U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
73544 Hwy 64
Meeker, CO 81641

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2006-109-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC011243 & COC011409

PROJECT NAME: 2006 Recoating Project

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Varies

APPLICANT: Northwest Pipeline Corporation (NWP)

ISSUES AND CONCERNS (optional): None

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction: As a result of previous integrity testing, NWP has detected areas where recoating is necessary on the Ignacio/Sumas (COC011243) and the Piceance Lateral (COC011409) pipelines that will require an excavation to remove, then replace the coating, and possibly replacement of segments.

Proposed Action: The proposed action is for the recoating and possible replacement of segments of pipe that are weakened due to age. Both of these pipelines were installed in 1956 and are wearing out in some segments. As a result of previous integrity testing, NWP has detected areas where recoating is necessary on two pipelines that will require an excavation to remove and then replace the coating. These recoats or digs are located on Northwest's Ignacio/Sumas line and Piceance Creek lateral. NWP feels the recoat will remedy any integrity problem; there is the very remote possibility that there will be the need to replace a section of the pipe.

Much of the work will be done on NWPs existing 50-foot easement, but NWP is requesting an additional 25 feet of temporary extra work space on each side of the easement which will make for a 100-foot wide work area. A temporary use permit will be used for the temporary work space and will terminate within one year.

Construction will consist of mobilizing to the work area and excavating around the pipeline using a backhoe and shovel. The condition of the coating or nature of the damage will be verified. In the case of recoating, the old coating will be removed by sandblasting. A new Epoxy-based coating will be applied to the pipe. If a repair is necessary, NWP will use the

appropriate devise or method. There is the possibility that NWP will need to replace a section of the pipeline. The line will then be reburied. The ground will be restored to its original grade and reclaimed and reseeded using the seed mix dictated by the BLM.

No Action Alternative: Under the no action alternative, the application would be denied and the situation will remain the same.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD:

NEED FOR THE ACTION: Northwest Pipeline has applied for the repair of these two pipeline rights-of-way, COC011243 and COC011409.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Pages 2-49 thru 2-52

Decision Language: "To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values".

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: The entire White River Resource area has been classified as either attainment or unclassified for all pollutants, and most of the area has been designated prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) class II. Dinosaur National Monument Visitors Center is

located approximately 6 miles north of the northern most portion of the proposed pipeline recoating/replacement project. Dinosaur National Monument has been designated as a PSD class II airshed with special designations regarding visibility. The air quality criteria pollutant likely to be most affected by the proposed actions is the level of inhalable particulate matter, specifically particles ten microns or less in diameter (PM_{10}) associated with fugitive dust. In addition, slight increases in the following criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide, ozone (secondary pollutant), nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide may also occur during construction due to the combustion of fossil fuels. Also, non-criteria pollutants such as visibility, nitric oxide, air toxics (e.g. benzene) and total suspended particulates (TSP) may also experience slight short term increases as a result of the proposed actions (no national ambient air quality standards have been set for non-criteria pollutants). Unfortunately, no monitoring data is available for the survey area. However, it is apparent that current air quality near the proposed location is good because only one location on the western slope (Grand Junction, CO) is monitoring for criteria pollutants other than PM_{10}. Furthermore, the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) estimates the maximum PM_{10} levels (24-hour average) in rural portions of western Colorado like the Piceance Basin to be near 50 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu g/m^3$). This estimate is well below the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for PM_{10} (24-hour average) of 150 $\mu g/m^3$.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: This project does not include any new pump stations, tank batteries or treatment facilities. Therefore, no new permanent air pollution emission sources are anticipated.

Air quality may be temporarily decreased during construction due to pollutants generated from construction activities. Construction equipment producing elemental and organic carbon via fuel combustion combined with surface disturbing activities that leave soils exposed to eolian processes will both increase production of particulate matter (PM_{10}) during construction. Elemental and organic carbon existing in the air as PM_{10} can reduce visibility and increase the potential of respiratory health problems to exposed parties. However, following initial construction, suggested mitigation, and successful interim reclamation, criteria pollutant levels should return to near pre-construction levels.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: Construction equipment will be maintained in good operating condition to ensure that engines are running efficiently. Vehicles and construction equipment with emission controls will also be maintained to ensure effective pollutant emission reductions.

Fugitive dust will be minimized by the following procedures. At the request of residents, counties, or BLM, un-surfaced roads that generate excessive dust will either be watered, covered with a county or BLM approved chemical binder, or another dust control method satisfactory to the landowner will be adopted.

Traffic controls may be implemented including decreased speed limits with appropriate enforcement, or other traffic calming methods, to minimize fugitive dust. All unpaved areas of the project will be sufficiently watered to prevent fugitive dust from causing a public nuisance or violation of any ambient air standards. Speed limit reductions will be a minimum of 10 mph

below the posted speed limit on unpaved roads, or greater as determined in the field based on site conditions. On unpaved roads in populated areas, the operator will ensure that all adequate dust control measures are implemented in a timely and effective manner during construction. Land clearing, grading, earth moving or excavation activities will be suspended when wind speeds exceed a sustained velocity of 20 miles per hour in populated areas. Disturbed areas will be revegetated as outlined in the Vegetation section of this document.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The 27 proposed recoat locations have been inventoried at a Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Fetterman 2006, Compliance Date 6/21/2006). Four previously recorded sites are located in conjunction with four of the proposed recoat locations. One new isolated find was also located in conjunction with a recoat location. Two of the sites are considered contributing elements of the Canyon Pintado National Register Historic District (District), one site is not a contributing element of the District and one site is located outside the District.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Proceeding with the recoat project as planned will result in the destruction of the isolated find, and impacts to at least three of the sites. Impacts could be particularly severe if previously undetected subsurface features are damaged or destroyed during exposure of the pipeline. If mitigation measures are strictly observed there should be no impacts to one site, 5RB 4690 – a rock art site.

If crew personnel wander away from the work locations or, if it becomes necessary to excavate into underlying rock formations to adequately expose the pipeline for recoating, there is the potential to damage sites within 305 meters of the proposed work locations. Damage could come in the form of unauthorized artifact collecting, new graffiti on rock art panels or damage to structures or rock art panels from vibrations related to equipment operation or excavation of rock to expose the pipeline.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to cultural resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: 1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to

confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

3. Recoat location 58 on the Ignacio-Sumas pipeline: pipeline excavation will be monitored in the vicinity of site 5RB 314, and for 25 meters either site of recorded site boundaries, by an approved Archaeologist.

4. Recoat locations 55, 68, 69, 71, 85 112 113, 115, and 119 on the Ignacio-Sumas pipeline: all pipeline excavations will be monitored in these recoat locations.

5. Preliminary testing shall be conducted at sites 5RB 709 and 4690 prior to initiation of any construction in order to determine if preliminary mitigation is required.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: Within the project area there are a number of noxious weeds of concern including; cheatgrass, knapweeds, thistles and houndstongue. The only noxious weed on site is cheatgrass which is found throughout the resource area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: With construction there will be disturbance of vegetation and soil which increases the opportunity for noxious weed establishment. The equipment and vehicles used for this project could introduce noxious weed species onto the site. If mitigation is carried out there would be little chance of noxious weeds establishing and spreading to the adjacent plant communities.

The seed mix proposed contains non-native species which have been found to have the greatest chance for reclamation success, including stabilizing soils and providing competition against noxious weed establishment. These non-native species have not been found to move offsite or interbreed with native plant species.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts.

Mitigation: From the 1997 RMP Appendix B

180. All disturbed sites shall be promptly reclaimed to the satisfaction of the Area Manger.

181. Reclamation should be implemented concurrent with construction and site operations to the fullest extent possible. Final reclamation actions shall be initiated within six months of the termination of operations unless otherwise approved in writing by the Authorized Officer.

182. The goal for rehabilitation of any disturbed area shall be the permanent restoration of original site conditions and productive capability.

183. Disturbed areas shall be restored as nearly as possible to its original contour.

184. Fill material shall be pushed into cut areas and up over backslopes. Leave no depressions that will trap water or form ponds.

185. Distribute topsoil evenly over the location and prepare a seedbed by disking or ripping. Drill seed on contour at a depth no greater than ½ inch. In areas that cannot be drilled, broadcast at double the seeding rate and harrow seed into the soil.

186. Use seed that is certified and free of noxious weeds. Seed certification tags must be submitted to the Field Manager.

187. Additional seed applications may be required to accommodate specific site conditions or if initial seed germination has failed.

188. Seed species used in reseeding disturbed areas will be based on the seed mixes identified in table B1 and B2. These mixes are based on Ecological Sites as determined by soils. Only native plant species will be used for reseeding of disturbed areas within the Blue Mountain/Moosehead Geographic Reference Area, Wilderness study Areas, and within designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Native plant species would be strongly encouraged in the remainder of the Resource Area for reseeding disturbed areas that are not threatened by establishment of exotic or noxious plant species. Naturalized plant species will be allowed for reseeding on "at risk" and "unhealthy" rangelands and grazable woodlands.

189. Leave the disturbed area in a condition that provides drainage with no additional maintenance.

Table B-1. Standard Seed Mixes

Seed Mix #	Species (Variety)	Lbs PLS/ Acre	Ecological Sites
1	Siberian wheatgrass (P27) Russian wildrye (Bozoisky) Crested wheatgrass (Hycrest) Alternates: Yellow sweetclover, Fourwing saltbush, Nutall saltbush, Winterfat, Annual Sunflower, Western wheatgrass	3 2 3	Alkaline Uplands, Badlands, Clayey 7"-9", Clayey Salt Desert, Cold Desert Breaks, Cold Desert Overflow, Gravelly 7"-9", Limey Cold Desert, Loamy 7"-9", Loamy Cold Desert, Loamy Salt Desert, Saline Lowland, Salt Desert Breaks, Salt Flats, Salt Meadow Sands 7"-9", Sandy 7"-9", Sandy Cold

Seed Mix #	Species (Variety)	Lbs PLS/ Acre	Ecological Sites
			Desert, Sandy Salt Desert, Shale 7"-9", Shale/Sands Complex, Shallow Loamy, Shallow Sandy, Shallow Slopes, Silty Salt Desert, Silty Swale, Steep Slopes

179. Application of herbicides must be under field supervision of an EPA-certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides must be registered by the EPA and application proposals must be approved by the BLM.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: The Wyoming and basin big sagebrush habitats which encompass the pipeline route support a large array of migratory birds during the breeding season (May, June and July). These habitat typically support species such as meadowlark and vesper sparrow and when more contiguous may support Brewer's sparrows and green-tailed towhee. Those portions of Douglas and West Douglas support a strong contingent of riparian-affiliated (willow and tamarisk) neo-tropical migratory birds, including: yellow warbler, yellow-breasted chat, blue grosbeak, song sparrow and lazuli bunting.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Repair work access to the sites will be along the existing rights-of-way or a highly traveled road (Highway 139). Activities associated with the sites would have no reasonable probability of adversely affecting local reproductive efforts or recruitment of migratory birds. Work is scheduled to take place after mid-July, near the time most young have fledged, and therefore should have negligible impacts on nesting success.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Emergency maintenance stemming from the lack of scheduled replacement/upkeep and pipeline failure may result in more lengthy, hurriedly planned, and larger scale repairs at inopportune times (e.g., winter/early spring), which may create greater disturbance than that associated with the proposed action.

Mitigation: None

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE ANIMAL SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: The White River corridor is the hub for seasonal bald eagle use of the lower White River Valley. Particularly during the later fall and winter months, up to several dozen bald eagles make regular foraging use of open upland communities south of the river, but these forays in search of, primarily, big game and livestock carrion and small game (e.g., rabbit and hare) are dispersed and opportunistic.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There would be no impacts on reproductive activities of bald eagles as there are no known active nests in the vicinity of the proposed sites. The short duration of work proposed at the sites would not negatively affect foraging opportunities for bald eagles.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Emergency maintenance stemming from the lack of scheduled replacement/upkeep and pipeline failure may result in more lengthy, hurriedly planned, and larger scale repairs at inopportune times (e.g., winter/early spring), which may create greater disturbance than that associated with the proposed action.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: The proposed action would have no influence on the populations or habitats of Threatened and Endangered species in the area, and thereby would have no bearing on the public land health standard.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: Fuels, oils, and lubricants will be used during the project and solid waste (human waste, garbage, etc.) will be generated during activities. There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes located in the project area. No hazardous wastes will be generated by construction of the project.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Accidental spills or leaks associated with equipment failures, refueling or maintenance of equipment, and storage of fuel, oil, or other fluids could cause soil, surface water and/or groundwater contamination. With implementation of the mitigation measures described below, impacts would be low and temporary.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: Hazardous materials will be used, stored, transported and/or disposed of in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. The potential for accidental spills or leaks will be minimized by adherence to the Hazardous Materials Management and Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (Spill) Plan. The plan describes hazardous materials products and quantities typically found on pipeline projects, spill prevention measures, inspection and training requirements, and spill response and notification procedures. Construction areas will be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times and waste will be collected and disposed of at an appropriate waste disposal site.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: Surface Water: The proposed action is situated within the White River, School Gulch, Douglas Creek, West Douglas Creek, and Dripping Rock Creek catchment areas. All of the affected watersheds are located in the White River Basin. The White River is a tributary to the Green River in Utah which is a tributary to the Colorado River.

The "Status of Water Quality in Colorado –2006" (CDPHE 2006b) and Regulation No. 37 Classifications and Numeric Standards for Lower Colorado River Basin (CDPHE 2005a) were reviewed for information relating to drainages within the project area. Table 1 shows the affected watersheds and associated water quality stream segments to be impacted by the proposed actions.

Table 1:

White River Basin							
Watershed	**Stream segment**	**Acres w/in 30 radius**	**Use Protected**	**303(d) listed**	**M&E listed**	**Impairment**	**Severity**
White River	12	12.02					
School Gulch	13a	1.59	UP				
Douglas Creek	22	80.79	UP	X		Sediment	low
Dripping Rock Creek							
W. Douglas Creek	23	14.92					

Stream segment 12 is defined as the mainstem of the White River from a point immediately above the confluence with Piceance Creek to a point immediately above the confluence with Douglas Creek including Taylor Draw Reservoir. Stream segment 12 has not been designated use-protected. An intermediate level of water quality protection applies to waters that have not been designated outstanding waters or use-protected waters. For these waters, no degradation is allowed unless deemed appropriate following an antidegradation review. The state has classified segment 12 as having the following beneficial uses: Warm aquatic life 1, Recreation 1a, water supply and Agriculture.

Stream segment 13a is defined as all tributaries to the White River, including all wetlands, lakes and reservoirs from a point immediately below the confluence with Piceance Creek to a point immediately above the confluence with Douglas Creek, except for the specific listings in segments 13b through 20. The State has classified stream segment 13b as "Use Protected". The antidegredation review requirements in the Antidegredation Rule are not applicable to waters designated use-protected. For those waters, only the protection specified in each reach will apply. Stream segment 13b has been further designated by the state as being beneficial for the following uses: Warm Aquatic Life 2, Recreation 2, and Agriculture (CDPHE, 2006b).

Stream segment 22 is defined as all tributaries to the White River including all wetlands, lakes, and reservoirs, from a point immediately above the confluence with Douglas Creek to the Colorado/Utah boarder, except for specific listings in segment 23. The State has classified stream segment 22 as "Use Protected". The antidegredation review requirements in the Antidegredation Rule are not applicable to waters designated use-protected. For those waters, only the protection specified in each reach will apply. Stream segment 22 has been further designated by the state as being beneficial for the following uses: Warm Aquatic Life 2, Recreation 1b, and Agriculture (CDPHE, 2006b).

Stream segment 23 is defined as the mainstems of East and West Douglas Creeks, including all tributaries, from their source to their confluence. Stream segment 23 has also not been designated use-protected. An intermediate level of water quality protection applies to waters that have not been designated outstanding waters or use-protected waters. For these waters, no degradation is allowed unless deemed appropriate following an antidegradation review. The state has classified segment 12 as having the following beneficial uses: Cold aquatic life 1, Recreation 1a, water supply and Agriculture (CDPHE, 2006b).

Newly promulgated Colorado Regulations Nos. 93 and 94 (CDPHE 2006c and 2006d, respectively) were reviewed for information related to the proposed project area drainages. Regulation No. 93 is the State's Section 303(d) list of water-quality-limited segments requiring Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). The 2006 303(d) list of segments needing development of TMDLs includes two segments within the White River - segment 9b, White River tributaries North and South Forks to Piceance Creek, specifically the Flag Creek portion (for impairment from selenium with a low priority for TMDL development) and segment 22, tributaries to the White River, Douglas Creek to the Colorado/Utah boarder, specifically West Evacuation Wash, and **Douglas Creek** (sediment impairments). Regulation 94 is the State's list of water bodies identified for monitoring and evaluation, to assess water quality and determine if a need for TMDLs exists. The list includes two White River segments that are potentially impaired – 9 (Flag Creek) and 22 (Soldier Creek).

Ground Water: Ground water resources likely to be impacted by the proposed actions are shallow, alluvial and colluvial aquifers situated adjacent to perennial streams. Much of the proposed project area is situated outside of existing floodplains, and groundwater likely to be encountered will be seasonal in nature. Ground water from deeper zones is not likely to be affected by recoating and possible replacement of weakened pipe segments.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Surface Water: Construction of pipeline could have short-term impacts on surface water quality where natural drainage paths are crossed. Surface disturbance in or adjacent to natural drainage paths could adversely impact surface water quality through increased sedimentation, increased turbidity, and releases of chemical and nutrient pollutants from sediments. A reduction in stream bank stability could increase stream bank erosion modifying natural stream channel/bank morphology. Suspended sediment may temporarily increase during construction. The greatest sediment load would occur immediately downstream of construction activities, and suspended sediment concentration would likely decrease downstream as larger sediment particles fall out of suspension and are deposited on the channel bed.

Groundwater: Construction operations may encounter shallow ground water associated with colluvial/alluvial aquifers situated adjacent to stream channels. Activities such as trenching and backfilling could cause minor fluctuations in shallow groundwater levels and/or increased turbidity within the aquifer adjacent to the activity. Turbidity would be a temporary impact and would subside after trench and backfilling activities are completed.

There is a small potential for groundwater contamination by accidental spills and leaks of fuels, lubricants, and hazardous materials during construction especially in groundwater recharge areas. Accidental releases or leaks from the pipeline or construction equipment could impact groundwater quality by introducing hydrocarbons into soil materials which could percolate to the water table.

Failure to successfully re-vegetate disturbed surfaces with preferred species may increase erosive potential and elevate sediment/salt loads to the Colorado River system. Some of the identified pipeline is located in close proximity to perennial streams and alluvial materials, leakage from pipelines could have significant adverse environmental impacts to water quality in the White River Basin. However, recoating and possible replacement of weakened pipeline will help retain the structural integrity of the pipeline which will help prevent leakage.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: The identified portions of the pipeline will not be recoated or replaced. The structural integrity of the pipeline would continue to be reduced resulting in elevated potential for leakage compromising water quality in the White River Basin.

Mitigation: Topsoil and spoil will be placed at least 10 feet from the edge of any water flow paths (ephemeral or perennial). The pipeline will be buried at least five feet below the bottom of ephemeral drainages. Erosion and sediment control measures will be installed adjacent to flowing water-bodies to prevent flow of topsoil or spoil into them. Erosion and sediment control measures will be maintained until stream banks and adjacent upland areas are stabilized. Pre-construction streambed and bank contours will be restored, stream banks will be revegetated, and erosion control fabric will be installed on stream banks. Refueling and equipment maintenance will take place at least 100 feet from stream banks. All disturbed surfaces will be recontoured and reseeded as outlined in the Vegetation section of this document.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: Currently, stream segments 12, 13a, and 23 are meeting water quality standards. Many of the upper tributaries which are ephemeral and flow in direct response to storm events do not meet the standards during periods of flow. By following suggested mitigation measures, water quality in these stream segments should continue to meet standards.

Douglas Creek (Stream segment 22 of the White River Basin) has been identified on the State's 303(d) List of Water-Quality-Limited streams requiring TMDLS and is currently not meeting standards (sediment). However, most of the identified pipeline segments in Douglas Creek are situated on the east side of Hwy. 139. Highway 139 is located between the proposed site and Douglas Creek and will trap any sediment produced from the site before reaching Douglas Creek. The proposed action will not improve or deteriorate current water quality in Douglas Creek. Douglas Creek will continue to not meet standards for sediment impairments.

WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: There are no wetlands or riparian areas potentially affected by the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would have no conceivable influence on wetlands or riparian areas.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no effect on existing wetlands and riparian areas under the no action alternative.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: Recoating of the pipeline segments would have no conceivable influence on the condition or function of wetlands and riparian areas, and therefore, would have no influence on continued maintenance of associated land health standards.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No ACEC's, flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, or Wild and Scenic Rivers, threatened, endangered or sensitive plants exist within the area affected by the proposed action. For threatened, endangered and sensitive plant species Public Land Health Standard is not applicable since neither the proposed nor the no-action alternative would have any influence on populations of, or habitats potentially occupied by, special status plants. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The following data is a product of an order III soil survey conducted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Rio Blanco County, CO. Table 2 highlights important soil characteristics. A complete summary of this information can be found at the White River Field Office.

Table 2:

Soil Number	Soil Name	Slope	Affected Acres w/in 30 m	Ecological site	Salinity (mmhos/cm)	Run Off	Erosion Potential	Bedrock
11	Borollic Calciorthids-Guben Complex	6-50%	3.18	Stony Foothills/Rolling Loam	<2	Medium to rapid	Moderate to high	20-60

Soil Number	Soil Name	Slope	Affected Acres w/in 30 m	Ecological site	Salinity (mmhos/cm)	Run Off	Erosion Potential	Bedrock
19	Chipeta-Walknolls Complex	5-15%	1.6	Clayey Saltdesert/Salt desert breaks	8-16	Rapid	High	10-20
53	Moyerson stony clay loam	15-65%	10.5	Clayey Slopes	2-4	Rapid	Very high	10-20
55	Nihill channery sandy loam	5-50%	1.61	Saltdesert Breaks	<2	Medium	Moderate to very high	>60
74	Rentsac-Moyerson-Rock Outcrop complex	5-65%	16.58	PJ Woodlands/Clayey Slopes	<2	Medium	Moderate to very high	10-20
78	Rock Outcrop	50-100%	0.58	None	-	Very high	Slight	0
89	Tisworth fine sandy loam	0-5%	30.37	Alkaline Slopes	>4	Rapid	Moderate	>60
90	Torrifluvents -gullied		3.28	None	-	Rapid	Very high	>60
91	Torriorthents -Rock Outcrop complex	15-90%	11.61	Stoney Foothills	-	Rapid	Very high	10-20
93	Turley fine sandy loam	0-3%	7.73	Alkaline Slopes	2-4	Medium	Slight	>60
94	Turley fine sandy loam	3-8%	2.08	Alkaline Slopes	2-4	Medium	Slight to moderate	>60
95	Uffens loam	0-5%	20.2	Alkaline Slopes	4-8	Slow	Moderate	>60

Controlled Surface Use – 1 (CSU-1 soils) have been mapped along portions of the proposed pipeline project. CSU-1 "saline soils" will be encountered at pipeline segments AS-05-92 (200 feet), CIS-05-119 (4650 feet), and CIS-05-118 (190 feet). CSU-1 "fragile soils" will be encountered at pipeline segment CIS-05-71 (738 feet). Generally, all surface disturbing activities occurring on CSU-1 soils would require and engineered construction/reclamation plan to be submitted and approved by the Area Manager prior to construction. However, all of the proposed actions will occur on previously disturbed surfaces and with suggested mitigation, an engineered construction/reclamation plan will not be necessary.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Given the high alkalinity of the majority of the affected acreage, soil piping and gully formation may result if soils are further exposed to erosional processes. Construction activities may result in increased soil compaction which will reduce infiltration and permeability rates increasing the erosive potential of overland flows. Any leaks or spills of environmentally unfriendly substances (e.g. diesel fuel) could compromise the productivity of affected soils.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: The identified portions of the pipeline will not be recoated or replaced. The structural integrity of the pipeline would continue to be reduced resulting in elevated potential for leakage which could compromise soil health.

Mitigation: Given the salt concentration of the impacted soils, the operator will be responsible for monitoring salts leaching from soils. If large salt deposits begin to appear, the operator will notify BLM, together they will coordinate the application of best management practices to help mitigate the problem.

The operator will be responsible for segregating topsoil material and backfilling of topsoil in its respective original position (last out, first in) to assist in the reestablishment of soil health and productivity.

All disturbed surfaces will be restored to natural contours and revegetated with the suggested seed mixture outlined in the Vegetation section of this EA.

Erosion and sediment control measures will be installed on all slopes exceeding five percent to mitigate soil loss. Erosion and sediment control measures will be maintained until stream banks and adjacent upland areas are stabilized.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: At the present time, soils in the vicinity of the proposed action meet soil health standards and exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, landform, climate, and geologic processes. Implementation of the proposed actions will not change this status.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The vegetation of the upper terraces of Douglas Creek is an Alkaline Slopes range site in low-seral condition. Predominate species are greasewood and cheatgrass.

The vegetation of the section between the White River and Spring Creek was a pinyon/juniper woodland which was burned by wildfire during the 1990's. The vegetation onsite consists of the species seeded following pipeline construction and the species planted to stabilize soils following the wild fire. The seeded species were native and of non-native species including western wheatgrass, pubescent wheatgrass and crested wheatgrass.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: the proposed action will disturb vegetation and soils. With proper reseeding the Douglas Creek site is expected to improve in cover and species diversity. The upland site between the White River and Spring creek is expected to have similar vegetation composition and density to the previous seeding.

Although the seeded species are non-native they offer the best opportunity to convert this low-seral plant community to a more productive type.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no change from the existing situation.

Mitigation: Concur with the invasive-non-native section (above).

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial)*:* The project sites do not currently meet the standards for plant communities' health and would not following reclamation.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: There are no aquatic systems potentially affected by the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There would be no effect on existing aquatic wildlife or habitat under the no action alternative.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no effect on existing aquatic wildlife or habitat under the no action alternative.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): Recoating of the pipeline segments would have no conceivable influence on the condition or function of aquatic habitats or wildlife associated with them, and therefore, would have no influence on continued maintenance of associated land health standards.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Much of the basin and Wyoming big sagebrush habitats which encompass the project area are considered general winter range for big game. These areas are generally occupied from mid-October through mid-April. Those segments located along the White River corridor are categorized by the Colorado Division of Wildlife as severe winter range - a specialized component of winter range that periodically supports virtually all an area's deer under the most severe winter conditions (i.e., extreme cold and heavy snowpack). These ranges typically sustain big game use from December through April.

Although raptors may opportunistically forage throughout the project area, there is no suitable nesting substrate within the immediate vicinity of the segments scheduled for recoating.

Nongame mammals and birds using this area are typical and widely distributed in extensive like habitats across the Resource Area and northwest Colorado; there are no narrowly endemic or highly specialized species known to inhabit those lands potentially influenced by this action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There would be little if any impact on deer and elk habitat along the pipeline corridor. Pipeline replacement/recoating is expected to occur during the summer and fall months thereby having no negative impacts on winter use by deer and elk. Although maintenance activity would remove shrub growth as a potential source of big game winter forage, these sites would be small (average 0.25 acre) and widely separated along the 35 mile pipeline corridor. Although reestablishment of shrub growth may require a decade or more, total involvement would be less than 8 acres—wholly discountable in the context of the remaining woody forage base on these winter ranges.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Emergency maintenance stemming from the lack of scheduled replacement/upkeep and pipeline failure may result in more lengthy, hurriedly planned, and larger scale repairs at inopportune times (e.g., winter/early spring), which may create greater disturbance than that associated with the proposed action.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): Upland habitats encompassing the project area generally meet the land health standards for animal communities. The proposed action would have no measurable long-term influence on the condition or utility of terrestrial wildlife or their habitats.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Access and Transportation			X
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire Management	X		
Forest Management	X		
Geology and Minerals		X	
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		
Law Enforcement		X	
Noise	X		
Paleontology			X
Rangeland Management		X	
Realty Authorizations			X
Recreation			X
Socio-Economics		X	
Visual Resources			X
Wild Horses			X

ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION

Affected Environment: East Four Mile Draw recreation site access road will be affected by the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Recoating project may require the excavation within or adjacent to this access road making road impassable during this period.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: Before excavating East Four Mile Draw access road, contact BLM White River Field Office and communicate that barriers have been installed to warn public that the recreation site is closed. Any damage caused by pipeline re-coating project contractor shall replace or repair any constructed features owned by the US Government such as but not limited to cattle guards, gravel road surface or signs.

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: Ignacio-Sumas pipeline: The Douglas Creek portion of the pipeline lies in an area generally mapped as the Mesa Verde Formation/group (Tweto 1979) which the BLM has classified as a Condition I formation meaning it is known to produce scientifically important fossil resources. However, there are portions that might also be in areas that are primarily Quaternary Alluvium.

Exceptions on the Ignacio-Sumas main pipeline are: Recoat location 89: Located in the Mancos Shale (Tweto 1979). The BLM, WRFO has classified the Mancos Shale as a Condition II formation meaning it is not known for producing quantities of scientifically important fossils though some are occasionally found.

Recoat location 92: Located in the upper Mesa Verde Group (Tweto 1979). The BLM, WRFO has classified the Mesa Verde Group as a Condition I formation which means it is known to produce scientifically important fossil resources.

Recoat location 91: Located in the Sego Sandstone/Buck Tongue portions of the Mancos Shale (Tweto 1979). The BLM, WRFO has classified the Mancos Shale as a Condition II formation meaning it is not known to produce quantities of scientifically important fossil resources although rarely scientifically important fossil are located.

Piceance Basin Lateral: Recoat locations 57 and 99: Located in the Lower Green River formation (Tweto 1979). The BLM, WRFO has classified the Lower Green River as a Condition II formation meaning the fossil bearing potential of the Formation in this area is poorly understood.

Recoat location 46: Located in the Wasatch Formation (Tweto 1979). The BLM, WRFO has classified the Wasatch Formation as a Condition I formation meaning it is known to produce scientifically important fossil resources.

Recoat locations 070 and 100: Located in the Iles Formation of the Mesa Verde Group. The BLM, WRFO has classified the various members of the Mesa Verde Group, including the Iles Formation as Condition I formations meaning that they are known to produce scientifically important fossil resources.

Redcoat location 071: Located in the Upper Mesa Verde Group (Tweto 1979). The BLM, WRFO has classified the various members of the Mesa Verde Group, including the undifferentiated Upper Mesa Verde as a Condition I formation meaning it is known to produce scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Douglas Creek portion of the Ignacio-Sumas pipeline: if it should become necessary, at any time, to excavate into the underlying or surrounding rock formation to adequately expose the pipeline for recoating there is the potential to impact scientifically important fossil resources.

Ignacio-Sumas recoat location 89: It is not expected that scientifically important fossil resources will be impacted on this section of the pipeline recoat project if it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying or surrounding rock formation.

Ignacio-Sumas recoat location 92: if it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying or surrounding rock formation to adequately expose the pipeline for recoating there is a potential to impacts scientifically important fossil resources.

Ignacio-Sumas recoat location 91: if is not expected that excavation into the underlying or surrounding rock formation to adequately expose the pipeline to apply the coating will impact scientifically important fossil resources.

Piceance Basin Lateral: Recoat locations 57 and 99: it is not known if there is a high potential or low potential to impact fossil resources if it should become necessary to excavate into the underlying rock formation to adequately expose the pipeline for recoating.

Recoat location 46: if it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying rock formation to adequately expose the pipeline for recoating there is a fairly high potential to impacts scientifically important fossil resources.

Recoat locations 070 and 100: if it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying/surrounding rock formation to adequately expose the pipeline for recoating there is a fairly high potential to impact scientifically important fossil resources.

Recoat location 071: if it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying/surrounding rock formation to adequately expose the pipeline for recoating there is a fairly high potential to impact scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to fossil resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: Generally: 1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing paleontological sites, or for collecting fossils. If fossil materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear to be of noteworthy scientific interest
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not feasible)

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

<u>Ignacio-Sumas pipeline in Douglas Creek</u>: any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying/surrounding rock formation to expose the pipeline for recoating a paleontological monitor shall be present for said excavations.

Ignacio-Sumas recoat location 89: spot check once the trench is open.

Ignacio-Sumas recoat location 92: any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying/surrounding rock formation to expose the pipeline for recoating a paleontological monitor shall be present for said excavations.

Ignacio-Sumas recoat location 91: Spot check once the trench is open.

<u>Piceance Basin Lateral</u>: Recoat locations 57 and 99: spot check open trenches if excavation into underlying rock occurs.

Recoat location 46: any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying/surrounding rock formation to expose the pipeline for recoating a paleontological monitor shall be present for said excavations.

Recoat locations 070 and 100: any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying/surrounding rock formation to expose the pipeline for recoating a paleontological monitor shall be present for said excavations.

Recoat location 071: any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying/surrounding rock formation to expose the pipeline for recoating a paleontological monitor shall be present for said excavations.

REALTY AUTHORIZATIONS

Affected Environment: As a result of previous integrity testing, NWP has detected areas where recoating is necessary to replace weakened or leaking segments of pipeline on the Ignacio/Sumas and Piceance Creek Lateral.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action will involve the replacement of weakened, leaking segments, or recoating segments on these two pipelines that have been in service since the 1950's. Both these facilities are located within major utility corridors. Much of the work will be done on NWPs existing 50-foot easement with an additional 25 feet on each side of the easement which will make for a 100-foot wide temporary work space. The temporary use permit will be for one year and will terminate at that time.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Under the no action alternative, the application would be denied and the situation will remain the same.

Mitigation: 1. The Colorado One Call Procedure will be implemented before any surface disturbing activities can take place.

RECREATION

Affected Environment: The proposed action occurs within the White River Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). BLM custodially manages the ERMA to provide for unstructured recreation activities such as hunting, dispersed camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and off-highway vehicle use. The proposed project is adjacent to several recreation sites or signs in the Canyon Pintado National Historic District.

The project areas have been delineated a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class of Rural (R). Rural physical and social recreation setting is culturally modified to the point that it is dominant to the sensitive travel route observer. This may include pastoral, agricultural, intensively managed wildland resource landscapes, or utility corridors. Pedestrian or other slow moving observers are constantly within view of culturally changed landscape. There is strong evidence of designed roads and/or highways. Structures are readily apparent and may range from scattered to small dominant clusters including utility corridors, farm buildings, microwave installations, and recreation sites. Frequency of contact is moderate to high at developed sites and on roads and trails; moderate away from developed sites.

Rural recreation experience is characterized by a low probability of isolation from the sights and sounds of humans.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: While working adjacent to or within recreation sites in the Canyon Pintado National Historic District, it is likely that public will avoid these recreation sites due to the construction or outright closure of recreation site in the case of East Four Mile Draw recreation site.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No loss of dispersed recreation potential and no impact to hunting recreationists.

Mitigation: Before excavating East Four Mile Draw access road, contact BLM White River Field Office and communicate that barriers have been installed to warn public that the recreation site is closed. Additionally, notify BLM White River Field Office prior to excavating adjacent to "Canyon Pintado National Historic District" entrance sign. Any damage caused by pipeline re-coating project contractor shall replace or repair any constructed features owned by the US Government such as but not limited to cattle guards, gravel road surface or signs.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed actions are located in areas with VRM II, VRM III, and VRM IV classifications. The objective of the VRM II classification is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. The objective of the VRM III classification is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. The objective of the VRM IV classification is to provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed actions would affect the current visual conditions for only a brief period of time by changing the color contrast of the existing cover over the pipelines. After reseeding and vegetation has established the results of the proposed action would not be visible. There would be no change to any of the existing character of the landscape for any of the VRM classifications and the objectives of the VRM classifications would be retained.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts.

Mitigation: None

WILD HORSES

Affected Environment: The proposed action occurs within or adjacent to the White River Field Office's North Piceance or West Douglas Herd Areas. BLM manages the wild horses located within these areas. The proposed project is potentially adjacent to several sections of fence used as boundary fencing in some cases.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: While working adjacent to or within the herd area(s) it is likely that work may take place adjacent to some or a section of fencing used as boundary fences. If said fences are cut, gates left open, cattleguards damaged, or if fences are laid to the ground during the project for any period of time there is potential for horses to move outside the area(s) where they need to be regulated. It is believed that the horses may avoid these areas during construction activities but may return during periods of non-activity.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: The operator will be required to maintain the fences they encounter during the project in working order (e.g., cut fence will be repaired, gates will be closed, cattleguards repaired, and fence laid down will be put up). Please note that during the month of September 2006 the BLM will be conducting wild horse gather operations in the area(s) listed above.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: This action is consistent with the scope of impacts addressed in the White River ROD/RMP. The cumulative impacts of these activities are addressed in the White River ROD/RMP for each resource value that would be affected by the proposed action.

REFERENCES CITED:

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Air Pollution Control Division (APCD), 2005. "Colorado Air Quality Data Report – 2004," September 2005.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC), 2005a. Regulation No. 37 Classifications and Numeric Standards for Lower Colorado River Basin. Amended December 12, 2005 and Effective March 2, 2006.

CDPHE-WQCC, 2006b. "Status of Water Quality in Colorado – 2006, The Update to the 2002 and 2004 305(b) Report," April 2006.

CDPHE-WQCC, 2006c. "Regulation No. 93, 2006 Section 303(d) List Water-Quality-Limited Segments Requiring TMDLs," effective April 30.

CDPHE-WQCC, 2006d. "Regulation No. 94, Colorado's Monitoring and Evaluation List," effective April 30.

Fetterman, Jerry

2006 Cultural Resource Investigations for Northwest Pipeline Corporation's 2006 Vernal Recoat Project, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Woods Canyon Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Yellow Jacket, Colorado.

Tweto, Ogden
1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: None

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Nate Dieterich	Hydrologist	Air Quality
Tamara Meagley	Natural Resource Specialist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Tamara Meagley	Natural Resource Specialist	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Michael Selle	Archeologist	Cultural Resources Paleontological Resources
Robert Fowler	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Wildlife
Melissa Kindall	Hazmat Collateral	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Nate Dieterich	Hydrologist	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness
Nate Dieterich	Hydrologist	Soils
Robert Fowler	Rangeland Management Specialist	Vegetation
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Terrestrial and Aquatic
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Access and Transportation
Ken Holsinger	Natural Resource Specialist	Fire Management
Robert Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Robert Fowler	Rangeland Management Specialist	Rangeland Management
Penny Brown	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation
Keith Whitaker	Natural Resource Specialist	Visual Resources
Melissa Kindall	Natural Resource Specialist	Wild Horses

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

CO-110-2006-109-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION/RATIONALE: It is my decision to approve the proposed action with the mitigation measures listed below.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

1. Construction equipment will be maintained in good operating condition to ensure that engines are running efficiently. Vehicles and construction equipment with emission controls will also be maintained to ensure effective pollutant emission reductions.

2. Fugitive dust will be minimized by the following procedures. At the request of residents, counties, or BLM, un-surfaced roads that generate excessive dust will either be watered, covered with a county or BLM approved chemical binder, or another dust control method satisfactory to the landowner will be adopted.

3. Traffic controls may be implemented including decreased speed limits with appropriate enforcement, or other traffic calming methods, to minimize fugitive dust. All unpaved areas of the project will be sufficiently watered to prevent fugitive dust from causing a public nuisance or violation of any ambient air standards. Speed limit reductions will be a minimum of 10 mph below the posted speed limit on unpaved roads, or greater as determined in the field based on site conditions. On unpaved roads in populated areas, the operator will ensure that all adequate dust control measures are implemented in a timely and effective manner during construction. Land clearing, grading, earth moving or excavation activities will be suspended when wind speeds exceed a sustained velocity of 20 miles per hour in populated areas. Disturbed areas will be revegetated as outlined in the Vegetation section of this document.

4. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the holder is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the holder as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the holder will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the holder wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the holder will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the holder will then be allowed to resume construction.

5. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

6. Recoat location 58 on the Ignacio-Sumas pipeline: pipeline excavation will be monitored in the vicinity of site 5RB 314, and for 25 meters either site of recorded site boundaries, by an approved Archaeologist.

7. Recoat locations 55, 68, 69, 71, 85 112 113, 115, and 119 on the Ignacio-Sumas pipeline: all pipeline excavations will be monitored in these recoat locations.

8. Preliminary testing shall be conducted at sites 5RB 709 and 4690 prior to initiation of any construction in order to determine if preliminary mitigation is required.

9. All disturbed sites shall be promptly reclaimed to the satisfaction of the Area Manger.

10. Reclamation should be implemented concurrent with construction and site operations to the fullest extent possible. Final reclamation actions shall be initiated within six months of the termination of operations unless otherwise approved in writing by the Authorized Officer.

11. The goal for rehabilitation of any disturbed area shall be the permanent restoration of original site conditions and productive capability.

12. Disturbed areas shall be restored as nearly as possible to its original contour.

13. Fill material shall be pushed into cut areas and up over backslopes. Leave no depressions that will trap water or form ponds.

14. Distribute topsoil evenly over the location and prepare a seedbed by disking or ripping. Drill seed on contour at a depth no greater than ½ inch. In areas that cannot be drilled, broadcast at double the seeding rate and harrow seed into the soil.

15. Use seed that is certified and free of noxious weeds. Seed certification tags must be submitted to the Field Manager.

16. Additional seed applications may be required to accommodate specific site conditions or if initial seed germination has failed.

17. Seed species used in reseeding disturbed areas will be based on the seed mixes identified in table B1 and B2. These mixes are based on Ecological Sites as determined by soils. Only native plant species will be used for reseeding of disturbed areas within the Blue Mountain/Moosehead Geographic Reference Area, Wilderness study Areas, and within designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Native plant species would be strongly encouraged in the remainder of the Resource Area for reseeding disturbed areas that are not threatened by establishment of exotic or noxious plant species. Naturalized plant species will be allowed for reseeding on "at risk" and "unhealthy" rangelands and grazable woodlands.

18. Leave the disturbed area in a condition that provides drainage with no additional maintenance.

Table B-1. Standard Seed Mixes

Seed Mix #	Species (Variety)	Lbs PLS/ Acre	Ecological Sites
1	Siberian wheatgrass (P27) Russian wildrye (Bozoisky) Crested wheatgrass (Hycrest) Alternates: Yellow sweetclover, Fourwing saltbush, Nutall saltbush, Winterfat, Annual Sunflower, Western wheatgrass	3 2 3	Alkaline Uplands, Badlands, Clayey 7"-9", Clayey Salt Desert, Cold Desert Breaks, Cold Desert Overflow, Gravelly 7"-9", Limey Cold Desert, Loamy 7"-9", Loamy Cold Desert, Loamy Salt Desert, Saline Lowland, Salt Desert Breaks, Salt Flats, Salt Meadow Sands 7"-9", Sandy 7"-9", Sandy Cold Desert, Sandy Salt Desert, Shale 7"-9", Shale/Sands Complex, Shallow Loamy, Shallow Sandy, Shallow Slopes, Silty Salt Desert, Silty Swale, Steep Slopes

19. Application of herbicides must be under field supervision of an EPA-certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides must be registered by the EPA and application proposals must be approved by the BLM.

20. Hazardous materials will be used, stored, transported and/or disposed of in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. The potential for accidental spills or leaks will be minimized by adherence to the Hazardous Materials Management and Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (Spill) Plan. The plan describes hazardous materials products and quantities typically found on pipeline projects, spill prevention measures, inspection and training requirements, and spill response and notification procedures. Construction areas will be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times and waste will be collected and disposed of at an appropriate waste disposal site.

21. Topsoil and spoil will be placed at least 10 feet from the edge of any water flow paths (ephemeral or perennial). The pipeline will be buried at least five feet below the bottom of ephemeral drainages. Erosion and sediment control measures will be installed adjacent to flowing water-bodies to prevent flow of topsoil or spoil into them. Erosion and sediment control measures will be maintained until stream banks and adjacent upland areas are stabilized. Pre-construction streambed and bank contours will be restored, stream banks will be revegetated, and erosion control fabric will be installed on stream banks. Refueling and equipment maintenance will take place at least 100 feet from stream banks. All disturbed surfaces will be recontoured and reseeded as outlined in the Vegetation section of this document.

22. Given the salt concentration of the impacted soils, the holder will be responsible for monitoring salts leaching from soils. If large salt deposits begin to appear, the holder will notify BLM, together they will coordinate the application of best management practices to help mitigate the problem.

23. The holder will be responsible for segregating topsoil material and backfilling of topsoil in its respective original position (last out, first in) to assist in the reestablishment of soil health and productivity.

24. All disturbed surfaces will be restored to natural contours and revegetated with the suggested seed mixture outlined in the Vegetation section of this EA.

25. Erosion and sediment control measures will be installed on all slopes exceeding five percent to mitigate soil loss. Erosion and sediment control measures will be maintained until stream banks and adjacent upland areas are stabilized.

26. Before excavating East Four Mile Draw access road, the holder will contact the BLM White River Field Office and communicate that barriers have been installed to warn public that the recreation site is closed. Any damage caused by pipeline re-coating project, the holder shall replace or repair any constructed features owned by the US Government such as but not limited to cattle guards, gravel road surface or signs.

27. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing paleontological sites, or for collecting fossils. If fossil materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the holder is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the holder as to:

- whether the materials appear to be of noteworthy scientific interest
- the mitigation measures the holder will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not feasible)

If the holder wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the holder

will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

28. Ignacio-Sumas pipeline in Douglas Creek:
- Any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying/surrounding rock formation to expose the pipeline for recoating a paleontological monitor shall be present for said excavations.
- Ignacio-Sumas recoat location 89: spot check once the trench is open.
- Ignacio-Sumas recoat location 92: any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying/surrounding rock formation to expose the pipeline for recoating a paleontological monitor shall be present for said excavations.
- Ignacio-Sumas recoat location 91: Spot check once the trench is open.

29. Piceance Basin Lateral:
- Recoat locations 57 and 99: spot check open trenches if excavation into underlying rock occurs.
- Recoat location 46: any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying/surrounding rock formation to expose the pipeline for recoating a paleontological monitor shall be present for said excavations.
- Recoat locations 070 and 100: any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying/surrounding rock formation to expose the pipeline for recoating a paleontological monitor shall be present for said excavations.
- Recoat location 071: any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying/surrounding rock formation to expose the pipeline for recoating a paleontological monitor shall be present for said excavations.

30. The Colorado One Call Procedure will be implemented before any surface disturbing activities can take place.

31. The older will be required to maintain the fences they encounter during the project in working order (e.g., cut fence will be repaired, gates will be closed, cattleguards repaired, and fence laid down will be put up. Please note that during the month of September 2006,BLM will be conducting wild horse gather operations in the North Piceance and/or West Douglas Herd Areas.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Compliance will be conducted by the realty staff every five years.

NAME OF PREPARER: Penny Brown

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Caroline Hollowed

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: Vernon R Roll
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 7/6/06

ATTACHMENTS:

CO-110-2006-109-EA 29