Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management
Grand Junction Field Office, Colorado

Permanent access road for Mesa County
DOI-BLM-CO-130-2012-0024-DNA
COC-74788

A. Purpose and Need:

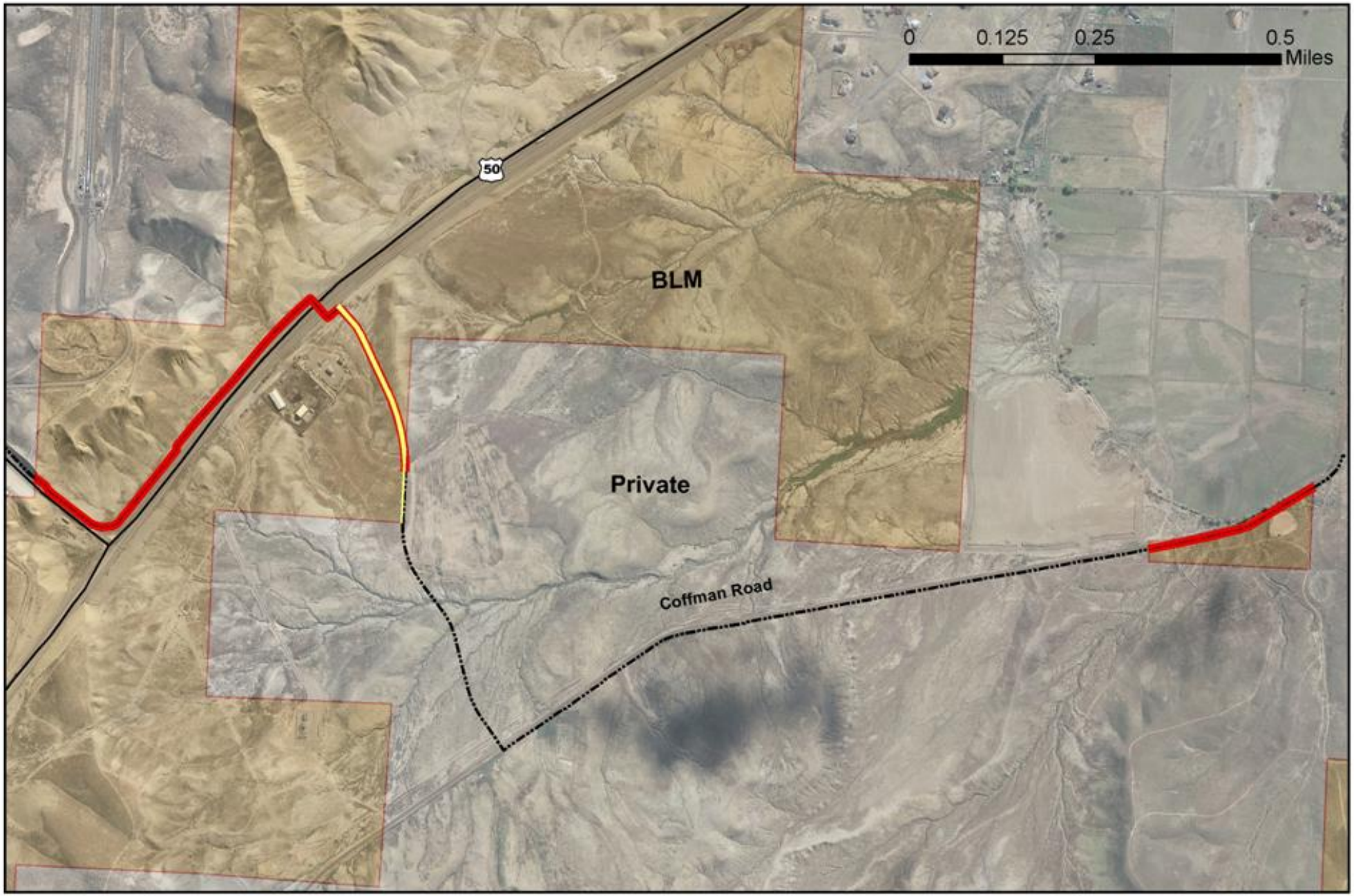
The purpose of the action is to provide a Grant to Mesa County for an access road. The need is for BLM to respond to Mesa County's application per BLM's mandate under the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA). In 2010, Mesa County was authorized to use public lands for the construction, maintenance, and use of a sewer line and temporary access road. The proposed action was needed to provide sanitation services to the growing community of Whitewater. The planned County Road action provided access to private land to the southwest of the project area, connecting Colorado Highway 50 and Coffman Road. It was noted in the initial plan that the temporary road would be upgraded to a permanent road when adequate funding was secured. In the **2010-0017-EA,** Cultural and Biological surveys addressed the anticipated upgrade of the road. The County would like to complete this upgrade and has submitted an application for an 80 foot right of way to construct a road. Granting the requested authorization would allow Mesa County to carry out the proposed action and complete their initial plan.

B. Proposed Action:

The proposed action would convert an existing temporary access road, along a sewer line, to a permanent two lane paved road. The proposed action would require authorization of a ROW for the portion of the proposed permanent road which would cross BLM parcel 2967-023-00-914 located in the W½, Section 3, T2S, R1E, Ute P.M. The road would run adjacent to the sewer line on the south side and will occupy the same location as the temporary road. The road will be approximately 60' wide, 1286' long and cover about 1.5 acres of public land. The permanent road will be paved. The ROW width would be 80 feet wide to accommodate shoulders, storm water structures and maintenance. The construction activities would occur in the fall of 2012 and take approximately 2 months. Paving would occur in the spring of 2013 and take approximately 1 month.

Access Road ROW 35 & 60 ft
Permanent Sewer ROW
Sewer Alignment

Figure 3 - Proposed Rights of Way



C. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: Grand Junction Resource Area RMP Date Approved: January 1987

Decision Number/Page: Pages 2-29

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

D. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

Grand Junction Resource Area RMP Environmental Impact Statement, January 1987

DOI-BLM-CO-130-2010-0017-EA, prepared for the Mesa County sewer line and access road near Whitewater, Colorado.

ES/GJ-6-CO-10-F-008, TAILS 65413-2009-F-0136, Biological Assessment, for section 7 consultation with USFWS.

E. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?

Yes, the current proposed action is substantially the same as the action previously analyzed. The upgrade to the permanent road was part of the proposed action and analyzed in the 2010 EA, and BA.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes, **DOI-BLM-CO-130-2010-0017-EA** addressed these issues.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances?

Yes, the existing analysis remains valid. We are not aware of any new information or circumstances that would require modifications in the analysis.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?

Yes, the methodology and analytical approach used in **DOI-BLM-CO-130-2010-0017-EA** continues to be appropriate for the proposed action.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?

Yes,the direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action are the same as those identified in the existing NEPA document. The proposed permanent road is in the same location as the temporary road and the upgrades have been analyzed in **DOI-BLM-CO-130-2010-0017-EA**. The resources and resource concerns are the same.

6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Yes, the cumulative impacts resulting from the implementation of this proposal are limited and remain substantially unchanged.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes the public involvement and interagency review associated with the existing NEPA document is adequate.

F. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Team members conducting or participating in the NEPA analysis and preparation of this worksheet.

Name	Title
Aline LaForge	Archaeologist
Anna Lincoln	Ecologist/Special Status Species (plants)
Heidi Plank	Wildlife Biologist/ Special Status Species (fish and wildlife)
Scott Gerwe	Geologist/Paleontology Coordinator
Nate Dieterich	Hydrologist (Soils, Water Quality, Air)

Special Status (Plants): The previous analysis of the proposed road is sufficient, and no further analysis is needed. Due to the presence of the Colorado hookless cactus section 7 consultation with FWS was necessary. Onsite conservation measures for the Colorado hookless cactus per Biological Opinion: ES/GJ-6-CO-10-F-008 (USFWS 2010) would include:

- Silt fencing and other storm water management and best management practices (BMPs) would be installed in order to reduce sedimentation and erosion. A Stormwater Management Plan would be prepared and a storm water permit obtained.

- Dust abatement would include spraying the access roads and other construction areas with water. No magnesium chloride would be applied for dust abatement on BLM lands.
- 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 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.

Special Status and Other Wildlife Species): The construction of this site has the potential to impact nesting migratory birds and raptors if disturbance and construction occurs during the breeding season. To avoid impacts to nesting migratory birds and raptors construction activities should not occur between February 1 and August 15. The planned dates for construction are outside this timeframe so impacts are not likely. Additionally most of the right of way was cleared of vegetation and disturbed in 2011 when the sewer line was installed. No impacts are anticipated.

Paleontological Resources: Surface geology is not a Class 4 or 5 Formation and there are no known paleontology sites near the project area, so a pre-construction survey and construction monitor are not required.

Soil/Air Resources: Disturbance associated with the proposed action is located entirely on soil mapping unit 65 (Progresso soils). The Progresso soils are situated on mesa tops and are characterized as being well drained, non-saline, high run-off class, and have a low shrink/swell potential. A Land Health Assessment (LHA) was conducted on public lands in the proposed project area in 2009. Results from the 2009 LHA indicated vegetation communities in the area of the proposed action to be meeting Standard 1 for upland soils. Implementation of the proposed action is not anticipated to alter this finding.

With disturbance associated with grading and alteration of natural permeability rates in the project area (non-native compacted surface) potential exists to:

1. Elevate runoff from the site,
2. Increase erosion resulting from elevated runoff from the site,
3. Increased production of fugitive dust with construction activities and stockpiling soils removed from the graded area.

Mitigation identified under water resources below and standard stipulations/BMPs outlined below will suffice for erosion control and protection of soil resources. To mitigate impacts to air

resources, grading activities should be limited to periods when wind speeds are less than 15 mph. Furthermore, topsoils and spoil from the graded area must be segregated and stabilized (topsoils must end up on top).

Water Resources: The proposed project area is located within water quality stream segment 13a of the Lower Colorado River Basin (CDPHE 2010). 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 13a was listed. Stream segment 13a was not identified on either list, thus water quality is meeting State and PLH Standards.

The proposed action will not directly impact any surface drainage on BLM lands as it is located on a Mesa Top. The proposed access road will directly impact surface water drainages on private land as the road would cross three ephemeral drainages. Large diameter culverts would need to be installed in these locations to accommodate seasonal flooding and mitigate damage to the roadway, stream channels and banks. Impacts to water quality would also result from stormwater runoff originating at disturbed areas. To mitigate potential for these impacts to occur, erosion control measures (such as but not limited to straw waddles, silt fences, or similar flow deflectors/sediment traps) should be implemented as needed. Other standard stipulations and BMPs outlined below are sufficient to protect surface and groundwater resources.

Table 1– Potentially Impacted Resources (double click on boxes to check)

Resources	Not Present On Location	No Impact	Potentially Impacted	Mitigation necessary	Comments included in DNA text	BLM Evaluator Initial & Date
PHYSICAL RESOURCES						
Air and Climate	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	ND 3/20/12
Geological	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	DSG 3/5/12
Mineral Resources	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	DSG 3/5/12
Soils	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	ND 3/20/12
Water (surface & subsurface, floodplains)	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	ND 3/20/12
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES						
Invasive, Non-native Species	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	CLV 4/4/12
Sensitive Species (plants)	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	JT 3/16/12
Sensitive Species (fish and wildlife)	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	JT 3/16/12
Threatened or Endangered Species	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	JT 3/16/12
Vegetation, Forestry	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	JAM 3/5/12
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	CLV 4/4/12
Wildlife	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	JT 3/16/12
HERITAGE RESOURCES AND HUMAN ENV.						
Cultural or Historical	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	AIL 4/10/12
Paleontological	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	DSG 3/5/12
Tribal & American Indian Religious Concerns	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	AIL 4/10/12
Visual Resources	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	CLV 4/4/12
Social	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	CLV 4/4/12
Economic	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	CLV 4/4/12
Environmental Justice	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	CLV 4/4/12
Transportation and Access	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	CLV 4/4/12
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	AK 3/5/12
LAND RESOURCES						
Prime or Unique Farmlands	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	CLV 4/4/12
Recreation	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	CLV 4/4/12
Special Designations (ACEC, SMAs etc.)	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	CLV 4/4/12
Wild and Scenic Rivers	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	CLV 4/4/12
Wilderness	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	CLV 4/4/12
Range Management	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	JAM 3/5/12
Wild Horse and Burros	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	CLV 4/4/12
Land Tenure, ROW, Other Uses	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	CLV 4/4/12

NAME OF PREPARER: Cathy Ventling

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Collin Ewing

DATE: 4/16/12

Conclusion

X Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA. The existing FONSI has already made the finding that the selected alternative would have no significant effects.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

Catherine Robinson

DATE SIGNED: 4/16/12

The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision.