

A Paleontological Inventory of Seven Projects in Middle Park  
Grand County, Colorado

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**Introduction:** Seven proposed projects were inventoried for paleontological resources in Fiscal Year 2008-2009. Each is unique as to type of project, location, geological formations, and paleontological sensitivity. As such, each project is identified and addressed separately. No paleontological resources were discovered for any of the six projects. Except for trace plant fossils.....

The projects are recommended to proceed. The individual projects are listed below, along with their legal locations. Maps are provided for each project.

- 1. Sunset Associates Ditch ROW Renewal: T1North, Range 79West, Sections 10 and 11**  
NEPA #: Co-120-2007-04 (EA)  
Cultural Project #:
  
- 2. Gravity Play Sports Tri-athlon Event: T 1 South, R 81 West, Sections 12, 13, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 35, 36; T 1 South, R 81 West, Sections 18 & 19; T 2 South, R 82 West, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 24, 25, & 26; T 2 South, R81 West, Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 21, 28, 31 & 33; T 3 South, R 81 West, Sections 4, 5 & 6.**  
NEPA #: CO-120-2007-53 (EA)  
Cultural Project #:
  
- 3. Mountain Parks Electric, Inc.; Scholl Powerline: T 1 North, R 79 West, Sections 2 & 3**  
NEPA #:  
Cultural Project #:
  
- 4. William Glass, Kenneth Young and Cecilia Young Trespass Driveways: T 2 South, R 82 West, Section 4, Lot 22 (Eagle County); T 2 North, R 80W, Section 22 (Grand County)**  
NEPA#: CO-120-2008-38 (CX)  
Cultural Project #:
  
- 5. Confluence Recreation Area Developments (Monitoring Report): T 1North, R 80 West, Section 19.**  
NEPA#: CO-120-2008-51 (EA)  
Cultural Project #: CR-
  
- 6. Elliott Creek Sagebrush Treatment (Dixie Harrow): T 1 North, R 80 West, Section 36; T 1 South, R 80 West, Sections 1, 2, 7 & 12**  
NEPA #: CO-120-2008-58 (EA)  
Cultural Project #:

**Sunset Associates Ditch ROW Renewal:** The original irrigation ditch ROW was granted on March 27, 1978 for a period of 15 years. The grant was renewed on December 6, 1991. Sunset associates applied for a renewal on December 15, 2005. However, because the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) anticipated an amendment for improvements, the application was not acted upon. The application for improvements was not forthcoming and the ROW expired on October

20, 2006. BLM then decided to move forward on the renewal application. The Williams Ditch is used to irrigate associate's hay meadows.

The Williams Ditch traverses three geologic formations including Pleistocene age terrace gravels, Holocene age alluvium and a thin exposure of Niobrara formation. All three geological formations are classified as PFYC Class 2 and Condition 2. This is interpreted as having a moderate potential for discovery of fossil resources.

Recorded paleontological sites recorded in the general vicinity include D521, D522, D601, D602, D603, D604, D607, D643, D656, D715, 77017, 82068, 90042 and 90043, and attest to the potential for fossil discovery. There are no recorded localities within the prescribed Area of Potential Effect (APE).

The ditch row was paleontologically inventoried by pedestrian transects to an effective width of 100' by the Kremmling Field Office archaeologist during the summer of 2008. A total of **XX** acres were inventoried for this project. No fossils or fossil bearing geologic strata were discovered. No further work for this project is recommended.

**Gravity Play Sports Tri-athlon Event:** Gravity Play Sports proposed to organize and conduct an adventure race where contestants ride mountain bikes, run, and paddle kayaks. There would be 2 race courses, a short and long. Approximately 2 miles of BLM-administered 2 track roads and ¼ mile of single track trail will be used during the annually recurring event. The Proposed Action is to issue a commercial, competitive Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to Gravity Play Sports.

The proposed courses are mapped on four distinct geologic units: Rhyolitic Rocks, Basalt, Chinle and State Bridge formations, and the Colorado Group. Rhyolitic rocks and Basalt are classified PYFC 3 and condition 1. Fossils are not known for these geologic units and there is little likelihood of their occurrence. The Chinle and State Bridge formations are classified as PFYC 5 and Condition 1. The Colorado Group is classified as PFYC 3 and Condition 2. These formations have high to moderate potential for the discovery of fossil resources, respectively. The nature of the race is such that some soil and ground disturbance can be anticipated during the running and biking portions of the event. This disturbance may be sufficient to expose fossils.

The routes on BLM administered lands were paleontologically inventoried to an effective width of 100 feet, 50 feet on each side of the centerline. A Total of **XX** acres were paleontologically inventoried by pedestrian transects by the Kremmling staff archaeologist. No fossils or fossil bearing geologic strata were discovered. No further work for this project is recommended.

**Mountain Parks Electric, Inc.; Scholl Powerline:** Mountain Parks Electric, Inc. proposed to construct and maintain a 14.4 kV powerline leading from an existing line that runs parallel to Grand County Road 21 to the Scholl residence. The entire project would be 1,207 feet long with 435 feet crossing BLM-administered public land. The requested right-of-way width is 50 feet encompassing .50 acres of public land. No temporary work areas or access roads are needed. Access would be under the powerline. The work would be completed in the summer of 2008.

The project area is geologically mapped as Troublesome formation. The Troublesome formation is classified as PFYC of 5 and a Condition of 1. These rankings indicate that the formation is known to contain vertebrate fossil or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate animals or plant fossils.

Inventory effectively covered a width of 150 feet to cover a 50'ROW with a 50 footbuffer along both sides of the ROW. The entire ROW was inventoried including the BLM and Private lands. A Total of **XX** acres were paleontologically inventoried by pedestrian transects by the Kremmling staff archaeologist on November 21, 2007 and May 21, 2008. No fossil resources were discovered. No further work for this project is recommended.

**William Glass, Kenneth young and Cecilia Young Trespass Driveways:** Three existing driveways have been found by BLM. All the driveways are existing and no additional work is planned, except snowplowing when needed. Each are described individually below:

William Glass's driveway is 165.82 feet in length and 18 feet wide encompassing .061 acres of public land. The driveway is off of Eagle County Road 11. This driveway accesses Mr. Glass's house.

Cecilia Young's driveway is 228.33 feet in length and 16 feet wide encompassing .084 acres of public land. The driveway is off of Grand County Road 22. This driveway accesses Ms. Young's trailer.

Kenneth Young's driveway is 407.11 feet in length and 20 feet wide encompassing .187 acres of public land. The driveway is off of Grand County Road 22. This driveway accesses Mr. Young's house.

The Young's driveways are geologically mapped as Troublesome formation. The Troublesome formation is classified as PFYC of 5 and Condition 1. The Glass driveway is geologically mapped as Pierre Shale which is classified as PFYC 3 and Condition 2.

Inventory was completed in small blocks of land encompassing the trespass driveways. Paleontological inventory was completed by the staff archaeologist on **XX** A total of **XX** acres were paleontologically inventoried by pedestrian transects. No fossils or fossil bearing geologic strata were discovered. No further paleontological work is recommended for this project.

**Confluence Recreation Area Developments (Monitoring Report):** In 2001, BLM improved the road that provides access to the confluence of the Blue and Colorado Rivers. This road starts at Grand County Road 1 (Trough Road) and continues through an acquired easement. The improved road provided access for whitewater boater and anglers. Along with the access road, a small parking area and a vault toilet were constructed. There were no improvements to the existing natural surface launch ramp. The launch ramp is very steep (between 40 and 45 degrees). The 2001 improvements have enhanced recreation experience opportunities through better access. Observations from recreation patrols suggest use at the site has increased in recent years, primarily from the whitewater boaters. The increased use has resulted in a need for improving traffic flow and reducing public safety concerns with the steep launch ramp.

It was stipulated in the environmental assessment that the KFO staff archaeologist would monitor the excavation work during and post construction. The KFO archaeologist monitored construction on XX. No fossil resources were discovered and no further work is recommended.

**Elliott Creek Sagebrush Treatment (Dixie Harrow):** The proposed project would involve using a Dixie Harrow to treat approximately 100-150 acres of sagebrush (see project maps below). The harrow would be pulled by a heavy rubber tired tractor. This method would remove older more decadent sagebrush plants, increase the productivity of young sagebrush, grasses and forbs, and allow native species to be more competitive with invasive plants. The harrow would be applied in multiple strips ranging from 30-40 foot-wide, with each strip separated by 50-70 feet of vegetation that has not been manipulated. The proposed treatment would occur in the fall of 2008 through a Habitat Partnership Program (HPP) contract, after sagebrush plants have become brittle and dry.

The project area is geologically mapped as residium on Troublesome formation. Bedrock exposures inventoried on 8/21 and 9/4, 2008.

