



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Glenwood Springs Energy Office  
2425 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 101  
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601  
www.co.blm.gov

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2009-0098-CX

### A. Background

BLM Office:

Glenwood Springs Energy Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No:

COC059137 (Oil and Gas Lease)

Proposed Action Title/Type: Garfield County's Free-Use Authorization to Process and Remove up to 25,000 Cubic Yards of Stockpiled Pit Run and Excess Material Generated from Williams's SG41-26 Road Construction Job

Location of Proposed Action: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 26, T7S, R96W,  
Sixth Principal Meridian, Garfield County, Colorado.

Description of Proposed Action: During the construction of the access road serving the Williams SG41-26 pad located on BLM land east of County Road 300 (CR300), a vast amount of excess material was generated from the road cut and stockpiled by Williams's subcontractors on the west side of CR300 per amended Decision Record for Environmental Assessment #CO140-2006-070 (dated 4/6/09). The stockpiled volume (approximately 250000 cubic yards) has large concentrations of pit run material (larger-sized gravel) that lends the material to challenging reclamation problems while holding strong value as a gravel source. In an effort to reduce the amount of stockpiled material and improve the conditions for satisfactory reclamation at the stockpile site, Garfield County Road and Bridge Department (GCRBD) was approached regarding their interest in the stockpiled material as a source of free-use materials for county projects, including surfacing material for county roads.

After reviewing the site, GCRBD proposes to mobilize a rock crushing operator under their hire to process as much of the excess material stockpiled on public land along County Road 300 into a usable gravel resource. An additional area (not to exceed  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre) would be disturbed alongside the stockpile near CR300 to establish the rock crushing operations. GCRBD projects a 4 week time period to process and remove the gravel based on a 5 day work-week operating between the hours of 7:00 am through 4:30 pm. The County would use their equipment to haul the gravel to various road and bridge projects, including the surfacing of nearby county roads. GCRBD estimates a maximum number of 50 daily truck trips to remove the processed material.

Any large boulders found within the stockpile would be segregated from the crushing operations and used later during reclamation to control motorized access to the site. A gate could be installed during the crushing and/or hauling phases of the work to maintain site security. A sign would be posted indicating that GCRBD holds a permit to process the material and operate on public land. Water tank and water truck would be staged at the site to control dust from the planned operations. Appropriate traffic safety signs would be posted along CR300.

Williams, as holder of the oil and gas lease (COC-59137), would remain responsible for the reclamation of the original disturbed area of the stockpile once GCRBD has completed its work and reshaped the stockpile area. GCRBD would be instructed to segregate any soil worthy of topsoil characteristics to be used in the final reclamation of the site.

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance:** The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for and is in conformance with (43 CFR §1610.5 and § 2800, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan: Record of Decision and Glenwood Springs Resource Management Plan.

Date Approved: January, 1984; revised in 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.

Decision Number/Page: Page 14, Minerals Management

Decision Language: To maintain the maximum amount of public land available for exploration and development of minerals.

A review of the existing stipulations outlined in the 1999 Oil and Gas Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) revealed that the proposed project would fall within the Major River Corridor buffer zone (½ mile from river's edge). There is exception criteria for the Major River Corridor No Surface Occupancy stipulation that states: "the distance from the river may be reduced after the Authorized Officer has considered the habitat values and the species present, the topographical and vegetative characteristics of the area, and the type and amount of surface disturbance proposed." The excess material stockpile was created in a previously disturbed areas from unauthorized off-road use and dumping activities, and lies directly along CR300. The project site does not possess important riverine characteristics as the site is vegetated with greasewood and primarily an understory of cheatgrass. As such the proposed project at its existing location would satisfy the exception criteria for the stipulation.

**C. Compliance with NEPA:**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the national Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, (*Insert appropriate CX number and text, or a paraphrase of the text*) F. Solid Minerals:

*(10) Disposal of mineral materials, such as sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, cinders, and clay, in amounts not exceeding 50,000 cubic yards or disturbing more than 5 acres, except in riparian areas.*

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The

proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

EXCLUSIONS	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X

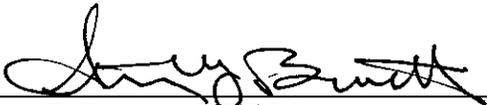
INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Area of Responsibility</u>
John Brogan	Archaeologist	Cultural and Native American Concerns
Beth Brenneman	Ecologist	T/E/S Plants, Vegetation
Karen Conrath	Geologist	Paleontology, Geology, Minerals
Allen Crockett	Supervisory NRS	Wildlife, T/E/S Wildlife, Migratory Birds
Noel Ludwig	Hydrologist	Soil, Air, Water
Isaac Pittman	Rangeland Mgt Spec.	Livestock Grazing

REMARKS/MITIGATION: The attached Conditions of Approval represent the mitigation measures that would be attached to the Free Use Permit.

I considered this action and determined that it may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

**D. Signature**

Authorizing Official:  Date: JUL 31 2009  
Steve G. Bennett, Field Manager

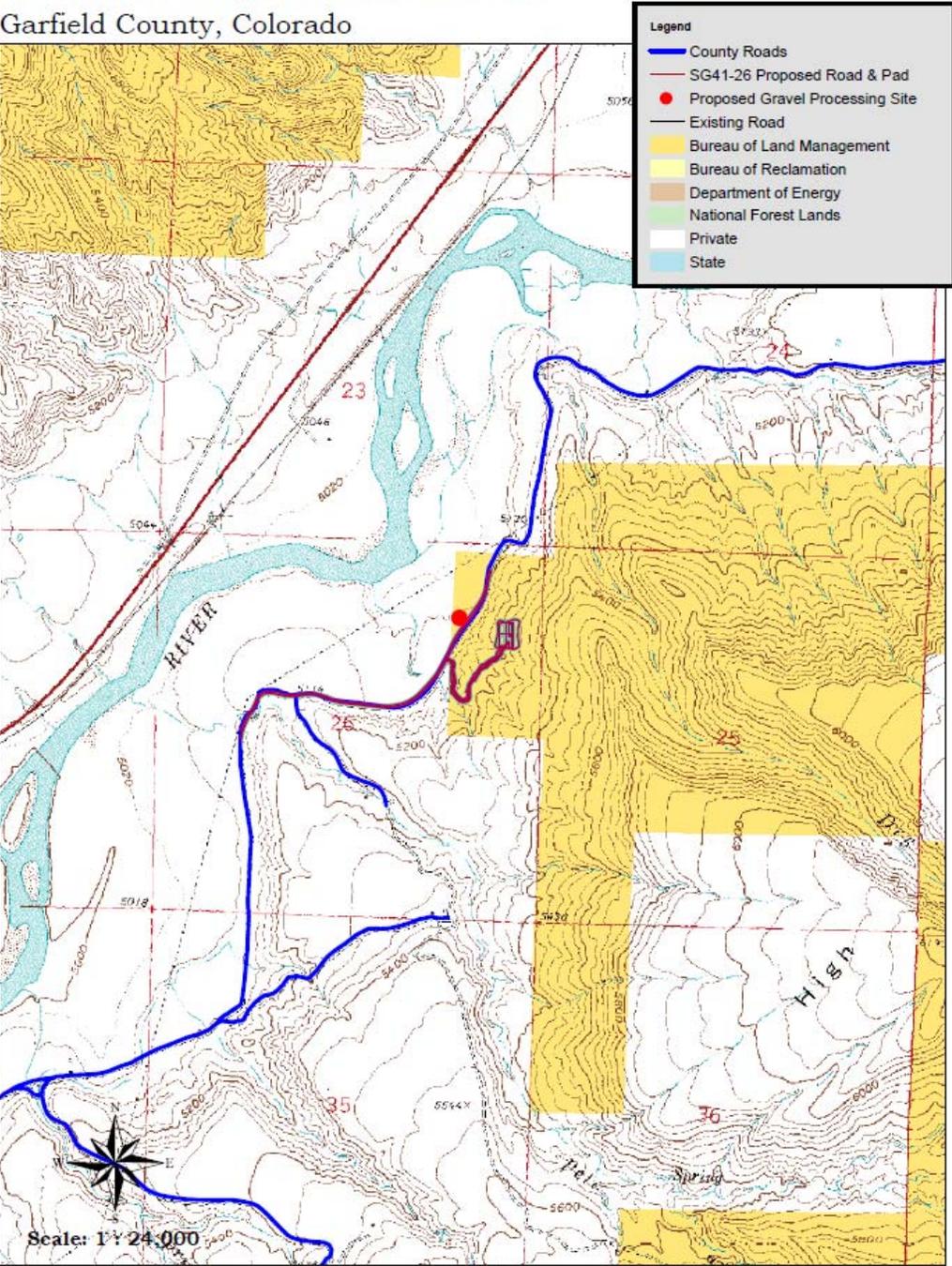
**Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Jim Byers, Natural Resource Specialist, Glenwood Springs Energy Office, 2425 S. Grand Ave, Suite 101, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601, 970-947-5222.

# Proposed Garfield County Gravel Processing and Removal along CR300 SW of Battlement Mesa

T7S R96W Sec 26, SE¼NE¼, Sixth P.M.

Garfield County, Colorado



**SURFACE USE CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL  
DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2009-0098-CX**

1. Startup Notification. The permittee shall notify the BLM representative at least at 48 hours prior to initiation of mobilization of the gravel processing equipment and/or any site construction work.
2. Permittee's Responsibilities. The permittee - Garfield County Road and Bridge Department (GCRBD) - shall hire a qualified rock crushing operator, possessing the valid county and state permits, to mobilize the necessary equipment to process the existing stockpile of materials located at the site. It is expected that the period of operation to exhaust the stockpiled material (including crushing and hauling) shall not exceed 4 weeks with daily (Monday-Friday) hours of operation from 7:00 am through 5:00 pm). GCRBD and its contractors shall be allowed ingress and egress to the site to remove the processed materials for use on County Roads and GCRBD projects. After completion of the gravel processing and prior to vacating the site, GCRBD shall be responsible for reshaping the site in a manner that is visually acceptable to the BLM Authorized Officer. Furthermore, any topsoil saved (see COA #4) or generated from the site work shall be spread across the reshaped slopes evenly to facilitate the eventual drill-seeding of the site by the oil and gas lessee.
3. Site Security. GCRBD or its contractor shall post a sign at the work site indicating the BLM Permit Number (#CO140-2009-001), a brief description and duration of the planned work and the hours of operation. The site shall be secured from public motorized vehicle entry on a daily basis either by gating the site access or physically blocking the access route. Furthermore, when the processing and hauling operations are finished, GCRBD or its contractor shall place the remaining large boulders and/or excess materials in a manner approved by the BLM Authorized Officer that inhibits any motorized access to the site.
4. Traffic Control. GCRBD shall post appropriate traffic safety signs along CR300.
5. Segregation of Topsoil Material. Dark-colored soils relatively free of gravels found within the stockpile shall be segregated and used to be spread over the finished reshaped slopes of the site after gravel processing and hauling has been completed.
6. Storm Water Control. Appropriate storm water control measures (straw wattles, silt fencing, or straw bales) shall be installed prior to any surface-disturbing activities along the perimeter of the work areas to contain any erosion at the work site.
7. Dust Abatement. Prior to initiating any work activities at the site, the permittee shall submit a dust abatement plan to the BLM that addresses measures to control large dust plumes emanating from rock crushing operations, gravel hauling operations or natural wind events. Upon concurrence with said plan, BLM will provide GCRBD written approval to proceed with the planned gravel processing and hauling operations.
8. Reclamation. Williams Production RMT Company shall be responsible for performing necessary reclamation practices at the reshaped site upon GCRBD's completion of the gravel processing work. BLM Glenwood Springs Energy Office (GSEO) Reclamation Policy, including the Letter outlining Revisions to GSEO Revegetation Requirements (dated May 1, 2008) shall be referenced and implemented for reclamation procedures including the type and timing of vegetative seeding.
9. Seasonal Operating Restrictions. Although the expected duration of the planned work at the site is four weeks, if the work period is delayed or extended to allow for unforeseen circumstances, all

work shall be completed no later than November 30, 2009 to accommodate the BLM big game winter timing limitation period.

10. Weed Control. The operator shall regularly monitor and promptly control noxious weeds or other undesirable plant species as set forth in the Glenwood Springs Energy Office *Noxious and Invasive Weed Management Plan for Oil and Gas Operators*, dated March 2007. A Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP) must be approved by the BLM prior to the use of herbicides. Annual weed monitoring reports shall be submitted to BLM by **December 1**.