5ME5234, 5ME15787, 5ME15790 (initially recorded as an isolated find), 5ME18008, 5GF245, 5GF353, 5GF1569, 5GF2441, 5GF2805, and 5GF2997); and **recorded 97 new sites or site segments** (5ME815.7, 5ME924.4, 5ME924.5, 5ME924.6, 5ME4676.24, 5ME7351.21-5ME7351.24, 5ME11907.2, 5ME12922.2-5ME12922.3, 5ME15787, 5ME17996.2-9, 5ME18071, 5ME18072, 5ME18073, 5ME18074, 5ME18076, 5ME18085.1, 5ME18086.1, 5ME18268.1, 5ME18269**,** 5GF654.11, 5GF654.12, 5GF1262.13, 5GF1661.6, 5GF2116.3, 5GF2118.3, 5GF2118.4, 5GF2336.2, 5GF2362.2, 5GF2456.9, 5GF2484.2, 5GF2758.3, 5GF2935.3-5GF2935.6, 5GF3555.2-

5GF3555.6, 5GF4551, 5GF4553.1-5GF4553.7, 5GF4554.1-17, 5GF4581.1, 5GF4582.1, 5GF4583.1, 5GF4583.2, 5GF4589.1, 5GF4590, 5GF4591, 5GF4592, 5GF4593, 5GF4594, 5GF4595, 5GF4596, 5GF4597, 5GF4598.1, 5GF4599.1, 5GF4600.1, 5GF4601.1, 5GF4603.1, 5GF4604.1, 5GF4605.1, 5GF4620.1). Nine (**9**) sites were mapped by OAHP within the APE but were not relocated during the current surveys (5ME76, 5ME775, 5ME923, 5ME924, 5ME3665, 5ME4349, 5ME4674, 5GF800, 5GF1224) or were not rerecorded because access was not granted (5GF3312 and 5GF3362). Additionally, **22 isolated finds** were newly recorded (5GF4552, 5GF4607-5GF4617, 5ME18077-5ME18083, 5ME18270-5ME18272).

Prehistoric site types in the survey area consist of rock art sites, open camps, and open lithic scatters. Historic sites types in the project area include roads, a historic trail, historic camps, a reservoir, a historic structure, a historic inscription site, canals, ditches, a flume, historic highway segments, a railroad siding, a coal tipple, a possible historic grave, a hydroelectric plant, a coal mine complex, a dugout, a limestone quarry, a cistern, a historic rock wall, historic railroad segments, historic transmission line segments and two multicomponent sites containing both historic and prehistoric items.

The following sites and segments are considered eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) 5GF245, 5GF353, 5GF654.11, 5GF654.12, 5GF1661.6, 5GF2116.3, 5GF2118.3, 5GF2336.2, 5GF2362.2, 5GF2441, 5GF4284.2, 5GF2758.3, 5GF2935.4-5GF2935.6, 5GF3555.6, 5GF4551, 5GF4581.1, 5GF4582.1, 5GF4583.1, 5GF4589.1, 5GF4595, 5GF4600.1, 5GF4620.1, 5ME81, 5ME924.4-5ME924.6, 5ME1229, 5ME4677.4, 5ME7351.21, 5ME7351.22, 5ME7351.24, 5ME11907.2, 5ME12922.2, 5ME12922.3, and 5ME18076.

The following sites are considered potentially eligible (needs data) for the NRHP and include 5GF1569, 5GF2997, 5ME931, 5ME1228, 5ME15790, 5ME17996.2-9, 5ME18073, 5ME18085.1, 5ME18268.1, 5ME18269, and 5GF4554.1-17.

The following sites are considered not eligible for the NRHP: 5GF800, 5GF1262.13, 5GF2118.4, 5GF2456.9, 5GF2935.3, 5GF3555.2-5GF3555.6, 5GF2805, 5GF4553, 5GF4553.1, 5GF4553.2, 5GF4553.3, 5GF4553.4, 5GF4553.5, 5GF4553.6, 5GF4583.2, 5GF4590, 5GF4591, 5GF4592, 5GF4593, 5GF4594, 5GF4596, 5GF4597, 5GF4598.1, 5GF4599.1, 5GF4601.1, 5GF4603.1, 5GF4604.1, 5GF4605.1, 5ME815.3, 5ME815.7, 5ME7351.23, 5ME15787, 5ME18008, 5ME18071, 5ME18072, 5ME18074, and 5ME18086.1,

The project inventory and evaluation is in compliance with the NHPA, the Colorado State Protocol Agreement, and other federal law, regulation, policy, and guidelines regarding cultural resources.

<u>No Action</u>

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Under the No Action Alternative maintenance would still occur, however unauthorized access roads would not be used. With fewer access points increased

traffic in the ROW would be expected without authorization of additional access points. Under the No Action Alternative, PSCo would only be allowed to travel within the ROW or on county maintained roads. If no surface disturbance such as blading, grading etc. occurs on unauthorized routes, there would be no direct or indirect effects to cultural resources.

Cumulative Effects:

The No Action alternative is not anticipated to have any cumulative effects on cultural resources. The power line has been in place for roughly 100 years, and the routine maintenance of the historic line has been determined by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) (CHS #61985) to not be an adverse impact to the line and the project is not likely to facilitate any changes to the area. The project area has high levels of historic human disturbance, including existing paved roads (i.e.W½ Road and I-70), an active railroad corridor, the power line, an existing De Beque substation, the rural town site of De Beque which has contributed to use and recreation in the action area. On private lands, industrial development has occurred and continues to spread in the area. There is a trend of increasing recreation with increasing population and motorized uses next to urbanizing areas. Oil and Gas development also has impacted nearby areas containing cultural resources.

Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

The proposed action of maintaining the power line would not impact the historic transmission line (5ME17996.2-9/5GF4554.1-17) but moving poles or improving (grading, blading or otherwise surface disturbing) roads in the ROW could impact cultural resources within the ROW. Temporary direct impacts to historic roads in the project area could occur if vegetation is removed and historic roads are utilized to maintain poles. This has the potential to open roads to increased use after the project which could change their historic qualities. Due to excessive slopes in some locations and lack of access from private land owners to survey on their property, there are possibly other cultural resources within the project area that are unknown to the BLM and could potentially be impacted by the proposed action.

PSCo's proposed design feature stopping vehicle travel on the at pole number 1200 would reduce the potential for impacts to a significant historic road, 5ME924.4. Placement of pole 1220 in the same place as the old pole with a boom truck would reduce the need of driving on the historic road.

Cumulative Effects:

Under the Proposed Action alternative, maintenance and use of access roads could add to overall cumulative impacts on cultural resources. Implementing the proposed action would contribute to cumulative impacts from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions by continuing to add development to the historic landscapes. There are no specific sites of concern

identified in the project area; it is rather the broader continued change that modern culture brings to the landscape. There would not be significant construction-related surface disturbing activity.

Protective/Mitigation Measures:

To protect cultural resources that are and may be present in the area, the following mitigation should occur:

1) Due to the potential of future maintenance impacting cultural resources, particularly if access roads are upgraded or if poles are moved within the ROW a condition should be placed on the renewal requiring the holder to notify BLM prior to any surface disturbance on the ROW and STROW to protect cultural resources.

2) Additionally, because of the portions of the survey where access was not given (steep slopes or access being denied by private land owners, the following standard stipulations would protect cultural resources both known and not known to the agency:

a) All persons in the area who are associated with this project should be informed that any person who, without a permit, injures, destroys, excavates, appropriates or removes any historic or prehistoric ruin, artifact, object of antiquity, Native American remains, Native American cultural item, or archaeological resources on public lands is subject to arrest and penalty of law (16 USC 433, 16 USC 470, 18 USC 641, 18 USC 1170, and 18 USC 1361). Strict adherence to the confidentiality of information concerning the nature and location of archeological resources would be required of the proponent and all of their subcontractors (Archaeological Resource Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 470hh)

b) Inadvertent Discovery: The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) [16 USC 470s., 36 CFR 800.13], as amended, requires that if newly discovered historic or archaeological materials or other cultural resources are identified during the Proposed Action implementation, work in that area must stop and the BLM Authorized Officer (AO) must be notified immediately. Within five working days the AO would determine the actions that would likely have to be completed before the site can be used (assuming in place preservation is not necessary).

c) The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) [25 USC 3001 et seq., 43 CFR 10.4] requires that if inadvertent discovery of Native American Human Remains or Objects of Cultural Patrimony occurs, any activity must cease in the area of discovery, a reasonable effort made to protect the item(s) discovered, and immediate notice be made to the BLM Authorized Officer, as well

as the appropriate Native American group(s) (IV.C.2). Notice may be followed by a 30-day delay (NAGPRA Section 3(d)).

d) The operator may relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and delays associated with this process, as long as the new area has been appropriately inventoried and has no resource concerns, and the exposed materials are recorded and stabilized. Otherwise, the operator should be responsible for mitigation costs. The BLM authorized officer would provide technical and procedural guidelines for relocation and/or to conduct mitigation. Upon verification from the BLM authorized officer that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator would be allowed to resume construction.

e) Antiquities, historic ruins, prehistoric ruins, and other cultural or paleontological objects of scientific interest that are outside the authorization boundaries but potentially affected, either directly or indirectly, by the proposed action should also be included in this evaluation or mitigation. Impacts that occur to such resources as a result of the authorized activities should be mitigated at the operator's cost, including the cost of consultation with Native American groups

3.4.2 Tribal and Native American Religious Concerns

Current Conditions:

American Indian religious concerns are legislatively considered under several acts and Executive Orders, namely the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (PL 95-341), the Native American Graves Environmental Assessment Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (PL 101-601), and Executive Order 13007 (1996; Indian Sacred Sites). In summary, these require, in concert with other provisions such as those found in the NHPA and ARPA, that the federal government carefully and proactively take into consideration traditional and religious Native American culture and life and ensure, to the degree possible, that access to sacred sites, the treatment of human remains, the possession of sacred items, the conduct of traditional religious practices, and the preservation of important cultural properties are considered and not unduly infringed upon. In some cases, these concerns are directly related to “historic properties” and “archaeological resources”. In some cases elements of the landscape without archaeological or other human material remains may be involved. Identification of these concerns is normally completed during the land use planning efforts, reference to existing studies, or via direct consultation. General consultation has been conducted with tribes who traditionally used the GJFO area. Concerns identified included eradication of sage, impacts to medicinal plants, and general modern intervention in the natural processes. No Native American Indian consultation was conducted for the proposed project.

Environmental Consequences:

<u>No Action</u>

Direct and Indirect Effects:

The No Action Alternative is not known to physically threaten the integrity of any TCPs, prevent access to sacred sites, prevent the possession of sacred objects, or interfere or otherwise hinder the performance of traditional ceremonies and rituals pursuant to AIRFA or EO 13007. There are currently no known threats to remains that fall within the purview of NAGPRA or ARPA. Although none have been identified, any heretofore unidentified effect of the proposed action to Native American Religious Concerns is expected to be negligible in both the short and long term. The Ute have a generalized concept of spiritual significance that is not easily transferred to Western models or definitions. As such the BLM recognizes that they have identified sites that are of concern because of their association with Ute occupation of the area as part of their traditional lands.

Cumulative Effects:

Under the No Action alternative, authorizing the ROW renewal would contribute to cumulative impacts from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions by changing the landscape from that known by Traditional Utes. There are no specific sites of concern identified in the project area; it is rather the broader continued change that modern culture brings to the landscape. There would not be significant construction-related surface disturbing activity and access to significant locations unknown to the agency would not be impacted by the project.

Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

The Proposed Action is not known to physically threaten the integrity of any TCPs, prevent access to sacred sites, prevent the possession of sacred objects, or interfere or otherwise hinder the performance of traditional ceremonies and rituals pursuant to AIRFA or EO 13007. There are currently no known threats to remains that fall within the purview of NAGPRA or ARPA. Although none have been identified, any heretofore unidentified effect of the proposed action to Native American Religious Concerns is expected to be negligible in both the short and long term. The Ute have a generalized concept of spiritual significance that is not easily transferred to Western models or definitions. As such the BLM recognizes that they have identified sites that are of concern because of their association with Ute occupation of the area as part of their traditional lands.

Cumulative Effects:

Cumulative effects for the proposed action would be the same as No Action alternative.

Protective/Mitigation Measures:

The stipulations listed above in the Protective/Mitigation Measures section of 3.4.1 should be adequate to protect sites of tribal concern that are known or not

known to the agency within the project area. In addition to the stipulations for the protection of Cultural Resources if new information is brought forward any site-specific Native American mitigation measures suggested during previous notification/consultation would be considered during the implementation of the Proposed Action. If new information is provided by Native Americans during the EA process, additional or edited terms and conditions for mitigation may have to be negotiated or enforced to protect resource values.

3.4.3 Visual Resources

Current Conditions:

The existing power line follows the Colorado River and Interstate 70 corridor through De Beque Canyon (Phase 2 – De Beque to Cameo.) The canyon creates an enclosed landscape to observers on the highway or river. From the broad, generally flat water of the river, rise steep rocky slopes and sheer cliffs above which lie benches, rolling hills and flat-topped mesas. These landforms create a diverse and bold landscape character with prominent horizontal, vertical and triangular lines and a rough, irregular texture. Colors are generally subtle hues of tan and grey punctuated by the bright greens of riparian vegetation along the river, and the dark greens of the pinyon and juniper woodlands scattered on the upland slopes.

Through much of the canyon the power line is located on the bench lying approximately 100 to 300 vertical feet above the river. In broader sections of the canyon the power line is closer to the level of the river at the base of the canyon walls. The power line towers and wires are visible from multiple locations throughout the canyon, and create both vertical (towers) and horizontal (wires) visual contrast, but do not dominate the view of the casual observer. Access roads to the towers are sometimes visible, but are generally not prominent in the viewshed from the highway. Other man-made developments in the canyon include the Cameo power plant, a campground and man-made lakes at Island Acres State Park, a fish hatchery, a water diversion structure and canal and a few scattered historic homes.

The Visual Resource Management (VRM) classification of the De Beque Canyon corridor is VRM III where the objective is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape, and the level of change to the landscape can be moderate.

The area of the Proposed Action within the CRVFO has a variety of landscape character types and varying degrees of alteration from human activities. The topography varies from drainage valley bottoms, to relatively flat mesas, to steep foothills rising to steeper mountain peaks in the background. Numerous side drainages and gulches dissect the landforms adding to the variety and topographic texture. The area is characteristic of rural agricultural/ranching land, scattered rural residences and oil and gas development. Vegetation consists of pastoral land, sagebrush flats, pinyon juniper woodlands, and mixed oak brush/mountain shrub plant communities.

The Visual Resource Management (VRM) classifications within the CRVFO boundary are VRM II and VRM III. The power line crosses 5.4 miles of BLM lands within the CRVFO, 4.8 miles in VRM II and 0.6 miles in VRM III. The objective of VRM Class II is to retain the existing characteristic landscape; the level of change in any of the basic landscape elements (line, form, color, texture) due to management activities should be low and not evident to the casual observer. The objective for VRM III is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape, and the level of change to the landscape can be moderate.

No Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Under the No Action Alternative the existing power line would remain in place but use of unauthorized access roads would not be allowed, reducing the visual impact created by increased road use, helicopter overflights and ground disturbance (increasing visual contrast) from power line maintenance. Under this alternative the power line ROW would also expire and PSCo would need to submit an application for a new power line, or reclaim the existing power line. Reclamation of the existing power line would create short-term visual impacts during decommissioning, but would reduce long-term visual impacts in the corridor.

Cumulative Effects:

While no action on this proposal would potentially reduce visual impacts (as described above), other reasonably foreseeable actions like energy development or recreational trail development would likely alter the visual landscape character in this corridor.

Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Since a power line already exists in the corridor, the proposed action would not create a long-term change to the visual character of the corridor unless the new tower structures are significantly different in form, line, color or texture.

In the short term, vehicles, aircraft and other construction equipment and supplies, along with the associated personnel, would be visible during the maintenance/reconstruction phase of the project, a period of several months. The visibility of this activity from observation points along I-70 would vary by location and time. It would also vary according to soil conditions, since drier soil conditions would likely result in more dust associated with construction activities. The increased use of typically little-used access routes, and any maintenance/upgrades of those routes (i.e. vegetation clearing and creation of turnaround points), would likely increase the visual contrast of those routes with the surrounding landscape. Limiting the modification of access routes would minimize visual impacts. Similarly, soil disturbance associated with tower replacement would create short-term increases in visual contrast. Mitigation

measures to replant and restore those disturbances would minimize long-term visual impacts. Annual maintenance inspections would create periodic short-term visual impacts. As proposed, the project would meet the objectives for VRM Class III. It may attract attention, but would not dominate the view of the casual observer traveling on Interstate 70.

Cumulative Effects:

The proposed action, in combination with anticipated future developments of energy and communications developments, and potential recreation and transportation developments (trails and highway improvements), would increase contrast and decrease naturalness of the area's visual landscape character. Even considering these changes, the area would likely still meet the management objectives for VRM Class II and III.

Proposed Mitigation Measures:

Only not reflective black or dark colored conductor wire should be used to reduce impacts to visual resources.

3.4.4 Transportation/Access

Current Conditions:

The project parallels Interstate 70 which is the primary transportation corridor in the region. The access routes identified in the proposed action are generally the only other routes in the immediate vicinity of De Beque Canyon due to the rugged nature of the canyon. Some of those access routes are open to the public and others were intended only for administrative access to the ROW. There are several roads traversing the mesas above the canyon. These routes vary from primitive two-track roads to improved gravel roads that access natural gas extraction facilities. Traffic on these routes is generally light, especially on the power line access roads. No traffic counter data is available for these routes.

Environmental Consequences:

No Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Under this alternative, use of unauthorized access roads would not be allowed, reducing administrative access to the power line, and potentially eliminating long-term access if the ROW expires and the existing power line is reclaimed. Short-term increases in traffic would be expected in the vicinity of the corridor if and when the power line was reclaimed.

Cumulative Effects:

Over the long-term, transportation and access routes would continue to be developed for energy, communications and recreation projects, potentially utilizing this existing utility corridor for a new power line or pipeline. Short-term

increases in traffic would be expected during the operational lifespan of these projects.

Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

The proposed action would create short-term increases in traffic on access roads during the maintenance/reconstruction phase of the project, a period of several months. During this phase, other road users may experience slight delays, but the expected impact would be minimal. Damage to little-used access routes could occur from the use of trucks and heavy equipment, especially if routes are used when they are wet. The reestablishment of previously little-used administrative routes could encourage unauthorized use of those routes. Signing of administrative-only routes would reduce this effect. Other travelers would benefit from the vegetation clearing and minor maintenance of deteriorating routes.

Cumulative Effects:

Over the long-term, maintenance of the power line would require on-going maintenance of access routes to the power line. Those access routes along with additional transportation and access routes would continue to be maintained and developed for energy, communications and recreation projects, thus expanding the transportation network in the area. Increases in traffic would be expected during the operational lifespan of these projects.

3.4.5 Wastes, Hazardous or Solid

Current Conditions:

Hazardous and solid wastes are not a part of the natural environment but could be introduced to the environment as a result of the proposed action.

No Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:
No effects

Cumulative Effects:
No Effects

Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Effects would most likely be limited to impacts from improper management of fuels and lubricants used for the equipment. Spills and leaks would result in contaminated soils and, if not contained and cleaned up, could result in contamination of surface water, and potentially, groundwater although the latter would be unlikely given the likely volumes involved.

Cumulative Effects:

With implementation of the mitigation measures (described below), cumulative effects would be expected to be negligible.

Protective/Mitigation Measures:

Any fueling or maintenance of vehicles should take place at least 100 feet from any drainage (live water or dry). Fueling and storage should only occur in designated areas. All designated fueling and storage areas should be bermed. All spills, regardless of size should be cleaned up and contaminated soil should be disposed of at an approved facility. Any spills should be promptly reported to the BLM Authorized Officer.

3.5 LAND RESOURCES

3.5.1 Recreation

Current Conditions:

Recreation use in the area can be characterized as dispersed recreation with a relatively low level of intensity. The exception to this general description is big-game hunting in the fall. The Project Area is located in Colorado Parks and Wildlife game management units (GMU) 42, which includes the portion of the power line north of Plateau Creek, and GMU 31 which includes the portion of the power line west of the Colorado River. Both GMUs have historically been very popular with big-game hunters and can be expected to remain so into the future. The immediate area of the power line corridor is in the lower elevation portions of these GMUs and does not receive as much hunting activity as higher elevation portions of the units. The immediate area of the power line corridor also receives occasional OHV use. The project area does not include any designated recreation management areas. No developed recreational facilities, such as campgrounds or picnic areas are located within or near the project area. The Grand Junction Field Office manages four Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) for mountain lion hunting in the area. The following outfitters are authorized to operate in the project area: Alameno Outfitters, Backcountry Outfitters, Cat Track Outfitters, and Mark Davies Outfitters.

Environmental Consequences:

No Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Limited recreation use would continue to occur in the area. If the ROW expires and the existing power line is reclaimed, there would be a short-term increase in vehicle traffic, noise, dust, and human activity during the decommissioning/reclamation process. This activity would likely displace some game species in localized areas within close proximity to these activities, and both hunters and game would be displaced to other locations outside of the project area if these activities took place during hunting seasons. The reclamation of the power line would contribute to an increase in the area's naturalness, altering the setting character for recreation opportunities in the area

Cumulative Effects:

While no action on this proposal would potentially reduce long-term impacts to recreation (as described above), other reasonably foreseeable actions like energy or communications project development would likely increase traffic and dust in the area altering recreational opportunities as described above. Other effects on recreation would be related to general recreation and demographic trends in the region.

Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Implementation of the proposed action would have limited direct effects on recreation. In the short-term it would result in increased vehicle traffic, noise, dust, and human activity during the maintenance/reconstruction phase, a period of several months during the summer when the area receives little recreational use. Construction activities would likely displace some game species in localized areas within close proximity to these activities, but most game is at higher elevations during the proposed construction period, which is also outside of the most popular hunting seasons for lower elevation habitat. and both hunters and game would be displaced to other locations outside of the project area. The power line maintenance would contribute to a short-term decline in the area's naturalness, altering the setting character for recreation opportunities in the area.

Cumulative Effects:

The proposed action, along with other potential energy and communications projects in the area would incrementally reduce naturalness, and would likely alter game species use patterns, potentially reducing hunting opportunities and success rates. Increases in traffic, dust and noise would be expected during the operational lifespan of these projects. Other effects on recreation would be related to general recreation and demographic trends in the region.

3.5.2 Wild and Scenic Rivers

Current Conditions:

No Name Creek and Colorado River Segment 7 have been determined to be eligible under the Final Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report, BLM Kremmling and Glenwood Springs Field Offices, Colorado, March 2007. No Name Creek has a historic Outstandingly Remarkable Value (ORV) to protect the No Name Flume and Aqueduct, which is eligible for inclusion on the NRHP primarily for its contribution to the early use of hydroelectric power in Glenwood Springs. The Colorado River Segment 7 has scenic, recreational (floatboating) and geologic ORV's. This Colorado River segment is classified as Visual Resource Management Class II for its scenic qualities and to maintain the natural landscape on public lands adjacent to the river and along the I-70 corridor. Outstanding qualities are tied to the topography, contrasting colors, and geologic formations in Glenwood Canyon. The recreational ORV is for outstanding access to the scenery of Glenwood Canyon for scenic driving, biking, photography, fishing, kayaking, canoeing and rafting. The geological ORV refers to the geology of Glenwood Canyon,

which holds geologic formations form the Paleozoic and Precambraim Eras. The preliminary classifications for both No Name Creek and the Colorado River Segment 7 is Recreational, which means that these segments are readily accessible by road or railroad, have some development along their shorelines, and may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past. No Name Creek and the Colorado River Segment 7 will be managed to preserve the identified Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORV's) until such a time as a suitability study is completed according to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (1968) and the Glenwood Springs Resource Area Resource Management Plan revision process.

Environmental Consequences:

No Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

If the ROW expires and the existing power line is reclaimed, there would be a short-term increase in vehicle traffic, noise, dust, and human activity during the decommissioning/reclamation process. This activity would not affect the historic, recreational, or geologic ORV's, and would enhance the scenic ORV by contributing to an increase in the area's naturalness. There would be no effect to the preliminary classifications because there already is some development along the shorelines of the segments.

Cumulative Effects:

While no action on this proposal would potentially reduce long-term impacts to the scenic ORV (as described above), other reasonably foreseeable actions like energy or communications project development would only occur as long as the scenic ORV was not negatively affected.

Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Implementation of the proposed action to renew the right-of-way may potentially have direct impacts to the scenic, historic, geologic, and recreational ORV's. Maintenance within the right-of-way within .25 miles of No Name Creek (the river corridor), may affect the historic setting of the site, which would affect the criteria for eligibility for NRHP. Maintenance may also affect the scenic, geologic and recreational ORV's of the river corridor (.25 miles from high water) for the Colorado River Segment 7. Since the recreational ORV is tied with the scenic qualities of Glenwood Canyon, the recreational ORV may be affected if the scenic ORV is affected. In addition, any maintenance that occurs could affect the geology of the canyon and caves, springs, faults, and unconformities may be disturbed. There would be no effect to the preliminary classifications because there already is some development along the shorelines of the river segments.

Cumulative Effects:

The proposed action, along with other potential energy and communications projects in the area would incrementally reduce naturalness,

other reasonably foreseeable actions like energy or communications project development would only occur as long as the scenic ORV was not negatively affected due to continued protections for the eligible wild and scenic river segment.

Protection/Mitigations Measures:

The Additional Stipulations for Right-of-Way Assignments already lists the following as a stipulation:

- The holder should notify the authorized officer at least 60 days prior to non-emergency activities that would cause surface disturbance in the right-of-way. A "Notice to Proceed" should be required prior to any non-emergency activities that would cause surface disturbance on the right-of-way. Any request for a "Notice to Proceed" must be made to the authorized officer, who would review the proposed action for consistency with resource management concerns such as wildlife, big game winter range, paleontology, and special status species, and cultural resource protection. Additional measures may be required to protect these resources or other resources.

3.5.3 Land Tenure, Rights of Way and other Uses

Current Conditions:

The existing power line is located along Interstate 70 and within the West-wide Energy Corridor. There are a variety of different types of ROWs located near the power line and within the corridor. The serial number, facility type, and width of other ROWs located in close proximity to the power line area listed below:

Serial #	Facility Type	Width
C 01872	Highway Improvement	Variable
C 27740	Highway Project	Variable
C 29686	Telephone	16’
C 30678	Highway Project	Variable
C 06328	Road	200’
C 08341	Road	100’
C 09825	Railroad	200’
C 018281	Road	400’
C 026543	Road (I-70)	200’
C 026947	Highway Amendment	Variable
C 29686	Telephone	16’
C 053941	Road	Variable
C 057884	Road	24’
C 093824	Railroad	NA
C 093825	Railroad	NA
C 299653	Road	Variable
C 0123694	Highway Project	Variable
COC 38542	Telephone Line	10’

COC 49004	Telephone	10’
COC 49053	Road Esmt to US	60’
COC 50479	Telephone Line	10’
COC 55427	Natural Gas Pipeline	Variable
COC 57665	Water Facility	Variable
COC 65940	Natural Gas Pipeline	50’

Analysis of the current condition was completed by doing GIS analysis, which included assessing the number, type, and location of other facilities. Access roads intercepted or used by both facilities were also identified.

Environmental Consequences:

No Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

There would be no direct impacts to existing ROWs under the No Action alternative. There may be some delays during access to other facilities during the planned maintenance activities on the power line. The power line would be largely accessed via foot and helicopter so interruptions are expected to be minimal. Replacement of existing poles and guy wires would be occur within the exiting ROW. Poles that are being removed would be dug out or cut flush with the ground, and new poles would be placed in close proximity to the removed poles.

Cumulative Effects:

There would be no new cumulative effects under this alternative.

Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Effects under this proposal would be similar to those described for the No Action alternative. The majority of the requested access routes are located on exiting primitive or developed routes. Design features proposed by PSCo would protect other valid and existing rights such as existing ROWs.

Cumulative Effects:

There would be no measurable cumulative effects to land use authorizations under this alternative.

CHAPTER 4 - CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

4.1 LIST OF PREPARERS AND PARTICIPANTS

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW

NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY
Christina Stark	Riparian Coordinator/Project Manager	Riparian and Wetlands, Land Tenure/Status, Realty Authorizations
Julia Christiansen	Natural Resource Specialist	Surface Management and Permitting for Oil & Gas
Alissa Leavitt-Reynolds Erin Leifield	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns
Chris Pipkin	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Access, Transportation, Recreation, VRM, Wilderness, ACECs
Scott Clarke	Range Management Specialist	Vegetation, Range
David Scott Gerwe	Geologist	Minerals, Geology, Paleontology
Alan Kraus	Hazardous Materials Specialist	Hazardous Materials
Heidi Plank Tom Fresques	Wildlife Biologist Fisheries Biologist	T&E Species, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Terrestrial & Aquatic Wildlife
Anna Lincoln Carla DeYoung	Ecologist	Land Health Assessment, Range Ecology, Special Status Plant Species
Collin Ewing	Environmental Coordinator	Environmental Justice, Prime & Unique Farmlands, Environmental Coordinator
Nate Dieterich Pauline Adams	Hydrologist	Soils, Air Quality, Water Quality, Hydrology, Water Rights
Mark Taber	Range Management Specialist	Weed Coordinator, Invasive, Non-Native Species
Lathan Johnson	Fire Ecologist Natural Resource Specialist	Fire Ecology, Fuels Management
Kimberly Miller	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wild and Scenic Rivers, Recreation, Wilderness - CRVFO
Greg Wolfgang	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Visual Resources - CRVFO

4.2 TRIBES, INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR AGENCIES CONSULTED

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer

CHAPTER 5 - REFERENCES

Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC). 2006. Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2006. Edison Electric Institute, APLIC, and the California Energy Commission. Washington, D.C. and Sacramento, Co

CDPHE-WQCC. 2010a. Water Quality Control Commission, 5 CCR 1002-37, Regulation No. 37, Classifications and Numeric Standards for Lower Colorado River Basin, Amended: February 8, 2010, Effective: June 30, 2010.

CDPHE-WQCC. 2010b. Water Quality Control Commission, 5 CCR 1002-93, Regulation #93, Colorado's Section 303(D) List of Impaired Waters and Monitoring and Evaluation List, Adopted March 9, 2010, Effective April 30, 2010.

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Bureau of Land Management. 1982. Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Glenwood Springs Resource Area. Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

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Bureau of Land Management. 2007. Final Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report. BLM Kremmling and Glenwood Springs Field Offices, Colorado.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Cameo to Shoshone Power Line Project

DOI-BLM-CO-130 2012-0001-EA

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the Proposed Action would not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

BACKGROUND

This EA has been prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to analyze a power line right-of-way (ROW) application amendment, short-term ROW for extra workspace, and ROW renewal applications received from Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo). PSCo has requested the approval of a right-of-way (ROW) amendment to allow for access routes across public land and renewal of the existing ROW. The road ROWs that have been requested would provide legal access to the existing power line. PSCo has authorization to conduct maintenance activities on the existing power line under the existing ROW grant, but lacks authorization to use all of the access roads necessary for maintenance. PSCo also needs to use extra workspace areas during their planned maintenance activities for laydown of poles. Potential impacts to federally listed plants were not previously addressed under the existing authorization. These potential impacts need to be resolved through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) before maintenance activities can proceed in certain locations.

The Bureau of Land Management prepared an Environmental Assessment which analyzed the effects of amending and renewing an existing power line (ROW). The ROW amendment that would authorize proposed access roads includes approximately 8 acres located near De Beque, Colorado. Renewal of the existing power line extending from the former Cameo Power Plant to the Shoshone Power Plant in Colorado includes approximately 46.5 acres of public land. The EA considered a range of 2 alternatives, which included the proposed action and no action.

The EA identified one alternative as a Proposed Action. The Proposed Action shall refer to Alternative 1.

Intensity

I have considered the potential intensity/severity of the impacts anticipated from the Cameo to De Beque Power Line Access Project and Cameo to Shoshone ROW renewal decision relative to each of the ten areas suggested for consideration by the CEQ. With regard to each:

1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.
This project may have minor short term impacts to soils, vegetation, and wildlife; however these impacts are not significant. Impacts associated with maintenance activities and use of access

routes within the Grand Junction Field Office would primarily occur during and immediately following construction. This project would have a long term net benefit to human health and safety by improving the reliability of a major power line.

2. The degree to which the proposed action affects public health and safety.
The proposed action is not expected to impact public health and safety. Public Service Company (PSCo) would be required to follow Colorado Department of Transportation guidelines while working near Interstate 70. The proposed action would enable PSCo to complete necessary upgrades of an aging power line that serves De Beque, Colorado and surrounding communities, which would increase the reliability of this system.

3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity of historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.
There are no significant impacts to riparian vegetation, parklands, prime farmlands, wetlands, or wild and scenic rivers within the project area for the proposed ROW amendment. Segments of the Colorado River are designated as wild and scenic within the Colorado River Valley Field Office. Renewal of the ROW grant would not impacts these segments of the river. The State Historic Preservation Officer has determined that maintenance activities on the historic power line are not considered an adverse effect, as long as the materials that are replaced are the same as those that are removed and are placed back in the same location. There are no municipal water supplies in the project area.

4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.
The impacts of power lines and access roads are generally well known and documented. Therefore the environmental effects are not likely to be controversial.

5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.
Power line projects and associated access routes have a long history in the region and pose no unique or unknown risks.

6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.
This decision is like one of many that have previously been made and will continue to be made by BLM officials regarding power line ROWs and access roads on public lands. The decision is within the scope of the Resource Management Plan and is not expected to establish a precedent for future actions. The decision does not represent a decision in principle about a future consideration.

7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.
There are no significant cumulative effects on the environment, either when combined with the effects created by past and concurrent projects, or when combined with the effects from natural changes taking place in the environment or from reasonably foreseeable future projects.

Alternative 1 is not expected to contribute to cumulative effects to threatened and endangered species. The project area has high levels of historic human disturbance and habitat fragmentation. There is a trend of increasing recreation with increasing population and motorized uses next to urbanizing areas. Oil and Gas development has also impacted nearby habitat areas. Natural factors affecting Colorado hookless cactus have been documented in and near the project area, including elk, rabbit, and insect damage, in populations about 1 to 2 miles north/northeast of the project area.

Under Alternative 1, maintenance and use of access roads could add to overall cumulative impacts on cultural resources. Implementing the proposed action would contribute to cumulative impacts from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions by continuing to add development to the historic landscapes. There are no specific sites of concern identified in the project area; it is rather the broader continued change that modern culture brings to the landscape. There would not be significant construction-related surface disturbing activity.

Renewal of the ROW, along with other potential energy and communications projects in the area may incrementally reduce naturalness along eligible wild and scenic river sections. Other reasonably foreseeable actions like energy or communications project development would only occur as long as the scenic Outstandingly Remarkable Value (ORV) was not negatively affected due to continued protections for the eligible wild and scenic river segment.

8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources.

Cultural resource surveys were completed on public land managed by the BLM, except on steep slopes that exceeded 30% and were considered unsafe and unlikely to have cultural resources. Surveys were also completed on private lands where access was granted. PSCo sent out notification to private landowners requesting access, but access was not granted in areas. The mitigation included in the EA would protect known historic properties in the surveyed ROW. It is unlikely that historic properties unknown to the BLM would be adversely impacted by the proposed action, because the proposed action has minimal new ground disturbing impacts. Proposed design features restricting vehicle travel along significant historic roads would also protect sensitive resources.

9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Portions of Alternative 1 are within suitable and occupied Colorado hookless cactus, DeBeque phacelia, Naturita milkvetch, and DeBeque milkvetch habitat. Portions of Alternative 1 are also within proposed critical habitat for the DeBeque phacelia. The Colorado hookless cactus and the DeBeque phacelia are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The maintenance and use of proposed access roads could result in direct and indirect impacts to both threatened and BLM sensitive plants. Due to the close proximity of the Colorado hookless cactus and historic occurrences of DeBeque phacelia Section 7 consultation with FWS was required for the proposed action. Consultation has been completed for Alternative 1, and a determination of May

Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect was made for both the Colorado hookless cactus and DeBeque phacelia (ES/GJ-6CO-11-F-005, TAILS 65413-2011-F-0055).

To avoid and minimize effects to sensitive resources in the project area, an adaptive management approach has been developed for monitoring project activities during maintenance. In sensitive areas in the vicinity of known special status plant populations, a biological monitor would be employed by PSCo and would coordinate with BLM ecologists. Construction activities would take place outside of blooming times for both the Colorado hookless cactus and DeBeque phacelia. PSCo would contact BLM prior to future maintenance in sensitive areas to determine if a biological monitor or any other protective measures are necessary to avoid impacts to listed species.

While there is the possibility for inadvertent impact to the cactus, the minimization and design features and conservation measures should assume avoidance. If in the course of maintenance activities it becomes apparent that individual cacti cannot be avoided, transplant options would be explored in coordination with the USFWS. Any unrecorded/new cacti documented during construction would be avoided and the minimization measures/design features would be applied to these individuals.

10. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

This decision complies with other Federal, State, or local laws and requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the information contained in the EA, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that: 1) the implementation of the Proposed Action or alternatives will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in the "Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan" for Grand Junction (January, 1987) or Glenwood Springs (January, 1984); (2) the Proposed Action is in conformance with the Resource Management Plan; and (3) the Proposed Action does not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement or a supplement to the existing environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

This finding is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR '1508.27), both with regard to the context and to the intensity of the impacts described in the EA.

Catherine Robertson 8/14/12

Field Manager — Date

Grand Junction Field Office

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE

DECISION RECORD

Cameo to Shoshone Power Line Project

DOI-BLM-CO-130-2012-0001-EA

DECISION:

It is my decision to authorize the proposed power line right-of-way (ROW) grant amendment and renewal (C 35161), as well as the short-term ROW (C 35161-01) proposed by Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo). The ROW grant amendment would authorize proposed access routes to the existing power line that would be used during maintenance activities. Renewal of the amended ROW grant will allow PSCo to continue using the existing power line until it expires in December 31, 2041, at which time it would be eligible for renewal again. The existing power line ROW includes approximately 46.5 acres of public land. Authorization of the short-term right-of-way (STROW) will allow for use of extra workspace during proposed maintenance activities between the former Cameo Power Plant and De Beque, Colorado. Planned maintenance activities include replacing the existing conduit and some of the wood power poles. A full description of the proposed action is included in the EA associated with this decision and is hereby incorporated by reference into this document.

This decision is contingent on meeting all mitigation measures and monitoring requirements listed in Exhibit 2.

Public scoping for this project was completed by posting notification of the project on the Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO) web site. There were no public comments received for this project. Other agencies involved in review or authorization of segments of the project include the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). BOR was informed about the project due to potential impacts to BOR managed lands. BOR completed review of the project and determined that the amendment to the existing license agreement with PSCo was not necessary. BOR also completed analysis of the proposed activities on land under their management.

Planned maintenance activities will occur within suitable and occupied Colorado hookless cactus, DeBeque phacelia, Naturita milkvetch, and DeBeque milkvetch habitat. Maintenance activities will also occur within proposed critical habitat for the DeBeque phacelia. The Colorado hookless cactus and the DeBeque phacelia are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The maintenance and use of proposed access roads could result in direct and indirect impacts to both threatened and to BLM sensitive plants. Due to the close proximity of the Colorado hookless cactus and historic occurrences of DeBeque phacelia Section 7 consultation with FWS was required for the proposed action. Consultation has been completed

and a determination of May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect was made for both the Colorado hookless cactus and DeBeque phacelia (ES/GJ-6CO-11-F-005, TAILS 65413-2011-F-0055).

A Class III inventory covering 58.5% of the Area of Potential Effect (APE), as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), was completed was completed for this project. During surveys numerous sites were found to be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places or potentially eligible. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) was also completed for this project. The SHPO has determined that maintenance activities on the historic power line are not considered an adverse effect, as long as the materials that are replaced are the same as those that are removed and are placed back in the same location.

This office completed an Environmental Assessment and reached a Finding of No Significant Impact for the proposed action.

RATIONALE:
Authorization of the Proposed Action provides the PSCo with legal access to their existing power line, extra workspace for planned maintenance activities, and renewal of the existing ROW grant for 30 years. Granting the proposed access routes STROW for extra workspace will allow PSCo to complete necessary maintenance activities, which will increase the reliability of the line and help to ensure that power outages do not occur in De Beque, Colorado. The proposed access routes will also provide long-term legal access for future maintenance and monitoring activities on the power line.

The decision to authorize the proposed access routes, temporary extra workspace, and ROW grant renewal, as proposed under the Proposed Action do not result in any unnecessary or undue environmental degradation. This decision is also in conformance with the Grand Junction Field Office Resource Management Plan.

Under this decision PSCo will be required to hire a 3rd party compliance monitor during proposed maintenance activities in certain locations, which will protect sensitive resources such as Colorado hookless cactus from being damaged. PSCo will also be allowed to use all of the requested access routes in their existing condition without any improvements. Design features to restrict vehicle travel on a portion of one private access route along a significant historic road will protect sensitive cultural resources.

Renewal of the existing power line will also have no new impacts on potentially eligible wild and scenic river segments of No Name Creek or the Colorado River within the Colorado River Valley Field Office.

Special and standard stipulations requirements along with operator committed design features will greatly reduce potential impacts to known and unknown resources within the project area. The majority of the project will be located in areas that were preciously disturbed. A cultural resource inventory was previously conducted in the project area. Design features to protect cultural resources include restricting vehicle travel on a portion of a proposed access route. Special mitigation measures include requiring vehicles to stay within the existing highway ROW

in sensitive areas. Negative impacts on any unidentified cultural resources will be mitigated through the standard stipulations for this project.

Timing restrictions and use of biologic monitors were also identified as permit stipulations to protect known and potential heron, bald eagles, peregrine falcon, and big horn sheep habitat in the project area. Authorizing the proposed action would minimally add to the impacts on surrounding resources. The following mitigation measures along with the proposed design features will provide adequate protection of sensitive resources.

MITIGATION MEASURES\MONITORING:

See Attachment B for mitigation and monitoring requirements.

PROTEST/APPEALS:

This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the Authorized Officer, and shall remain in effect while any appeal is pending unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals issues a stay (43 CFR 2801.10(b)). Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at Grand Junction Field Office, 2815 H Road, grand Junction, Colorado, 81506. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

NAME OF PREPARER: Christina Stark

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Collin Ewing

DATE: August 10, 2012

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: Catherine Robertson

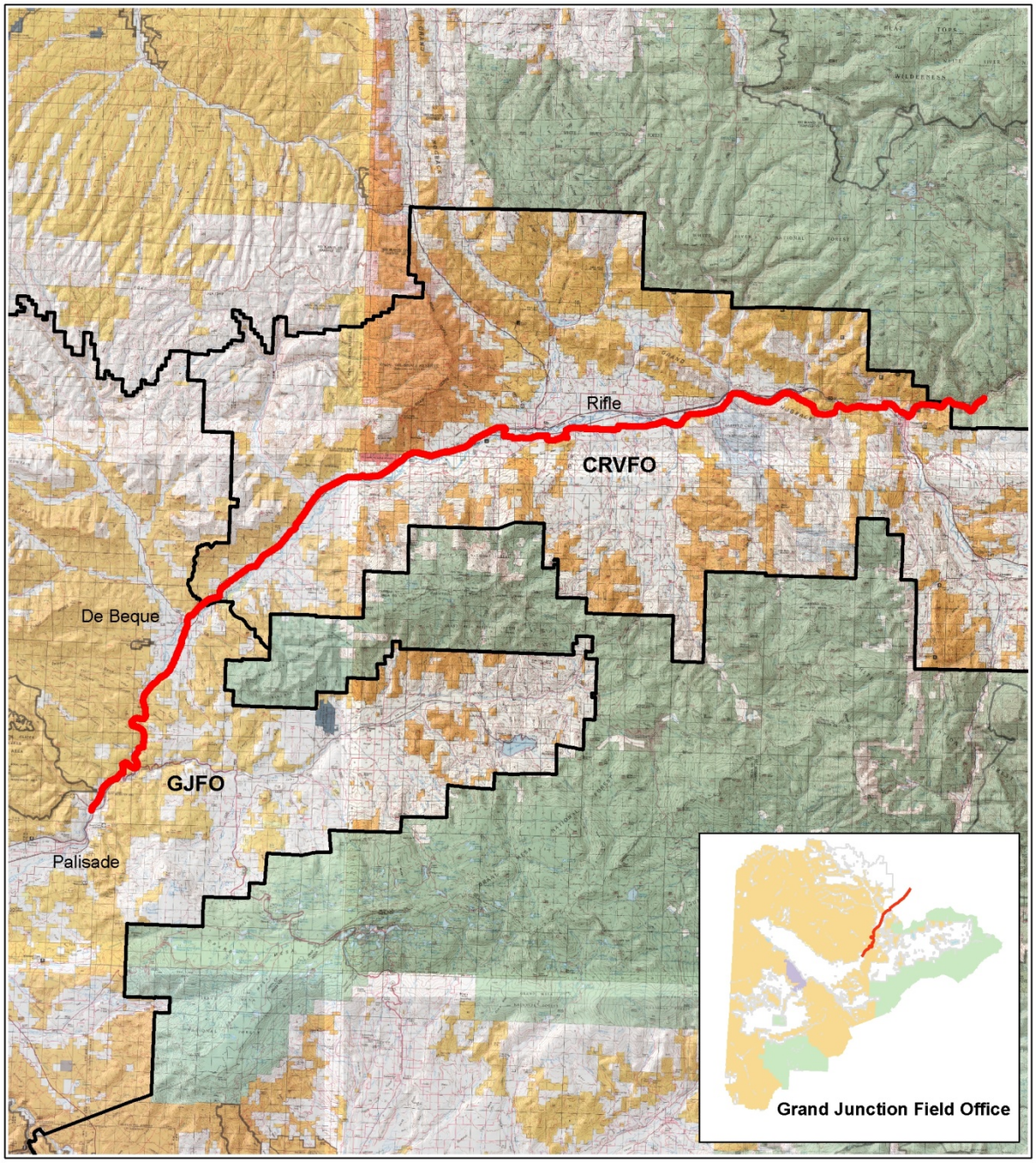
Grand Junction Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 8/14/12

EXHIBITS:

1) Project Maps: A) Project Area, B) Access Routes GJFO, C) Access Routes CRVFO, D) Short-term ROW - GFJO, E) Short-term ROW - CRVFO
2) Stipulations
3) Plan of Development

EXHIBIT 1A: Project Area Map



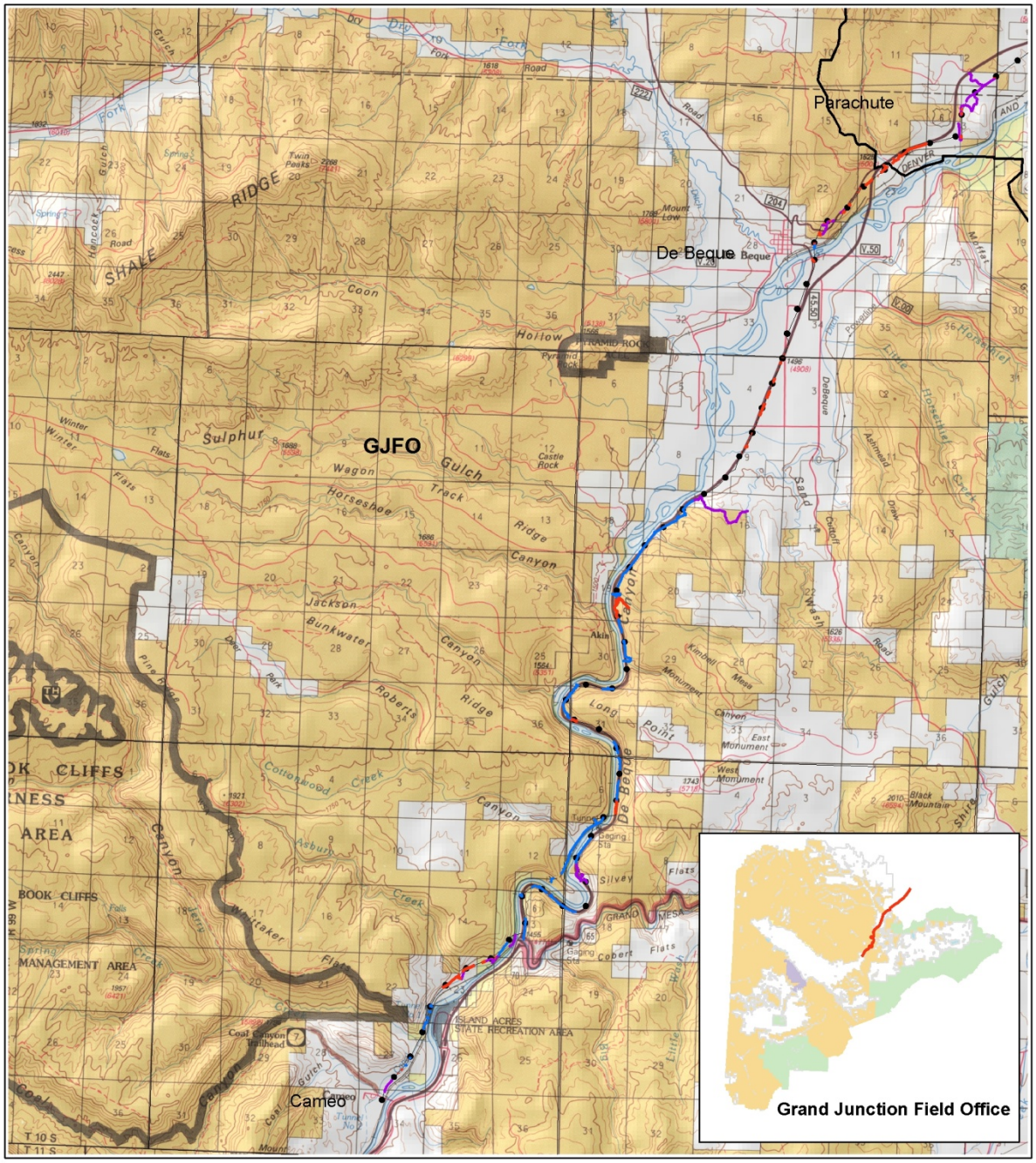
Public Service Company of Colorado
69 kV Power Line
Maintenance
C 35161

N

0 3 6 12 18 24 Miles

C 35161 Power Line
BLM
BOR
Private
USFS

EXHIBIT 1B: Access Routes - GJFO



Public Service Company of Colorado
69 kV Power Line
Amendment
C 35161

August 8, 2012

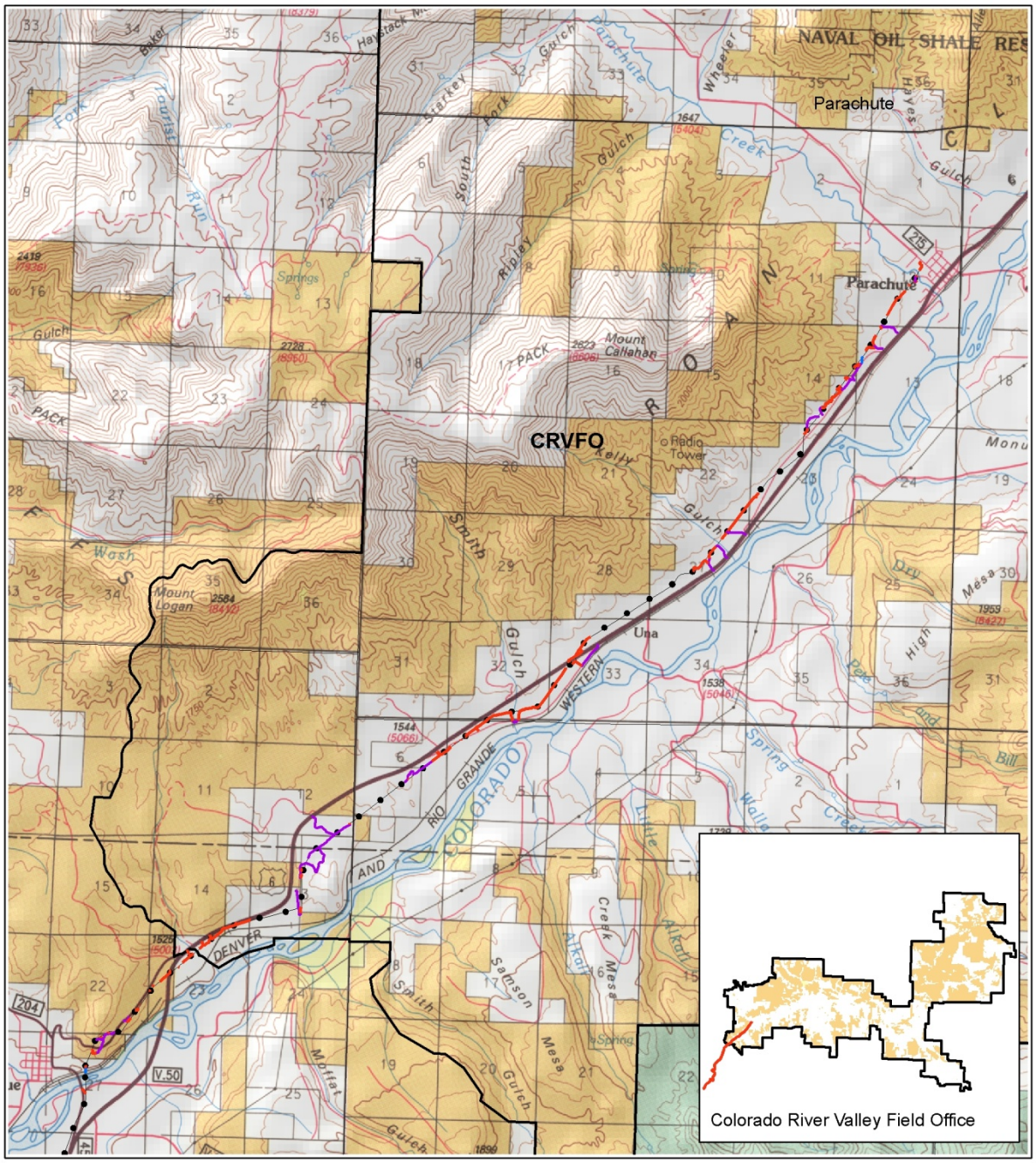
N

0 0.35 0.7 1.4 2.1 2.8 Miles

Access Routes
- DRIVE-IN
- IMPROVED
- WALK-IN
- C 35161 Power Line

BLM
BOR
Private
USFS

EXHIBIT 1C: Access Routes - CRVFO



Public Service Company of Colorado
69 kV Power Line
Amendment
C 35161

August 8, 2012

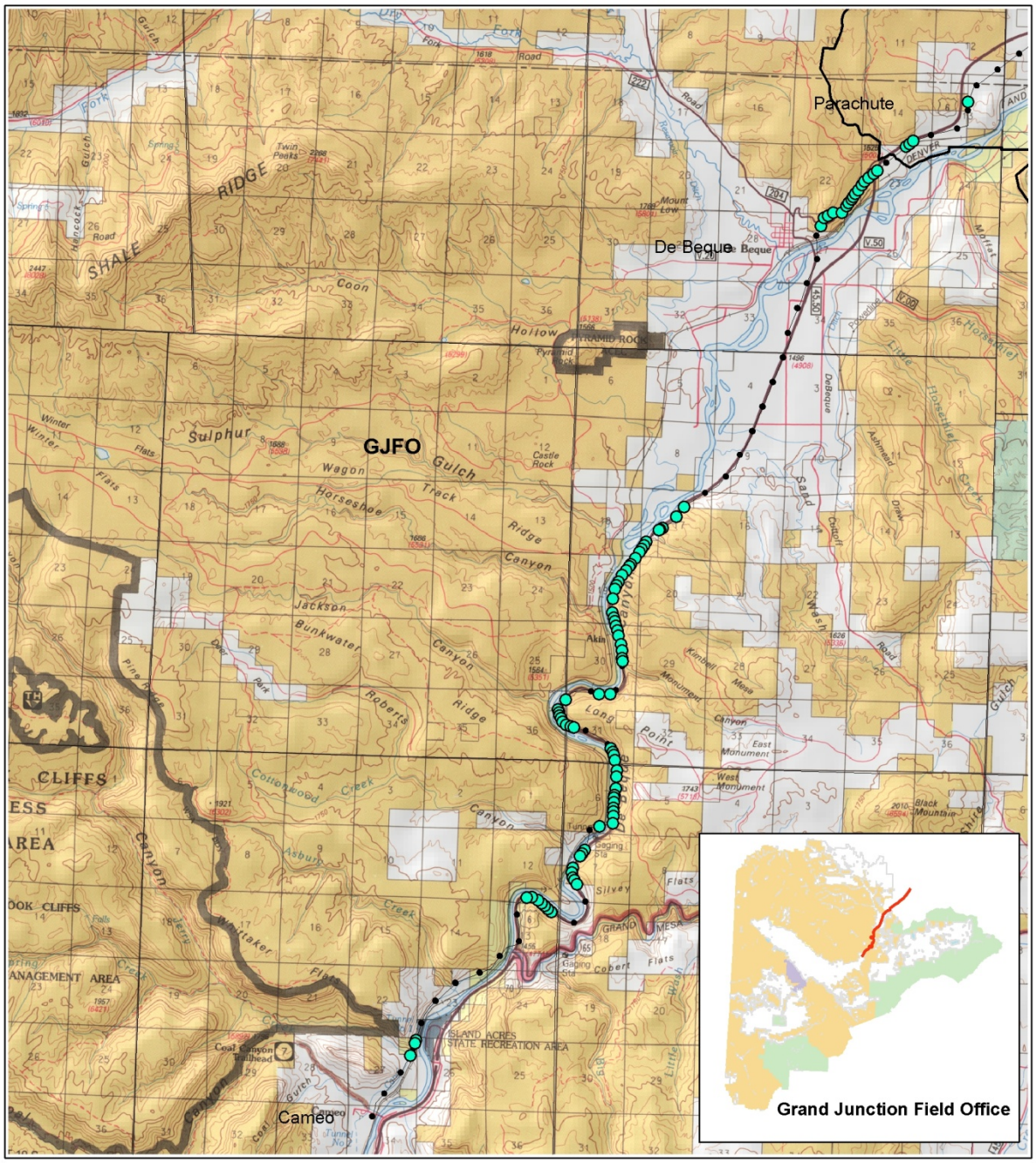
N

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

Access Routes
- DRIVE-IN
- IMPROVED
- WALK-IN
- C 35161 Power Line

BLM
BOR
Private
USFS

EXHIBIT 1D: STROW: Temporary Extra Workspace - GJFO



Public Service Company of Colorado
69 kV Power Line
Temporary Extra Workspace
C 35161-01

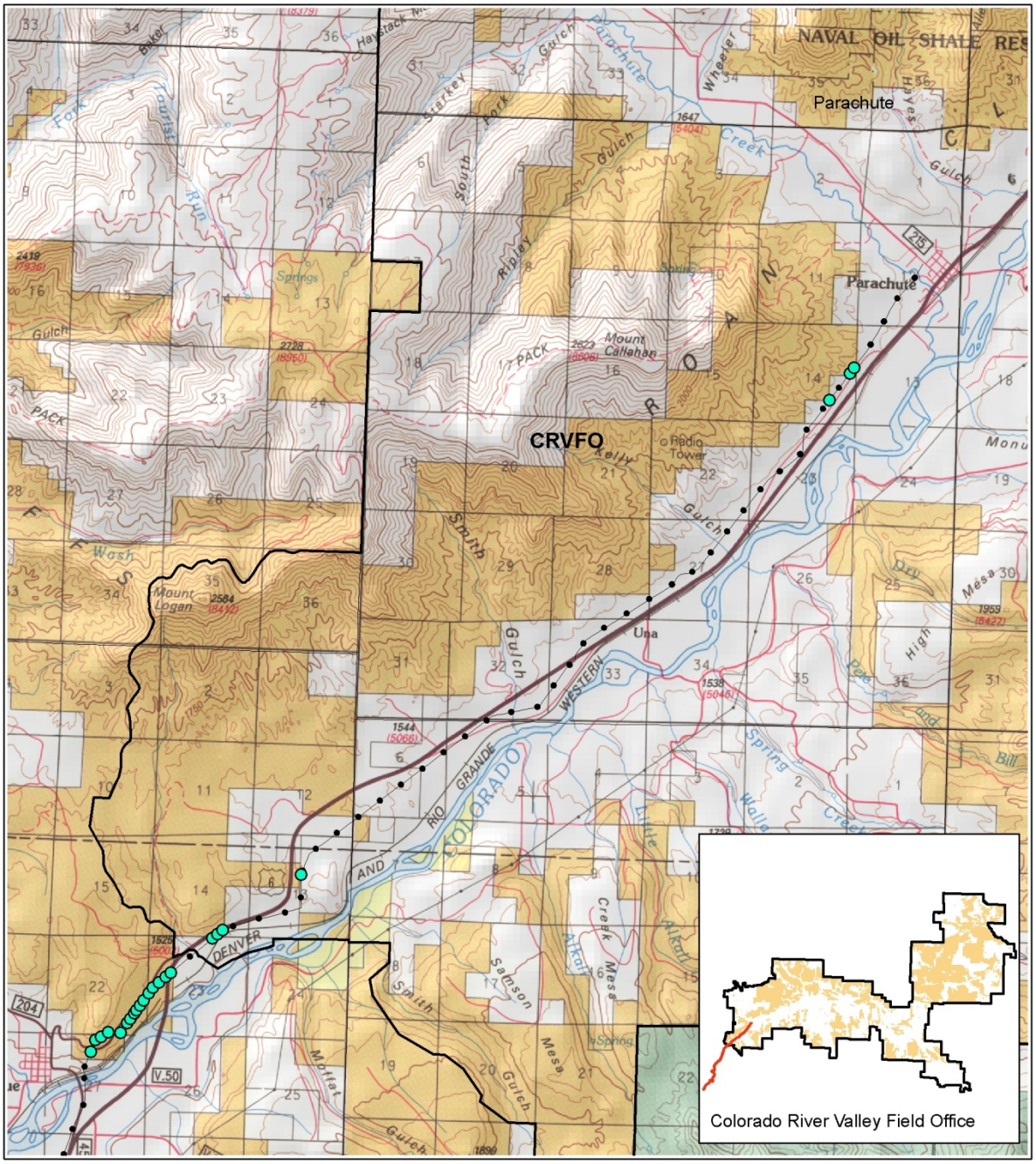
August 8, 2012

N

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

Extra workspace Sites
C 35161 Power Line
BLM
BOR
Private
USFS

EXHIBIT 1E: STROW: Temporary Extra Workspace - CRVFO



Public Service Company of Colorado
69 kV Power Line
Temporary Extra Workspace - CRVFO
C 35161-01

August 8, 2012

N

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

Extra_workspace
C 35161 Power Line
BLM
BOR
Private
USFS

EXHIBIT 2

STIPULATIONS

General:

1. The Holder shall notify the BLM Authorized Officer at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of construction activities associated with the Right-of-Way (ROW) amendment, and at least 60 days prior to any future surface disturbing activities on the ROW. Contact the BLM Grand Junction Field Office at 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506, or (970) 244-3000.

2. Prior to conducting any maintenance activities on the Parachute to Shoshone portion of the ROW, PSCo will contact the Silt BLM office with a plan of operations, including proposed access points. A site-specific NEPA analysis will be initiated and any mitigation measures applied to the activities.

3. The Holder shall construct, operate, maintain and reclaim the power line, associated roads, and all work areas within the ROW in strict conformity with the submitted plan of development. Any relocation, additional construction, or use that is not in accord with the approved plans of development, shall not be initiated without the prior written approval of the Authorized Officer.

4. Noncompliance with any of the stipulations will be grounds for an immediate temporary suspension of activities if it constitutes a threat to public health and safety or the environment.

5. Copies of the right-of-way grant with the stipulations shall be kept on site during construction and maintenance activities. All construction personnel shall review the grant and stipulations before working on the ROW.

6. Motorized vehicles shall remain on designated routes at all times. All existing authorized roads used for construction shall be maintained in as good as, or in better than existing condition. This may include, but is not limited to, roadway surface repairs (blading the roadway), cleaning ditches and drainage facilities, and dust abatement. After construction, existing roads shall be restored to meet or exceed conditions existing prior to construction. All road maintenance activities <u>must be approved</u> by the authorized officer before work is initiated.

7. Construction shall be halted if the BLM determines that saturated soil conditions exist on or along the right-of-way, until the authorized officer determines that soils have dried out sufficiently for construction to proceed without undue damage and erosion. All

construction and travel on the road and ROW shall stop until soils dry if ruts greater than 3 inches are formed by vehicles and equipment, or if determined necessary by the BLM Authorized Officer.

8. The Holder shall promptly remove and dispose of all waste caused by its activities. The term "waste" as used herein means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, petroleum products, ashes and equipment. No burning of trash, trees, brush, or any other material shall be allowed.

9. Holder shall evenly spread the excess soil material excavated from the pole holes within the right-of-way and in the immediate vicinity of the pole structure.

10. The Holder shall provide satisfactory reclamation of all sites disturbed by their activity. This may include installation of erosion control devices and seeding at the discretion of the authorized officer.

11. Reclamation shall be considered successful when basal cover of seeded species or other naturally recruited native species is at least 80% of basal cover on adjacent or nearby undisturbed areas where vegetation is in a healthy condition. Reclamation efforts shall be monitored and additional reclamation efforts shall be required until this objective is met.

12. The holder shall use non-reflective black or dark colored conductor wire.

Hydrology

1. Areas located on alluvial or immediately adjacent to deposits associated with the Colorado River shall not be utilized to store potentially harmful substances. If potentially harmful substances are stored in these areas then secondary containment structures shall be used.

2. Overnight storage of heavy equipment or materials shall not be permitted on areas located within the active floodplain of the Colorado River.

3. Areas located on alluvial or immediately adjacent to deposits associated with the Colorado River shall not be utilized as sites to re-fuel helicopters or heavy equipment. Likewise, maintenance of heavy equipment or helicopters shall not be permitted in these areas.

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species

1. Conservation measures for both the Colorado hookless cactus and the DeBeque phacelia include:

    a. A BLM approved biological monitor will be employed by Xcel and will coordinate with BLM Ecologists. The biological monitor will be on scene while work is being completed in the known sensitive areas.

    b. Construction monitoring (biological monitor) will ensure that known individuals and suitable habitat are avoided and that all other conservation measures are implemented as planned.

    c. Silt fencing, wattles, and other stormwater management and best management practices (BMPs) will be installed in order to reduce sedimentation and erosion. A Stormwater Management Plan has been prepared and a stormwater permit has been obtained.

    d. The need for dust abatement will be determined by the biological monitor and/or BLM and will include spraying the access roads and other construction areas with water. No magnesium chloride will be applied for dust abatement. If determined necessary, water uses and depletion will be covered under the BLM PBO for small depletions.

    e. All construction and staging activities on BLM land will be confined to approved ROWs to ensure that the special status plants are not affected. Any activity outside approved ROWs will require prior approval by the BLM Ecologist.

    f. The top 3-6 inches of topsoil will be set aside and replaced after construction to minimize impact to the cactus seed bank, which can persist for 15 years. Replacement of topsoil will also discourage invasive weeds such as cheatgrass and Russian thistle.

    g. No reseeding will take place in areas of known or potential suitable habitat identified during surveys for the DeBeque Phacelia.

    h. Construction activities between poles 956 through 958, 971, and 975 through 983 will be restricted to the non-blooming season for these species (mid-April through June; CNHP 2011).

    i. All weed treatments will be conducted in accordance with the appropriate Integrated Weed Management Plans and consultations (GJFO, CRVFO).

j. In DeBeque phacelia proposed critical habitat and suitable habitat, construction and maintenance activities will be limited to dry conditions to avoid damaging clay soil and seedbeds.

k. PSCo will contact BLM prior to future maintenance in sensitive areas to determine if a biological monitor or any other protective measures are necessary to avoid impacts to listed species. Known sensitive areas are between power line pole # 937 to 983, and at pole # 1047.

2. The following locations are considered sensitive areas and standard design features as described above will be implemented to avoid impacts to special status plant species. The additional site specific avoidance measures listed will also be implemented:

a. Pole #956, (proposed for cross-arm replacement)
- Several cacti within 5-10 feet of the pole and others on either side of the ROW. Biological monitor will have to be on site to direct parking and vehicle activity to avoid direct impacts to cacti.

b. Pole #957
- Access for maintenance will occur from SW to pole.

b. Pole #958

c. Pole #963
- Protect and minimize surface disturbance to seed bank in vicinity of single dead cacti recorded.

d. Pole #971
- Cut existing pole at base (about 1 to 2 feet above ground surface) and leave underground portion in ground.
- Access directly from the road if possible, from the north.

e. Pole #976, (Cacti immediately adjacent to access road and approximately 20 feet from pole)
- Cut existing pole at base (about 1 to 2 feet above ground surface) and leave underground portion in ground.
- Access pole location from south and east of pole.
- Install anchors at same locations.

f. Access for pole # 1047
- Remain on existing designated access/turnaround locations.
- Determine status of De Beque mikvetch, install barrier fence as needed.

Conservation measures for sensitive wildlife include:

1. Adherence to the Suggested practices for avian protection on power lines: the state of the art in 2006 available from Heidi Plank (GJFO wildlife biologist) or through the following website: http://www.aplic.org/uploads/files/2643/SuggestedPractices2006(LR-2).pdf

2. A biological monitor will be employed to evaluate nesting activities, if work within the seasonal timeframes provided is desired. If the biological monitor finds no active nesting, coordination with BLM will occur to ensure agreement on the ability to use a helicopter within the timeframes and nest buffers provided below:

    a. For the heron rookery identified near I-70 mile marker 57, no helicopter flight patterns will infringe on a buffer extending ¼ mile horizontally and vertically from the rookery boundary (shown in the raptor survey report) during active nesting (generally April 1 to July 30; Kingery et al. 1998);

    b. For the Bald Eagle nest site identified near I-70 mile marker 58, no helicopter flight patterns will infringe on a buffer extending ½ mile horizontally and ¼ mile vertically from the nest (shown in the raptor survey report) during active nesting (generally March 1 to June 30; Kingery et al. 1998);

    c. For the potential Peregrine falcon nest site identified between I-70 mile marker 49 and 50, biological monitoring following BLM raptor survey protocol will occur on June 1 to evaluate the nest site for activity. If no activity is documented, there will be no restrictions for this potential nest location. If nesting activity is documented, no helicopter flight patterns will infringe on a buffer extending ½ mile horizontally and ¼ mile vertically from the nest location (shown in the raptor survey report) during active nesting (generally June 10 to July 30; Kingery et al. 1998 and CDOW 2008 with best professional judgment).

Riparian

1. Vehicle travel or equipment parking and storage for the proposed maintenance or future maintenance actives shall not be allowed within riparian areas located inside of the ROW.

Wildlife

1. Access to the power line ROW via helicopter shall be conducted from the south side of the Colorado River from April 15 to June 30 annually to avoid impacts to lambing sheep.

Cultural Resources

1. PSCo shall adhere to all proposed design features, such as the proposed restriction of vehicle travel on historic road 5ME924.4 to the NE of structure number 1220.

2. All persons in the area who are associated with this project shall be informed that any person who, without a permit, injures, destroys, excavates, appropriates or removes any historic or prehistoric ruin, artifact, object of antiquity, Native American remains, Native American cultural item, or archaeological resources on public lands is subject to arrest and penalty of law (16 USC 433, 16 USC 470, 18 USC 641, 18 USC 1170, and 18 USC 1361). Strict adherence to the confidentiality of information concerning the nature and location of archeological resources will be required of the proponent and all of their subcontractors (Archaeological Resource Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 470hh).

3. Inadvertent Discovery: The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) [16 USC 470s., 36 CFR 800.13], as amended, requires that if newly discovered historic or archaeological materials or other cultural resources are identified during the Proposed Action implementation, work in that area must stop and the BLM Authorized Officer (AO) must be notified immediately. Within five working days the AO will determine the actions that will likely have to be completed before the site can be used (assuming in place preservation is not necessary).

4. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) [25 USC 3001 et seq., 43 CFR 10.4] requires that if inadvertent discovery of Native American Human Remains or Objects of Cultural Patrimony occurs, any activity must cease in the area of discovery, a reasonable effort made to protect the item(s) discovered, and immediate notice be made to the BLM Authorized Officer, as well as the appropriate Native American group(s) (IV.C.2). Notice may be followed by a 30-day delay (NAGPRA Section 3(d)).

5. The operator may relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and delays associated with this process, as long as the new area has been appropriately inventoried and has no resource concerns, and the exposed materials are recorded and stabilized. Otherwise, the operator shall be responsible for mitigation costs. The BLM authorized officer will provide technical and procedural guidelines for relocation and/or to conduct mitigation. Upon verification from the BLM authorized officer that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will be allowed to resume construction.

6. Antiquities, historic ruins, prehistoric ruins, and other cultural or paleontological objects of scientific interest that are outside the authorization boundaries but potentially affected, either directly or indirectly, by the proposed action shall also be included in this evaluation or mitigation. Impacts that occur to such resources as a result of the authorized activities shall be mitigated at the operator's cost, including the cost of consultation with Native American groups

Wastes, Hazardous or Solid

1. Any fueling or maintenance of vehicles shall take place at least 100 feet from any drainage (live water or dry). Fueling and storage shall only occur in designated areas. All designated fueling and storage areas shall be bermed. All spills, regardless of size

shall be cleaned up and contaminated soil shall be disposed of at an approved facility. Any spills shall be promptly reported to the BLM Authorized Officer.

STANDARD STIPULATIONS:

1. Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures will be made by the authorized officer after consulting with the holder.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, 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© 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 operator or its contractor 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 activity, the operator must stop work in the area of the discovery that might further disturb such materials and immediately contact the Administrative Officer. Within five working days, the AO will inform the operator as to the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in-place preservation is not necessary).

4. The holder shall notify the AO at least 60 days prior to non-emergency activities that would cause surface disturbance in the ROW or STROW. BLM will determine whether any special resource (cultural, plants, animal, etc.) inventories, treatments, or mitigation are required. The authorized officer may require the completion of a special status species surveys by a third party contractor at the expense of the holder, or the BLM may choose to complete the survey. The BLM may take actions or make recommendations to protect any special status plant populations identified near or on the right-of-way.

5. A “Notice to Proceed” stipulation shall be required for any non-emergency activities as defined above that would cause surface disturbance on the ROW STROW. Any request for a “Notice to Proceed” should be made to the AO, who shall review the proposed

action for consistency with resource management concerns such as wildlife, big game winter range, paleontology, threatened and endangered species, and cultural resource protection. Additional measures may be required to protect these resources.

6. On the Right-of-Way, the holder shall monitor and control those noxious weeds that may occur or be found, as listed in the booklet, Noxious Weeds of Mesa County. If chemical control is necessary, 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, the 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.

7. The holder shall comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated. In any event, the holder shall comply with the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.) with regard to any toxic substances that are used, generated by or stored on the right-of-way or on facilities authorized under this right-of-way grant (see 40 CFR, Part 702-799 and especially, provisions on polychlorinated biphenyls, 40 CFR 761.1-761.193). Additionally, any release of toxic substances (leaks, spills, etc.) in excess of the reportable quantity established by 40 CFR, Part 117 shall be reported as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, Section 102b. A copy of any report required or requested by any Federal agency or State government as a result of a reportable release or spill of any toxic substances shall be furnished to the authorized officer concurrent with the filing of the reports to the involved Federal agency or State government.

8. The holder shall comply with applicable State standards for public health and safety, environmental protection and siting, construction, operation and maintenance, if these State standards are more stringent than Federal standards for similar projects.

EXHIBIT 3

PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT

Public Service Company of Colorado: Transmission Line Maintenance Activities Cameo Substation to DeBeque Substation and Grand Valley Substation (Parachute) to DeBeque Substation

COC-35161

August 8, 2012

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Proposed Transmission Line Maintenance Plan

1.0 Location and Description

The Proposed Action consists of conducting maintenance to existing Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo) high voltage overhead 69kv electric transmission lines that generally run along the I-70 corridor from the Cameo substation to the Grand Valley substation in Parachute, Mesa and Garfield counties, Colorado (see Figure 1). The Proposed Action is planned to take place in two phases. Phase I is proposed maintenance activities on the transmission line from the DeBeque substation (DeBeque) to the Grand Valley substation (Parachute) and Phase II includes the transmission line from DeBeque to the Cameo substation (Cameo). The powerline right-of-way (ROW) is in a corridor where PSCo obtained land right (easements and permits) on private, federal, and state lands. Federal lands crossed by the powerline include U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM; lands managed by both Grand Junction Field Office [GJFO] and Colorado River Valley Field Office [CRVFO]); U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR); Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT); and Colorado State Parks. Detailed maps (Sheets 1 through 11) that display the powerline, ownership and management, and proposed activities including impact area are attached.

PSCo has an existing permit (COC-35161) from BLM for this line, which allows for the right to complete construction, operation and maintenance activities. The total dimensions of the BLM ROW grant are 16.36 miles in length, 30/50 feet in width, and 59.97 acres in area. These dimensions are for the entire granted ROW; the Phase I and Phase II maintenance projects are subsets of the entire length.

The permit also stipulates that PSCo comply with all Federal, State and local regulations. The original permit is silent on access. Therefore, an SF 299 was submitted to amend the permit to include permanent access routes to the powerline outside the ROW. For Phase I and Phase II, total maintenance access route length on BLM-owned lands is 3.4 miles (8.18 acres) and there are 32 BLM access points. An additional SF 299 will be submitted

for temporary use areas for pole maintenance. The total area requested for temporary use, outside of the existing 30-foot ROW, is 21.5 acres (BLM lands). These temporary use areas are illustrated on the attached map sheets (Sheet 1 through 11). Requirements for temporary use areas are discussed in greater detail in the section titled, 4.3 Structure Site Clearing and Hole Excavation (page 5).

2.0 Project Purpose and Need

The transmission line maintenance work is required in order to replace aging infrastructure. It is imperative that uninterrupted electrical service to the community is continuous, for both safety and everyday activities. It is also imperative that construction be done in a manner that considers the safety of the traveling public on I-70 and local access roads.

3.0 General Activities and Equipment

Maintenance activities and equipment are listed below with additional details in Section 4.0.

3.1 Access

- Drive-in access on existing roads and unimproved (2-track) or historical graded routes (rarely used historical access routes may require minor tree, shrub, and debris clearing);
- Turnaround locations (35-foot diameter);
- Walk-in access on 2-track routes and cross country access;
- Helicopter-drop access for equipment and materials (see attached Aerial Staging Plan).

3.2 Staging and Storage

- Replacement poles, cross arms, and anchors will be stored in the immediate vicinity of the poles to be maintained, within approved ROW;
- Equipment and vehicle storage will be at private staging locations in existing disturbed areas, outside of potential habitat for threatened or endangered species.

3.3 Maintenance Activities

- Pole replacement – poles will be removed and new poles will be installed in the same hole or in new holes very close to the old hole. Poles will be delivered and removed by truck/trackhoe where access allows. In areas inaccessible to vehicles, poles will be delivered and removed by helicopter. Holes will be dug by truck-mounted auger where access allows. Where no vehicular access is possible, holes will be constructed with hand-held equipment such as shovels and jack hammers with air compressors. In sensitive areas, holes may be dug by hand.
- Anchor replacement/Installation

- Cross arm and insulator replacement

3.4 Equipment and Workforce

3.4.1 Drive-in Access

- Pickup (3; 3 to 5 people)
- Rubber Tired Backhoe/trackhoe (1; 1 operator)
- Flex-track (1; 1 operator)
- Bucket Truck (2; 2 operators, 2 personnel)
- Boom Truck (1; 1 operator, 1 personnel)
- Air Compressor (1; personnel noted above)
- Hand tools including shovels and jackhammers (various numbers; personnel noted above)

3.4.2 Walk-in/Fly-in Access

- Helicopter (1; 1 operator, various personnel on ground as well, normally 3 to 5 ground personnel)
- Hand tools including shovels and jackhammers (various numbers; personnel noted above)
- Air Compressor (1; personnel noted above)

4.0 Project Activities

4.1 Material Staging Areas

All staging areas have been placed to avoid sensitive resources by a distance of greater than 100 meters. No staging areas would be situated in areas with suitable habitat for any species evaluated in the Biological Assessment (BA) for the project. Staging areas would have a minimum of a 100-meter buffer from suitable habitat. The staging area is located on an existing gravel area located on the south side of Old I-70 and northwest of the Colorado River. PSCo intends to obtain the right to use the site from CDOT. It is anticipated that helicopters used in the maintenance activities will use this location as a set-down point. The graveled area is intended to be used to store material and equipment, park vehicles, and possibly for locating a portable construction trailer. The areas on the graveled property would be temporarily fenced for security purposes.

The helicopter landing zone is proposed to be northeast of the Old I-70. A helicopter would land there during break periods and load materials from this vicinity. The helicopter will be stored at a local airport overnight.

As required by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), PSCo will submit a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). The SWMP erosion control measures may include items such as perimeter control (*i.e.* silt fence) and vehicle tracking pads where there is not an existing graveled surface.

Helicopters will refuel in Grand Junction, and no fuels will be stored at the material staging area. The helicopter is not expected to set down except in the case of an emergency or where permission has been granted in the designated staging area on CDOT and/or private property.

Additional staging areas, if required, will be on private lands currently used and permitted for staging purposes.

4.2 Vegetation Management

Treatment of vegetation within the ROW includes the selective removal or trimming of trees to prevent contact between trees and the transmission line conductors. Disposal of cut trees and brush will be in a manner acceptable to the BLM or landowner. Tree removal is anticipated to be minimal due to the nature of the vegetation communities in the Project Area and the method of construction. Trimmed vegetation from transmission line or road maintenance would be placed adjacent to the roads or powerline within the BLM-approved ROW. Trimming would be completed with chainsaws or other hand-held equipment. Shrubs or small trees would be cut into smaller pieces and scattered alongside existing roads, within the BLM-approved ROW. Trimmed vegetation pieces would be no larger than about 2 feet in length before being scattered. A biological monitor will be onsite in sensitive areas to ensure that no trimmed vegetation is placed in a manner that could damage the species discussed in the BA.

4.3 Structure Site Clearing and Hole Excavation

The width of the ROW, and the restriction within it, are determined by the National Electric Safety Code (NESC) operation considerations and are proportional to the voltages and structure type. The PSCo 69kB transmission line between Grand Valley and Cameo has a 30-foot permanent ROW (last renewed on October 28, 1982).

The amount of disturbance for each structure type depends on the access available to each site. It is estimated that temporary disturbance will vary depending on construction technique and pole type. The areas shown below are maximum disturbance areas in level terrain. Where activities are limited by terrain (steep slopes, cliffs, etc) or adjacent facilities (roads, railroads, or structures), disturbance would be smaller. No cut and fill will be required to conduct maintenance activities. Disturbance would be temporary and minimal, and would include lay-down areas for poles, insulators, and other equipment. Specific disturbance areas are shown on attached map sheets (Sheet 1 through 11). Excavations may be made using mechanized equipment, blasting, pneumatic, or hand methods. The following shows the approximate amount of disturbance for each construction method:

- 14,400 sq/ft (about 120 ft by 120 ft) for installation of a 2 or 3 pole angle structure using truck(s);
- 10,000 sq/ft (about 100 ft by 100 ft) for installation of a single pole structure using truck(s);
- 2,500 sq/ft (about 50 ft by 50 ft) for installation of a single pole structure with

helicopter pole delivery using a jack hammer with air compressor (includes supply lay-down areas); and
- 2,500 sq/ft (about 50 ft by 50 ft) for installation of a single pole structure with helicopter pole delivery with hand digging (includes supply lay-down areas).

Excess soil is not anticipated. Soil where new poles are placed in existing pole holes will be used to back fill as necessary. In areas where the new poles will be placed in new holes, excess dirt will be used to fill removed pole holes. Soils would not be piled permanently within the ROW or temporary use areas. Bare soil patches greater than about 2 or 3 feet square would be seeded (see Table 4, Table 5, and Table 6 for seed specifications). In sensitive areas, a biological monitor will ensure that soil is not spread in unsuitable areas, and that no seeding would occur in suitable habitat for the DeBeque Phacelia.

The entire maintenance corridor on BLM lands, including transmission line components and access routes, and respective buffer zones have been surveyed for cultural resources (see attached Archaeological Survey Findings Report). BLM requested archaeological survey corridors of 100 feet on each side of the transmission line, and 50 feet on each side of the proposed access routes. Private lands were surveyed where permission was granted. Raptor and Blue Heron rookery surveys also were completed within a 1-mile buffer of the transmission line and maintenance access routes. Rare plant surveys were conducted in specific areas of suitable habitat, as designated by BLM specialists in the GJFO and CRVFO.

For all resources (cultural and biological), all private land owners along access or transmission line routes were contacted via certified mail, and asked to return a permission letter specifying whether they chose to grant or deny access for cultural and biological surveys. The county assessor databases for Mesa and Garfield counties were used to provide land ownership information. A self-addressed, stamped envelope was provided for return of the permission letter. After 10 to 14 days, non-responsive landowners were called (where phone numbers could be located). Some verbal responses were received. A total of 75 letters were mailed (many landowners have several parcels), and response breakdown is as follows:

- 48 responses granted survey access;
- 5 responses denied survey access; and
- 22 letters (and follow-up phone contact where possible) received no response.

4.4 New Access

There would be no new access roads needed for the PSCo maintenance activities.

4.5 Drive-In Access

In some areas, historical access roads exist but have partially revegetated or have been impacted by rock fall. In some limited locations, minor debris or vegetation clearing may

be required to use these access roads. These roads would result in a 20-foot wide temporary disturbance. Only rubber-tired equipment would be used in these areas. These access routes would result in compaction of vegetation and would naturally reclaim with native vegetation over time. Only predefined access routes to the structures and staging areas would be used.

No ground disturbance such as blading, cuts and fills are proposed. Minor vegetation cutting and rock removal may be required. If clearing is required, all activities would be completed via hand removal techniques. Chainsaws or other hand-held equipment would be used. Shrubs or small trees would be cut into smaller pieces and scattered alongside existing roads. Vegetation pieces would be no larger than about 2 feet in length. A biological monitor will be onsite in sensitive areas to ensure that no trimmed vegetation is placed in a manner that could damage the species addressed in the BA.

The access routes would be unimproved 2-track roads, and no increase in road width would result. The 20-foot width allows for pulling over and passing, but the road would remain 1-vehicle width. No braiding or increase in tracking would result from the project. Non-permitted off-road vehicle use is not expected to increase because PSCo will use existing access, and access routes will not be improved. The short duration and infrequent use by PSCo means no maintenance or improvements will be required by BLM. No influence on off-road activities is expected.

Five turn-around points have been identified to allow for truck turnaround within a 35-foot radius (see Sheets 1 through 11).

4.6 Helicopter Access

Helicopters would be based in Grand Junction for fueling and overnight parking; no fuel will be stored at the material staging areas. Helicopters would travel to the materials storage area described previously, located on the south side of Old I-70 and northwest of the Colorado River, to land and collect construction materials (see attached "Aerial Staging Plan" map). For materials delivery to walk-in poles, helicopters would deliver one pole per trip via winch line. Helicopters would hover 200 to 300 feet, depending on terrain, above the ground surface at each pole location, and ground personnel would receive the poles and other materials. The helicopter is not expected to set down except in the case of an emergency or where permission has been granted in the designated staging area on CDOT and/or private property.

Helicopter flight paths would generally be line-of-sight, using the shortest practical and safe route to deliver materials. Actual flight paths would vary depending on weather, other aircraft, and site-specific conditions. Necessary restrictions from BLM would be accommodated as needed (*e.g.*, for avoidance of nesting birds or other sensitive or hazardous resources). Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and restrictions would be followed.

4.7 Specific Access Plan

The transmission line activities require access from I-70, old U.S. Highway 6, W Road, W ½ Road, DeBeque Cutoff Road, Parachute Park Boulevard, and Parachute Creek Road, as well as private and BLM access roads. I-70 is the only point of access in some areas, due to terrain. Access points are shown on the attached map. The enclosed description further identifies the construction activities associated with this work.

The following is a detailed description of proposed maintenance activities and access locations for both Phase I and Phase II of the project. The attached map sheets (Sheets 1 through 11) correspond to the listed access and construction details. For this purpose, the activities have been listed by land ownership (whether they occur on private, BOR, state ["other"], or BLM land). Some of the access routes begin on private land or state land, and cross into BLM land. In these cases, routes are designated as dual access routes.

Lengths, areas, and specific locations for each of the *drive-in* access points are provided in Table 1, Table 2, and Table 3. All drive-in access width would be 20 feet, and turnaround points would be 35 feet in diameter.

4.7.1 Cameo Substation Access

The Cameo Substation exit from I-70 provides access to poles 1204-1254. Access points are from the Canal access road and from private property access for these poles. Land ownership is mainly private and BOR, with one point accessing BLM owned lands. BLM/Other access point 1, Private access points 1 – 13, BOR access points 1 and 2, and "Other" access points 1 through 3 are reached via the Cameo exit from I-70. Specific activities to be completed from this access point are: complete structure replacement for 1204, 1207, 1208, 1210, 1212-1217, 1220-1224, 1227, 1230-1235, 1237-1241, 1243-1248, and 1251. Cross arm replacement would be completed on poles 1218 and 1218B, 1225, 1249, and 1253.

4.7.2 BLM/BLM and Other

BLM/Other Access Point 1: Crews will replace structures 1233, 1234, and 1235 from this *walk-in* access point off of the Cameo exit/private and canal access road.

BLM Access Point 1: Access point provides *walk-in* access for crews to assist with installation of poles 1184, 1185, 1187 and 1189, which will be delivered by a helicopter. From the frontage road, crews will hike in from a point north of the transmission line and use the transmission ROW for access to structures. The helicopter will deliver poles and possibly insulator material. Structures may be hand or machine dug. The underlying land ownership of the Public Service ROW is BLM.

BLM Access Point 2: Access point provides *walk-in* access for cross arm replacement on pole 1179 and provides access for crews to assist with installation of poles 1176 and 1181-1183, which will be delivered by a helicopter. From the frontage road, crews will be lifted by bucket truck to a point approximately 30 feet vertically above the road and then hike east and west to access the poles via the transmission ROW. The helicopter

will deliver poles and possibly insulator material. BLM owns the land under the transmission right-of-way.

BLM/Prvt Access Point 1: Crews will replace structure 1155-1159, 1161, 1163, 1165, 1167, and 1169; and replace cross arm on structures 1166 and 1168 from this *improved access* off of Old I-70. Total access road length from this access point is 0.55 miles, and area is 1.33 acres (see map sheet 2 and Table 1). Access road length on BLM is 0.18 miles (private 0.37 miles) and BLM area is 0.44 acres (private 0.89 acres).

BLM Access Point 3: Crews will *walk in* on Railroad ROW to access structures 1153 and 1154. Most materials will be brought in by helicopter. Structures may be hand or machine dug. These structures are west of the Colorado River, which is west of the CDOT ROW. The crews will park vehicles at a previously disturbed area near the tunnels. BLM owns the land under the transmission right-of-way.

BLM Access Point 4: Access point provides access for crews to replace poles 1145-1152. Crews will *drive* on old access roads from the west side of the transmission lines and drive the ROW where terrain provides. Where terrain becomes difficult, crews will walk the ROW and the pole components will be flown to their respective locations. Structures may be hand or machine dug. A turn-around point is identified near pole 1149. BLM owns the land under the transmission right-of-way. Total access road length from this access point is 0.23 miles, and area is 0.56 acres (see map sheet 3 and Table 1). Access road length on BLM is 0.18 miles (private 0.37 miles) and BLM area is 0.44 acres (private 0.89 acres).

BLM Access Point 5: Access point provides *walk-in* access for crews to replace poles 1142 and 1143. Crews will park north of the drainage, east of I-70 and walk across the drainage and construct poles delivered by a helicopter. The access is relatively close to access Point 6, however, due to different construction techniques, two access points are preferred. Structures may be hand or machine dug. BLM owns the land under the transmission right-of-way.

BLM Access Point 6: Crews will replace poles 1137-1140 using this *walk-in* access. Multiple pole replacements are required. Crews will use a pole truck to construct the poles. Work is more than 8 feet from the active lane and traffic control measures will be implemented. Although work could occur in 3-4 hours, the scheduled traffic control would be requested from 9-4. Structures may be hand or machine dug. BLM owns the land under the transmission right-of-way.

BLM Access Point 7: Crews will use a pole truck to construct poles 1122-1124 (*drive-in access*) and will walk the ROW between structures 1116-1120, where pole components will be brought in by helicopter and old access roads. A turn-around point has been identified near pole 1122. Structures may be hand or machine dug. BLM owns the land under the transmission right-of-way. Total access road length from this access point is 0.15 miles, and area is 0.36 acres (see map sheet 3 and Table 1).

BLM Access Point 8: *Walk-in* access point provides access for crews to replace poles 1112-1115. Crews will hike into access north of the transmission line and walk the ROW

to structures 1112-1115. A helicopter will deliver these replacement poles and structures may be hand or machine dug. BLM owns the land under the transmission right-of-way.

BLM Access Point 9: *Walk-in* access point provides access for crews to replace poles 1101 and 1102. Crews will hike into access the transmission ROW from the north and walk to poles 1101 and 1102. A helicopter will deliver poles. Structures may be hand or machine dug. BLM owns the land under the transmission right-of-way.

BLM Access Point 10: Crews will replace poles 1088 and 1090-1093 using this *walk-in* access. Crews will either access from I-70, west of the transmission line. All materials will be brought in by helicopter. Structures may be hand or machine dug. BLM owns the land under the transmission right-of-way.

BLM Access Point 11: Crews will replace poles 1081, 1082, and 1083 from this access point. Crews will either access from I-70 (BLM access point 12; *walk-in*), west of the transmission line, or use a limited existing road network on BLM land one half mile east of the transmission line (*drive-in* access). A turn-around point has been identified between poles 1178 and 1179. BLM owns the land under the transmission right-of-way. Access road length for this access point is 0.72 miles, and area of use is 1.76 acres (see map sheet 4 and Table 1).

BLM Access Point 12: Crews will replace the cross arm on structure 1078 from this location. Crews will use *walk-in* access from I-70, west of the transmission line. All materials will be brought in by helicopter. The structure may be hand or machine dug. BLM owns the land under the transmission right-of-way.

BLM/Prvt Access Points 2 and 3: Crews will replace structures 1054-1059, 1061 through 1067, 1069-1072 and 1074-1076 as well as the cross arm structure on 1068 from these access points. Crews will use *hike-in* access from I-70, west of the transmission line. All materials will be brought in by helicopter. Structures may be hand or machine dug. The underlying land ownership of the Public Service ROW is BLM and Private ownership.

BLM Access Point 13: Crews will replace complete structures 1047-1050 and 1053 from this BLM improved *drive-in* access point. Access to this point is from the DeBeque Cutoff Road. A turn-around point has been identified near pole 1048. Access road length for this access point is 1.17 miles, and area of use is 2.84 acres (see map sheet 5 and Table 1). Access road length on BLM is 0.84 miles (private 0.33 miles) and BLM area is 2.04 acres (private 0.80 acres).

BLM Access Point 14 and 15: Crews will replace complete structures 976, 979, and 982 from this *drive-in* access point off of W ½ Road. Anchors will be installed/replaced at structures 978 and 980. A turn-around point has been identified near structure 979 in an existing disturbed area. Access road length for this access point is 0.56 miles, and area of use is 1.36 acres (see map sheet 6 and Table 1).

BLM Access Point 16: This *drive-in* access point is off of W ½ Road. Crews will replace structure 975 from this access. Access road length for this access point is 0.05 miles, and area of use is 0.12 acres (see map sheet 6 and Table 1).

BLM Access Point 17: This *drive-in* access point is off of W ½ Road. Crews will replace structure 974 from this access. Access road length for this access point is 0.10 miles, and area of use is 0.24 acres (see map sheet 6 and Table 1).

BLM Access Point 18: This *drive-in* access point is off of W ½ Road. Crews will replace the cross arm of structure 973 from this access. Access road length for this access point is 0.01 miles, and area of use is 0.02 acres (see map sheet 6 and Table 1).

BLM Access Points 19, 20, 21, and 22: These *drive-in* access points are off of W ½ Road. Crews will replace structures 970, 971, and 972 from these access points. Access road length for these access points is 0.06 miles, and area of use is 0.18 acres (see map sheet 6 and Table 1). Table 1 quantifies each access point separately. Access point 22 would be directly from the existing W ½ Road, with no drive-in access needed; therefore no length or area is provided.

BLM Access Point 23: Crews will replace structure 969 from this *drive-in* access point off of W ½ Road. Access road length for this access point is 0.02 miles, and area of use is 0.05 acres (see map sheet 7 and Table 1).

BLM Access Point 24: Crews will replace/install anchors on structure 968 from this *drive-in* access off of W ½ Road. Access road length for this access point is 0.02 miles, and area of use is 0.06 acres (see map sheet 7 and Table 1).

BLM Access Points 25 and 26: Crews will repair/replace the cross arm on structures 965, 966, and 967 from these *drive-in* access points off of W ½ Rd. Access road length for this access point is 0.18 miles, and area of use is 0.43 acres (see map sheet 7 and Table 1). Table 1 quantifies each access point separately.

BLM Access Point 27: Crews will *drive in* and walk in from this access point off of Old U.S. Hwy 6. Structure 957 will be replaced, the cross arm on structure 956 will be repaired/replaced, and the anchors on structure 955 will be repaired/replaced from this access. Access road length for this access point is 0.23 miles, and area of use is 0.56 acres (see map sheet 7 and Table 1). Access road length on BLM is 0.13 miles (private 0.10 miles) and BLM area is 0.32 acres (private 0.24 acres).

BLM/Prvt Access Point 4: From this *drive-in* access point, crews will replace/repair the cross arms on structures and replace structures 824, 827, and 828. Pole 828 will be accessed from private land with a flex track along a fill ditch way. Access road length for this access point is 1.03 miles, and area of use is 1.95 acres (see map sheet 10 and Table 1). Access road length on BLM is 0.09 miles (private 0.94 miles) and BLM area is 0.22 acres (private 0.1.73 acres).

Table 1. BLM Drive-In Access Points

ACCESS POINT	TOWNSHIP/RANGE	SECTION	QUARTER-QUARTER	TOTAL AREA (ACRES)	TOTAL LENGTH (MILES)
BLM Access Pt 4	T. 10 S., R. 97 W.,	6	NW¼SE¼	0.56	0.23
BLM Access Pt 7	T. 9 S., R. 98 W.,	36	SE ¼ NE ¼	0.60	0.25
BLM Access Pt 7	T. 9 S., R. 97 W.,	31	NW¼SW¼	0.36	0.15
BLM Access Pt 11	T. 9 S., R. 97 W.,	19	SE¼	1.76	0.72
BLM Access Pt 13 (BLM)	T. 9 S., R. 97 W.,	16	S½NW¼	2.04	0.84
BLM Access Pt 13 (Prvt)	T. 9 S., R. 97 W.,	16	SW¼NE¼	0.80	0.33
BLM Access Pt 13 (BLM)	T. 9 S. R. 97 W.	17	SE¼NE¼	1.28	0.53
BLM Access Pt 14	T. 8 S., R 97 W.,	27	NW¼NE¼, NE¼NW¼	1.22	0.50
BLM Access Pt 15	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	22	SW¼SE¼	0.16	0.06
BLM Access Pt 16	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	22	SE¼SE¼	0.12	0.05
BLM Access Pt 17	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	22	SE¼SE¼	0.24	0.10
BLM Access Pt 18	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	22	SE¼SE¼	0.02	0.01
BLM Access Pt 19	T. 8 S , R. 97 W.,	22	SE¼SE¼	0.07	0.03
BLM Access Pt 20	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	22	NE¼SE¼	0.06	0.02
BLM Access Pt 21	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	22	NE¼SE¼	0.05	0.01
BLM Access Pt 23	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	22	NE¼SE¼	0.05	0.02
BLM Access Pt 24	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	23	NW¼SW¼	0.06	0.02
BLM Access Pt 25	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	23	SW¼NW¼	0.26	0.11
BLM Access Pt 26	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	23	SW¼NW¼	0.17	0.07
BLM Access Pt 27	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	13	SE¼NW¼	0.49	0.20
BLM Access Pt 27	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	14	SW¼SE¼	0.32	0.13
BLM/Prvt Access Pt 27 (Prvt)	T. 8 S., R. 97 W.,	23	NW¼NE¼	0.56	0.23
BLM/Prvt Access Pt 1 (BLM)	T. 10 S., R. 97 W.,	7	SW¼SW¼	0.44	0.18
BLM/Prvt Access Pt 1 (Prvt)	T. 10 S., R. 97 W.,	7	SW¼SW¼	0.89	0.37
BLM/Prvt Access Pt 4 (BLM)	T. 7 S., R. 96 W.,	14	SE¼NW¼	0.22	0.09
BLM/Prvt Access Pt 4 (Prvt)	T. 7 S., R. 96 W.,	14	SE¼	1.73	0.94
			BLM total	**10.55**	**4.32**
			Private total	**3.98**	**1.87**
			Total	**14.53**	**6.19**

Note: Acres and lengths on private are for the BLM drive-in access points shown. Also see Table 3.

4.7.3 BOR/Other Access

BOR Access Point 1: Crews will replace structures 1207, 1208, 1210, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, and 1216 from this walk-in and drive-in access point.
BOR Access Point 2: Crews will replace pole 1204 from this walk-in access point.
BOR Access Point 3: Replace poles 1200 and 1201. Crews will hike to the north from the access point. Pole components will be flown by helicopter and smaller materials will be carried in by crews. Structure may be hand or machine dug. In this area, CDOT ROW is adjacent to Public Service ROW. Underlying land ownership is BOR.

BOR Access Point 4: Replace pole 1194 and anchor on 1193. Crews will hike in from west of the transmission line. The pole will be delivered using a helicopter. Structure 1194 may be hand or machine dug. Generally, digging holes is most cost effective using a compressor, versus hand digging holes. Additionally, hand digging holes for transmission structures, in areas of solid rock is not feasible and other mechanical means may be necessary. It can be assumed that holes will be mechanically dug, unless circumstances dictate otherwise. In this area, CDOT ROW is adjacent to Public Service ROW. Underlying land ownership is BOR.

Other Access Point 1: Crews will replace structure 1232 from this walk-in access point.
Other Access Point 2: Crews will replace structure 1231 from this walk-in access point.
Other Access Point 3: Crews will replace structure 1230 from this walk-in access point.

Table 2. BOR Drive-In Access Points

ACCESS POINT	TOWNSHIP/RANGE	SECTION	QUARTER-QUARTER	TOTAL AREA (ACRES)	TOTAL LENGTH (MILES)
BOR Access Pt 1	T10S R98W	23	¼NE ¼NE	0.97	0.40
BOR Access Pt 2	T10S R98W	13	¼SW ¼SW	0.47	0.19
Total				**1.44**	**0.59**

4.7.6 Private Access

Private Access Point 1: Crews will replace structures 1247, 1248, and 1251 from this drive-in location.
Private Access Points 2 through 10: From these access points, crews will replace structures 1237-1241 and 1243-1246.
Private Access Point 11: From this access point, crews will replace structure 1227.
Private Access Points 12 and 13: From these walk-in and drive-in access points, crews will replace structures 1217, 1220-1224, and 1227 as well as replacing/repairing the cross arms on structures 1218, 1218B, and 1225.
Private Access Points 14 and 15: From these drive-in access points, crews will replace structures 1031, 1032, and 1033.

Private Access Point 16: From this drive-in access point, crews will replace the cross arm on structure 1030A.

Private Access Points 17 through 27: Crews will replace structures 1015, 1016, 1018-1030 from these drive-in access points.

Private Access Point 28: Crews will replace the cross arm on structure 1014 from this drive-in access point.

Private Access Point 29: Crews will replace structure 1013 from this drive-in access point.

Private Access Points 30 through 32: From these drive-in access points, crews will replace/repair the cross arms on structures 1010, 1011, and1012.

Private Access Points 33 through 34: Crews will replace structures 1008 and 1009 from these drive-in access points.

Private Access Point 35: Crews will replace structure 989 from this drive-in access point off of the DeBeque Cutoff Road.

Private Access Point 36: Crews will replace structure 988 from this access point off Road W.

Private Access Point 37: This access point will provide drive-in and walk-in access for the replacement of structure 987.

Private Access Point 38: This access point will prove access for crews to replace structure 983.

Private Access Point 39: Crews will replace structure 964 from this drive-in access point.

Private Access Points 40 and 41: Crews will replace structures 961, 962, and 963 from this drive-in access point.

Private Access Point 42: This access point off of Old U.S. Hwy 6 will provide drive-in access for crews to replace structures 960 and 958.

Private Access Points 43 and 44: Crews will replace structures 951, 952, 953, and 954 from these drive-in access points off of Old U.S. Hwy 6.

Private Access Point 45: Crews will replace structures 927, 928-934, and 936, replace/repair the cross arms on structure 937 and 938 (walk-in), and install/replace the anchors on structure 935 and 939 (walk-in) from this access point off of Old U.S. Hwy 6.

Private Access Point 46 (Gated): Crews will replace/repair the cross arm on structures 921 and 922 from this access point.

Private Access Point 47: Crews will replace structures 917, 918, and 919 and replace/repair the cross arm on structure 920 from this access point.

Private Access Points 48 and 49: From these access points, crews will replace structures 913-916.

Private Access Point 50: Crews will replace structure 912 from this access point.

Private Access Point 51: Crews will replace structure 911 from this access point.

Private Access Point 52: Crews will replace/repair the cross arm on structures 909 and 910 from this drive-in access point.

Private Access Point 53: From this drive-in access point, crews will replace structures 891-904 and 906, the replace/install anchors on structure 905, and replace/repair the cross arm on structures 907 and 908.

Private Access Point 54: From this drive-in access point off of Old U.S. Hwy 6, crews will replace structures 884, 886, 887, 888 as well as replace/repair the anchors on 885.

Private Access Point 55: Crews will replace structure 890 from this drive-in access point off of Old U.S. Hwy 6.

Private Access Point 56: Crews will replace structure 880 from this access point.

Private Access Points 57 though 62: From these access points, crews will repair/replace the cross arm on structures 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, and 879.

Private Access Point 63 through 65: Crews will replace structures 871, 872, and 873 from these access points.

Private Access Point 66: From this drive-in and walk-in access off of Old U.S. Hwy 6, crews will replace pole 860, replace/repair the cross arm on structures 861, 862, and 864, and replace/install anchors on structure 863.

Private Access Point 67: From this drive-in access off of Old U.S. Hwy 6, crews will replace/repair the cross arm on structures 858 and 859.

Private Access Point 68: Crews will replace structures 848, 849, and 851-855 and replace/repair the cross arm on structure 850 from this access point.

Private Access Point 69: Crews will replace structures 844, 846, and 847 from this drive-in access point.

Private Access Points 70: Crews will replace structure 840 and replace/repair the anchors on structures 843 from this drive-in access points.

Private Access Point 71: Crews will replace structures 834-839 from this drive-in access point off of Old U.S. Hwy 6. For pole 834, materials will be flown in via helicopter and crews will park at the base of the hill approximately 30 to 40 yards below the pole location. Air hose line will be run from the base of the hill to the pole location if a jackhammer is needed.

Private Access Point 72: Crews will replace structures 830, 831, 832, and 833 from this drive-in access off of Old U.S. Hwy 6.

Private Access Point 73: From this drive-in access point off of Old U.S. Hwy 6, crews will replace structures 818, 819, and 820, repair/replace the cross arm on structures 822 and repair/replace the cross arm and install anchors on structure 821.

Private Access Point 74: Crews will replace/repair the cross arm on structures 816 and 817 from this drive-in access point off of Old U.S. Hwy 6.

Private Access Point 75: Crews will replace structures 812 and 813 and repair/replace the cross arm on structure 814 from this drive-in access point.

Private Access Point 76: From this drive-in access point off of Parachute Park Boulevard, crews will replace structures 810 and 810B and repair/replace the anchors on structure 811.

Private Access Point 77: From this drive-in access point, crews will replace structure 809.

Private Access Point 78: Crews will replace structure 807 and repair/replace the cross arm and anchor on structure 808 from this drive-in access.

Private Access Point 79: Crews will replace structure 806 from this drive-in access point off of Parachute Creek Road.

Table 3. Private Drive-In Access

ACCESS POINT	TOWNSHIP/RANGE	SECTION	QUARTER-QUARTER	TOTAL AREA (ACRES)	TOTAL LENGTH (MILES)
Prvt Access Pt 1	T10S R98W	34	¼NE ¼NW	0.50	0.20
Prvt Access Pt 3	T10S R98W	27	¼SW ¼SE	0.04	0.01
Prvt Access Pt 4	T10S R98W	27	¼NW ¼SE	0.08	0.03
Prvt Access Pt 7	T10S R98W	27	¼SE ¼NE	0.02	0.00
Prvt Access Pt 8	T10S R98W	27	¼SE ¼NE	0.01	0.00
Prvt Access Pt 9	T10S R98W	27	¼SE ¼NE	0.01	0.00
Prvt Access Pt 10	T10S R98W	27	¼SE ¼NE	0.01	0.00
Prvt Access Pt 11	T10S R98W	23	¼NW ¼SW	0.01	0.00
Prvt Access Pt 12	T10S R98W	23	¼SE ¼NW	0.68	0.28
Prvt Access Pt 13	T10S R98W	23	¼SW ¼NE	1.09	0.45
Prvt Access Pt 14	T9S R97W	9	¼SE ¼NW	0.03	0.01
Prvt Access Pt 15	T9S R97W	9	¼SE ¼NW	0.17	0.07
Prvt Access Pt 16	T9S R97W	9	¼SE ¼NW	0.04	0.01
Prvt Access Pt 17	T9S R97W	9	¼NW ¼NE	0.03	0.01
Prvt Access Pt 18	T9S R97W	9	¼NW ¼NE	0.03	0.01
Prvt Access Pt 19	T9S R97W	9	¼NW ¼NE	0.03	0.01
Prvt Access Pt 20	T9S R97W	9	¼NW ¼NE	0.02	0.01
Prvt Access Pt 21	T9S R97W	4	¼SW ¼SE	0.03	0.01
Prvt Access Pt 22	T9S R97W	4	¼SW ¼SE	0.18	0.07
Prvt Access Pt 23	T9S R97W	4	¼NW ¼SE	0.37	0.15
Prvt Access Pt 24	T9S R97W	4	¼SE ¼NE	0.32	0.13
Prvt Access Pt 25	T9S R97W	4	¼SE ¼NE	0.02	0.00
Prvt Access Pt 26	T9S R97W	4	¼SE ¼NE	0.18	0.07
Prvt Access Pt 27	T9S R97W	4	¼NE ¼NE	0.03	0.01
Prvt Access Pt 28	T9S R97W	4	¼NE ¼NE	0.03	0.01
Prvt Access Pt 29	T9S R97W	4	¼NE ¼NE	0.10	0.04
Prvt Access Pt 30	T9S R97W	4	¼NE ¼NE	0.03	0.02

ACCESS POINT	TOWNSHIP/RANGE	SECTION	QUARTER-QUARTER	TOTAL AREA (ACRES)	TOTAL LENGTH (MILES)
Prvt Access Pt 31	T9S R97W	4	¼NE ¼NE	0.03	0.01
Prvt Access Pt 32	T8S R97W	33	¼SE ¼SE	0.03	0.01
Prvt Access Pt 33	T8S R97W	34	¼SW ¼SW	0.02	0.01
Prvt Access Pt 34	T8S R97W	34	¼SW ¼SW	0.03	0.01
Prvt Access Pt 35	T8S R97W	27	¼NE ¼SW	0.17	0.07
Prvt Access Pt 37	T8S R97W	27	¼SE ¼NW	0.10	0.04
Prvt Access Pt 39	T8S R97W	23	¼SE ¼NW	0.05	0.02
Prvt Access Pt 40	T8S R97W	23	¼SE ¼NW	0.37	0.15
Prvt Access Pt 41	T8S R97W	23	¼NE ¼NW	0.17	0.07
Prvt Access Pt 42	T8S R97W	23	¼NW ¼NE	0.54	0.22
Prvt Access Pt 43	T8S R97W	14	¼SE ¼SE	0.32	0.13
Prvt Access Pt 44	T8S R97W	14	¼SE ¼SE	0.41	0.17
Prvt Access Pt 45	T8S R97W	12	¼SW ¼SE	3.26	1.34
Prvt Access Pt 46	T8S R96W	6	¼NW ¼SE	0.38	0.15
Prvt Access Pt 47	T8S R96W	6	¼NW ¼SE	0.55	0.23
Prvt Access Pt 48	T8S R96W	6	¼SE ¼NE	0.55	0.22
Prvt Access Pt 49	T8S R96W	5	¼SW ¼NW	0.23	0.09
Prvt Access Pt 50	T8S R96W	5	¼NW ¼NW	0.03	0.01
Prvt Access Pt 51	T8S R96W	5	¼NW ¼NW	0.03	0.01
Prvt Access Pt 52	T8S R96W	5	¼NW ¼NW	0.36	0.15
Prvt Access Pt 53	T8S R96W	5	¼NE ¼NW	3.31	1.36
Prvt Access Pt 54	T7S R96W	33	¼SW ¼NW	1.15	0.47
Prvt Access Pt 55	T7S R96W	33	¼SE ¼NW	0.98	0.40
Prvt Access Pt 66	T7S R96W	27	¼SW ¼NE	0.89	0.40
Prvt Access Pt 67	T7S R96W	27	¼SE ¼NE	0.78	0.29
Prvt Access Pt 68	T7S R96W	27	¼NE ¼NE	2.13	0.88
Prvt Access Pt 69	T7S R96W	23	¼NE ¼SW	1.20	0.49
Prvt Access Pt 70	T7S R96W	23	¼SE ¼NW	0.58	0.24
Prvt Access Pt 71	T7S R96W	14	¼SW ¼SE	1.03	0.42
Prvt Access Pt 72	T7S R96W	14	¼SW ¼SE	0.77	0.32

ACCESS POINT	TOWNSHIP/RANGE	SECTION	QUARTER-QUARTER	TOTAL AREA (ACRES)	TOTAL LENGTH (MILES)
Prvt Access Pt 73	T7S R96W	13	¼NE ¼NW	0.81	0.12
Prvt Access Pt 74	T7S R96W	13	¼NE ¼NW	0.55	0.22
Prvt Access Pt 75	T7S R96W	12	¼SE ¼SW	0.55	0.22
Prvt Access Pt 76	T7S R96W	12	¼NE ¼SW	0.25	0.10
Prvt Access Pt 77	T7S R96W	12	¼NW ¼SE	0.07	0.03
Prvt Access Pt 78	T7S R96W	12	¼NW ¼SE	0.28	0.12
Prvt Access Pt 79	T7S R96W	12	¼SW ¼NE	0.28	0.11
Total				**27.32**	**10.93**

4.8 Reclamation

All areas from which the vegetation has been removed or otherwise destroyed or damaged as a result of construction-related activities will be reclaimed and revegetated to the original (pre-maintenance) condition. No areas identified as DeBeque Phacelia habitat will be reseeded. The disturbed areas greater than about 2 to 3 square feet will be reseeded or revegetated using a planting mix that is agreed upon by PSCo and the landowner or BLM. The following revegetation plan details are from the Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) for this project provided by HDR Engineering (HDR 2011); BLM seed mixes have been coordinated with BLM ecologists Anna Lincoln (GJFO) and Carla DeYoung (CRVFO).

Seeding involves the mechanical or hand application of specific seed mixes appropriate for the site location and soil type. Seeding provides plant growth to stabilize the soil reducing the likelihood of erosion or sediment transport. As soon as practical, after the completion of construction activities, soil should be properly prepared for seeding. Preparing the seed bed will require loosening compacted soil to a depth of 4 inches, removing any stone greater than 1 inch diameter, and leveling the site to reduce unnatural undulations in the soil surface.

The choice of seed mix will dictate application rates and methods (see Table 4, Table 5, and Table 6 for seed mixes). Seeding should always be accompanied by an additional Best Management Practice (BMP), such as mulching or tackifying, to protect the seed and soil from erosion during the germination and growth process. Seed areas will be inspected to ensure that the soil stabilization method (*e.g.* surface roughening, crimp mulch, etc.) was applied correctly and has not been compromised. The area will also be inspected for erosion and/or sediment deposition. Maintenance items would include re-grading and seeding bare or areas of thin vegetative growth and/or adding additional BMPs as appropriate. If seeding cannot be accomplished due to seasonal or other constraints, temporary stabilization, such as mulch and mulch tackifier will be used. This temporary stabilization will be inspected and maintained until permanent seeding is allowed.

Table 4. Private Lands Seed Mix

Common Name	***Scientific Name***	**Percent of Mix**
Indian ricegrass	*Achnatherum hymenoides*	10
Little Bluestem	*Schizachyrium scoparium*	10
Blue grama	*Bouteloua gracilis*	10
Indiangrass	*Sorghastrum nutans*	7.5
Sandberg bluegrass	*Poa secunda*	10

Common Name	***Scientific Name***	**Percent of Mix**
Arizona fescue	*Festuca arizonica*	10
Sideoats grama	*Bouteloua curtipendula*	10
Green needlegrass	*Nessella viridula*	10
Western wheatgrass	*Pascopyrum smithii*	10
Big bluestem	*Andropogon gerardii*	10
Sand dropseed	*Sporobolus cryptandrus*	2.5

Percentages of Species and/or species may change somewhat due to availability. Seeding rate: 20# per acre drilled, 2#/1000 ft^3 for smaller areas. 40# per acre broadcast seeded.

Source: HDR 2011.

Table 5. BLM Seed Mix, Greasewood Flats

Common Name	***Scientific Name***	**Variety**	**Percent of Mix**	**PLS lbs/ac**
Western wheatgrass	*Pascopyrum smithii*	Arriba, Rosana	35	9.5
Bottlebrush squirreltail	*Elymus elymoides*	VNS	22	5.8
Alkali sacaton	*Sporobolus airoides*	VNS	1	0.27
Sand dropseed	*Sporobolus cryptandrus*	VNS	<1	0.09
Shadscale	*Atriplex confertifolia*	VNS	17	4.5
4-wing saltbush	*Atriplex canescens*	Source N of CO-NM line or above 5,000 ft*	23	6.2
Scarlet globemallow	*Sphaeralcea coccinea*	VNS	2	0.47
TOTAL			**100**	**26.83**

*Must be able to verify source. Double seeding rate for broadcast seeding.

Table 6. BLM Seed Mix, Pinon Juniper Woodlands

Common Name	***Scientific Name***	**Variety**	**Percent of Mix**	**PLS lbs/ac**

Common Name	***Scientific Name***	**Variety**	**Percent of Mix**	**PLS lbs/ac**
Western wheatgrass	*Pascopyrum smithii*	Arriba, Rosana	23	6
Bottlebrush squirreltail	*Elymus elymoides*	VNS	23	5.8
Indian ricegrass	*Achnatherum hymenoides*	VNS	8	2
Sandberg bluegrass	*Poa secunda*	Uncompahgre plateau	2	0.5
Sand dropseed	*Sporobolus cryptandrus*	VNS	1	0.2
Shadscale	*Atriplex confertifolia*	VNS	18	4.5
4-wing saltbush	*Atriplex canescens*	Source N of CO-NM line or above 5,000 ft*	24	6.2
Scarlet globemallow	*Sphaeralcea coccinea*	VNS	2	0.47
TOTAL			**100**	**25.67**

*Must be able to verify source. Double seeding rate for broadcast seeding.

The reclamation procedures described above will be applied to all areas that result in disturbed vegetation greater than about 2 to 3 square feet.

All damaged fences and gates will be repaired. Access roads or trails identified by the landowner or BLM will be blocked or reclaimed, if requested, to prevent future access by the public.

4.9 Noxious Weed Plan

When native vegetation is disturbed, opportunities arise for populations of weedy species to increase or to invade disturbed areas. Disturbed corridors that result from access road construction are particularly vulnerable to the increase of weedy vegetation. Invasive populations of weedy species often out-compete and can directly impact native plant populations, including special status species. Other impacts from an increase in weed infestations include the loss of forage for wildlife and livestock, decreased availability of habitat for wildlife, and a loss of biodiversity relative to undisturbed areas.

Weeds can be introduced during projects by vehicles, improper treatment of equipment, and through revegetation seed mixtures. Wildlife, wind dispersal, and spreading by livestock are non-project related means of increasing weedy species.

Locations of existing noxious weed populations were noted during a pre-construction survey of the approved route during rare plant surveys. Noxious weed populations identified along the alignment would be treated by PSCo with BLM-approved chemicals (**Appendix A**). In order to prevent re-infestation as well as unnecessary expense to PSCo, cooperation from BLM would be expected in situations where an infestation is large and extends out from the alignment a good distance. Table 7 lists noxious weeds for Garfield and Mesa counties.

Table 7. Garfield and Mesa County Noxious Weeds

Common Name	Scientific Name	Garfield County (G), Mesa County (M)	Colorado State List	Occurrence in Project Area
Leafy spurge	*Euphorbia esula*	G, M	B	
Russian knapweed	*Acroptilon repens*	G, M	B	
Yellow starthistle	*Centaurea solstitalis*	G, M	A	
Plumeless thistle	*Carduus acanthoides*	G, M	B	
Houndstongue	*Cynoglossum officinale*	G, M	B	
Common burdock	*Arctium minus*	G	C	
Scotch thistle	*Onopordum acanthium*	G, M	B	
Canada thistle	*Cirsium arvense*	G, M	B	
Spotted knapweed	*Centaurea maculosa*	G, M	B	
Diffuse knapweed	*Centaurea diffusa*	G, M	B	
Dalmatian toadflax	*Linaria dalmatica*	G, M	B	
Yellow toadflax	*Linaria vulgaris*	G, M	B	
Hoary cress	*Cardaria draba*	G, M	B	X
Salt cedar (2 species)	*Tamarix parviflora* *Tamarix ramosissima*	G, M	B	X
Oxeye daisy	*Chrysanthemum leucantheum*	G, M	B	
Jointed goatgrass	*Aegilops cylindrica*	G	C	
Chicory	*Cichorium intybus*	G	C	
Musk thistle	*Carduus nutans*	G, M	B	
Purple loosestrife	*Lythrum salicaria*	G, M	A	
Russian olive	*Elaeagnus angustifolia*	G	B	
Bull thistle	*Cirsium vulgare*	M	B	
Dyer's Woad	*Isatis tinctoria*	M	A	

Sources: Colorado Department of Agriculture 2010, Garfield County 2002, Mesa County 2001.

The following BMPs that prevent the spread of noxious weeds would be followed (Partners Against Weeds Action Plan for BLM).

- Treat large concentrations of seed-bearing noxious weeds prior to movement of construction equipment through these areas into relatively weed-free areas;
- Re-establish vegetation on bare ground to minimize weed spread; and
- Gravel and other fill to be placed in relatively weed-free areas which are at moderate or high-ecological risk to weed invasion must come from weed-free sources.

4.10 Abandonment

Waste construction materials and rubbish from all construction areas will be collected, hauled away, and disposed of in an approved manner.

4.11 Fences and Gates

Where fences must be cut for gate installation or other construction activities, prior to gate cutting, the brace posts will be installed and wires attached in order to maintain adjacent wire tension. Any fence damaged during construction will be repaired immediately.

Gates, where required, will be installed in accordance with the drawings, and will be maintained in good working order. All new or existing gates will remain closed and locked at all times except when attended or unless otherwise directed by the landowner.

4.12 Survey Monuments

PSCo and contractors would protect all public survey monuments affected by or adjacent to the ROW. Survey monuments include but are not limited to the General Land Office (GLO) and BLM Cadastral Survey corners, reference corners, witness points, and recognizable civil (both public and private) survey monuments. If any of the above were obliterated or disturbed, PSCo would report the incident, in writing to the BLM and the respective installing authority if known. If BLM or GLO ROW monuments or references were obliterated during operations, PSCo would secure the service of a registered land surveyor or a BLM cadastral surveyor to restore the disturbed monument. Restoration would follow procedures found in the Manual of Surveying instructions for the Survey of Public Lands of the United States, latest edition. PSCo would record such survey in the appropriate county and send a copy to the BLM. If a BLM cadastral survey crew restores the disturbed survey monument, PSCo would be responsible for the cost of such survey.

5.0 Project Schedule

The maintenance work is planned to begin in the late spring or early summer of 2011 and to be completed no later than September 2012.

6.0 Right-of-Way Requirements

On public lands, PSCo would conform to the Grand Junction Field Office BLM Standard Mitigation and BLM ROW stipulations for the existing ROW (COC-35161). On private lands, PSCo would conform to the existing easement stipulations to locate, construct, operate and maintain the transmission line from private landowners. Landowners would be paid in the event that damages resulting from construction, operation and maintenance occur on their property. PSCo would conduct maintenance in accordance with the Grand Junction BLM Right-of-Way Stipulations in the current land use authorization (COC 35161) as detailed in **Appendix B.**

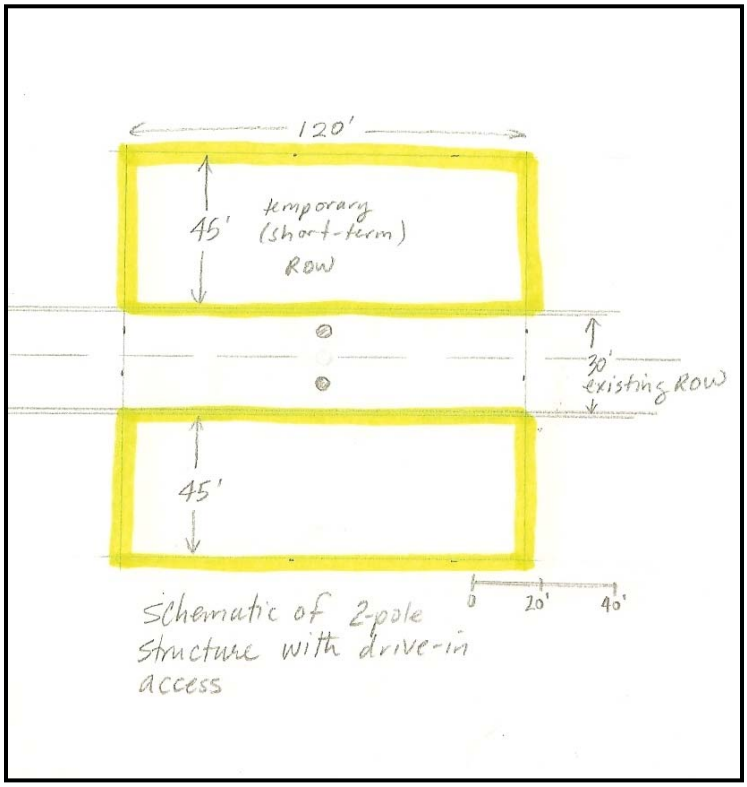
6.1 Transmission Line Right-of-Way

The width of the ROW, and the restrictions within it, are determined by the National Electric Safety Code (NESC) operation considerations and are proportional to the voltage and structure type. The PSCo 69kV transmission line between Grand Valley and Cameo has a 30-foot permanent ROW.

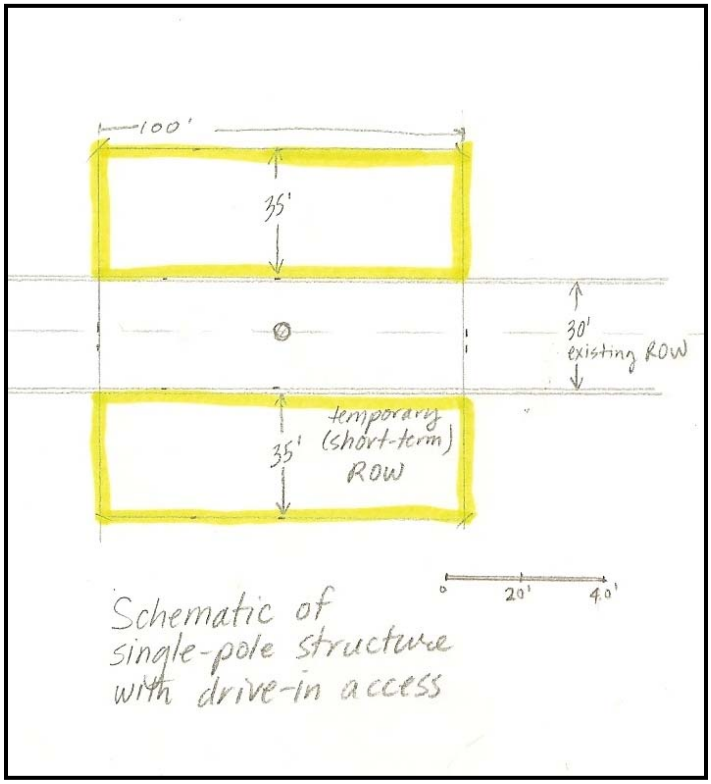
6.2 Temporary Use Areas

Some areas will require temporary work that would be outside of the permanent ROW and are part of the short-term ROW request. Temporary use areas will occur only in areas without sensitive resources; sensitive resources will be protected by measures identified and described in the Design Features section (Section 7.0). These are shown on the attached maps (see Sheets 1 through 11):

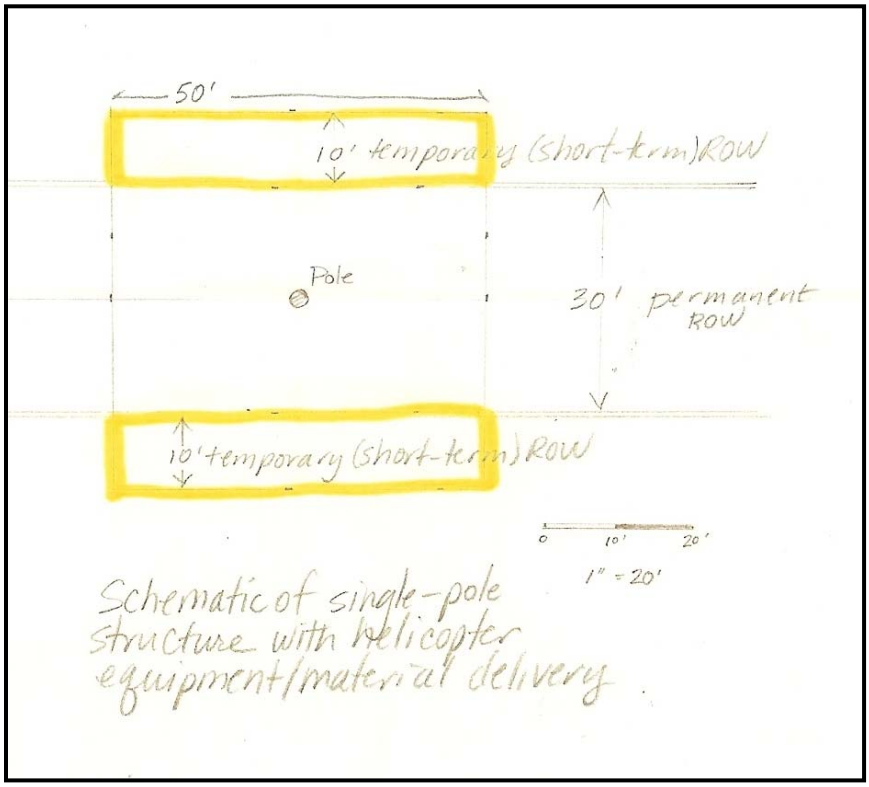
- Two- or three- pole structures (120 by 120 feet; see detail 1)
- One- pole structures with drive-in access (100 by 100 feet; see detail 2)
- One- pole structures with walk-in access and helicopter supply delivery, both air compressor and hand-dug sites (50 by 50 feet; see detail 3)



Detail 1. Schematic of Temporary (Short-term) ROW for 2-pole structure with drive-in access.



Detail 2. Schematic of temporary (short-term) ROW for single-pole structure with drive-in access.



Detail 3. Schematic of temporary (short-term) ROW for single-pole structure with walk-in access.

All other pole maintenance activities would be within the existing permanent ROW.

Table 8. Temporary Use Areas.

Owner	Acreage of temporary use	Percent of temporary use area
Bureau of Land Management	21.5	18%
Bureau of Reclamation	4.1	3%
Other	0.3	0%
Private	90.5	78%
Total	117.6	99%

"Other" consists of RR ROW, municipalities, county, county roads, and districts (cemeteries, water, etc).

Table 9. BLM Temporary Use by Quarter-Quarter

QUARTER-QUARTER SECTION	ACREAGE
T10S R98W ¼SW¼SE SEC. 12	

QUARTER-QUARTER SECTION	ACREAGE	
STRUCTURE 1185 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1187 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1189 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.06**
T10S R98W ¼NE¼NE SEC. 13		
STRUCTURE 1181 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1182 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1183 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1184 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.08**
T10S R98W ¼NE¼NE SEC. 26		
STRUCTURE 1234 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.02**
T10S R98W ¼NE¼NE SEC. 27		
STRUCTURE 1235 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1237 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
Total		**0.18**
T10S R97W ¼NE¼NE SEC. 6		
STRUCTURE 1142 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1143 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.04**
T10S R97W ¼NW¼SE SEC. 6		
STRUCTURE 1148 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1149 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
STRUCTURE 1150 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
STRUCTURE 1151 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
Total		**0.50**
T10S R97W ¼SE¼NE SEC. 6		
STRUCTURE 1145 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.02**
T10S R97W ¼SE¼SW SEC. 6		
STRUCTURE 1154 (3-pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.02**
T10S R97W ¼SW¼NE SEC. 6		
STRUCTURE 1146 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1147 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.04**
T10S R97W ¼SW¼SE SEC. 6		
STRUCTURE 1152 (3-pole, drive-in)	0.25	
STRUCTURE 1153 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.27**
T10S R97W ¼NW¼SW SEC. 7		
STRUCTURE 1161 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1163 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
STRUCTURE 1165 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	

QUARTER-QUARTER SECTION	ACREAGE	
STRUCTURE 1166 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
STRUCTURE 1167 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
Total		**0.66**
T10S R97W ¼SE¼NW SEC. 7		
STRUCTURE 1156 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1157 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1158 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.06**
T9S R98W ¼NW¼NW SEC. 36		
STRUCTURE 1112 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.02**
T9S R98W ¼SE¼NE SEC. 36		
STRUCTURE 1116 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1117 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1118 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1119 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1120 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.10**
T9S R97W ¼NE¼SW SEC. 17		
STRUCTURE 1056 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1057 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1058 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.06**
T9S R97W ¼SW¼NE SEC. 17		
STRUCTURE 1053 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1054 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.04**
T9S R97W ¼SW¼SW SEC. 17		
STRUCTURE 1063 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1064 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1065 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1066 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.08**
T9S R97W ¼NE¼NE SEC. 19		
STRUCTURE 1068 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1069 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1070 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1071 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.08**
T9S R97W ¼NW¼SE SEC. 19		
STRUCTURE 1078 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.02**
T9S R97W ¼SE¼NE SEC. 19		
STRUCTURE 1072 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.02**

QUARTER-QUARTER SECTION	ACREAGE	
T9S R97W ¼SW¼NE SEC. 19		
STRUCTURE 1074 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1075 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1076 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.06**
T9S R97W ¼SW¼SE SEC. 19		
STRUCTURE 1081 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
STRUCTURE 1082 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
STRUCTURE 1083 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
Total		**0.48**
T9S R97W ¼NE¼SE SEC. 30		
STRUCTURE 1093 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.02**
T9S R97W ¼NW¼NE SEC. 30		
STRUCTURE 1084 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1085 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1086 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.06**
T9S R97W ¼SE¼NE SEC. 30		
STRUCTURE 1088 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1090 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1092 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.06**
T9S R97W ¼NE¼NW SEC. 31		
STRUCTURE 1102 (2-pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.02**
T9S R97W ¼NW¼NE SEC. 31		
STRUCTURE 1101 (2-pole, drive-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.02**
T9S R97W ¼NW¼SW SEC. 31		
STRUCTURE 1123 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
STRUCTURE 1124 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
Total		**0.32**
T9S R97W ¼SW¼NW SEC. 31		
STRUCTURE 1122 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
Total		**0.16**
T9S R97W ¼SW¼SE SEC. 31		
STRUCTURE 1137 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1138 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1139 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 1140 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.08**
T8S R97W ¼SE¼NW SEC. 13		
STRUCTURE 939 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
Total		**0.02**

QUARTER-QUARTER SECTION	ACREAGE	
T8S R97W ¼SW¼SE SEC. 14		
STRUCTURE 955* (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 956* (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 957* (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
Total		**0.20**
T8S R97W ¼SE¼NE SEC. 22		
STRUCTURE 969 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
STRUCTURE 970 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
STRUCTURE 971 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
Total		**0.48**
T8S R97W ¼SE¼SE SEC. 22		
STRUCTURE 972 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
STRUCTURE 973 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
STRUCTURE 974 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
STRUCTURE 975 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
Total		**0.64**
T8S R97W ¼SW¼SE SEC. 22		
STRUCTURE 976* (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
STRUCTURE 978* (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
Total		**0.32**
T8S R97W ¼NW¼SW SEC. 23		
STRUCTURE 968 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
Total		**0.16**
T8S R97W ¼SW¼NW SEC. 23		
STRUCTURE 965 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
STRUCTURE 966 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
STRUCTURE 967 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
Total		**0.48**
T8S R97W ¼NE¼NW SEC. 27		
STRUCTURE 980* (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
STRUCTURE 982* (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
Total		**0.32**
T8S R97W ¼NW¼NE SEC. 27		
STRUCTURE 979* (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
Total		**0.16**
T7S R96W ¼NW¼SE SEC. 14		
STRUCTURE 831 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
Total		**0.16**
T7S R96W ¼SE¼NE SEC. 14		
STRUCTURE 825 (single pole, walk-in)	0.02	
STRUCTURE 826 (single pole, drive-in)	0.16	
Total		**0.18**
TOTAL BLM TEMPORARY USE		**6.77**

*Requires biological monitor

Minor rounding errors may occur in the hundredths (0.01) place.

6.3 Road Right-of-Way

PSCo would limit access construction activities to the road ROW and would use only existing county roads or other routes shown in this document. PSCo would be responsible for maintaining existing gates, fences, and access roads during construction. The width of the road ROW is 20 feet wide. Turnaround locations also have been identified and are shown on the maps, and have a 35-foot diameter. Road ROW proposed would be used to permanently access the transmission line ROW.

Table 10. Access Road Right-of-way.

Owner	Acreage of Access Road Right-of-way*	Length of Access Road Right-of-way (miles)	Percent of project area
Bureau of Land Management	8.2	3.3	30%
Bureau of Reclamation	1.2	0.5	5%
Other	0.0	0.0	1%
Private	31.2	12.8	64%
Total	40.5	16.5	100%

*Acreage based on 20-foot road right-of-way width and five turn-around points (35 feet in diameter).

"Other" consists of RR ROW, municipalities, county, county roads, and districts (cemeteries, water, etc).

7.0 Design Features

Sensitive areas identified during biological resources surveys would require special design features to avoid and minimize impacts. PSCo has identified the following design features to address these concerns. These sensitive areas are shown on the POD maps as "Reduced Disturbance Area" for the applicable pole locations.

To avoid and minimize effects to sensitive resources in the project area, an adaptive management approach has been developed for monitoring project activities during maintenance. In sensitive areas in the vicinity of known sensitive plant populations, a biological monitor will be employed by Xcel and will coordinate with BLM ecologists. Construction activities will take place outside of blooming times for both the CHC and DeBeque Phacelia. Specifically these locations are access roads and pole/anchor/crossarm installation and/or replacement in the vicinity of poles 956 through 958, 971, and 975 through 983. In close coordination with BLM, the biological monitor will be responsible for ensuring avoidance of cacti (using flagging, barrier fencing, or other methods for marking locations) by truck or pedestrian traffic associated with maintenance. The biological monitor will coordinate with on-site supervisors and staff to

identify designated access and parking areas to minimize surface disturbance to potential seed base areas, including omitting reseeding activities in identified sensitive areas (see *Minimization Measures/Design Features* section for DeBeque Phacelia). In locations where a pole location shift has been identified, the biological monitor will ensure compliance with specific details coordinated with BLM (see additional details in the *Minimization Measures/Design Features* section for each species).

Four cactus populations, two Naturita milkvetch populations, and one DeBeque milkvetch population are present within or near areas proposed for the Xcel Energy powerline maintenance project alignment. Suitable habitat for the DeBeque Phacelia also was identified in the project vicinity. PSCo is coordinating with BLM to avoid and minimize impacts to all species. Conceptual avoidance and minimization mitigation recommendations are as follows:

i. Flag plant locations
ii. Install barrier fence
iii. Construction monitoring
iv. Potential pole shifts
v. Remain on existing designated access and parking locations
vi. Minimize surface disturbance
vii. Minimize number of vehicles
viii. Install anchors at same locations
ix. Restrict access direction
i. Install barrier and/or DuraBase mat to protect plant root mass in specific areas

7.1 Design Features for Colorado hookless cactus

Specific minimization measures for CHC would include (see Figures 2 through 6 in the BA for pole and plant locations):

To avoid and minimize effects to sensitive resources in the project area, an adaptive management approach has been developed for monitoring project activities during maintenance. In sensitive areas in the vicinity of known sensitive plant populations, a biological monitor will be employed by Xcel and will coordinate with BLM ecologists. Specifically these locations for mitigation of impacts to cactus are access roads and pole/anchor/crossarm installation and/or replacement in the vicinity of poles 956 through 958, 971, and 976. In close coordination with BLM, the biological monitor will be responsible for ensuring avoidance of cacti (using flagging, barrier fencing, or other methods for marking locations) by truck or pedestrian traffic associated with maintenance. The biological monitor will coordinate with on-site supervisors and staff to identify designated access and parking areas to minimize surface disturbance to potential seed base areas, including omitting reseeding activities in identified sensitive areas (see *Minimization Measures/Design Features* section for DeBeque Phacelia). In locations

where a pole location shift has been identified, the biological monitor will ensure compliance with specific details coordinated with BLM (see additional details in the *Minimization Measures/Design Features* section for each species). For all populations within 100 meters of a structure proposed for maintenance or an access road proposed for use during maintenance activities, activities will only occur outside the blooming season. In addition, dust abatement by using water will occur to prevent impacts from dust and will be coordinated as needed through the biological monitor. PSCo will contact BLM prior to future maintenance in sensitive areas to determine if a biological monitor or any other protective measures are necessary to avoid impacts to listed species.

While there is the possibility for inadvertent take of cactus, the minimization and design features and conservation measure should assume avoidance. If in the course of maintenance activities it becomes apparent that individual cacti cannot be avoided, transplant options will be explored in coordination with the USFWS. Any unrecorded/new cactus documented during construction will be avoided and the minimization measures/design features will be applied to these individuals.

b. Pole #956, S2-1 to S2-16 (proposed for cross-arm replacement)
    i. Standard design features described above
c. Pole #957, S1-1 to S1-3, SW5-1 to 5-9
    i. Access for maintenance would occur from SW to pole
    ii. Other standard design features described above
d. Pole #958, S1-1 to S1-11, also 2 dead
    i. Standard design features described above
e. Pole #963, 1 dead *Sclerocactus glaucus*
    i. Protect and minimize surface disturbance to seed bank in vicinity of single dead cacti recorded
f. Pole #971, S3-1
    i. Cut existing pole at base (about 1 to 2 feet above ground surface) and leave underground portion in ground
    ii. Access directly from the road if possible, from the north
    iii. Other standard design features described above
g. Pole #976, S4-1 to S4-70 (Cacti immediately adjacent to access road and approximately 20 feet from pole)
    i. Cut existing pole at base (about 1 to 2 feet above ground surface) and leave underground portion in ground
    ii. Access pole location from south and east of pole
    iii. Install anchors at same locations
    iv. Other standard design features described above

7.2 Design Features for DeBeque Phacelia

To avoid and minimize effects to sensitive resources in the project area, an adaptive management approach has been developed for monitoring project activities during maintenance. In sensitive areas in the vicinity of known sensitive plant populations, a biological monitor will be employed by Xcel and would coordinate with BLM ecologists. Specifically these locations are access roads and pole/anchor/crossarm installation and/or

replacement in the vicinity of poles 975 through 983. In close coordination with BLM, the biological monitor will be responsible for ensuring avoidance of habitat (using flagging, barrier fencing, or other methods for marking locations) by truck or pedestrian traffic associated with maintenance. The biological monitor will coordinate with on-site supervisors and staff to identify designated access and parking areas to minimize surface disturbance to potential seed base areas, including omitting reseeding activities in identified sensitive areas. In the vicinity of poles noted above, all maintenance activities will be completed outside of the blooming season. The biological monitor, in coordination with BLM, will be authorized to direct water use for dust suppression as needed. PSCo will contact BLM prior to future maintenance in sensitive areas to determine if a biological monitor or any other protective measures are necessary to avoid impacts to listed species.

7.3 Design Features for Raptors and Migratory Birds

To protect sensitive nesting areas for raptors and heron rookeries, the following seasonal and geographic restrictions would apply while nests are active (defined as occupied nest through fledging of young). A biological monitor would be employed to evaluate nesting activities, if work within the seasonal timeframes provided is desired. If the biological monitor finds no active nesting, coordination with BLM would occur to ensure agreement on the ability to use a helicopter within the timeframes and nest buffers provided below:

- For the heron rookery identified near I-70 mile marker 57, no helicopter flight patterns would infringe on a buffer extending ¼ mile horizontally and vertically from the rookery boundary (shown in the raptor survey report) during active nesting (generally April 1 to July 30; Kingery et al. 1998);
- For the Bald Eagle nest site identified near I-70 mile marker 58, no helicopter flight patterns would infringe on a buffer extending ½ mile horizontally and ¼ mile vertically from the nest (shown in the raptor survey report) during active nesting (generally March 1 to June 30; Kingery et al. 1998); and
- For the potential Peregrine falcon nest site identified between I-70 mile marker 49 and 50, biological monitoring following BLM raptor survey protocol would occur on June 1 to evaluate the nest site for activity. If no activity is documented, there would be no restrictions for this potential nest location. If nesting activity is documented, no helicopter flight patterns would infringe on a buffer extending ½ mile horizontally and ¼ mile vertically from the nest location (shown in the raptor survey report) during active nesting (generally June 10 to July 30; Kingery et al. 1998 and CDOW 2008 with best professional judgment).

8.0 Land Status

The Project Area consists primarily of BLM, BOR and private lands. Within the Project Area, 30% percent of the transmission line and access road length is on federal land managed by BLM. The ownership breakdown is in Table 11.

Table 11. Land Management in Project Area.

Owner	Length of transmission line	Length of access road	Percent of project length
Bureau of Land Management	8.8	3.3	30%
Bureau of Reclamation	1.6	0.5	5%
Other	0.3	0.0	1%
Private	18.9	12.8	64%
Total	29.6	16.5	100%

Percentages are based on total length of transmission line and access roads.

"Other" consists of RR ROW, municipalities, county, county roads, and districts (cemeteries, water, etc).

9.0 Resource Protection

Standard environmental protection measures associated with construction are shown in Table 4.

Table 12. Environmental Protection Measures

Aesthetics	
A-1	The contractor shall exercise care to preserve the natural landscape and shall conduct construction operations (including all construction related activities within and along the ROW, PSCo's designated access roads/trails and staging areas) so as to prevent any unnecessary damage to, or destruction of, natural features.
Air Quality	
AQ-1	The contractor shall utilize such practicable methods and devices as are reasonably available to control, prevent and otherwise minimize atmospheric emissions or discharges of air contaminants.
AQ-2	Vehicles and equipment showing excessive emission of exhaust gases due to poor engine adjustments or other inefficient operating conditions shall not be operated until corrective adjustments or repairs are made.
Biological Resources	
BR-1	Vegetation shall be preserved and protected from damage by construction operations to the maximum extent practicable. Removal of brush and trees will be limited to those necessary for construction of the line and/or pose a threat to safe and reliable operation and maintenance of the line, or as otherwise determined by BLM. There will be no clear cutting within the ROW unless specifically approved in writing by BLM.
BR-2	The contractor shall not cross any wetland and riparian areas, unless specifically approved in writing by BLM. Approval is required by BLM.
BR-3	On completion of the work, all work areas, except any permanent access roads/trails, shall be regraded, as required, so that all surfaces drain naturally, blend with the natural terrain, and are left in a condition that will facilitate natural revegetation, provide for

	proper drainage and prevent erosion.
BR-4	All construction materials and debris shall be removed from the project area in a timely manner.
BR-5	Should any previously unknown populations of the Federally listed plants be discovered, PSCo's contractor will inform PSCo and the BLM to assure compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and ensuing mitigation can proceed to ensure timely completion of the proposed project.
Cultural Resources	
CR-1	Should any previously unknown historic/prehistoric sites or artifacts be encountered during construction, all land altering activities at that location will be immediately suspended and the discovery left intact until such time that BLM is notified and appropriate measures taken to assure compliance the National Historic Preservation Act and enabling legislation.
Fire Prevention/Control	
FP-1	The contractor shall maintain in all construction vehicles a current list of local emergency response providers and methods of contact/communication.
Land Use	
LU-1	The contractor shall limit movement of crews, vehicles and equipment on the ROW and approved access roads to minimize damage to property and disruption of normal land use activity.
LU-2	The contractor shall maintain all fences and gates during the construction period. Any fence or gate damaged during construction will be repaired immediately by the contractor.
LU-3	The contractor shall eliminate, at the earliest opportunity, all construction ruts that are hazardous to agricultural operations and/or movement of vehicles and equipment. Such ruts shall be leveled, filled and graded, or otherwise eliminated in an approved manner. Damage to ditches, tile drains, culverts, terraces, local roads and other similar land use features shall be corrected as necessary by the contractor. The land and facilities shall be restored as nearly as practicable to their original condition.
Noise	
N-1	Construction vehicles and equipment shall be maintained in proper operating condition and shall be equipped with manufacturers' standard noise control devices or better (e.g. mufflers, engine enclosures).
Soils	
S-1	All soils compacted by movement of construction vehicles and equipment, shall be 1.) loosened and leveled harrowing or disking to approximate pre-construction contours and 2.) reseeded with certified weed-free native grasses and mulched (except in cultivated fields). The specific seed mix(s) and rate(s) of application will be determined by the BLM.
S-2	Excavated material not used in the backfilling of poles shall be spread around each pole or transported off-site to a BLM approved disposal location. Disturbed areas shall then be regraded to approximate pre-construction contours and reseeded as specified in S-1.
Traffic	
T-1	The contractor shall make all necessary provisions for conformance with federal, state

	and local traffic safety standards and shall conduct construction operations so as to offer the least possible obstruction and inconvenience to public traffic.
Water Quality	
WQ-1	Construction activities shall be performed by methods that prevent entrance or accidental spillage of solid matter, contaminants debris, and other objectionable pollutants and wastes into flowing streams or dry water courses, lakes and underground water sources. Such pollutants and wastes include, but are not restricted to, refuse, garbage, cement, concrete, sanitary waste, industrial waste, radioactive substances, oil and other petroleum products, aggregate processing tailings, mineral salts and thermal pollution.
WQ-2	Borrow pits shall be so excavated that water will not collect and stand therein. Before being abandoned, the sides of borrow pits shall be brought to stable slopes, with slope intersections shaped to carry the natural contour of adjacent, undisturbed terrain into the pit or borrow area, giving a natural appearance. Waste piles shall be shaped to provide a natural appearance.
WQ-3	Dewatering work for structure foundations or earthwork operations adjacent to, or encroaching on, streams or water courses shall not be performed without prior approval by BLM or the applicable land managing agency.
WQ-4	Excavated material or other construction materials shall not be stockpiled or deposited near or on stream banks, lake shorelines or other water course perimeters where they can be washed away by high water or storm runoff or can in any way encroach upon the actual water source itself.
WQ-5	Waste waters from construction operations shall not enter streams, water courses or other surface waters without use of such turbidity control methods as settling ponds, gravel-filter entrapment dikes, approved flocculating processes that are not harmful to fish, recirculation systems for washing of aggregates or other approved methods. Any such waste waters discharged into surface waters shall be essentially free of settleable material. Settleable material is defined as that material that will settle from the water by gravity during a 1-hour quiescent period.

10.0 Environmental Resource Surveys

10.1 Cultural Resources Surveys

Intensive cultural resources surveys of the project area were performed prior to construction activities. The environmental surveys were conducted to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470 *et sec* PL 89-665), and the Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1974 (16 USC 470, PL 96-95). Identification and evaluation of historic properties, and land assessments and resolution of adverse effect would be determined through consultation by the BLM, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and consulting parties, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and implementing regulations (36 CFR 800). Treatment plans may include avoidance measures, measures to minimize and mitigate adverse effects, monitoring during construction, and a process for consultation about inadvertent discoveries made during construction.

In addition, for private and state land, unmarked human burials and unmarked human burial grounds are protected by the Cultural Properties Act (NMSA Title 4 Chapter 10 part 11 section 8.4). If human remains are encountered during construction, all work would immediately stop in the vicinity of the discovery, and the remains will be protected in place. If the discovery is made the appropriate local law enforcement authority would be notified immediately, followed by a simultaneous notification to the BLM. The BLM would assume responsibility for notifying other appropriate agencies and/or landowners including tribal authorities. After BLM has verified compliance with the appropriate laws and regulations, permission to resume construction would be authorized.

If during construction, PSCo's contractor discovers any historic or prehistoric ruin, monument or site, or any object of antiquity subject to the Antiquities Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225; 16 U.S.C. Secs. 431-433) and 43 C.F.R., Part 3, all activities in the area would be suspended immediately. The discovery would be left intact and would immediately be reported to the BLM. Work would not proceed in the area until it is authorized by the BLM. Title to any relics, artifacts, fossils or other items of historical or archaeological value is expressly reserved by the landowner or governmental agency having jurisdiction.

Indirect impacts would be controlled by limiting access to cultural resources, educating employees about the significance of cultural resources and implementing a strict management policy restricting the causal collection of artifacts from the project area. All construction and monitoring personnel would be briefed on protective measures implemented for cultural resources and the importance of resource preservation.

10.2 Endangered Species Surveys

Intensive rare plant surveys have been completed per guidance provided by the BLM Grand Junction Field office and BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office. Populations of Colorado hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus,* threatened), an Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species, have been identified within the project corridor and along proposed access routes. Potential habitat for DeBeque Phacelia (*Phacelia submutica*), a species proposed to be listed as threatened under the ESA, also occurs within the project corridor and along the access routes. A biological assessment (BA) has been prepared to identify avoidance and minimization measures.

The following section is a summary of the regulations/guidance that BLM must adhere to regarding consultation procedures, in the event a "may affect" determination could occur with the outcome of surveys. This would have to be analyzed at the EA level to prevent a delay in project completion in the event a finding occurs.

Under BLM Manual 6840 - Special Status Species Management, "the BLM shall conserve listed species and the ecosystems upon which they depend and shall use existing authority in furtherance of the purposes of the ESA. Secondly, the BLM shall "ensure that all actions authorized, funded, or carried out by the BLM are in compliance with the ESA."

1 The Endangered Species Act. On December 28, 1973, The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq*.) became law and superseded earlier endangered species legislation, passed in 1966 and 1969, which focused on animals and which provided only limited protection to listed species. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 was the first Federal legislation to include a comprehensive effort to conserve plants and wildlife. The provisions of the ESA, as amended, apply to plants and animals that have been listed as endangered or threatened, those proposed for being listed, and designated and proposed critical habitat. The responsibility for carrying out the ESA was assigned to the Federal Government (50 CFR Part 402).

- **Section 9 (Prohibited Acts).** This section identifies prohibited acts by any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, relating to species protected under the ESA. Except as authorized under Section 7 (o) or Section 10 (a) of the ESA, the prohibited acts include:
    1. The BLM shall not take endangered species of fish or wildlife.
    2. With respect to endangered plants, the BLM shall not remove or reduce to possession any such species from areas under Federal jurisdiction; maliciously damage or destroy any such species or any such area; or remove, cut, dig up, or damage or destroy any such species on any other area in knowing violation of any law or regulation of any State or in the course of any violation of a state criminal trespass law.
    3. The BLM shall not violate any regulation established under Section 4 of the ESA pertaining to threatened fish and wildlife or plants.

- **Section 10 (Exceptions to Prohibited Acts).** This section identifies means by which exceptions to Section 9 of the ESA can occur for activities that include scientific purposes, establishment of experimental populations, or take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity. The BLM shall acquire appropriate permits or authorizations to comply with the ESA and implementing regulations if its actions would result in a prohibited act.

- **Section 11 (Penalties and Enforcement).** Within its authority, BLM may modify, suspend or revoke the lease, license, permit or other agreement authorizing the use of BLM managed lands, of any person who is convicted of a criminal violation of the ESA or any regulation, permit, or certificate issued pursuant to the ESA.

11.0 Operation and Maintenance

11.1 Inspection

Structures would be inspected approximately annually, or as needed, for evidence of maintenance requirements. Following weather incidents, more frequent inspections may be required. Access for inspection would be via pickup truck on designated improved or drive-in access routes, and on foot for designated walk-in access. Patrols may also take place via windshield survey from I-70 or other area access roads. Designated turnaround points would be used if required.

11.2 Work schedule

Normal work schedule would be weekdays (Monday through Friday), approximately from 8am to 5pm. Work schedules may be dictated by CDOT. Emergency situations may result in activities outside the normal work schedule. Work would be completed when weather permits year round, but normally would occur between March and October.

11.3 Fire Control

Spark arresters are required for equipment generating sparks, including ATVs and chainsaws. No smoking will be allowed during construction activities. Common sense practices regarding heat/spark sources, particularly in dry conditions, should be followed. Avoiding parking hot vehicles on dry shrubs and other logical avoidance practices would be followed.

12.0 References

Colorado Department of Agriculture. 2010. Available at: http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheader=application%2Fpdf&blobheadername1=Content-Disposition&blobheadername2=MDT-Type&blobheadervalue1=inline%3B+filename%3D150%2F152%2FWeed+list+11-17-09.pdf&blobheadervalue2=abinary%3B+charset%3DUTF-8&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1251602601181&ssbinary=true. Last accessed: May 19, 2011.

Garfield County. 2002. Garfield County Noxious Weed Management Plan. Prepared by Garfield County Vegetation Management and the Garfield County Weed Advisory Board. Adopted by the Board of County Commissioners May 1, 2000, Revegetation Guidelines and Reclamation Standards Amended May 7, 2001. Resolution #2002-94. 46 p.

HDR Engineering (HDR). 2011. Construction Stormwater Management Plan; Grand Valley - De Beque 115kV Transmission Upgrade. Prepared for Xcel Energy. January.

Mesa County Noxious Weed Management Plan (Mesa County). 2001. Available at: http://www.mesacounty.us/pest/pestcontrol/weeds.pdf. Last accessed: May 19, 2011.

APPENDIX A
HERBICIDES APPROVED FOR USE ON BLM LANDS

Herbicides Approved for Use on BLM Lands in Accordance with the 17 Western States PEIS ROD and Oregon EIS ROD*
Update September 1, 2011

INGREDIENT	STATES WITH APPROVAL BASED UPON CURRENT EIS/ROD	TRADE NAME	MANUFACTURER	EPA REG. NUMBER	CA REG. **
Bromacil	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND,	Bromacil 80DF	Alligare, LLC	81927-4	Y
	NE, NM, NV, OK, OR-East, SD,	Hyvar X	DuPont Crop Protection	352-287	Y
	TX, UT, WA, WY	Hyvar XL	DuPont Crop Protection	352-346	Y
Bromacil + Diuron	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND,	Bromacil/Diuron 40/40	Alligare, LLC	81927-3	Y
	NE, NM, NV, OK, OR-East, SD,	Krovar I DF	DuPont Crop Protection	352-505	Y
	TX, UT, WA, WY	Weed Blast Res. Weed Cont.	Loveland Products Inc.	34704-576	N
		DiBro 2+2	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-227	Y
		DiBro 4+4	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-235	N
		DiBro 4+2	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-386	N
		Weed Blast 4G	SSI Maxim	34913-19	N
Chlorsulfuron	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND,	Alligare Chlorsulfuron	Alligare, LLC	81927-43	N
	NE, NM, NV, OK, OR-East, SD,	Telar DF	DuPont Crop Protection	352-522	Y
	TX, UT, WA, WY	Telar XP	DuPont Crop Protection	352-654	Y
		NuFarm Chlorsulf SPC 75 WDG Herbicide	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-672	N
		Chlorsulfuron E-Pro 75 WDG	Nufarm Americas Inc.	79676-72	N
Clopyralid	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND,	Spur	Albaugh, Inc.	42750-89	Y
	NE, NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX,	Pyramid R&P	Albaugh, Inc.	42750-94	N
	UT, WA, WY	Clopyralid 3	Alligare, LLC	42750-94-81927	Y
		Cody Herbicide	Alligare, LLC	81927-28	Y
		Reclaim	Dow AgroSciences	62719-83	N
		Stinger	Dow AgroSciences	62719-73	Y
		Transline	Dow AgroSciences	62719-259	Y
		CleanSlate	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-491	Y
Clopyralid + 2,4-D	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND,	Commando	Albaugh, Inc.	42750-92	N
	NE, NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX,	Curtail	Dow AgroSciences	62719-48	N
	UT, WA, WY	Cutback	Nufarm Americas Inc.	71368-72	N
2,4-D	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND,	Agrisolution 2,4-D LV6	Agriliance, L.L.C.	1381-101	N
	NE, NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX,	Agrisolution 2,4-D Amine 4	Agriliance, L.L.C.	1381-103	N

INGREDIENT	STATES WITH APPROVAL BASED UPON CURRENT EIS/ROD	TRADE NAME	MANUFACTURER	EPA REG. NUMBER	CA REG. **
	UT, WA, WY	Agrisolution 2,4-D LV4	Agriliance, L.L.C.	1381-102	N
2,4-D - cont.		2,4-D Amine 4	Albaugh, Inc./Agri Star	42750-19	Y
		2,4-D LV 4	Albaugh, Inc./Agri Star	42750-15	Y
		Solve 2,4-D	Albaugh, Inc./Agri Star	42750-22	Y
		2,4-D LV 6	Albaugh, Inc./Agri Star	42750-20	N
		Five Star	Albaugh, Inc./Agri Star	42750-49	N
		D-638	Albaugh, Inc./Agri Star	42750-36	N
		Alligare 2,4-D Amine	Alligare, LLC	81927-38	N
		2,4-D LV6	Helena Chemical Company	4275-20-5905	N
		2,4-D Amine	Helena Chemical Company	5905-72	N
		2,4-D Amine 4	Helena Chemical Company	42750-19-5905	N
		Opti-Amine	Helena Chemical Company	5905-501	N
		Barrage HF	Helena Chemical Company	5905-529	N
		HardBall	Helena Chemical Company	5905-549	N
		Unison	Helena Chemical Company	5905-542	N
		Clean Amine	Loveland Products Inc.	34704-120	N
		Low Vol 4 Ester Weed Killer	Loveland Products Inc.	34704-124	N
		Low Vol 6 Ester Weed Killer	Loveland Products Inc.	34704-125	N
		Saber	Loveland Products Inc.	34704-803	N
		Salvo	Loveland Products Inc.	34704-609	N
		Savage DS	Loveland Products Inc.	34704-606	Y
		Aqua-Kleen	Nufarm Americas Inc.	71368-4	N
		Aqua-Kleen	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-378	N
		Esteron 99C	Nufarm Americas Inc.	62719-9-71368	N
		Weedar 64	Nufarm Americas Inc.	71368-1	Y
		Weedone LV-4	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-139-71368	Y
		Weedone LV-4 Solventless	Nufarm Americas Inc.	71368-14	Y
		Weedone LV-6	Nufarm Americas Inc.	71368-11	Y
		Formula 40	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-357	Y
		2,4-D LV 6 Ester	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-95	Y
		Platoon	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-145	N
		WEEDstroy AM-40	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-145	Y
		Hi-Dep	PBI Gordon Corp.	2217-703	N
		2,4-D Amine	Setre (Helena)	5905-72	N
		Barrage LV Ester	Setre (Helena)	5905-504	N
		2,4-D LV4	Setre (Helena)	5905-90	N
		2,4-D LV6	Setre (Helena)	5905-93	N
		Clean Crop Amine 4	UAP-Platte Chem. Co.	34704-5 CA	Y
		Clean Crop Low Vol 6 Ester	UAP-Platte Chem. Co.	34704-125	N
		Salvo LV Ester	UAP-Platte Chem. Co.	34704-609	N
		2,4-D 4# Amine Weed Killer	UAP-Platte Chem. Co.	34704-120	N

INGREDIENT	STATES WITH APPROVAL BASED UPON CURRENT EIS/ROD	TRADE NAME	MANUFACTURER	EPA REG. NUMBER	CA REG. **
2,4-D - cont.		Clean Crop LV-4 ES	UAP-Platte Chem. Co.	34704-124	N
		Savage DS	UAP-Platte Chem. Co.	34704-606	Y
		Cornbelt 4 lb. Amine	Van Diest Supply Co.	11773-2	N
		Cornbelt 4# LoVol Ester	Van Diest Supply Co.	11773-3	N
		Cornbelt 6# LoVol Ester	Van Diest Supply Co.	11773-4	N
		Amine 4	Wilbur-Ellis Co.	2935-512	N
		Lo Vol-4	Wilbur-Ellis Co.	228-139-2935	N
		Lo Vol-6 Ester	Wilbur-Ellis Co.	228-95-2935	N
		Base Camp Amine 4	Wilbur-Ellis Co.	71368-1-2935	N
		Broadrange 55	Wilbur-Ellis Co.	2217-813-2935	N
		Agrisolution 2,4-D LV6	Winflied Solutions, LLC	1381-101	N
		Agrisolution 2,4-D Amine 4	Winfield Solutions, LLC	1381-103	N
		Agrisolution 2,4-D LV4	Winfield Solutions, LLC	1381-102	N
Dicamba	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY	Dicamba DMA	Albaugh, Inc./Agri Star	42750-40	N
		Vision	Albaugh, Inc.	42750-98	N
		Cruise Control	Alligare, LLC	42750-40-81927	N
		Banvel	Arysta LifeScience N.A. Corp.	66330-276	Y
		Clarity	BASF Corporation	7969-137	Y
		Vision	Helena Chemical Company	5905-576	Y
		Rifle	Loveland Products Inc.	34704-861	Y
		Banvel	Micro Flo Company	51036-289	Y
		Diablo	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-379	Y
		Vanquish Herbicide	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-397	Y
		Vanquish	Syngenta	100-884	N
		Sterling Blue	Winfield Solutions, LLC	7969-137-1381	Y
Dicamba + 2,4-D	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY	Range Star	Albaugh, Inc./Agri Star	42750-55	N
		Weedmaster	BASF Ag. Products	7969-133	Y
		Brush-Rhap	Helena Chemical Company	5905-568	N
		Latigo	Helena Chemical Company	5905-564	N
		Outlaw	Helena Chemical Company	5905-574	N
		Rifle-D	Loveland Products Inc.	34704-869	N
		KambaMaster	Nufarm Americas Inc.	71368-34	N
		Veteran 720	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-295	Y
		Weedmaster	Nufarm Americas Inc.	71368-34	Y
		Brash	Winfield Solutions, LLC	1381-202	N
Dicamba + Diflufenzopyr	AZ, CO, ID, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY	Distinct	BASF Corporation	7969-150	Y
		Overdrive	BASF Corporation	7969-150	N

NOTE: In accordance with the Record of Decision for the *Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (PEIS), the aerial application of this herbicide is prohibited.

INGREDIENT	STATES WITH APPROVAL BASED UPON CURRENT EIS/ROD	TRADE NAME	MANUFACTURER	EPA REG. NUMBER	CA REG. **
Diquat	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND,	Alligare Diquat	Alligare, LLC	81927-35	Y
	NE, NM, NV, OK, SD, TX, UT,	NuFarm Diquat SPC 2 L Herbicide	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-675	N
	WA, WY	Diquat SPC 2 L Herbicide	Nufarm Americas Inc.	79676-75	Y
		Diquat E-Ag 2L	Nufarm Americas Inc.	79676-75	Y
		Reward	Syngena Professional Products	100-1091	Y
Diuron	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND,	Diuron 80DF	Agriliance, L.L.C.	9779-318	N
	NE, NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX,	Diuron 80DF	Alligare, LLC	81927-12	Y
	UT, WA, WY	Karmex DF	DuPont Crop Protection	352-692	Y
		Karmex XP	DuPont Crop Protection	352-692	Y
		Karmex IWC	DuPont Crop Protection	352-692	Y
		Direx 4L	DuPont Crop Protection	352-678	Y
		Direx 80DF	Griffin Company	1812-362	Y
		Direx 4L	Griffin Company	1812-257	Y
		Diuron 4L	Loveland Products Inc.	34704-854	Y
		Diuron 80 WDG	Loveland Products Inc.	34704-648	N
		Diuron 4L	Makteshim Agan of N.A.	66222-54	N
		Diuron 80WDG	UAP-Platte Chem. Co.	34704-648	N
		Vegetation Man. Diuron 80 DF	Vegetation Man., LLC	66222-51-74477	N
		Diuron-DF	Wilbur-Ellis	00352-00-508-02935	N
		Diuron 80DF	Winfield Solutions, LLC	9779-318	N
Fluridone	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND,	Avast!	SePRO	67690-30	Y
	NE, NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX,	Sonar AS	SePRO	67690-4	Y
	UT, WA, WY	Sonar Precision Release	SePRO	67690-12	Y
		Sonar Q	SePRO	67690-3	Y
		Sonar SRP	SePRO	67690-3	Y
Glyphosate	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND,	Aqua Star	Albaugh, Inc./Agri Star	42750-59	Y
	NE, NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX,	Forest Star	Albaugh, Inc./Agri Star	42570-61	Y
	UT, WA, WY	GlyStar Gold	Albaugh, Inc./Agri Star	42750-61	Y
		Gly Star Original	Albaugh, Inc./Agri Star	42750-60	Y
		Gly Star Plus	Albaugh, Inc./Agri Star	42750-61	Y
		Gly Star Pro	Albaugh, Inc./Agri Star	42750-61	Y
		Glyphosate 4 PLUS	Alligare, LLC	81927-9	Y
		Glyphosate 5.4	Alligare, LLC	81927-8	Y
		Glyfos	Cheminova	4787-31	Y
		Glyfos PRO	Cheminova	67760-57	Y
		Glyfos Aquatic	Cheminova	4787-34	Y
		ClearOut 41 Plus	Chem. Prod. Tech., LLC	70829-3	N
		Accord Concentrate	Dow AgroSciences	62719-324	Y
		Accord SP	Dow AgroSciences	62719-322	Y

INGREDIENT	STATES WITH APPROVAL BASED UPON CURRENT EIS/ROD	TRADE NAME	MANUFACTURER	EPA REG. NUMBER	CA REG. **
Glyphosate, cont		Accord XRT	Dow AgroSciences	62719-517	Y
		Accord XRT II	Dow AgroSciences	62719-556	Y
		Glypro	Dow AgroSciences	62719-324	Y
		Glypro Plus	Dow AgroSciences	62719-322	Y
		Rodeo	Dow AgroSciences	62719-324	Y
		Showdown	Helena Chemical Company	71368-25-5905	Y
		Mirage	Loveland Products Inc.	34704-889	Y
		Mirage Plus	Loveland Products Inc.	34704-890	Y
		Aquamaster	Monsanto	524-343	Y
		Roundup Original	Monsanto	524-445	Y
		Roundup Original II	Monsanto	524-454	Y
		Roundup Original II CA	Monsanto	524-475	Y
		Honcho	Monsanto	524-445	Y
		Honcho Plus	Monsanto	524-454	Y
		Roundup PRO	Monsanto	524-475	Y
		Roundup PRO Concentrate	Monsanto	524-529	Y
		Roundup PRO Dry	Monsanto	524-505	Y
		Roundup PROMAX	Monsanto	524-579	Y
		Aqua Neat	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-365	Y
		Credit Xtreme	Nufarm Americas Inc.	71368-81	Y
		Foresters	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-381	Y
		Razor	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-366	Y
		Razor Pro	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-366	Y
		GlyphoMate 41	PBI/Gordon Corporation	2217-847	Y
		AquaPro Aquatic Herbicide	SePRO Corporation	62719-324-67690	Y
		Rattler	Setre (Helena)	524-445-5905	Y
		Buccaneer	Tenkoz	55467-10	Y
		Buccaneer Plus	Tenkoz	55467-9	Y
		Mirage Herbicide	UAP-Platte Chem. Co.	524-445-34704	Y
		Mirage Plus Herbicide	UAP-Platte Chem. Co.	524-454-34704	Y
		Gly-4 Plus	Universal Crop Protection Alliance, LLC	72693-1	Y
		Gly-4 Plus	Universal Crop Protection Alliance, LLC	42750-61-72693	Y
		Gly-4	Universal Crop Protection Alliance, LLC	42750-60-72693	Y
		Glyphosate 4	Vegetation Man., LLC	73220-6-74477	Y
		Agrisolutions Cornerstone	Winfield Solutions, LLC	1381-191	Y
		Agrisolutions Cornerstone Plus	Winfield Solutions, LLC	1381-192	Y
		Agrisolutions Rascal	Winfield Solutions, LLC	1381-191	N
		Agrisolutions Rascal Plus	Winfield Solutions, LLC	1381-192	N
Glyphosate +	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND,	Landmaster BW	Albaugh, Inc./Agri Star	42570-62	N
2,4-D	NE, NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX,	Campaign	Monsanto	524-351	N

INGREDIENT	STATES WITH APPROVAL BASED UPON CURRENT EIS/ROD	TRADE NAME	MANUFACTURER	EPA REG. NUMBER	CA REG. **
	UT, WA, WY	Landmaster BW	Monsanto	524-351	N
Hexazinone	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND,	Velpar ULW	DuPont Crop Protection	352-450	N
	NE, NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX,	Velpar L	DuPont Crop Protection	352-392	Y
	UT, WA, WY	Velpar DF	DuPont Crop Protection	352-581	Y
		Velossa	Helena Chemical Company	5905-579	Y
		Pronone MG	Pro-Serve	33560-21	N
		Pronone 10G	Pro-Serve	33560-21	Y
		Pronone 25G	Pro-Serve	33560-45	N
Hexazinone + Sulfometuron methyl	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND, NE,	Westar	DuPont Crop Protection	352-626	Y
	NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX, UT,	Oustar	DuPont Crop Protection	352-603	Y
	WA, WY				
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Imazapic	AZ, CO, ID, MT, ND, NE, NM,	Panoramic 2SL	Alligare, LLC	66222-141-81927	N
	NV, OK, OR, SD, TX, UT, WA,	Plateau	BASF	241-365	N
	WY				
Imazapic + Glyphosate	AZ, CO, ID, MT, ND, NE, NM,	Journey	BASF	241-417	N
	NV, OK, OR, SD, TX, UT, WA,				
	WY				
Imazapyr	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND,	Imazapyr 2SL	Alligare, LLC	81927-23	N
	OR, NE, NM, NV, OK, SD, TX,	Imazapyr 4SL	Alligare, LLC	81927-24	N
	UT, WA, WY	Ecomazapyr 2SL	Alligare, LLC	81927-22	N
		Arsenal Railroad Herbicide	BASF	241-273	N
		Chopper	BASF	241-296	Y
		Arsenal Applicators Conc.	BASF	241-299	N
		Arsenal	BASF	241-346	N
		Arsenal PowerLine	BASF	241-431	N
		Stalker	BASF	241-398	N
		Habitat	BASF	241-426	Y
		Polaris	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-534	Y
		Polaris AC	Nufarm Americas Inc.	241-299-228	Y
		Polaris AC	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-480	Y
		Polaris AQ	Nufarm Americas Inc.	241-426-228	Y
		Polaris RR	Nufarm Americas Inc.	241-273-228	N
		Polaris SP	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-536	Y
		Polaris SP	Nufarm Americas Inc.	241-296-228	Y
		Polaris Herbicide	Nufarm Americas Inc.	241-346-228	N
		Habitat Herbicide	SePRO	241-426-67690	Y

INGREDIENT	STATES WITH APPROVAL BASED UPON CURRENT EIS/ROD	TRADE NAME	MANUFACTURER	EPA REG. NUMBER	CA REG. **
		SSI Maxim Arsenal 0.5G	SSI Maxim Co., Inc.	34913-23	N
		Ecomazapyr 2 SL	Vegetation Man., LLC	74477-6	N
		Imazapyr 2 SL	Vegetation Man., LLC	74477-4	N
		Imazapyr 4 SL	Vegetation Man., LLC	74477-5	N
Imazapyr + Diuron	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND, OR, NE, NM, NV, OK, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY	Mojave 70 EG	Alligare, LLC	74477-9-81927	N
		Sahara DG	BASF	241-372	N
		Imazuron E-Pro	Etigra, LLC	79676-54	N
		SSI Maxim Topsite 2.5G	SSI Maxim Co., Inc.	34913-22	N
Imazapyr + Metsulfuron methyl	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND, OR, NE, NM, NV, OK, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY	Lineage Clearstand	DuPont Crop Protection	352-766	N
Imazapyr + Sulfometuron methyl + Metsulfuron methyl	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND, OR, NE, NM, NV, OK, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY	Lineage HWC	DuPont Crop Protection	352-765	N
		Lineage Prep	DuPont Crop Protection	352-767	N
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Metsulfuron methyl	AK, AZ, CO, ID, MT, ND, OR, NE, NM, NV, OK, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY	MSM 60	Alligare, LLC	81927-7	N
		AmTide MSM 60DF Herbicide	AmTide, LLC	83851-3	N
		Escort DF	DuPont Crop Protection	352-439	N
		Escort XP	DuPont Crop Protection	352-439	N
		MSM E-Pro 60 EG Herbicide	Etigra, LLC	81959-14	N
		MSM E-AG 60 EG Herbicide	Etigra, LLC	81959-14	N
		Patriot	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-391	N
		PureStand	Nufarm Americas Inc.	71368-38	N
		Metsulfuron Methyl DF	Vegetation Man., L.L.C.	74477-2	N
Metsulfuron methyl + Chlorsulfuron	AK, AZ, CO, ID, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OK, OR-East, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY	Cimarron Extra	DuPont Crop Protection	352-669	N
		Cimarron Plus	DuPont Crop Protection	352-670	N
Metsulfuron methyl + Dicamba + 2,4-D	AK, AZ, CO, ID, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY	Cimarron MAX	DuPont Crop Protection	352-615	N
Picloram	AZ, CO, ID, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY	Triumph K	Albaugh, Inc.	42750-81	N
		Triumph 22K	Albaugh, Inc.	42750-79	N
		Picloram K	Alligare, LLC	42750-81-81927	N
		Picloram K	Alligare, LLC	81927-17	N

INGREDIENT	STATES WITH APPROVAL BASED UPON CURRENT EIS/ROD	TRADE NAME	MANUFACTURER	EPA REG. NUMBER	CA REG. **
		Picloram 22K	Alligare, LLC	42750-79-81927	N
		Picloram 22K	Alligare, LLC	81927-18	N
		Grazon PC	Dow AgroSciences	62719-181	N
		OutPost 22K	Dow AgroSciences	62719-6	N
		Tordon K	Dow AgroSciences	62719-17	N
		Tordon 22K	Dow AgroSciences	62719-6	N
		Trooper 22K	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-535	N
Picloram + 2,4-D	AZ, CO, ID, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY	GunSlinger	Albaugh, Inc.	42750-80	N
		Picloram + D	Alligare, LLC	42750-80-81927	N
		Picloram + D	Alligare, LLC	81927-16	N
		Tordon 101M	Dow AgroSciences	62719-5	N
		Tordon 101 R Forestry	Dow AgroSciences	62719-31	N
		Tordon RTU	Dow AgroSciences	62719-31	N
		Grazon P+D	Dow AgroSciences	62719-182	N
		HiredHand P+D	Dow AgroSciences	62719-182	N
		Pathway	Dow AgroSciences	62719-31	N
		Trooper 101	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-561	N
		Trooper P + D	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-530	N
Picloram + 2,4-D + Dicamba	AZ, CO, ID, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY	Trooper Extra	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-586	N
Sulfometuron methyl	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND, OR, NE, NM, NV, OK, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY	SFM 75	Alligare, LLC	81927-26	Y
		Oust DF	DuPont Crop Protection	352-401	N
		Oust XP	DuPont Crop Protection	352-601	Y
		SFM E-Pro 75EG	Etigra, LLC	79676-16	Y
		Spyder	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-408	Y
		SFM 75	Vegetation Man., L.L.C.	72167-11-74477	Y
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Sulfometuron methyl + Chlorsulfuron	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OK, OR-East, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY	Landmark XP	DuPont Crop Protection	352-645	Y
NOTE: In accordance with the Record of Decision for the *Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (PEIS), the aerial application of this herbicide is prohibited.					
Sulfometuron methyl + Metsulfuron methyl	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND, OR, NE, NM, NV, OK, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY	Oust Extra	DuPont Crop Protection	352-622	N
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Tebuthiuron	AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND, NE,	Alligare Tebuthiuron 80 WG	Alligare, LLC	81927-37	Y

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	NM, NV, OK, OR-East, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY	Alligare Tebuthiuron 20 P	Alligare, LLC	81927-41	Y
		Spike 20P	Dow AgroSciences	62719-121	Y
		Spike 80DF	Dow AgroSciences	62719-107	Y
		SpraKil S-5 Granules	SSI Maxim Co., Inc.	34913-10	Y
Tebuthiuron + Diuron	AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OK, OR-East, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY	SpraKil SK-13 Granular	SSI Maxim Co., Inc.	34913-15	Y
		SpraKil SK-26 Granular	SSI Maxim Co., Inc.	34913-16	Y
Triclopyr	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND, OR, NE, NM, NV, OK, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY	Triclopyr 4EC	Alligare, LLC	72167-53-74477	Y
		Triclopyr 3	Alligare, LLC	81927-13	Y
		Triclopry 4	Alligare, LLC	81927-11	Y
		Element 3A	Dow AgroSciences	62719-37	Y
		Element 4	Dow AgroSciences	62719-40	Y
		Forestry Garlon XRT	Dow AgroSciences	62719-553	Y
		Garlon 3A	Dow AgroSciences	62719-37	Y
		Garlon 4	Dow AgroSciences	62719-40	Y
		Garlon 4 Ultra	Dow AgroSciences	62719-527	Y
		Remedy	Dow AgroSciences	62719-70	Y
		Remedy Ultra	Dow AgroSciences	62719-552	Y
		Pathfinder II	Dow AgroSciences	62719-176	Y
		Trycera	Helena Chemical Company	5905-580	Y
		Relegate	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-521	Y
		Relegate RTU	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-522	Y
		Tahoe 3A	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-384	Y
		Tahoe 3A	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-518	Y
		Tahoe 3A	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-520	Y
		Tahoe 4E	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-385	Y
		Tahoe 4E Herbicide	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-517	Y
		Renovate 3	SePRO Corporation	62719-37-67690	Y
		Renovate OTF	SePRO Corporation	67690-42	Y
		Ecotriclopyr 3 SL	Vegetation Man., LLC	72167-49-74477	N
		Triclopyr 3 SL	Vegetation Man., LLC	72167-53-74477	N
Triclopyr + 2,4-D	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND, OR, NE, NM, NV, OK, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY	Everett	Alligare, LLC	81927-29	Y
		Crossbow	Dow AgroSciences	62719-260	Y
		Candor	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-565	Y
		Aquasweep	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-316	N
Triclopyr + Clopyralid	AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, ND, OR, NE, NM, NV, OK, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY	Prescott Herbicide	Alligare, LLC	81927-30	Y
		Redeem R&P	Dow AgroSciences	62719-337	Y
		Brazen	Nufarm Americas Inc.	228-564	Y

*** Refer to the complete label prior to considering the use of any herbicide formulation. Label changes can impact the intended use through, such things as, creation or elimination of Special Local Need (SLN) or 24 (c) registrations, changes in application sites, rates and timing of application, county restrictions, etc**
**** Just because a herbicide has a Federal registration, and is approved under the current EIS, it may or may not be registered for use in California. This column identifies those formulations for which there is a California registration.**