United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Glenwood Springs Field Office
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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-140-2008-015 EA

CASEFILE NUMBER: COC-43109 / 281001 Amendment

PROJECT NAME: Eagle County, County Road 301 Road Widening (for egress and ingress to new bridge)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T.4 S., R.86 W., SW ¼ , Sec. 3, 6th Principal Meridian, Eagle County, Colorado. (see attached map)

APPLICANT: Eagle County, Engineering Department, contact: Rick Ullom, Eagle County Road & Bridge (970)328-8780.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Background/Introduction: On October 18, 2007 the Glenwood Springs Field Office (GSFO) received an application to widen a portion of County Road 301 (CR 301) just west of the bridge structure (No.EAG-301-08.2) over the Colorado River. The portion of CR 301 as described above is under authorization case file COC-43109, and the proposed widening would be an amendment to the existing case file. The material from the road cut resulting from the widening would be utilized to make an ”approach” on the east side of the bridge. In addition, 5,000 cubic yards of gravel would be purchased from an existing authorized pit for the approach. Total affected BLM public lands would be 1.24 acres which includes a temporary work space.

This proposal is in connection with the need to replace/construct Bridge Structure No.EAG-301-08.2 on County Road 301 (CR 301) over the Colorado River. Replacement of this bridge is necessary because of the structural failure of the existing bridge and the need to improve traffic safety. Safety would be improved by replacing the single lane bridge with a two lane bridge, and by increasing the radius of the turn on the west side of the bridge, the area where the increased radius of the turn is on BLM public lands.

The proposed bridge will be designed by LONCO, Inc. The new bridge would be constructed south of the existing bridge so that a crossing over the Colorado River could be maintained

during construction. The bridge would be 220 feet long and 39 feet wide. Road work would extend approximately 500 feet to the west and 400 feet to the southeast. The road work would increase the radius of the turn west of the bridge to improve safety. This would require a cut into the hillside that includes BLM public lands. The proposed bridge would be permanent and in use year-round.

The applicant would need a temporary work space of 1.24 acres to work on the road cut.

If approved, construction would begin as soon as authorized; construction has already begun on non-BLM public lands (and would last 9 – 12 months).

No Action Alternative: Construction alternative would not be authorized, and there would not be an increase in the radius of the turn into the new bridge.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD: The applicant had proposed the following alternative but was dropped from further consideration.

Use the existing alignment and build a new bridge on the north side of the existing bridge**.** However, this alternative was dropped from consideration because it would require closing of the existing bridge during construction and would not improve the safety of the turn, require more use of BLM public lands, and impact more wetlands.

NEED FOR THE ACTION: The road widening would increase the radius of the turn west of the bridge and would improve safety. This action would be in conjunction with the replacement of the bridge on CR 301 and is necessary because of the structural failure of the existing bridge and the need to improve traffic safety. Safety would be improved by replacing the single lane bridge with a two-lane bridge, and by increasing the radius of the turn on the west side of the bridge, the area where the increased radius of the turn is on BLM public lands.

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: Glenwood Springs Resource Management Plan.
>
> Date Approved: Jan. 1984, revised 1988, amended in November 1991 - Oil and Gas Leasing and Development - Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; amended Nov. 1996 - Colorado Standards and Guidelines; amended in August 1997 - Castle Peak Travel Management Plan; amended in March 1999 - Oil and Gas Leasing & Development Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; amended in November 1999 - Red Hill Plan Amendment; and amended in September 2002 – Fire Management Plan for Wildland Fire Management and Prescriptive Vegetation Treatment Guidance. Management Plan for Wildland Fire Management and Prescriptive Vegetation Treatment Guidance; amended in August 2006 - Roan Plateau Planning Area Including Naval Oil Shale Reserves Numbers 1 & 3 Resource Management Plan Amendment & Environmental Impact Statement.

Decision Number/Page: Pages 40 & 41, Transportation, Utility and Communication Facility Management.

Decision Language: To respond in a timely manner to requests for utility and communication facility authorizations on public land while considering environmental, social, economic, and interagency concerns, and

Use and improve existing roads and trails in areas where feasible.

Standards for Public Land Health: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. The five 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.

The Glenwood Springs Field Office is in the ongoing process of completing Land Health Assessments on a landscape basis. A formal land health assessment was conducted on the lands affected by the proposed action in 2003. The Sweetwater-to-Burns Land Health Assessment Report and Determination Document (signed on October 1, 2006) indicated that the landscape was meeting all of the Standards for Public Land Health at the time of the assessment.

The impact analysis must address whether the proposed action or any alternatives being analyzed would result in impacts that would maintain, improve, or deteriorate land health conditions for each of the five standards. These analyses are located in specific elements listed below:

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

This section provides a description of the human and natural environmental resources that could be affected by the proposed action and no action alternative. In addition, the section presents comparative analyses of the direct and indirect consequences on the affected environment stemming from the implementation of the various actions.

A variety of laws, regulations, and policy directives mandate the evaluation of the effects of a proposed action and alternative(s) on certain critical environmental elements. Not all of the critical elements that require inclusion in this EA are present, or if they are present, may not be affected by the proposed action and alternative (Table 2). Only those mandatory critical elements that are present and affected are described in the following narrative.

In addition to the mandatory critical elements, there are additional resources that would be impacted by the proposed action and alternative. These are presented under **Other Affected Resources.**

Table 1 - Critical Elements of the Human Environment

Critical Element	*Present*		*Affected*		*Critical Element*	*Present*		*Affected*	
	Yes	No	Yes	No		Yes	No	Yes	No
Air Quality	X		X		Prime or Unique		X		X

					Farmlands				
ACECs		X		X	Threatened or Endangered Species*	X			X
Cultural Resources	X			X	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	X		X	
Environmental Justice					Water Quality, Drinking and Ground	X		X	
Floodplains		X		X	Wetlands and Riparian Zones*		X		X
Invasive, Non-native Species	X		X		Wild and Scenic Rivers	X			X
Native American Religious Concerns		X		X	Wilderness		X		X

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: The proposed activities would occur in Eagle County which has been described as an attainment area under Colorado Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) and National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). An attainment area is an area where ambient air pollution amounts are determined to be below NAAQS standards. For further details on air quality studies in the Glenwood Springs Resource Area, refer to the Roan Plateau RMPA and EIS which describes potential effects from oil and gas development (BLM 2006:4-26 to 4-37).

Proposed Action

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Activities described in the proposed action could last approximately 9 to 12 months and would result in localized daily increases in vehicle and equipment emissions. While elevated concentrations of emissions would be present during and immediately following daily activities, these emissions would be minor in scale and would have no effect on air quality outside of the immediate project area. In addition to emissions, construction activities could produce high levels of dust in dry conditions without dust abatement. The proponent would provide appropriate dust abatement measures during project implementation.

No Action Alternative

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Under the no action alternative there would be no dust generation and equipment emissions associated with construction activities.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: Two Class III inventories (GSFO#5408-1 and 5408-4) were conducted of the Area of Potential Effect (APE). One site (5EA813) was identified in 1987 within the APE. It was determined to be potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Testing was conducted in the fall of 2007 to determine if any intact cultural components were present that would make the site eligible. None were found. Therefore, a determination of "**No Historic Properties Affected** "was made in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (16U.S.C

470f), National BLM/SHPO Programmatic Agreement (1997), and Colorado Protocol (1998).

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Although the proposed action would have no direct impacts on historic properties, indirect impacts from increased access and the presence of project personnel could result in a range of impacts to known and undiscovered cultural resources in the vicinity of the location. These impacts could range from illegal collection and excavation to vandalism.

Mitigation: A standard Education/Discovery Stipulation for cultural resource protection would be attached to the permit. The importance of this stipulation should be stressed to the operator and their contractors, including informing them of their responsibilities to protect and report any cultural resources encountered.

No Action Alternative: This alternative would have the same affect as the proposed action. It would however possibly reduce the potential of inadvertent impacts to both know and undiscovered cultural resources in the vicinity. The Education/Discovery Stipulation would still apply.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Affected Environment: Review of 2004 data from US Census Bureau indicates the median annual income of Garfield County averages $50,119 and is neither an impoverished or wealthy county. Median annual income of Eagle County averages $59,037 and is not impoverished but is considered a wealthy county. U.S. Census Bureau data from 2006 shows the minority population of Garfield and Eagle County comprises less than 0.6 % of the total population of Colorado[1].

Garfield County	Eagle County
Median Household Income (2004)	Median Household Income (2004)
Estimate	Estimate
$50,119	$59,037

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The proposed action and alternatives are not expected to create a disproportionately high and adverse human health impact or environmental effect on minority or low-income populations within the area.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: No noxious weeds have been documented in the specific project area; however, noxious weeds are likely to occur within the general area since the proposed action would occur immediately adjacent to a paved road.

[1] Source U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts. Data derived from Population Estimates, Census of Population and Housing, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, State and County Housing Unit Estimates, County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners, Building Permits, Consolidated Federal Funds Report
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Environmental Consequences: Weeds generally germinate and become established in areas of surface disturbing activities such as road construction and maintenance, vehicular traffic, big game and livestock grazing. Vehicular traffic, in particular, often serves as a conduit for the transportation of weeds or weed seeds. The risk of noxious weeds invading the site following the realignment of the road and the construction of the bridge are high since the site is immediately adjacent to a well-traveled road.

Mitigation: To reduce the opportunities for weeds to become established, the disturbed areas will be reseeded with a certified weed-seed free mixture of native grasses adapted to the site (as indicated in the Vegetation Section). The right-of-way holder (Eagle County Road and Bridge) will monitor the disturbance to detect the presence of any noxious weeds and will be responsible for promptly controlling any noxious weeds on the Colorado State List A or B (except redstem filaree) within the disturbed area. If the right-of-way holder chooses to use herbicides as the control method on public lands, a Pesticide Use Proposal shall be submitted to the BLM and approved prior to initiating any herbicide spraying.

No Action Alternative: Under the No Action alternative, no new surface disturbance would occur in the project area and the risk of noxious weed invasion would remain the same as the current situation.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: Vegetation in the project area is minimal due to the rocky soils and the south-facing aspect of the project area. Vegetation consists of big sagebrush/grass and scattered Utah juniper trees. This habitat type typically provides nesting habitat for a large array of migratory birds during the breeding season. One species listed on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern, sage sparrow potentially nests in the general area however the habitat at the site is of lower quality than other locations.

Environmental Consequences: Nesting of migratory birds may be disrupted and nests could be lost if construction activities associated with the proposed action are conducted during the nesting period (May – July). However, widening the road and replacing the bridge would impact only 1.24 acres of BLM lands creating an insignificant longterm impact on migratory birds. During construction, individual birds would likely be displaced (May – July) to adjacent habitats due to noise and human presence. Although individual birds may be impacted, given the small size of the project, the proposed action would not have impact migratory birds on a landscape level.

No Action: There would be no impacts to migratory bird species from the No Action Alternative.

NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS

Affected Environment: The Ute tribes claim this area as part of their ancestral homeland. At present, no Native American concerns are known within the project area and none were identified during the inventories. The Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Bands, the primary Native American Tribe for this area of the GSFO, have indicated that they do not need to be consulted for small projects or projects where no Native American areas of concern have been identified either through survey or past consultations. Therefore, formal consultation was not undertaken. If new data are disclosed, new terms and conditions may have to be negotiated to accommodate their concerns.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Although there would be no direct impacts from the proposed action, indirect impacts from increased access and personnel in the vicinity of the proposed project could result in a range of impacts to unknown Native American resources from illegal collection to vandalism.

A standard Education/Discovery Stipulation for the protection of Native American values would be attached to the permit. The importance of this stipulation should be stressed to the operator and their contractors, including informing them of their responsibilities to protect and report any cultural resources encountered.

No Action Alternative: This alternative would have the same affect as the proposed action. It would also possibly reduce the potential of inadvertent impacts to both know and undiscovered Native American areas of concern. The Education/Discovery Stipulation would still apply.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE SPECIES (includes an analysis on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: According to the latest species list from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the following Federally listed and candidate species may reside, have habitat, and/or be impacted by actions occurring in Eagle County: Canada lynx, black-footed ferret, western yellow-billed cuckoo, razorback sucker, Colorado pikeminnow, bonytail chub, humpback chub and Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly, and Ute Ladies'-tresses orchid.

The specific project area does not provide habitat for any federally listed species. Potential habitat for the BLM Sensitive plant, Harrington's penstemon, does exist in the project area; however, no occurrences have been documented in the area. Three BLM Sensitive fish species, have been documented in the Colorado River in the vicinity of the project area, they are the flannelmouth sucker, roundtail chub, and bluehead sucker.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:
The proposed action should have no impact to Harrington's penstemon since there are no known occurrences of the species in or immediately adjacent to the project area.

Flannelmouth sucker, Bluehead sucker, Roundtail chub:

These native fishes evolved with the high sediment loads traditionally carried by the Colorado River and any increases in sediment resulting from the widening of the road and the temporary staging area would have no impact to these fishes.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard 4 for Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species: The Sweetwater-to-Burns Land Health Assessment was completed for the area in 2006. At that time the project area was meeting Standard 4. The proposed action should have little bearing on the areas ability to continue to meet this Standard.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: Vehicle fuel and lubricants would be used during the bridge replacement and road upgrading activities. Fuel and lubricants would be present throughout the life of the project and would be in close proximity to the Colorado River.

Proposed Action

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: It is anticipated that fuel and lubricants would be stored in appropriate containers during project implementation. Given the scope of the project and proper BMP installation and maintenance, the likelihood of spills occurring and hazardous materials being transported to the Colorado River are minimal. The proponent would frequently inspect and maintain spill prevention measures and respond to spills promptly and appropriately.

No Action Alternative

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Under the no action alternative there would be no fuel or lubricants present associated with project implementation.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes an analysis on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: Proposed activities on BLM lands would occur within the 31,228 acre Colorado River above Dotsero sub-watershed and would be located approximately 150 feet west of the Colorado River. These activities would involve removing soils and vegetation from the hillside west of and adjacent to County Road 301. Additional activities involving the bridge replacement would occur within the Colorado River channel.

The State of Colorado has developed *Stream Classifications and Water Quality Standards* (CDPHE, Water Quality Control Commission, Regulation No. 33) that identify beneficial uses of water and numeric standards used to determine allowable concentrations of water quality parameters. The proposed activities would occur within the Upper Colorado River Basin segment 3 that includes the mainstem of the Colorado River from the outlet of Lake Granby to the confluence with the Roaring Fork River. This segment is classified aquatic life cold 1, recreation E, water supply, and agriculture.

Aquatic life cold 1 indicates that this water course is capable of sustaining a wide variety of cold water biota. Recreation class E refers to waters in which primary contact

recreation is presumed to be present. In addition, this segment is suitable or intended to become suitable for potable water supplies and agricultural purposes that include irrigation and livestock use. At this time there are no current water quality data for the Colorado River within the project area, but it is assumed that water quality is overall good.

This segment is not currently on the *303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments Requiring TMDLS* (CDPHE, Water Quality Control Commission, Regulation No. 93) which identifies stream segments that are not currently meeting water quality standards with technology based controls alone or the *Monitoring and Evaluation List* (CDPHE, Water Quality Control Commission, Regulation No. 94) as a water body suspected to have water quality problems.

Proposed Action

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Proposed activities would temporarily remove soil and vegetation in close proximity to the Colorado River resulting in an increase in erosion potential and offsite sedimentation. With measures to control runoff water in place, reestablishment of vegetation, and proper engineering of roads, the potential for sediment transport to the Colorado River from BLM lands would be minimal. The proponent would properly install adequate BMPs and maintain them as needed to ensure that additional sediment does not reach the Colorado River during runoff events. However it is important to note that the bridge replacement would occur directly in the Colorado River and could result in additional sediment contributions to the Colorado River. These activities would not occur on BLM lands but the Colorado River does fall under the jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers as a water of the United States defined by 33 CFR Part 328. The proponent would consult the US Army Corps of Engineers for the appropriate Clean Water Act Section 404 permit and in channel mitigation prior to project implementation.

No Action Alternative

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The no action alternative would have no effect on surface water quality, groundwater quality, or designated waters of the United States.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard 5 for Water Quality: In 2008, the BLM Glenwood Springs Field Office completed the Deep Creek Land Health Assessment that included nearby tributaries to the Colorado River such as Sweetwater Creek and Deep Creek. The results of the assessment suggest that Standard 5 for water quality is being met in the area. The proposed action with associated mitigation and the no action alternative would not likely prevent standard 5 for water quality from being met.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

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

SOILS (includes a analysis on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: According to the *Soil Survey of Aspen-Gypsum Area, Colorado: Parts of Eagle, Garfield, and Pitkin Counties* (USDA 1992), the proposed activities would occur on the soil map unit Torriorthents-Camborthids-Rock outcrop complex. This soil map unit occurs on south-facing mountainsides, hills, and ridges with slopes ranging from 6 to 65 percent. Approximately 45 percent of this unit is Torriorthents, 20 percent Camborthids, and 15 percent Rock outcrop. The Torriorthents are shallow to moderately deep, well drained, and are derived from sedimentary rock. Surface runoff is rapid and the water erosion hazard is severe. The Camborthids are shallow to deep, well drained, and are derived from sandstone, shale, and basalt. Surface runoff is rapid and the water erosion hazard is severe. The Rock outcrop component of this unit consists of exposed sandstone, shale, and basalt. This soil map unit is used primarily for wildlife habitat. In addition to having severe water erosion hazard, a portion of the affected BLM land is classified as having slope angles greater than 30%.

Proposed Action

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Implementation of the proposed activities would temporarily remove vegetation and could alter soil conditions through compaction and displacement along the hillside on BLM lands. These impacts would result in an increase in erosion potential and offsite sedimentation in the short term prior to the establishment of vegetation along disturbed areas. Seeding practices following implementation would help to stabilize disturbed areas and to minimize erosion potential and sediment production. In addition, areas of severe erosion potential should be avoided if possible and efforts made to minimize negative impacts associated with ground disturbance on steep slopes through the use of BMPs and erosion control structures. Structures such as check dams, silt fences and straw wattles may be used to slow the velocity of runoff and to trap sediment allowing for vegetation establishment. The installation, frequent inspection, and maintenance of adequate BMPs by the proponent would significantly minimize the potential for erosion from BLM lands and sediment transport to the nearby Colorado River during project implementation.

No Action Alternative

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The no action alternative would have no affect on soil resources.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard 1 for upland soils: In 2008, the BLM Glenwood Springs Field Office completed the Deep Creek Land Health Assessment that included area allotments. The results of the assessment suggest that area allotments are achieving or moving towards achieving Standard 1 for upland soils. The proposed action with associated mitigation and the no action alternative would not likely prevent Standard 1 for upland soils from being met.

VEGETATION (includes an analysis on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Vegetation in the project area consists of big sagebrush/grass and a few Utah juniper trees on public lands on the western side of the proposed bridge.

Environmental Consequences: The construction of a new bridge across the Colorado River and the realignment of the access road would result in the temporary loss of less than 2 acres of sagebrush/grass vegetation and a few Utah juniper trees. If successfully reclaimed following construction, a native perennial grass community should be established on the public lands within the project area. After construction is completed, the new access road would be only slightly longer than the existing road and would result in the permanent loss of less than one acre of vegetation.

Mitigation:
The temporarily disturbed areas on public land will be seeded with native grasses to help prevent the invasion of noxious weeds and reestablish native, perennial vegetation on the site. The seed mix will be as follows:

Species of Seed	**Variety**	**Application Rate (PLS lbs/ac)**
Western wheatgrass	Arriba	9.0
Sandberg bluegrass		0.8
Indian ricegrass	Paloma or Rimrock	5.0
Bluebunch wheatgrass	Secar, Anatone, P-7, or Goldar	5.5
Total		**20.3 PLS lbs/ac**

The seed mix will be certified free of noxious weed seeds, i.e. the seed shall contain no noxious, prohibited, or restricted weed seeds and shall contain no more than 0.5 percent by weight of other weed seeds.

Where practical, seed shall be installed by drill-seeding to a depth of 0.25 to 0.5 inches. Where drill-seeding is impracticable, seed may be installed by broadcast-seeding at twice the drill-seeding rate shown in the table above. The seeded area shall be raked or harrowed following broadcast seeding to provide 0.25 to 0.5 inches of soil cover.

Hydroseeding and hydromulching may be used where drill-seeding or broadcast-seeding/raking are impracticable. Hydroseeding and hydromulching must be conducted in two separate applications to ensure adequate contact of seeds with the soil.

Prior to seeding, the seedbed shall be scarified and left with a rough surface. No depressions shall be left that would trap water and form ponds. Final seedbed preparation shall consist of contour cultivating to a depth of 4 to 6 inches within 24 hours prior to seeding.

Biodegradable straw matting, bales or wattles of weed-free straw or native grass hay, or well-anchored fabric silt fence shall be used on all cut-and-fill slopes and along drainages to protect against soil erosion. Mulch shall be applied within 24 hours following completion of seeding. Mulch shall consist of crimping certified weed-free straw or

certified weed-free native grass hay into the soil. Hydromulching may be used in areas where crimping is impracticable.

No Action: Under the No Action alternative, no new surface disturbance would occur in the project area. No vegetation would be temporarily or permanently lost and the risk of noxious weed invasion would remain the same as the current situation.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard 3 for Plant and Animal Communities (partial, see also **Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial**)**:**
The Sweetwater-to-Burns Land Health Assessment was completed for the project area in 2006. At that time the project area was meeting Standard 3 for plant communities. The proposed action, with associated mitigation, would not likely prevent standard 3 for plant communities from being met.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes an analysis on Standard 3)

Affected Environment:
The proposed road would be located within 0.125 miles of the Colorado River. In addition to those discussed in the THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE SPECIES this section above, this section of river contains the following fish species: rainbow and brown trout, speckled dace, and mountain whitefish. The river also contains a diverse and abundant aquatic insect population.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:

Proposed Action:
Cut and fill work associated with road widening near the river would temporarily remove soil and vegetation resulting in an increase in erosion potential and offsite sedimentation. In addition, the temporary staging area adjacent to the road would be disturbed as equipment and supplies would be stored at the site. With measures to control runoff water in place, reestablishment of vegetation, and proper engineering of roads, the potential for sediment transport to the Colorado River would be minimized. Increased sediment can impact trout by silting in important spawning substrates, smothering eggs, and reducing water quality. It can also impair aquatic insect production which in turn limits food availability for resident fishes. To minimize sediment concerns, mitigation is required.

Mitigation:
Best management practices will be implemented including: (a) contouring of disturbed areas on BLM lands to a 2:1 slope to improve the success of revegetation, (b) silt fencing will be used to minimize sediment reaching the river, and (c) hay bale check dams will be used to limit displacement of soils offsite.

No Action Alternative:

Environmental Consequences:
Under the no action alternative, no new road work would be authorized and no right-of-way would be granted. No impacts to resident fish would result.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard 3 for Plant and Animal Communities (partial, see also **Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial**)**:**
A formal Land Health Assessment was completed for the project area in 2003. At that time the area was meeting Standard 3 for aquatic wildlife. The proposed action with identified mitigation should have little bearing on the areas ability to continue to meet the standard.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes an analysis on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Vegetation in the project area consists of big sagebrush/grass and scattered Utah juniper trees. These habitat types typically provide cover and foraging habitat for a number of wildlife species, including mule deer, elk, small mammals, birds and reptiles.

Environmental Consequences:

Proposed Action: All wildlife species using the area would likely be displaced during construction of the proposed road and bridge. Most animals would return to undisturbed areas after construction is complete and human activity in the area decreases. Less than two acres of wildlife habitat would be impacted by the proposed action. This would not significantly degrade the habitat and the general area would still provide suitable habitat for wildlife species after construction. The proposed action is not expected to impact wildlife species or their habitat within the larger landscape.

No Action Alternative: This alternative would have no impact to terrestrial wildlife species or their habitat.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard 3 for Plant and Animal Communities (partial, see also **Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial**)**:** A formal Land Health Assessment was completed for the project area in 2006. At that time the area was meeting Standard 3 for terrestrial wildlife. The proposed action should have little bearing on the areas ability to continue to meet the standard.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS
Affected Environment: The proposed action is within the boundaries of a segment (segment 6) Colorado River that was found to be eligible under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORV's) that were found to meet the criteria was for recreational floatboating (rafting and fishing), scenic, and wildlife (river otter) values. The preliminary classification for this segment was "recreational" which allows for development and modifications within the corridor as long as the ORV's can be preserved.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:
Proposed Action: The proposed action directly adjacent to the existing road way will not impact the identified ORV's. While there will be some short term impacts to

visual/scenic values on both public and private lands, those impacts will essentially replace the existing disturbance. The re-routing of the road on BLM's portion and on private, and the installation of a new bridge will not result in long term impacts on recreational or wildlife values. The proposed action as it relates to public safety will actually benefit recreational users traveling the road to access the river. No additional mitigation is proposed and no impacts to this segments identified ORV's are expected and this action would not change the preliminary "recreation" classification which allows for this type of infrastructure within the river corridor.

No Action Alternative: This alternative would have not impacts to the current eligibility status of the Colorado River nor would it preclude a suitability determination.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, those brought forward for analysis will be formatted as shown above.

Table 2. Other Resources Considered in the Analysis.

Resource	***NA or Not Present***	***Present and Not Affected***	***Present and Affected***
Access and Transportation		X	
Cadastral Survey		X	
Fire/Fuels Management	X		
Forest Management	X		
Geology and Minerals	X		
Law Enforcement	X		
Paleontology	X		
Noise			X
Range Management			X
Realty Authorizations		X	
Recreation		X	
Socio-Economics	X		
Visual Resources			X

NOISE

Affected Environment: The proposed activities would occur in a rural setting with several nearby landowners. Noise levels in the area are currently created by traffic along the Colorado River Road (County Road 301) which could be described as low.

Proposed Action:
Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Implementation of the proposed activities would initially result in increased noise levels during road upgrading and bridge replacement activities. Based on an average construction equipment noise level of 59 dB(A) at 1,000 feet, construction noise at the nearby residences would be approximately 57 dB(A) (Table 5). At this distance, noise levels would approximate those associated with a normal suburban residential setting (EPA 1974). Noise levels would drop at a constant rate at greater distances (Harris 1991). At 1.0 mile, noise levels would be approximately 41dB(A) and about 38 dB(A) at 1.5 miles. This noise level would likely persist during daytime hours during the entire construction period.

Table 5. Noise Levels Associated with Typical Construction Equipment			
Equipment	***Noise Level (dB(A)***		
	50 feet	***500 feet***	***1,000 feet***
Tractor	**80**	**60**	**54**
Bulldozer	**89**	**69**	**63**
Backhoe	**85**	**65**	**59**
Crane	**88**	**68**	**62**
Air Compressor	**82**	**62**	**56**
Dump Truck	**88**	**68**	**62**
Average (rounded to nearest whole dB(A)	**85**	**65**	**59**
Source: BLM 1999b			

No Action Alternative:
Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Under the no action alternative, there would be no increase in current noise levels because the developments described in the proposed action would not take place.

RANGE MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: The proposed road widening on public land is located in the Horse Creek Allotment. There is one grazing permittee authorized on this allotment. Permitted grazing use is as follows:

Allotment Name & No.	**Livestock No./Kind**	**Period of Use**	**% PL**	**AUMS**
Horse Creek 08631	100 Cattle	05/01 – 07/13	100	243
	100 Cattle	09/28 – 10/31	100	112

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:

Proposed Action: There is an existing fence that borders the west side of the current location of the county road. The fence prevents cattle from drifting from the BLM grazing allotment onto the county road. Although not addressed in the proposed action, it is assumed the proposed road widening would remove a portion of this fence. If this occurs, cattle would drift onto the county road creating a hazard for motorists and possible death or injury to cattle in the event they are struck by vehicles.

Mitigation: A new fence must be constructed to replace any of the existing fence that may be removed from the proposed action. The fence will be located on the top of the road cut and will be tied to the existing fence on both ends. Any fence constructed on public land must be

constructed in accordance with BLM specifications. The specifications will be attached to the Right-of-Way Grant.

No Action Alternative: There would be no impact to livestock grazing or range management.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:

Affected Environment:
The proposed project area is located in an area classified as VRM Class II in the GSRA 1984 Resource Management Plan. The objective of this VRM Class II is to retain the existing characteristic landscape. The level of change in any of the basic landscape elements (line, form, color, texture) due to management activities should be low and not evident.

In addition to the 1984 RMP allocation decision prescribing VRM Class II along this corridor, scenic values were recognized as needing protection in the Glenwood Springs, Resource Management Plan Amendment, March 1999. This proposed action is directly adjacent to two sensitive key transportation corridors; County Road 301 and the Colorado River. The 1999 FSEIS prescribed several stipulations for the Colorado River that relate to maintaining the existing landscape setting and character. The overall objective of the stipulations is to maintain sensitive viewsheds. Special design and construction measures or relocation may be required in order to minimize the visual impacts.

The Key Observation Points (KOPs) used for this analysis will be the CR 301 and the Colorado River.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:
Most of the proposed action is on private lands and the BLM portion of the project is predominately grading above the cut slopes. Most impacts to visual resources will occur on private lands but for the purposed of the discussion on the viewshed will be included in the analysis.

The proposal will create contrast within the existing landscape by disturbing the existing vegetation and exposing bare ground resulting from cuts and fills. These cuts will produce visual contrasts from both KOP's to color, line, form and texture. Interim reclamation cut of fills along the road with seeded shrub and grass species would reduce some of the contrast after two to three growing seasons. However, road cuts across the hillside may attract attention of the casual observer and dominate the viewshed in the short-term. While the new lines, forms, and shapes introduced into the landscape will be larger then the old disturbance, they will replace the existing disturbance and with proper mitigation not dominate the landscape in the long term anymore than the existing infrastructure.

With successful reclamation, the proposed action will meet long term VRM Class II objectives and the sensitive viewshed would be maintained. While new features will be introduced into the landscape, once reclamation is completed the change to the existing landscape character will be low.

No Action Alternative: The existing landscape character on would not be disturbed, therefore VRM Class II objectives would be maintained.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY:

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE SPECIES:

Flannelmouth sucker, bluehead sucker, roundtail chub:
As part of the connected action, a new bridge over the Colorado River would be built on private property. Road widening and realignment on BLM lands are needed to facilitate safe approaches to the new bridge and to meet bridge alignment requirements. Construction of the bridge would require the placement of up to 5 cement pilings into the river. Bridge construction would involve the shifting of dredged material from the river and would suspend fine sediments into the river. These native fish would not be impacted by any increases in sediment as they are well adapted to the high sediment loads traditionally carried by the Colorado River.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC:

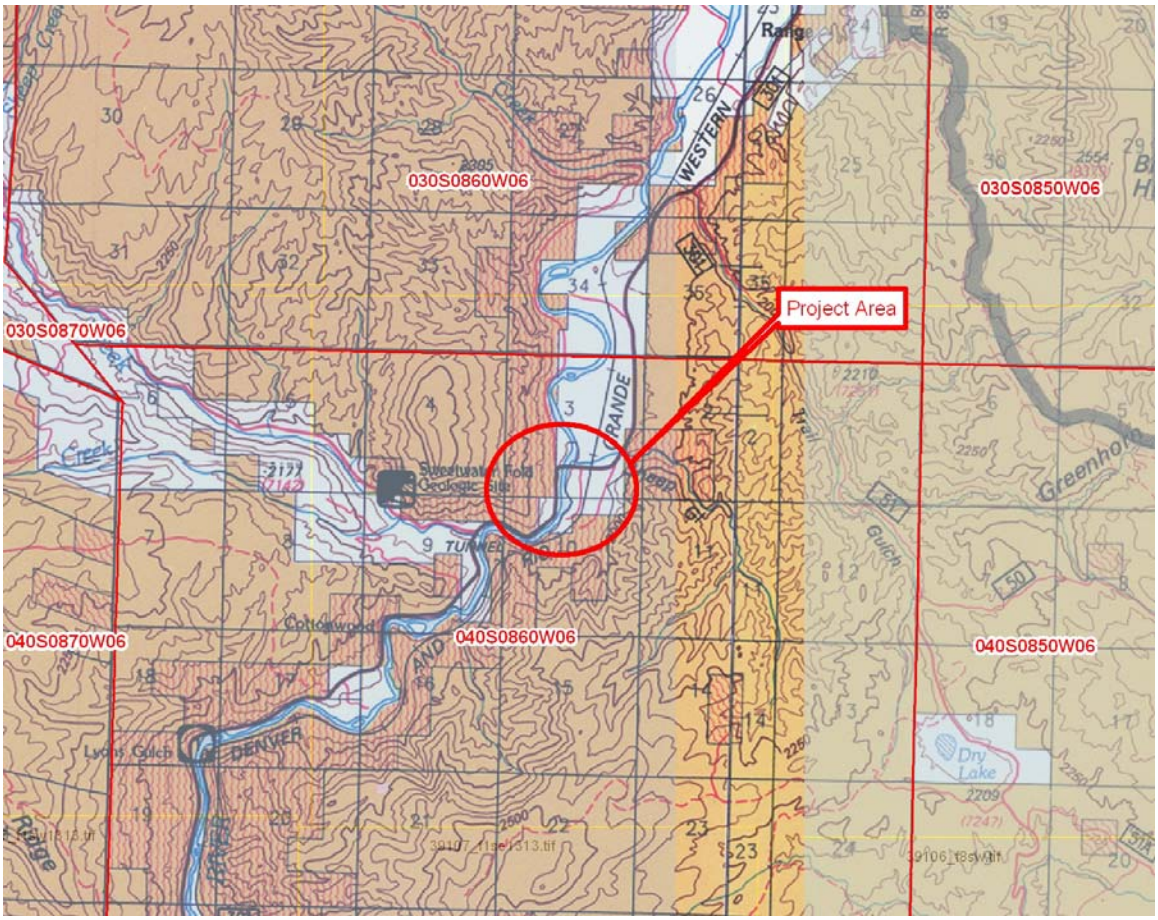
As part of the connected action, a new bridge over the Colorado River would be built on private property. Road widening and realignment on BLM lands are needed to facilitate safe approaches to the new bridge and to meet bridge alignment requirements. Construction of the bridge would require the placement of up to 5 cement pilings into the river. Bridge construction would involve the shifting of dredged material from the river and would suspend fine sediments into the river. Sediment can impact trout and whitefish by silting in spawning substrates, smothering eggs, and reducing aquatic insect productivity.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED:

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	***Title***	***Responsibility***
Jeff O'Connell	Hydrologist	Soil, Air, Water, Geology
Cheryl Harrison	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources and Native American Concerns
Brian Hopkins	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds, Special Status Animals, Aquatic and Terrestrial Wildlife
Carla DeYoung	Ecologist	ACEC, T/E/S Plants, Vegetation, Standards for Land Health
Dereck Wilson	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species
Kay Hopkins	Outdoor Recreation Planner	WSR, Wilderness, VRM
Mike Kinser	Rangeland Management Specialist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones, Range Management

APPENDICES: Location map, drawings and specifications



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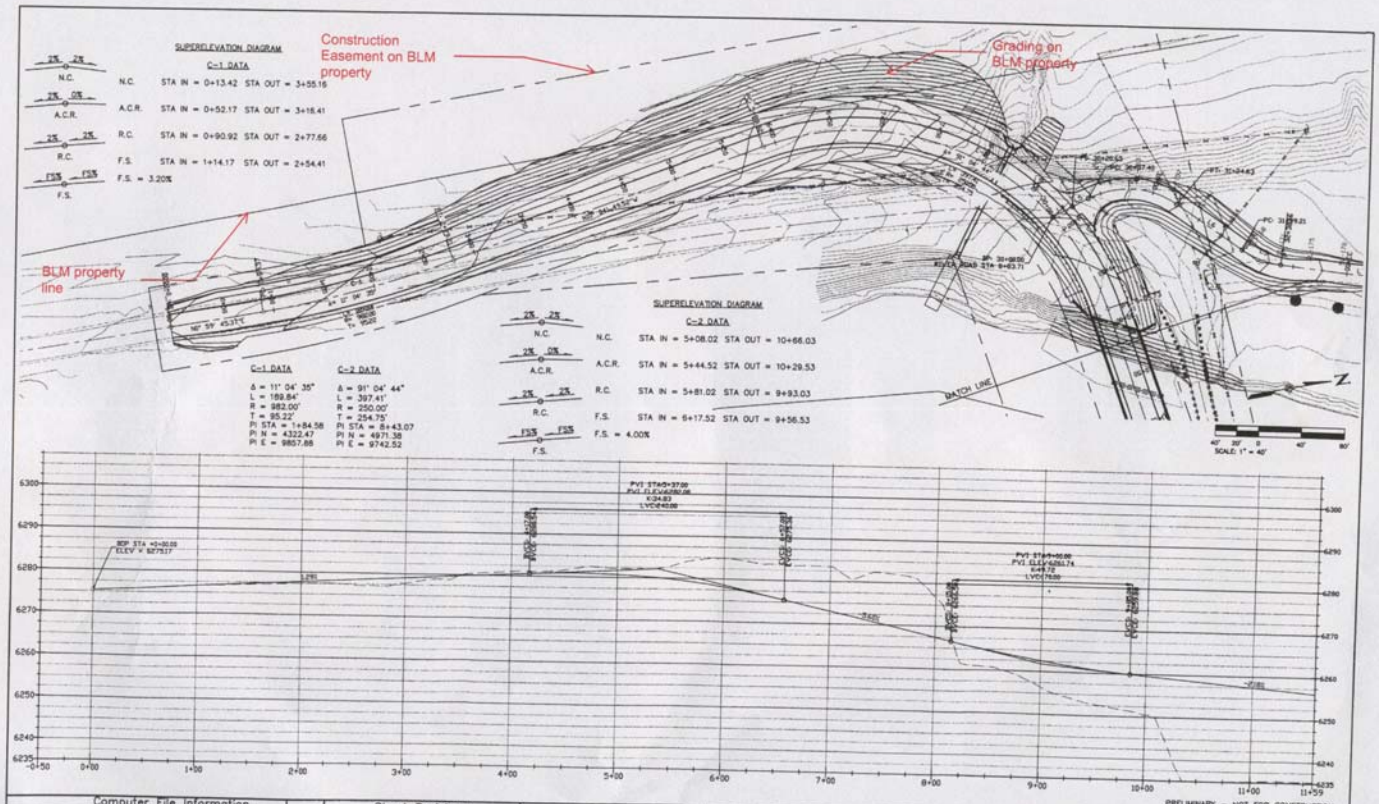

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Sheet Revisions

EAGLE COUNTY, COLORADO

LONCO, INC.

No Revisions:	COLORADO RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	Project No./Code	
Revised:	PLAN AND PROFILE (1 OF 2)		
Void:	Designer: DJB / Detailer: DJB	Structure Numbers: –	LONCO # P07133
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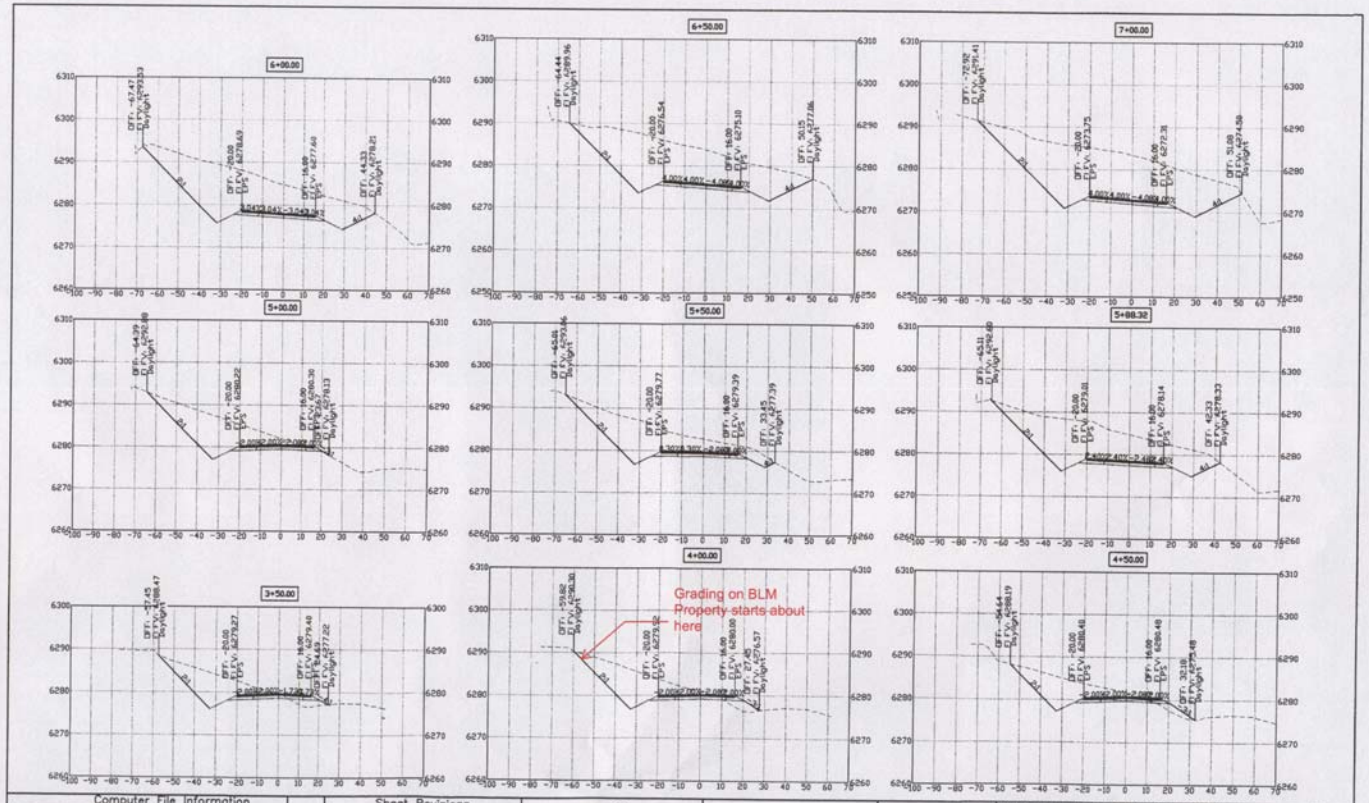

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Sheet Revisions

EAGLE COUNTY, COLORADO

LONCO INC

No Revisions:	COLORADO RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT		Project No./Code
Revised:	CROSS SECTIONS (2 OF 5)		
Void:	Designer: DJB / Detailer: DJB	Structure Numbers: –	LONCO # P07133
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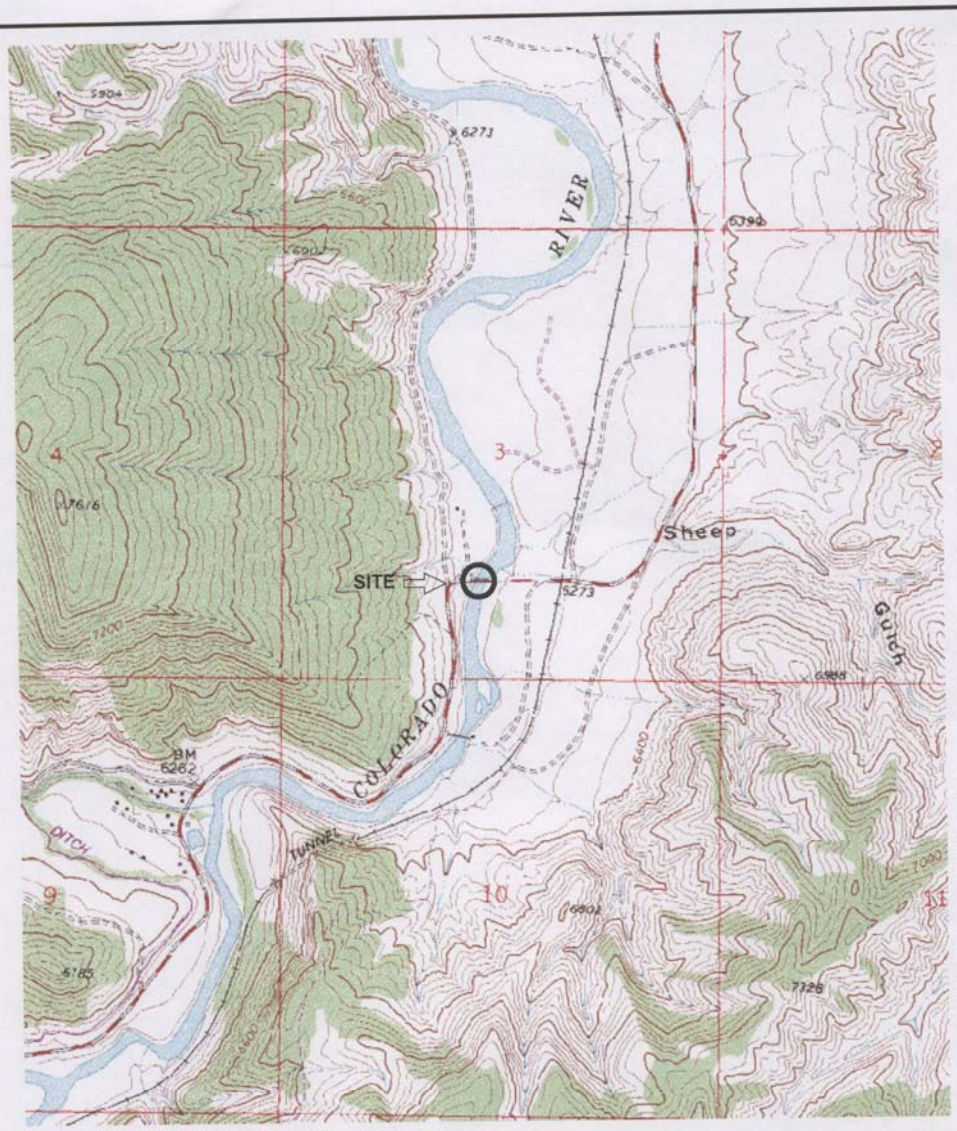

LEGEND

USGS 7.5' Topographic Map
Dotsero, Colorado 1987

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SITE

0 1,500
Approximate Scale in Feet

PINYON Environmental Engineering Resources, Inc.

SITE LOCATION

301 Road and Colorado River
Dotsero, Colorado

Site Location: SW 1/4, Section 3, Township 4S, Range 86W, 6th Principal Meridian		Drawn By: JPM	Figure 1
Z:\PROJECTS\10754901 Eagle County Rd 301\3300 Phase I\Figure 1.dwg	Job No. 1/07-549-01.3300	Reviewed By:	Revision 0

ATTACHMENTS: Right-of-Way Grant COC-43109

TED STATES
RTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

D87-128-12

| Issuing Office
| Grand Junction District

| Serial Number
| C-43109

Right-of-Way Grant

1. A right-of-way is hereby granted pursuant to Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976 (90 stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761).

2. Nature of Interest:

a. By this instrument, the holder, Eagle County Board of Commissioners, receives a right to use, operate, maintain, reconstruct specific locations and terminate the grant for Eagle County Roads Number 301 and Number 11 located on public lands described as follows:

Sixth Principal Meridian
T. 1 S., R. 83 W., Section: 31
T. 2 S., R. 82 W., Sections: 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 18
T. 2 S., R. 83 W., Sections: 6, 13, 24, 25
T. 2 S., R. 84 W., Sections: 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 17, 18, 19
T. 2 S., R. 85 W., Sections: 14, 21, 22, 28, 29, 31, 32
T. 3 S., R. 85 W., Sections: 6, 7, 18, 19
T. 3 S., R. 86 W., Sections: 24, 26, 34, 35
T. 4 S., R. 86 W., Sections: 9, 10, 16, 17, 18, 19, 29, 30, 31
T. 5 S., R. 86 W., Section: 5

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b. The right-of-way area granted herein is of variable width (minimum of 40 feet-maximum of 80 feet), 149,846 feet long and contains 247 acres, more or less.

c. The instrument shall terminate on June 11, 2017, 30 years from its effective date unless prior thereto, it is relinquished, abandoned, terminated, or modified pursuant to the terms and conditions of this instrument or of any applicable Federal law or regulation.

d. This instrument may be renewed. If renewed, the right-of-way shall be subject to the regulations existing at the time of renewal and any other terms and conditions that the authorized officer deems necessary to protect the public interest.

e. Notwithstanding the expiration of this instrument or any renewal thereof, early relinquishment, abandonment, or termination, the provisions of this instrument to the extent applicable, shall continue in effect and shall be binding on the holder, its successors, or assigns, until they have fully satisfied the obligations and/or liabilities accruing herein before or on account of the expiration, or prior termination of the grant.

3. Rental:

The rights are granted to the holder free of fair market value rental under the authority of Section 2803.1-2(c) of the above referenced Act of Authorization.

4. Terms and Conditions:

a. This grant is issued subject to the holder's compliance with all applicable regulations contained in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations parts 2800.

b. The stipulations, plans, maps, or designs set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto, are incorporated into and made a part of this grant instrument as fully and effectively as if they were set forth herein in their entirety.

e. Failure of the holder to comply with applicable law or any provision of this right-of-way grant will constitute grounds for suspension or termination thereof.

f. The holder shall perform all operations in a good worklike manner so as to ensure protection of the environment and the health and safety of the public.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The undersigned agrees to the terms and conditions of this right-of-way grant.

(Signature of Holder)

Chairman - Board of County Commissioners
(Title)

June 8, 1987
(Date)

Richard M Ricard
(Signature of Authorized Officer)

Acting District Manager
(Title)

6/12/87
(Date)

Enclosures:
Exhibit A - Maps-Road 301
Exhibit B - Maps-Road 11
Exhibit C - Special Stipulation, Terms and Conditions

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EXHIBIT C - SPECIAL STIPULATIONS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

General

1. The holder shall contact the Authorized Officer or his designated representative at least 48 hours prior to the anticipated start of construction activities to schedule a preconstruction conference. The preconstruction conference shall be attended by the holder, or his representative, and all contractors or agents involved with construction activities under this right-of-way grant. The designated representative is:

ROAD 301:

Name and Title: Jim Owings, Area Manager
Glenwood Springs Resource Area
Address: P. O. Box 1009, Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81602
Telephone Number: (303) 945-2341

ROAD 11:

Name and Title: Dave Atkins, Area Manager
Kremmling Resource Area
Address: P.O. Box 68, Kremmling, Colorado 80459
Telephone Number: (303) 724-3437

2. Grantee shall construct, operate, and maintain the facilities and structures within this grant in strict conformity with the descriptive and technical data which has been furnished to the Bureau of Land Management in connection with the application for this grant. Any relocation, additional construction, or use which is not in accord with such data may not be initiated without the prior written approval of the authorized officer. A copy of the complete application and a copy of the grant stipulations shall be available on location during construction and rehabilitation to all supervisory personnel and to the authorized officer. Noncompliance with the above will be grounds for the authorized officer to shut down the operation until compliance is obtained.

3. Construction width of the right-of-way shall be restricted to existing disturbed areas except as noted herein and as shown on maps in Exhibit B. Blading outside of the construction width shall not be allowed unless prior written approval is obtained from the BLM authorized officer.

4. Prior to surface-disturbing activities, a supplemental cultural resource report shall be submitted to and approved by the authorized officer. Should any cultural resources be identified that cannot be mitigated on site, the holder shall be required to relocate the right-of-way to avoid impacts to identified cultural resources sites.

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5. The holder shall protect all survey monuments, witness corners, reference monuments, and bearing trees within this right-of-way against disturbance during construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of the facilities authorized herein. If any monument, corners, or accessories are destroyed, obliterated, or damaged during construction, operation, or maintenance, the holder shall secure the services of a Registered Land Surveyor to restore the disturbed monument, corners, or accessories, at the same location, using surveying procedures found in the Manual of Surveying Instructions for the Survey of the Public Lands of the United States, latest edition. The holder shall ensure that the Registered Land Surveyor properly records the survey in compliance with Colorado Revised Statutes 38-53-101 through 38-53-112 (1973) and shall send a copy to the authorized officer.

6. All trash, refuse, and discarded or unused material generated during construction shall be removed upon completion of construction and properly disposed of at the Eagle County landfill.

7. If any modification, relocation, or upgrading of the facilities authorized herein is required, the grantee shall apply for an amendment to the right-of-way granted herein. All amendments shall be considered on their own merits, and if granted, shall be subject to the terms and conditions of this grant unless otherwise stated.

8. Applications for amendment for relocation and reconstruction shall include, at a minimum:

   a. evidence of archaeological inventory completion.

   b. a completed and approved set of engineering and design plans.

   c. evidence of consultation and coordination with the Corps of Engineers to obtain necessary permits.

   d. the design plans shall indicate alternatives considered and mitigation measures being taken to reduce impacts to riparian vegetation and water quality deterioration during construction.

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Construction

1. The exterior boundaries of the right-of-way shall be flagged prior to clearing activities. All trees, downed timber, and slash shall be removed from the right-of-way prior to earthwork. Pioneer access will be permitted for clearing, skidding, and grubbing of stumps. Brush and slash smaller than 4 inches in diameter shall be lopped and scattered outside the clearing limits.

2. No fill or waste material shall be placed in any drainage, nor will any channel changes be made, without specific BLM approval. Any modifications to drainage will include rip-rap or other types of protection.

3. All reasonable precautions will be taken to protect vegetation along live water drainages and along the Colorado River. This will include strict control of waste materials to prevent spilling waste onto riverbanks or streambanks. To the extent possible, heavy equipment will avoid working fill slopes on the riverbank to maintain present vegetation.

4. Archaeological - inventory and clearance or mitigation must be accomplished and approved prior to any surface disturbance.

5. NO work or surface disturbance is authorized at the above three locations (mile markers 1.8 - 6) or at any other location which would fall outside the existing roadway or drainage disturbance, existing or authorized herewithin, without prior approval by the A.O.

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Maintenance

1. The holder is responsible for continuous inspection and maintenance of the right-of-way covered by the grant to assure that hazards are removed and that the public health, safety, and welfare are protected. The grantee shall conform to a schedule of preventive maintenance and shall take corrective action as needed to maintain the road to the standards as required for the construction of the road. The grantee is responsible for (but not limited to) the following maintenance procedures within the boundaries of the right-of-way:

   A. Road surface grading.
   B. Relief ditch and culvert cleaning.
   C. Erosion control measures for all disturbed areas.
   D. Drawing and cleaning of existing irrigation ditches within the right-of-way.

Rehabilitation

1. When construction of the facilities authorized herein is completed, the holder shall rehabilitate all disturbed areas as directed by and to the satisfaction of the authorized officer.

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The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The proposed action with any approved mitigation measures 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 RECORD

DECISION: It is my decision to approve the application for an amendment of Right-of-Way COC-43109 for additional acreage for ingress/egress of the radius of the turn west of the bridge to improve safety.

RATIONALE:
1. Approval of the proposed action is validating the rights granted with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

2. The environmental impacts have been mitigated with measures included in the attached Conditions of Approval.

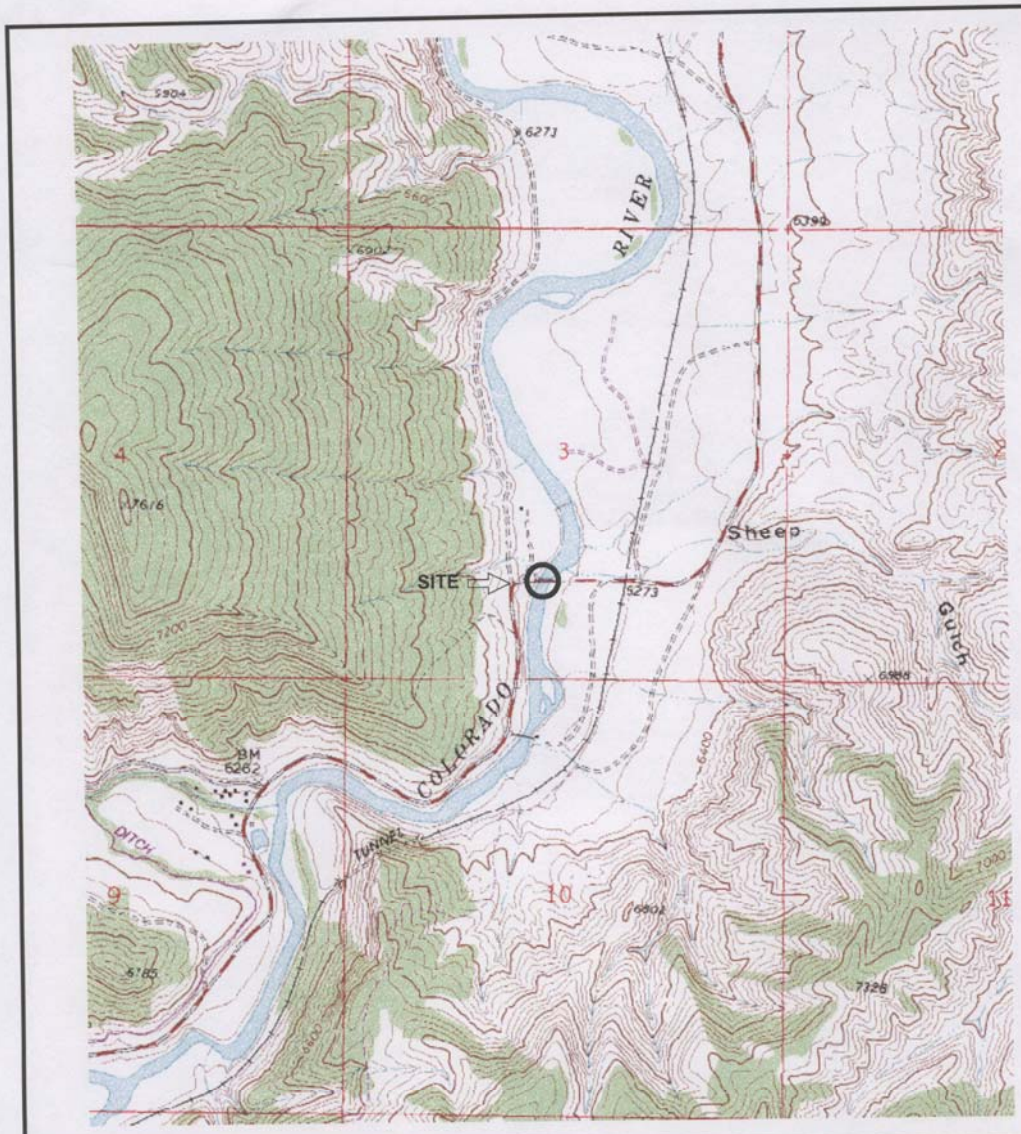
NAME OF PREPARER: Carole Huey, Realty Specialist

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

Karl R. Mendonca, Associate Field Manager
Authorized Officer

10/7/2009
Date

EXHIBIT A:



LEGEND

USGS 7.5' Topographic Map
Dotsero, Colorado 1987

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SITE

0 1,500
Approximate Scale in Feet

PINYON Environmental Engineering Resources, Inc.

SITE LOCATION

301 Road and Colorado River
Dotsero, Colorado

Site Location: SW 1/4, Section 3, Township 4S, Range 86W, 6th Principal Meridian		Drawn By: JPM	Figure 1
Z:\PROJECTS\10754901 Eagle County Rd 301\3300 Phase I\Figure 1.dwg	Job No. 1/07-549-01.3300	Reviewed By:	Revision 0

EXHIBIT B:
Conditions of Approval / COC-43109 / 281001 Amendment

1. The Engineered Designs and Drawings submitted by Lonco, Inc, dated 6/31/2009 are incorporated and made part of this approval.

2. The proponent will provide appropriate dust abatement measures during project implementation.

3. All persons in the area who are associated with this project shall be informed that if anyone is found disturbing historic, archaeological, or scientific resources, including collecting artifacts, the person or persons will be subject to prosecution.

4. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the BLM authorized officer shall be notified 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), activities shall stop in the vicinity of the discovery, and the discovery shall be protected for 30 days or until notified by the BLM authorized officer to proceed.

If in connection with operations under this contract, the operator, its contractors, their subcontractors, or the employees of any of them discovers, encounters, or becomes aware of any objects or sites of cultural value or scientific interest such as historic ruins or prehistoric ruins, graves or grave markers, fossils, or artifacts, the operator shall immediately suspend all operations in the vicinity of the cultural resource and shall notify the BLM authorized officer of the findings (16 USC 470h-3, 36 CFR 800.112). Operations may resume at the discovery site upon receipt of written instructions and authorization by the BLM authorized officer. Approval to proceed will be based upon evaluation of the resource. Evaluation shall be by a qualified professional selected by the BLM authorized officer from a Federal agency insofar as practicable. When not practicable, the operator shall bear the cost of the services of a non-Federal professional.

Within five working days, the BLM authorized officer will inform the operator as to:

whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

what mitigation measures the holder will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming that *in-situ* preservation is not necessary)

the timeframe for the BLM authorized officer to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11, or any agreements in lieu thereof, to confirm through the SHPO State Historic Preservation Officer that the findings of the BLM are correct and that mitigation is appropriate

The operator may relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and delays

associated with this process, as long as the new area has been appropriately cleared of resources and the exposed materials are recorded and stabilized. Otherwise, the operator shall be responsible for mitigation costs. The BLM authorized officer will provide technical and procedural guidelines for relocation and/or to conduct mitigation. Upon verification from the BLM authorized officer that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will be allowed to resume construction.

Antiquities, historic ruins, prehistoric ruins, and other cultural or paleontological objects of scientific interest that are outside the authorization boundaries but potentially affected, either directly or indirectly, by the Proposed Action shall also be included in this evaluation or mitigation. Impacts that occur to such resources as a result of the authorized activities shall be mitigated at the operator's cost, including the cost of consultation with Native American groups.

Any person who, without a permit, injures, destroys, excavates, appropriates or removes any historic or prehistoric ruin, artifact, object of antiquity, Native American remains, Native American cultural item, or archaeological resources on public lands is subject to arrest and penalty of law (16 USC 433, 16 USC 470, 18 USC 641, 18 USC 1170, and 18 USC 1361).

5. To reduce the opportunities for weeds to become established, the disturbed areas will be reseeded with a certified weed-seed free mixture of native grasses adapted to the site (as indicated in the Vegetation Section). The right-of-way holder (Eagle County Road and Bridge) will monitor the disturbance to detect the presence of any noxious weeds and will be responsible for promptly controlling any noxious weeds on the Colorado State List A or B (except redstem filaree) within the disturbed area. If the right-of-way holder chooses to use herbicides as the control method on public lands, a Pesticide Use Proposal shall be submitted to the BLM and approved prior to initiating any herbicide spraying.

6. It is anticipated that fuel and lubricants would be stored in appropriate containers during project implementation. Given the scope of the project and proper BMP installation and maintenance, the likelihood of spills occurring and hazardous materials being transported to the Colorado River are minimal. The proponent would frequently inspect and maintain spill prevention measures and respond to spills promptly and appropriately.

7. The proponent would properly install adequate BMPs and maintain them as needed to ensure that additional sediment does not reach the Colorado River during runoff events. However it is important to note that the bridge replacement would occur directly in the Colorado River and could result in additional sediment contributions to the Colorado River. These activities would not occur on BLM lands but the Colorado River does fall under the jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers as a water of the United States defined by 33 CFR Part 328. The proponent would consult the US Army Corps of Engineers for the appropriate Clean Water Act Section 404 permit and in channel mitigation prior to project implementation.

8. Seeding practices following implementation would help to stabilize disturbed areas and to minimize erosion potential and sediment production. In addition, areas of severe erosion potential should be avoided if possible and efforts made to minimize negative impacts associated with ground disturbance on steep slopes through the use of BMPs and erosion control structures. Structures such as check dams, silt fences and straw wattles may be used to slow the velocity of runoff and to trap sediment allowing for vegetation establishment. The installation, frequent inspection, and maintenance of adequate BMPs by the proponent would significantly minimize the potential for erosion from BLM lands and sediment transport to the nearby Colorado River during project implementation.

9. The temporarily disturbed areas on public land will be seeded with native grasses to help prevent the invasion of noxious weeds and reestablish native, perennial vegetation on the site. The seed mix will be as follows:

Species of Seed	**Variety**	**Application Rate (PLS lbs/ac)**
Western wheatgrass	Arriba	9.0
Sandberg bluegrass		0.8
Indian ricegrass	Paloma or Rimrock	5.0
Bluebunch wheatgrass	Secar, Anatone, P-7, or Goldar	5.5
Total		**20.3 PLS lbs/ac**

The seed mix will be certified free of noxious weed seeds, i.e. the seed shall contain no noxious, prohibited, or restricted weed seeds and shall contain no more than 0.5 percent by weight of other weed seeds.

Where practical, seed shall be installed by drill-seeding to a depth of 0.25 to 0.5 inches. Where drill-seeding is impracticable, seed may be installed by broadcast-seeding at twice the drill-seeding rate shown in the table above. The seeded area shall be raked or harrowed following broadcast seeding to provide 0.25 to 0.5 inches of soil cover.

Hydroseeding and hydromulching may be used where drill-seeding or broadcast-seeding/raking are impracticable. Hydroseeding and hydromulching must be conducted in two separate applications to ensure adequate contact of seeds with the soil.

Prior to seeding, the seedbed shall be scarified and left with a rough surface. No depressions shall be left that would trap water and form ponds. Final seedbed preparation shall consist of contour cultivating to a depth of 4 to 6 inches within 24 hours prior to seeding.

Biodegradable straw matting, bales or wattles of weed-free straw or native grass hay, or well-anchored fabric silt fence shall be used on all cut-and-fill slopes and along drainages to protect against soil erosion. Mulch shall be applied within 24 hours following completion of seeding. Mulch shall consist of crimping certified weed-free

straw or certified weed-free native grass hay into the soil. Hydromulching may be used in areas where crimping is impracticable.

10. Best management practices will be implemented including: (a) contouring of disturbed areas on BLM lands to a 2:1 slope to improve the success of revegetation, (b) silt fencing will be used to minimize sediment reaching the river, and (c) hay bale check dams will be used to limit displacement of soils offsite.

11. A new fence must be constructed to replace any of the existing fence that may be removed from the proposed action. The fence will be located on the top of the road cut and will be tied to the existing fence on both ends. Any fence constructed on public land must be constructed in accordance with BLM specifications. Contact the Rangeland Management Specialist at the Glenwood Springs Field Office (970.876.9000) for fence specifications.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Right-of-Way Grant Amendment

Serial No.: C0C-43109
Term: Expires 6/11/2017

This Amendment, entered into on the same date below executed, by the Authorized Officer of the Bureau of Land Management, as Grantor, and Eagle County Road and Bridge, as Holder, is hereby issued under authority of Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761). The right-of-way, as amended, is issued subject to all applicable Federal, State and local laws and regulations now or hereafter in force, including Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations.

The purpose of this Amendment is to authorize a FLPMA Right-of-Way Amendment to authorize the holder to widen a portion of County Road 301 (CR 301) just west of the bridge structure (No.EAG-301-08.2) over the Colorado River.

Sec. A. Details of Grant Amendment

Location of Authorized Amendment: The amended use authorization includes public lands located in 6th P.M., T.4S, R.86W., Sec. 3: SW¼ in Eagle County, Colorado. See attached EXHIBIT "A".

Description of Authorized Use: Widening egress to Bridge Structure No.EAG-301-08.2 on County Road 301 (CR 301) over the Colorado River. The material from the road cut resulting from the widening would be utilized to make an "approach" on the east side of the bridge. In addition, 5,000 cubic yards of gravel would be purchased from an existing authorized pit for the approach. Total affected BLM public lands would be 1.24 acres which includes a temporary work space.

Sec. B. Terms and Conditions

All terms, conditions and stipulations of the right-of-way grant dated June 12, 1987, along with the new Conditions of Approval on attached EXHIBIT "B".

Sec. C. Execution and Agreement

This right-of-way amendment authorizes the use of the public land described above and shall become effective on the date it is executed by an authorized officer of the Bureau of Land Management. Execution of this document constitutes an agreement between the Holder and the United States of America that the Holder shall comply with the terms, conditions, and stipulations contained in the original grant and the provisions of applicable laws and regulations.

For execution by the Holder:

By:_____

Name:_____

Title:_____

Date:_____

For execution by the Authorized Officer:

By:_____
Karl R. Mendonca, Associate Field Manager
Glenwood Springs Field Office

Date:_____