

Over The River

FES 11-15

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Royal Gorge Field Office (Lead Federal Agency)
Colorado Department of Natural Resources (Cooperating Agency)
Colorado Department of Transportation (Cooperating Agency)
Colorado State Patrol (Cooperating Agency)
Chaffee County (Cooperating Agency)
Fremont County (Cooperating Agency)

ABSTRACT

The Artists, Christo and Jeanne-Claude, propose to install a temporary work of art consisting of fabric panels suspended horizontally over approximately 5.9 miles of a 42.4-mile stretch of the Arkansas River between Cañon City and Salida, Colorado. The work of art, known as Over The River™ (OTR), would require the use of federal, private, and state lands adjacent to the river. The BLM Royal Gorge Field Office (RGFO) administers the federal lands within the proposed Project Area.

Over The River Corporation (OTR Corp or applicant) has applied for a land use authorization with the BLM RGFO for a three-year period to install, exhibit, and remove the work of art on public lands in western Fremont County and the southeast portion of Chaffee County, Colorado. The BLM is the lead federal agency and has the final authority to determine whether, and under what terms and conditions, a BLM land use permit would be issued to the project applicant for Over The River™.

The BLM RGFO determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (NEPA; 42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.; Public Law [P.L.] 91-190) to analyze the Artists' proposal, define a range of reasonable alternatives, and disclose the project's potential environmental impacts. This Final EIS has been prepared consistent with the requirements of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations on implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508) to enable informed decision-making.

FINAL EIS

A Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Final EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on July 29, 2011, commencing a 30-day availability period. The Final EIS is available for public review at the BLM RGFO, the BLM Colorado State Office, and local libraries, and is also available for download from the BLM project web site.

For further information, contact:
Royal Gorge Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
3028 East Main Street
Cañon City, CO 81212
Phone: (719) 269-8500

To comment on the FEIS:
Email: co_otr_comments@blm.gov

