

BLM DISCLAIMER

This Christo and Jeanne-Claude *Over the River*TM 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: Sponsor's (Artists') Statement of Goals, Objectives and Artistic Vision

Role of this Statement

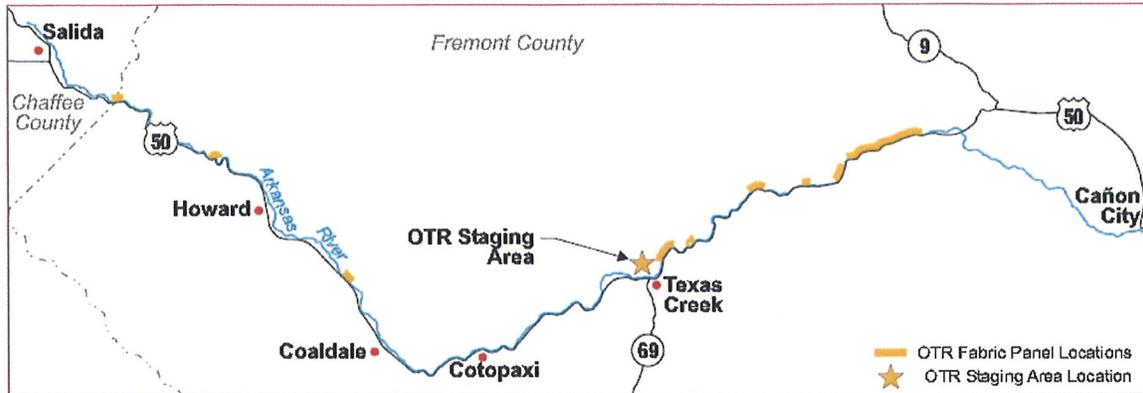
The role of this document is to provide a concise statement of the goals, objectives and artistic vision of the artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude in proposing the Over The River temporary work of art.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has issued guidance entitled *The National Environmental Policy Act Handbook* (H-1790-1) on how the agency shall comply with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). For externally-initiated projects (*i.e.*, projects that are initiated by a non-federal entity, not BLM itself), the Handbook recognizes that the applicant's purpose and need provides useful information to BLM as the agency defines its purpose and need.¹ This document is intended to assist the BLM and Third Party Contractor in that regard, by providing the definitive statement of purpose by the sponsor/applicant, Christo and Jeanne-Claude, for purposes of preparing the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Proposed Action

Over The River (OTR) 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, to be temporarily suspended horizontally over the Arkansas River in eight aesthetically selected areas within a 42-mile stretch of the river between Salida and Cañon City in western Fremont County and southeast Chaffee County, Colorado.

¹ BLM, National Environmental Policy Act Handbook (BLM Manual H-1790-1, 2008) at p. 35.



The fabric panels will be supported from 8 to 25 feet above the water by a system of cables and anchors. The area between the fabric and the banks from the water's edge will remain open to allow access to the river along the length of the OTR temporary work of art and also allow sunlight to illuminate the river on both sides. 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 vision of OTR involves two different perceptions: one from the canyon's highway, where the fabric will reflect the colors of the sky from the golden morning sunlight to the various hues of the sunset; the other will be from the water level, where rafters, kayakers and canoeists will be able to view the clouds and sky through the translucent fabric.

The Proposed Action will occur in three phases: (1) installation, (2) exhibition, and (3) removal and restoration. Installation of the OTR temporary work of art will be accomplished in five progressive phases: (1) survey anchor points, (2) design and install anchors, (3) install anchor transition frames, (4) design and install cables, and (5) install fabric panels. The anchor points will be surveyed and the anchors installed over a time period that includes two spring seasons, two fall seasons, and, weather permitting, two winter seasons. Installation work in the summer seasons will involve night-time construction activity on the highway side of the river and day-time activities on the railroad side of the river. The final scheduling of anchor and anchor transition frame installation will depend on the need to avoid sensitive areas during certain times of the year. The cables will be installed during the two-month period immediately before the fabric panel installation.

The exhibition phase will be a two-week period of time in the summer. Visitors will not be charged a fee to view the temporary work of art. As with all of the artists' previous works of art, OTR 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.

At the end of the viewing period, during the removal and restoration phase, the system of cables and anchors will be removed and the river corridor will be returned to its pre-project condition.

The Artists' Goals and Objectives for the OTR Temporary Work of Art

The artists have identified the following five specific qualities necessary to realize their goals and objectives: (1) Aesthetics; (2) Access; (3) River Characteristics; (4) Temporal Elements; (5) Technical Elements.

(1) Aesthetics

- A range of lighting conditions and a variety of landscapes so as to create contrasting lines, forms, colors and textures;
- Vertical and horizontal terrain undulations;
- Interesting geological conditions in both texture and color variations;
- Diversity in slope aspects;
- Diversity in river orientations;
- A range of lighting conditions;
- A variety of landscapes.

The artists' design of OTR consists of eight areas of fabric panels. The overall length and location of panels and areas, and the intentional interruptions between the eight areas, and between sections within the areas, have been carefully selected by Christo and Jeanne-Claude to integrate the criteria critical to their artistic vision with respect to sunlight angle and intensity, river morphology, and riverbank characteristics. Each of the eight distinct areas provides unique elements that together create a wide contrast in line, form, color, light and texture with the fabric panels. Critical to the artists' vision is the fact that OTR will appear dramatically different depending on whether it is approached from the western entrance (from Salida, heading east) or the eastern entrance (from Cañon City, heading west), and depending on the time of day and lighting conditions in which the fabric panel areas are viewed. Together, each element, detail, shape, color, and contrast forms the whole work of art. None of these areas, or sections within areas, may be removed without damaging the integrity, intent, and harmony of the temporary work of art as a whole.

The artists have also previously identified to BLM a design of 10.4 miles of fabric panels and a design of 7.7 miles of fabric panels, both of which met the project purpose from the artists' perspective and which fulfilled the artistic vision, goals and objectives. These designs remain viable for consideration as alternatives if mitigation measures could be identified for them.

(2) Access

- A road running parallel to the river for viewing during the exhibition phase;
- Sufficient highway access for flatbed trucks to deliver the fabric panels, cables and anchors to the project site;
- Rail access to the river, including access to a railroad siding, for use during the installation and removal of the cables, anchors and fabric panels;

- A staging area proximate to both the exhibition area and the railroad siding, with sufficient space to accommodate warehouse and office facilities and also to stockpile materials during the installation and removal phases;
- Good visibility between the road and the river (that is, little vegetation to impede viewing);
- Close proximity to large towns, workers, materials, and visitors.

(3) River Characteristics

- Sufficient access to river put-ins and take-outs for boaters and rafters;
- A river with a range of rafting conditions;
- A river with high banks that will accommodate the suspension of steel cables and allow sufficient clearance above the water to permit boaters to pass beneath the fabric panels.

(4) Temporal Elements

- The artistic vision requires the long summer daylight hours;
- The artists' vision for OTR is a two-week display. A viewing period of three weeks would be acceptable if it is found to mitigate traffic flow concerns by dispersing traffic over a longer period of time. The temporary nature of the work of art is therefore a significant element of the Proposed Action. The artists stress that OTR will be a unique, once-in-a-lifetime experience and will never happen again. OTR, like previous works of the artists, is intended as a brief, gentle disturbance that leaves the environment as they found it. The display period must also be sufficient for visitors from other places to make plans to attend, and for visitors from near and far to see OTR more than once if they wish. Any viewing period shorter than two weeks will not meet this vision.

(5) Technical Elements

- For technical reasons, the Proposed Action requires ground and subsurface conditions suitable for installing anchors that are capable of withstanding the requisite load and resistance factors of the cables.

Conclusion

The artists have identified the stretch of the Arkansas River between Cañon City and Salida as the site for OTR because of its unique combination of essential qualities (listed above) for a viewing period no shorter than two weeks. OTR must consist of no less than 5.9 miles of panels to achieve the artists' artistic vision, goals and objectives. This portion of the Arkansas River has the necessary unique configurations of lighting and landscape conditions that will provide the contrasts in line, form, color, and texture with the luminous fabric panels, which elements are critical to achieving the artists' goals and objectives for OTR. This stretch of the Arkansas River has the necessary highway access

on one side of the river and the railroad tracks on the other, both of which are essential to OTR installation, viewing and removal.