

## **BLM DISCLAIMER**

This Christo and Jeanne-Claude *Over the River*<sup>TM</sup> Detailed Design Proposal (DDP) was prepared by the applicant's consultants. The document's contents were developed solely by the applicant. The information and data presented in this report will be thoroughly evaluated in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act by the contractor selected by BLM to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement.



# **CHRISTO AND JEANNE-CLAUDE OVER THE RIVER CORPORATION**

## **Over The River, Project for Arkansas River, State of Colorado Executive Summary of the Proposed Action**

April 30, 2008

### ***1.0 Introduction***

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Over The River is a temporary work of art proposed for a 14-day presentation by the artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude. The temporary work of art consists of approximately 5.9 miles of luminous silvery fabric panels that will be temporarily suspended horizontally above the Arkansas River in eight aesthetically selected areas within a 42-mile stretch of the river between Salida and Cañon City, in the western portion of Fremont County and southeast portion of Chaffee County, Colorado. Set against the natural beauty of the Arkansas River, surrounding landscape, and sky, the shimmering fabric panels will magnify the effects of changing light throughout the day. The fabric panels will be supported 8 to 25 feet above the water by a system of cables and anchors that will be removed and the river corridor restored at the end of the Exhibition phase.

As with all of the artists' previous works of art, Over The River has been and will continue to be financed entirely by Christo and Jeanne-Claude through the sale of Christo's preparatory drawings, lithographs, collages, scale models, and early works from the 1950s and 1960s to museums, private collectors, and galleries.

Over The River will encompass portions of the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, which is jointly administered under a Cooperative Management Agreement between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Colorado State Parks.

### **1.1 Project Calendar**

The Over The River (OTR) Proposed Action is graphically depicted in the following five calendars submitted herewith under a cover page entitled "Event Calendar for the Proposed Action" and incorporated herein by reference:

- Overview Calendar by Task
- Overview Calendar by Section
- Site Calendars

- Drilling Calendar by Area
- Drilling Calendar by Equipment

## 1.2 Event Management Plan for the Proposed Action

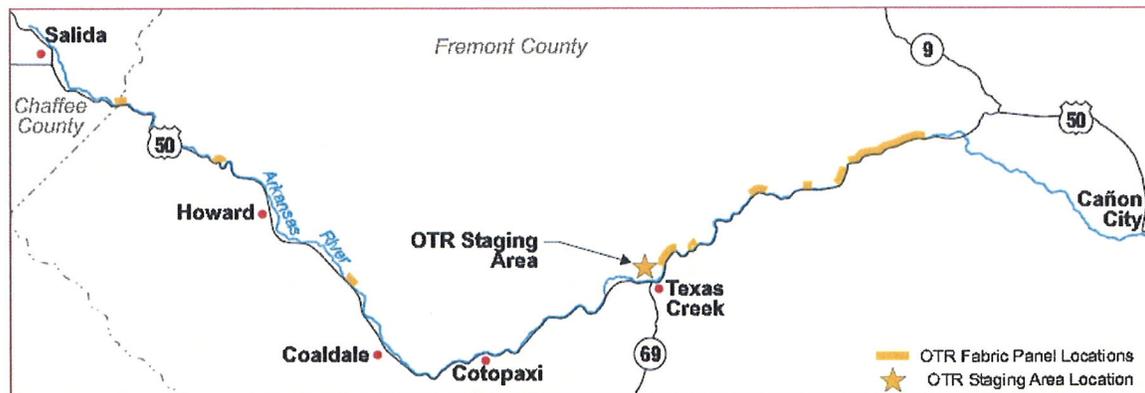
The OTR Event Management Plan (EMP) for the Proposed Action is submitted herewith and incorporated herein by reference.

## 1.3 Project Facts

Basic project facts, including facts requested by BLM (Dec. 12, 2007 email) are shown in Table 1.

<b>Table 1. Key Project Facts</b>	
Total number of anchors	8,992 anchors
Total number of anchor transition frames (ATFs)	2,248 ATFs
Total number of cubic yards of soil to be disturbed per ATF	< 1.10 yd <sup>3</sup> soil
Total amount of steel cables	1,264 cables
Diameter of steel cables	3/8 to 1 1/8 inch diameter
Total amount of fabric panels	911 panels
Average weight of fabric per panel	140 lbs / panel
Total length of panels	5.9 miles
Height of panels above water	8 to 25 ft
Fabric material	Porous polypropylene

## 1.4 Project Map



## 1.5 Sponsor's (Artists') Statement of Goals, Objectives and Artistic Vision for Over The River

The Sponsor's (Artists') Statement of Goals, Objectives and Artistic Vision for Over The River is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

## **2.0 Issues Considered in the Calendars**

### **2.1 Incorporating the Environmental Impact Statement process**

BLM estimates an 18-month period for completion of this process, with a Record of Decision (ROD) date of June 2010 (BLM, April 2008 communication).

### **2.2 Minimizing disruption to the environment and wildlife**

OTR will implement numerous best management practices as well as seasonal avoidance measures to minimize impacts to biological resources (collectively, "mitigation measures"). These mitigation measures are outlined in Table 2. OTR will employ biological experts (e.g., ornithologists, botanists, etc.) to conduct necessary surveys and to instruct OTR personnel regarding mitigation measures for biological resources.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Best Management Practices</b>	<b>Avoidance</b>
Bighorn sheep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eliminate Five Points/Sheep Basin panel area.</li> <li>- Minimize human presence on north side of river</li> <li>- Improve feeding areas away from river corridor</li> <li>- Provide enhanced water supply (guzzlers, etc)</li> <li>- Pre- and post- project monitoring and plan for importation of new sheep if necessary</li> <li>- Educate personnel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No anchor installation during lambing season (April 15 – June 30)<sup>1</sup> from Three Rocks to Parkdale</li> <li>- Exhibition phase is not proposed to occur during lambing season (April 15 – June 30)<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
Black bear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide large bear-proof trash containers;</li> <li>- Empty small containers daily</li> </ul>	Not applicable
Fringed myotis (bat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct survey for roosts and hibernacula and implement buffer zones and best management practices if necessary.</li> <li>- Construction schedule limits exposure to cables.</li> </ul>	Not applicable

<sup>1</sup> James Aragon, letter providing CDOW comments on OTR Design and Planning Report, Feb. 12, 2008 at p. 3 (critical lambing season is April 15 – June 30).

<b>Table 2. Proposed Mitigation Measures</b>		
<b>Species</b>	<b>Best Management Practices</b>	<b>Avoidance</b>
Small mammals	- Prohibit access to upland habitats during exhibition phase.	Not applicable
Townsend's big-eared bat	- Conduct survey for roosts and hibernacula and implement buffer zones and best management practices if necessary. - Construction schedule limits exposure to cables. - Minimize trail use near maternity roost during exhibition phase	No nighttime construction at County Line (Apr. 1 – Oct. 1). <sup>2</sup>
Yuma myotis (bat)	- Conduct survey for roosts and hibernacula and implement buffer zones and best management practices if necessary. - Construction schedule limits exposure to cables.	Not applicable
Migratory Birds, General	- Construction schedule limits exposure to cables. - Investigate effectiveness of marking bare cables to increase visibility. - Conduct survey for nests before breeding season (May 15 – July 15) <sup>3</sup> and implement appropriate buffers and best management practices for active nests.	- Exhibition phase is not proposed to occur during breeding season (May 15 – July 15). <sup>3</sup>
Bald eagle	- Conduct nesting survey and implement buffer zones and best management practices for active nests.	- Exhibition phase is not proposed to occur during nesting season (Oct. 15 – July 31). <sup>4</sup>
Golden Eagle	- Conduct nesting survey and implement buffer zones and best management practices for active nests (Dec. 15 – July 15) <sup>4</sup>	- Exhibition phase is not proposed to occur during nesting season (Dec. 15 – July 15) <sup>4</sup>
Peregrine falcon	- Conduct nesting survey and implement buffer zones, if necessary, around any active nests (Mar. 15 – July 31) <sup>4</sup>	- Exhibition phase is not proposed to occur during nesting season (Mar. 15 – July 31) <sup>4</sup>
Northern leopard frog	- Limit motorized, mechanized travel - Limit foot traffic near river	Not applicable

<sup>2</sup> Colorado Committee of the Western Bat, *Colorado Bat Conservation Plan* (2004) at 20 (Recommending seasonal restrictions near maternity roosts between April 1 and October 1).

<sup>3</sup> BLM, Memorandum, Migratory Bird Treaty Act – Interim Management Guidance (Dec. 18, 2007) (most migratory birds nest between May 15 and July 15).

<sup>4</sup> CDOW, *Recommended Buffer Zones and Seasonal Restrictions for Colorado Raptors* (2008).

<b>Species</b>	<b>Best Management Practices</b>	<b>Avoidance</b>
Rare and Sensitive Plants ( <i>e.g.</i> , Arkansas Canyon stickleaf; Degener beardtongue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct clearance surveys</li> <li>- Fence sensitive plant locations</li> <li>- Restrict foot access during exhibition.</li> </ul>	Not applicable

### 2.3 Minimizing inconvenience to the nearby residents, landowners, businesses and recreational users

The schedule is based on anchor installation on the highway side of the river only during off-peak seasons and minimizing installation equipment that could block lanes on US 50.

### 3.0 Project Calendar

Key Dates
<b>ROD:</b> expected June 2010
<b>Survey:</b> May 3, 2010 – July 27, 2011
<b>Drilling anchors:</b> June 14, 2010 – August 10, 2011
<b>Installing ATFs:</b> November 8, 2011 – June 7, 2012
<b>Installing cables and carabiners:</b> June 7 – July 26, 2012
<b>Blossoming fabric panels:</b> July 27 – August 3, 2012
<b>Exhibition:</b> August 4 – 17, 2012
<b>Removing fabric, cables, and anchors and restoring the area:</b> August 18 – November 21, 2012

Once the EIS has been completed, the installation, exhibition and removal/restoration phases of the project occur in eight calendar periods. The Key Dates listed have been projected based on a June 2010 ROD and have some flexibility.

Key Dates and Issues
May 3, 2010 – July 27, 2011
Consistent with NEPA, non-ground disturbing work such as surveying can be conducted pre-ROD.

### 3.1 Surveying to locate and mark anchor points

The first task to be completed is a survey. A survey crew of three people on foot will locate and mark all anchor points. The survey will not involve highway closures or ground disturbing work.

Key Dates and Issues
June 14, 2010 – August 10, 2011
Four crews; no daytime work on highway during summer season; work will proceed on railroad side.

### 3.2 Drilling the anchor points

Drilling the anchor points comprises the bulk of the calendar. It involves up to four crews working simultaneously and minimizing impacts to traffic on the highway by avoiding any daytime work during the summer seasons. “Summer season” is defined as June 1 – August 31.

### Key Dates and Issues

November 8, 2011 – June 7, 2012

Four crews complete this task in seven months.

### 3.3 Installing the ATFs

This task occurs just before the exhibition phase. Cable installation follows.

### 3.4 Installing the cables and carabiners

The cable installation, which consists of pulling the cables across the river and attaching them to the ATFs on both sides, happens immediately after ATF installation and almost concurrently with the carabiner installation.

### Key Dates and Issues

June 7 – July 26, 2012

These tasks happen almost concurrently.

They are scheduled in the 2-month period just before the viewing period starts.

### Key Dates and Issues

July 27 – August 3, 2012

This happens immediately prior to the viewing period.

### 3.5 Blossoming the fabric panels

The final task before Exhibition Phase, the fabric “blossom,” is estimated to take eight days. This portion of the project is scheduled from July 27 through August 3, 2012, eight work days prior to the opening day of the Exhibition phase.

### 3.6 Exhibition Phase

The Exhibition Phase is scheduled for 14 consecutive days from August 4 - 17, 2012. This time period (early to mid-August) falls between the heaviest recreational rafting time and the beginning of the school year. The actual start day and end day could be moved slightly.

### Key Dates and Issues

August 4 – 17, 2012

Calendar constraints include avoidance of the peak rafting period.

### 3.7 Removal and Restoration

Immediately after the 14-day Exhibition Phase, the fabric panels are removed, with crews working from each end of the corridor (the east end and west ends) and moving toward the middle. As soon as the fabric is removed from the cables, the cables themselves and the supporting ATFs can also be removed. No visible trace of the project will remain after the removal and restoration phase. Only the below-ground portion of the anchors will remain. This phase is estimated to take approximately three months, from the conclusion of the Exhibition phase through late November 2012.

### Key Dates and Issues

August 18 – November 21, 2012

This task occurs immediately after the Exhibition Phase.

### **3.8 Staging area at Texas Creek**

Figure 5 to the EMP is a depiction of the activity occurring in the staging area at Texas Creek, which will be utilized throughout the project. The construction of the building at Texas Creek, which is estimated to take one month, is reflected in Figure 5.

### **4.0 Conclusion**

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This Executive Summary of the Proposed Action is intended to be read in conjunction with the simultaneously-submitted Event Calendar for the Proposed Action (see section 1.1 above), Event Management Plan for the Proposed Action (see section 1.2 above) and Sponsor's (Artists') Statement of Goals, Objectives and Artistic Vision for Over The River (see section 1.5 above).