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
Pronghorn Wildlife Water Catchment
DOI-BLM-CO-130-2012-0007-DNA

A. Purpose and Need:

Water is a limiting factor in arid and desert environments. Competition for water exists among antelope, livestock and other wildlife, especially in the late winter and early spring when livestock graze this area and in late summer when many water sources have dried up. Lack of water during the spring fawning period has been identified as a cause for low herd production. Currently, there are few water developments targeted for antelope in the desert area north of Grand Junction, yet antelope are known to frequent this area. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has proposed to install an antelope guzzler near 20 road, where no year round water developments for antelope exist. If installed, antelope will benefit from year-round waters, encouraging distribution of wildlife during dry summer months.

B. Proposed Action:

A guzzler would be placed approximately 4 miles west of Highway 139 and 7 miles north of the town of Mack on BLM lands. The project is located in section 34 in T. 8 S., R. 103 W,. An existing two-track would be used to access the proposed site. The catchment would consist of a metal apron (approximately 600 sq. ft.) with an underground 1700 gallon storage tank, sediment box, drinking "guzzler" with a float valve to control the water level of the guzzler and buried plumbing to support the system (see figure 1 below). The catchment apron would be constructed from brown corrugated roofing material (rather than the reflective corrugated metal shown in figure 1 below) and fence posts would be painted to match the surrounding landscape in order to reduce the visibility of the catchment. A fence would enclose the apron and would be approximately 30 ft. by 40 ft., to keep domestic livestock out.

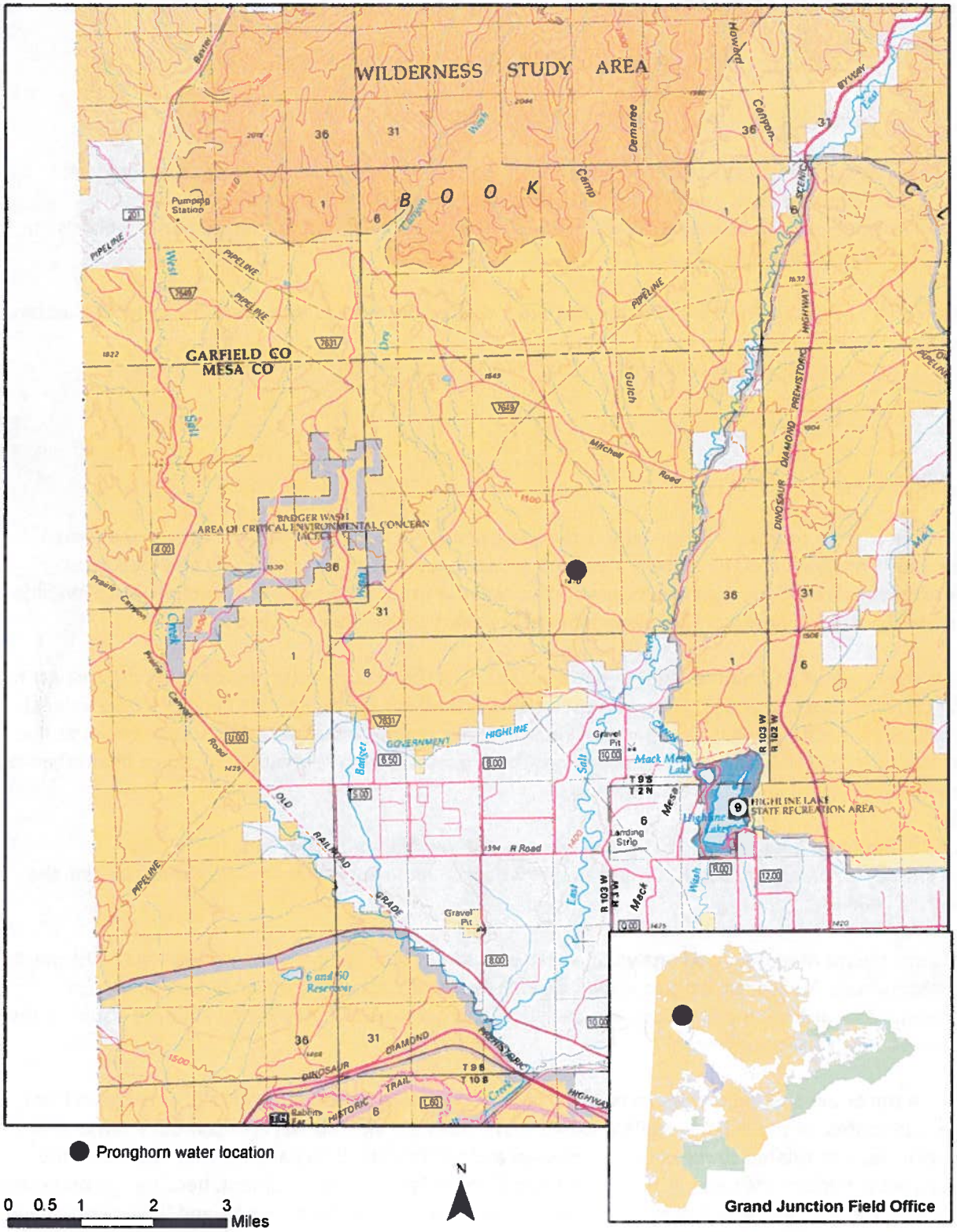
Construction materials would be delivered to the site by pick-up truck and trailer using existing roads. A backhoe would be used to excavate a hole large enough to bury the 1700 gallon fiberglass tank 2 feet below the surface. The hole would be 11' long, 4½' wide and 7½' deep. Above and adjacent to the tank, the apron would be constructed. The sediment box would be placed approximately 2 feet into the ground, between the apron and the tank, to collect water as it drains off the apron, into a gutter system and into the tank below. Approximately 100 feet south of the apron and tank, a drinker would be placed on a small pad (5-7 sq. ft.) of concrete. Buried PVC pipe would connect the sediment box, storage tank and overflow valve to the drinker for water delivery. The fence would enclose the apron, sediment box and storage tank. During tank burial, trenching and pipe laying, fewer than 0.8 acre of soil and vegetation would be disturbed. The storage tank, catchment apron, sediment box, drinker and plumbing would be installed by contractors working for CPW and is estimated to take five to seven days to complete. Once installation is complete the area disturbed from construction activities would be seeded with a seed mix developed to maximize restoration.

The guzzler would be maintained periodically by the BLM and CPW. This would ensure that it is kept functional and that the investment in this wildlife habitat project retains long-term effectiveness.

Impacts would be similar to the other wildlife waters installed in the area and are analyzed in the Wildlife Guzzler EA (CO-130-2008-001-EA).

Figure 1. Photos of a similar guzzler being installed in Utah

Figure 2: Project location



Pronghorn water location

0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles

N

Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

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

Decision Number/Page: Chapter 2, Page 42, Paragraph 1; WM-5-2-14,

Decision Language: Under all alternatives, habitat of the major wildlife species would be actively managed using standard management practices; Wildlife Management: Actively manage the areas shown on Map 10 and listed in Table 11 placing management emphasis on the key species shown.

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

Name of Document: Wildlife Guzzlers, CO-130-2008-001-EA

Date Approved: June 20th, 2005

E. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action largely the same action (or a part of the same action) that was previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document? The current proposed action will use the same type of construction as the Wildlife Guzzler EA. The proposed action falls within the boundary of the area analyzed in that EA.

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? The proposed action area has the same environmental concerns, interests, and resource values as the area analyzed in the existing NEPA document. The proposed action falls within the range of alternatives provided in the original NEPA document.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances? Yes. No circumstances or information has changed that would result in impacts that were not analyzed in the existing 2008 EA.

4. Does the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action? Yes. The area is within the analysis area for the referenced EA and the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing 2008 EA would be the same if a new EA was written.

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, because the proposed action is the same as the action in the preferred alternative of the referenced EA and 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. This action combined with the actions analyzed in the existing EA would contribute to improved water distribution

for wildlife. Cumulative impacts in the area are limited and would remain the same as those analyzed in the referenced EA.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action? This proposed action is consistent with the actions of the existing 2008 EA, in which public scoping was conducted.

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

Name	Title	Review Complete
Heidi Plank	Wildlife Biologist/Special Status Species	11/16/11
Anna Lincoln	Ecologist/Special Status Species	11/25/11
Alissa Leavitt-Reynolds	Archaeologist/ Cultural/ Heritage Resources Native American Religious Concerns	12/20/11
Nathan Dieterich	Hydrologist/ Soils	10/26/11
Chris Pipkin	Visual Resources/ Recreation	11/16/11
Alan Kraus	Hazardous Materials	11/17/11

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources:

Affected Environment: A records search of the general project area, and a Class III inventory of the Area of Potential Effect (APE), as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), was completed by the Grand Junction BLM cultural resource specialist (GJFO CRIR 1011-18). Conditions of the existing cultural environment are incorporated by this reference but the following briefly summarizes cultural resources in the APE. One cultural resource, 5ME3943, a historic line camp was rerecorded during this inventory. The site is was determined to be not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. 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.

Based on the findings, if the following Standard Stipulations are followed, this project will have no effect on significant cultural resources.

Standard Stipulations: 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 would be required of the proponent and all of their subcontractors (Archaeological Resource Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 470hh)

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).

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)).

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.

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

Native American Religious Concerns:
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 the Ute have identified sites that are of concern because of their association with Ute occupation of the area as part of their traditional lands. No traditional cultural properties, unique natural resources, or properties of a type previously identified as being of interest to local tribes, were identified during the cultural resources inventory of the project area. No additional Native American Indian consultation was conducted for the proposed project.

Special Status Species:
The project occurs within habitat for the white tailed prairie dog, kit fox and burrowing owl. However no potential burrows for these species were found at this location. To avoid impacting nesting migratory birds construction will not occur from May 15 to July 15.

The project area is known to contain the BLM Sensitive plant Grand buckwheat. The drinking guzzler was moved on the initial onsite to avoid impacts to the buckwheat. If further movement is required, a follow-up onsite will be required to ensure avoidance of sensitive plants. In general: weedy, degraded areas would be preferred for project placement to avoid suitable and occupied buckwheat habitat. The Grand buckwheat is not known to occur in weedy areas, and appears to be a poor competitor with invasive species.

Water quality/ Hydrology/Soils:
Less than 1 acre of surface disturbance will occur thus a State approved stormwater management plan is not necessary. An Application for Water Storage Right through the State of Colorado is not necessary as the proposed off channel storage structure is small (0.0052 acre-ft).

Wastes, Hazardous or Solid:

On-site disposal of Hazardous Materials or Waste including hydrocarbons is not authorized. The Contractor will be responsible to prevent introduction of hazardous materials into the environment during the implementation of the proposed action. Any on-site disposal or release of two gallons or more in the form of spilled fuel, hydraulic fluid, or oil used by the machinery and the resulting contaminated soil will require reclamation and the appropriate disposal of contaminated soil. Fueling and maintenance activities should not take place in or adjacent to any drainage (perennial or ephemeral.)

a. All product containers, cans, and debris should be removed from the site and disposed of properly.
b. Incidental leaks from fittings, gaskets, or ruptured hoses will not subject the contractor to remedial requirements.
c. All non-manual fueling equipment will have an automatic shut-off switch installed to avoid fuel releases.

Invasive, Non-native species:

Heavy equipment should be clean before arriving on site to help prevent the introduction of noxious weeds.

Table 1– Potentially Impacted Resources

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	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	HLP 10/24/11
Geological	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	SG 10/13/11
Mineral Resources	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	SG 10/13/11
Soils	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	ND 10/26/11
Water (surface & subsurface, floodplains)	☐	☐	☒	☐	☒	ND 10/26/11
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES						
Invasive, Non-native Species	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	MT 10/22/11
Sensitive Species	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	ARL 10/25/11
Threatened or Endangered Species	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	HLP 10/24/11
Vegetation, Forestry	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	SC 10/13/11
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	CARS 11/1/11
Wildlife	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	HLP 10/24/11
HERITAGE RESOURCES AND HUMAN ENV.						
Cultural or Historical	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐	ALR 12/20/11
Paleontological	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	SG 10/13/11
Tribal & American Indian Religious Concerns	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐	ALR 12/20/11
Visual Resources	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	CPP 10/13/11
Social	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	HLP 10/24/11
Economic	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	HLP 10/24/11
Environmental Justice	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	HLP 10/24/11
Transportation and Access	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	CPP 10/13/11
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	AEK 10/13/11
LAND RESOURCES						
Prime or Unique Farmlands	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	HLP 10/24/11
Recreation	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	CPP 10/13/11
Special Designations (ACEC, SMAs etc.)	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	CPP 10/13/11
Wild and Scenic Rivers	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	CPP 10/13/11
Wilderness and Wild Lands	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	CPP 10/13/11
Range Management	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	SC 10/13/11
Wild Horse and Burros	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	HLP 10/24/11
Land Tenure, ROW, Other Uses	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	RBL 10/13/11

NAME OF PREPARER: Heidi Plank

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Collin Ewing

DATE: 1/4/12

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.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

for Wayne P

Grand Junction Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

1-4-12

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.