

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, CO 81625-1129

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA-NUMBER: CO-100-2007-062 EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER/LEASE NUMBER: COC71064

PROJECT NAME: Greystone Water Line Right-of-Way

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: SWNE, Sec. 6, T7N, R100W, 6th PM, Moffat County, CO
(Exhibit A)

APPLICANT: Tom & Kat Burton

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The proposed action is subject to the following plan:

Name of Plans: Little Snake Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (ROD)

Date(s) Approved: April 26, 1989

Remarks: The proposed water line right-of-way (ROW) would be located within Management Unit 5, Douglas Mountain (Little Snake Resource Management Plan). The objectives of Management Unit 5 are to manage the forest and woodland resources. Realty actions such as rights-of-way, leases and permits can be allowed on public land consistent with the management objectives for this unit.

Results: The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3). The proposed action is in conformance with the objectives for this management unit.

NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION: The purpose of the proposed action is to allow Tom Burton to construct 1,160 linear feet of water pipeline from a well located on private surface across public land to a private residence.

PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS: The NEPA log is posted on the Little Snake Field Office web site.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES: The proposed action is to issue a right-of-way grant, pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and regulations at

43 CFR 2800, to Tom & Kat Burton for a segment of water line across public lands. The remainder of the water line would be constructed on private land owned by the Burtons.

The proposed ROW would be 1,160 feet long and 10 feet wide. Total surface disturbance for the ROW would be 0.27 acre. The water line would begin at a water well drilled by Tom Burton located on private surface in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, section 6, and continue across public land, cross under Moffat County Road 116 and continue in the road ROW for a short distance, then on private to the Burton residence. The proposed water line would be 1½” polyline. The pipeline would be installed using a vibratory ripper approximately 40” deep. A rubber tire backhoe would be used as needed for rock. They plan on working around the trees. No new roads would be necessary for construction. Existing two-track roads would be utilized for access, along with occasional cross-country travel. All staging will be on private land. The Burtons have applied for a Moffat County Road crossing permit.

Construction is anticipated to take 10 days and would occur in the spring or early summer 2007.

A Plan of Development (POD) was submitted with the ROW application. The POD addresses construction methods. In their ROW application, Tom Burton states that no hazardous materials will be used, produced, transported or stored within the ROW. Mitigation not included in the POD would be addressed by the BLM as stipulations (see Exhibit B) to the ROW grant.

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE: The “no action” alternative is that the right-of-way application would be denied. However, since the proposed action is consistent with the Little Snake Resource Management Plan and ROD, rejection of the ROW application was considered, but will not be analyzed further in this EA.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES/MITIGATION MEASURES

CRITICAL RESOURCES

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: There are no special designation air sheds or non-attainment areas nearby that would be affected by the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences: Short term, local impacts to air quality resulting from combustible engine exhaust and dust from surface disturbing operations would result during construction activities. The emissions from these activities consist of both gaseous and particulate fractions. Gaseous constituents from diesel engine exhaust include carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitric oxide, nitric dioxide, oxides of sulfur and hydrocarbons. Fine particulates of soot from diesel exhaust and fugitive dust from soils would be localized to the project area. The health effects of these emissions are largely from long-term and occupational exposure. The proposed action would not adversely affect the regional air quality.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 04/27/2007

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Affected Environment: Not Present

Environmental Consequences: Not Applicable

Mitigative Measures: Not Applicable

Name of specialist and date: Rob Schmitzer, 04/30/2007

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: Cultural resources, in this region of Colorado, range from late Paleo-Indian to Historic. For a general understanding of the cultural resources in this area of Colorado, see *An Overview of Prehistoric Cultural Resources, Little Snake Resource Area, Northwestern Colorado*, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resources Series, Number 20, *An Isolated Empire, A History of Northwestern Colorado*, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resource Series, Number 2 and *Colorado Prehistory: A Context for the Northern Colorado River Basin*, Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists.

Environmental Consequences: The proposed project, Burton Water line, has undergone a Class III cultural resource survey:

Darlington David 2007 Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for the Tom Burton Waterline (BLM#12.22.07).

The survey identified no eligible to the National Register of Historic Places cultural resources. The proposed project may proceed as described in this EA with the following mitigative measures in place.

Mitigative Measures: The following standard stipulations apply for this project:

1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are encountered or uncovered during any project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate vicinity of the find and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO) at (970) 826-5000. Within five working days, the AO will inform the operator as to:

- Whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- The mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the identified area can be used for project activities again; and

- Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) (Federal Register Notice, Monday, December 4, 1995, Vol. 60, No. 232) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone at (970) 826-5000, and with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

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

Name of specialist and date: Robyn Watkins Morris, 04/26/2007

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located in an area nearly devoid of year-round populations. Isolated dwellings do exist.

Environmental Consequences: The project area is relatively isolated from population centers, so no populations would be affected by physical or socioeconomic impacts from the project. The project would not directly affect the social, cultural, or economic well being and health of Native American, minority or low-income populations.

Mitigative Measures: None.

Name of specialist and date: Louise McMinn, 04/25/2007

FLOOD PLAINS

Affected Environment: The water line will not affect any floodplain areas.

Environmental Consequences: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 04/25/2007

INVASIVE, NONNATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: Leafy spurge, Russian knapweed, Canada thistle and other biennial thistles are present in the affected area. Cheatgrass and other annual weeds are common along roads and on

disturbed areas in the vicinity of the project. There is the potential to have other invasive and noxious weeds present in the affected area.

Environmental Consequences: The surface disturbing activities and associated traffic involved with installing the water line would create an environment and provide a mode of transport for invasive species and other noxious weeds to become established. Surface disturbance would be minimal if the vibratory ripper can be used on the entire length of the project, but the potential for introduction and establishment of invasive or noxious weeds still exists. Surface disturbance would be greater on portions of the line which may require excavation with the backhoe. Construction equipment and any other vehicles and equipment brought onto the site can introduce these weed species. Wind, water, recreation vehicles, livestock and wildlife would also assist with the distribution of weed seed into the newly disturbed areas. The right-of-way holder will be required to control any invasive and/or noxious weeds that become established within the right-of-way.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 04/27/2007

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: The project area contains potential nesting and/or foraging habitat for the following USFWS 2002 Birds of Conservation Concern: northern harrier, golden eagle, Lewis's woodpecker, pinyon jay, black throated gray warbler, Brewer's sparrow, pygmy nuthatch, and sage sparrow. No nests have been recorded for these species in this vicinity.

Environmental Consequences: Granting the ROW would result in a short-term loss of .27 acres of pinyon-juniper woodland habitat on public land and an estimated total of .48 acres for the entire project. Potential impacts for the above species include habitat degradation, fragmentation, and loss; individual displacement; and increased stress. Unintentional destruction of nests and eggs may also occur. Since no trees would be removed during construction, tree-nesting species would not be directly impacted. Take of fledglings or understory nests, however, may occur but is unlikely. Given the scale of disturbance, the proposed action would not have a measurable impact on migratory bird populations.

Mitigative Measures: To minimize impacts on migratory bird habitat and nests, no trees would be cut or removed during construction.

Name of specialist and date: Charlie Sharp, 04/26/2007

NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS

A letter was sent to the Uinta and Ouray Tribal Council, Southern Ute Tribal Council, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council, and the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs on January 21, 1999. The letter listed the projects that the BLM would notify them on and projects that would not require

notification. No comments were received (Letter on file at the Little Snake Field Office). This project requires no additional notification.

Name of specialist and date: Robyn Watkins Morris, 04/26/2007

PRIME & UNIQUE FARMLANDS

Affected Environment: Prime and Unique Farmlands are not present in the affected area.

Environmental Consequences: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 04/25/2007

T&E SPECIES – ANIMALS

Affected Environment: The proposed action would occur within the general winter range for the federally threatened bald eagle. There is no record of site-specific observation of bald eagles or bald eagle nests in the project area. No bald eagle critical habitat such as roosts or forage areas is present.

Environmental Consequences: Bald eagle use of upland habitat is limited primarily to foraging during the winter for vehicle-killed animals along roadways. Therefore, bald eagle presence during the proposed construction period (spring, summer) is unlikely, and individuals would only be in the project area if they were opportunistically feeding or were en-route to other areas. Although the proposed action would alter .48 acres of habitat, it would not impede the bald eagle's ability to forage in this area. With mitigation as stated below, the proposed action would have 'no effect' on the bald eagle.

Mitigative Measures: To ensure the bald eagle is not impacted by this action, if a bald eagle is observed in the immediate vicinity of the project, construction will be delayed until the eagle has moved out of the area.

Name of specialist and date: Charlie Sharp, 04/27/2007

T&E SPECIES – PLANTS

Affected Environment: There are no federally listed threatened or endangered plants within or in the vicinity of the Proposed Action.

Environmental Consequences: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 04/26/2007

T&E SPECIES - SENSITIVE PLANTS

Affected Environment: There are no BLM sensitive plant species within or in the vicinity of the Proposed Action.

Environmental Consequences: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 04/26/2007

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: If a release does occur, the environment affected would be dependent on the nature and volume of material released. If there are no releases, there will be no environmental impact.

Environmental Consequences: Consequences would be dependent on the volume and nature of the material released. In most every situation involving hazardous materials, there are ways to remediate the area that has been contaminated. Short-term consequences would occur, but they can be remedied, and long-term impacts would be minimal.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Louise McMinn, 04/30/2007

WATER QUALITY - GROUND

Affected Environment: The surface formation is the Precambrian Uinta Mountain Group.

Environmental Consequences: The proposed action would not affect the ground water.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Jennifer Maiolo, 04/30/2007

WATER QUALITY - SURFACE

Affected Environment: The water line would be installed on a slight slope on an upland site near the headwaters of Rye Grass Draw. Rye Grass Draw is an ephemeral tributary to Conway Draw which is an ephemeral tributary to the Green River. Water quality of the Green River needs to support Aquatic Life Cold 1, Recreation 1a, Water Supply and Agriculture. Rye Grass and Conway Draws will need to have water quality that can support Aquatic Life Warm 2, Recreation 1a and

Agriculture; these tributaries are designated as Use Protected. The Green River was last assessed Feb. 22, 2002 and it was determined that the water quality of the river fully supported all designated uses.

Environmental Consequences: Soil erosion from the site would be expected in the short term due to the surface disturbance caused by installing the water line. Very little soil erosion would result if the water line can be installed with the vibratory ripper. If a backhoe is used to excavate to bedrock the surface disturbance would be larger. In either case soil erosion would be minor and subsequent sediment transport to affected stream segments would be minimal.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 04/27/2007

WETLANDS/RIPARIAN ZONES

Affected Environment: No riparian or wetland systems are present in the affected area.

Environmental Consequences: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 04/25/2007

WILD & SCENIC RIVERS

Affected Environment: Not Present

Environmental Consequences: Not Applicable

Mitigative Measures: Not Applicable

Name of specialist and date: Rob Schmitzer, 04/30/2007

WSAs, WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

Affected Environment: Not Present

Environmental Consequences: Not Applicable

Mitigative Measures: Not Applicable

Name of specialist and date: Rob Schmitzer, 04/30/2007

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: The geologic formation at the surface is the pre-Cambrian Age Uinta Mountain Group (Yu), a resistant light to dark-red sandstone and locally gray to red silty shale, of probable marine origin. Maximum thickness is probably more than 7,000 meters. This formation has been classified a Class III formation for the potential for occurrence of scientifically significant fossils. Scientifically significant fossils are rarely found within this formation (Armstrong & Wolney, 1989). The potential for discovery of significant fossils on this location is considered to be low.

Environmental Consequences: If any such fossils are located here, construction activities could damage the fossils and the information that could have been gained from them would be lost. The significance of this impact would depend upon the significance of the fossil.

Mitigative Measures: This impact is usually effectively mitigated by ceasing operations and notifying the Field Office Manager immediately upon discovery of a fossil during construction activities. An assessment of the significance is made and a plan to retrieve the fossil or the information from the fossil is developed. The proposed action could also constitute a beneficial impact to paleontological resources by increasing the chances for discovery of scientifically significant fossils.

References

Armstrong, Harley J. and Wolney, David G., 1989, Paleontological Resources of Northwest Colorado: A Regional Analysis, Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, CO, prepared for Bur. Land Management, Vol. I of V.

Miller, A.E., 1977, Geology of Moffat County, Colorado, Colo. Geol. Survey. Map Series 3, 1:126,720.

Name of specialist and date: Jennifer Maiolo, 04/30/2007

SOILS

Affected Environment: The soils mapped in the area of the proposed water line are the Cushool fine sandy loam, 3 to 12 percent slopes. This soil type developed in residuum derived from sandstone and the soil profile is typically 20 to 40 inches deep overlying bedrock. This soil has a low water holding capacity and it also exhibits very slightly saline and slightly sodic characteristics.

Environmental Consequences: The main limitation of installing the proposed water line is the 20 to 40 inch depth of the soil profile. If most of the soil profile is nearly 40-inches deep and the water line can be installed by the use of the vibratory ripper very little impact to the soil resource would occur.

Ripping or excavation of the bedrock would likely be needed to place the water line to a depth of 40-inches at least on portions of the right-of-way. Additional disturbed area would be created for excavation, backfilling and general work area. Indirect disturbance would result from compaction and the degree of this effect would be dependant on soil moisture during operations. Revegetation potential is limited by some of the inherent properties of this soil mainly the low water holding capacity and very slightly saline and slightly sodic conditions. Mixing ripped bedrock into the soil profile during back filling operations in those areas requiring excavation with a backhoe would reduce the water holding capacity further. Bedding material procured offsite would help to conserve the limited soil materials. Placing the excavated rock above the bedding and at the bottom of the backfilled soil material would help to maintain optimal soil moisture in the rooting zone of plants.

Mitigative Measures: In the event that bedrock is excavated to obtain burial depth of the water line, the rock removed will be placed back into the trench after the line has been properly bedded and prior to backfilling the soil materials.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 04/27/2007

UPLAND VEGETATION

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located in sagebrush-grass and juniper woodland plant communities. In this particular area, the understory species present in the juniper woodlands are very similar to those found in the sagebrush-grass community. Dominant plants present include Utah juniper (*Juniperus utahensis*), Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis*), green rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*), western wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*A. spicatum*), prairie junegrass (*Koeleria pyramidata*), and bottlebrush squirreltail (*Sitanion hystrix*).

Environmental Consequences: Due to the minimal disturbance produced by the process of vibratory ripping, impacts to the plant community would be negligible. Some hand or mechanical clearing of shrubs may be necessary to facilitate equipment access, but even this disturbance would not cause the surrounding plant community to revert to an earlier seral stage or become susceptible to weed invasion due to the lack of soil disturbance. Crushing of vegetation by vehicles or equipment may cause some highly localized mortality of shrub species.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 04/26/2007

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC

Affected Environment: The proposed action would occur within an upland ecosystem. No aquatic wildlife or habitat is present.

Environmental Consequences: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Charlie Sharp, 04/27/2007

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL

Affected Environment: The pinyon-juniper community, along with neighboring stands of ponderosa pine and big sagebrush, provides habitat for a variety of species including deer, elk, pronghorn, small mammals, and birds. Although big game may occupy this area in moderate winters, no critical habitat or severe winter range is present in the immediate vicinity. Greater sage grouse may utilize adjacent sagebrush stands (1.5 miles from proposed ROW) for foraging and reproduction.

Environmental Consequences: The proposed action will have “no effect” on the greater sage grouse, a BLM sensitive species. General impacts for big game and other species include habitat degradation, fragmentation, and loss, individual displacement, and increased stress. Such impacts are more significant during critical seasons, such as winter or reproduction. Wildlife using the area is likely to be temporarily displaced during construction and may, in the short term, find the area unsuitable once construction is complete. Most small mammals using the project area would be capable of avoiding construction activities and should not be directly harmed by these activities, although some burrowing animals may be killed by construction equipment. Given the scale of disturbance, the proposed action would be unlikely to have measurable impacts to wildlife populations.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Charlie Sharp, 04/30/2007

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

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Fluid Minerals	JAM 4/30/07		
Forest Management		LM 4/30/07	
Hydrology/Ground		JAM 4/30/07	
Hydrology/Surface		OO 4/27/07	
Paleontology			See Paleontology
Range Management		JHS 4/26/07	
Realty Authorizations		LM 4/30/07	
Recreation/Travel Mgmt		RS 4/30/07	
Socio-Economics		LM 4/26/07	
Solid Minerals	JAM		

	4/30/07		
Visual Resources		RS 4/30/07	
Wild Horse & Burro Mgmt	LM 4/30/07		

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: The proposed project would supply water to a private residence in Greystone. Greystone is remote and only minimally impacted by human activities. Cumulative impacts may result from the construction when added to non-project impacts that result from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Water is scarce in the Greystone area. With the well and water line installation there would now be the potential for additional private residence construction in the area. Several improved roads cross the area, but the overall density of roads is light. Additional structures such as dwellings, corrals, ranch buildings, power lines, boundary fencing, and vehicular travel result in production of noise, dust, and visual intrusions. Other past or existing actions near the project area that have influence on the landscape are wildfire, recreation, hunting, grazing, mining, and ranching activities.

Construction of the water line would likely displace some animals, birds and reptiles. It can be expected that they will return to the project area once construction is complete. Surface disturbance associated with the project has the potential for an increase of erosion and sedimentation and weed infestation. A very small reduction in forage would be anticipated.

STANDARDS:

PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITY (animal) STANDARD: Wildlife using the area is likely to be temporarily displaced during construction and may, in the short term, find the project unsuitable once construction is complete. No critical habitat or severe winter range for any species is located in the project area. The proposed action would result in a minimal, short-term loss of habitat but would not appreciably impact animal production, diversity, or resilience. Therefore, the proposed action would not preclude this landscape from meeting this standard.

Name of specialist and date: Charlie Sharp, 04/30/2007

SPECIAL STATUS, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES (animal) STANDARD: The project area provides winter range for the bald eagle. Although the proposed action would alter .48 acres of habitat, it would not impede the bald eagle’s ability to forage in this area. With mitigation applied, the proposed action would have ‘no effect’ on the bald eagle. The proposed action may result in a minimal, short-term loss of habitat but would not appreciably impact the stability or growth of special status species’ populations. Therefore, the proposed action would not preclude this landscape from meeting this standard.

Name of specialist and date: Charlie Sharp, 04/30/2007

PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITY (plant) STANDARD: The Proposed Action would result in very small, highly localized surface disturbances which would not disturb the larger plant community

and would result in minimal disturbance to areas adjacent to the pipeline. This level of disturbance would not prevent the community from maintaining resilience to other disturbances or competition from weed species. Some crushing of woody plants may occur, resulting in some plant mortality, but this impact would not adversely affect the ability of the plant community to maintain vigor, diversity, and reproductive capability. The plant community currently meets this standard and the Proposed Action would not prevent the community from meeting this standard in the future.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 04/26/2007

SPECIAL STATUS, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES (plant) STANDARD:

There are no federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive plant species within or in the vicinity of the Proposed Action. This standard does not apply.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 04/26/2007

RIPARIAN SYSTEMS STANDARD: No riparian or wetland system will be affected by the proposed projects. This standard does not apply.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 04/25/2007

WATER QUALITY STANDARD: The proposed action will meet the water quality standard for healthy rangelands. Runoff from snowmelt and summer storms will drain from the disturbed area into ephemeral stream segments that are presently supporting classified uses. These stream drainages are tributary to the Green River. All stream segments in the affected area are presently supporting their classified beneficial uses and no water quality impairment has been noted.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 04/27/2007

UPLAND SOILS STANDARD: The proposed action will meet the upland soil standard for healthy rangelands. The use of the vibratory ripper to install the water line will have very little impact on the soil resource and vegetative cover. Much more soil disturbance would be expected if a backhoe is required to excavate the trench or portions of it and the short term surface disturbance, requiring vegetation removal and soil excavation will not meet the upland soil standard, until revegetation of the site occurs.

Reclamation practices to be applied on the disturbed area, resulting from excavation with the backhoe will restore upland soil properties or functions within a few years. Once the vegetative cover to these areas is established, substantial progress towards meeting the upland soil standard will be achieved as soil properties relating to infiltration, percolation and runoff are expected to return to typical rates for this soil type.

Name of specialist and date: Ole Olsen, 04/27/2007

PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED: Uintah and Ouray Tribal Council, Colorado Native American Commission, Colorado State Historic Preservation Office.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
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Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the EA and all other available information, I have determined that the proposal and the alternatives analyzed do not constitute a major Federal action that would adversely impact the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an EIS is unnecessary and will not be prepared. This determination is based on the following factors:

1. Beneficial, adverse, direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts have been disclosed in the EA. Analysis indicated no significant impacts on society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests or the locality. The physical and biological effects are limited to the Little Snake Resource Area and adjacent land.
2. Public health and safety would not be adversely impacted. There are no known or anticipated concerns with project waste or hazardous materials.
3. There would be no adverse impacts to regional or local air quality, prime or unique farmlands, known paleontological resources on public land within the area, wetlands, floodplain, areas with unique characteristics, ecologically critical areas or designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.
4. There are no highly controversial effects on the environment.
5. There are no effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk. Sufficient information on risk is available based on information in the EA and other past actions of a similar nature.
6. This alternative does not set a precedent for other actions that may be implemented in the future to meet the goals and objectives of adopted Federal, State or local natural resource related plans, policies or programs.
7. No cumulative impacts related to other actions that would have a significant adverse impact were identified or are anticipated.
8. Based on previous and ongoing cultural surveys and through mitigation by avoidance, no adverse impacts to cultural resources were identified or anticipated. There are no known American Indian religious concerns or persons or groups who might be disproportionately and adversely affected as anticipated by the Environmental Justice Policy.
9. No adverse impacts to any threatened or endangered species or their habitat that was determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act were identified. If, at a future time, there could be the potential for adverse impacts, treatments would be modified or mitigated not to have an adverse effect or new analysis would be conducted.
10. This alternative is in compliance with relevant Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and requirements for the protection of the environment.

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have determined that construction of the water line is in conformance with the approved land use plan. It is my decision to issue the right-of-way grant with the mitigation measures to Tom & Kat Burton. The grant is for construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of a 1½” water line located on public land in SW¼NE¼, Sec. 6, T.7N., R.100W., 6th P.M., Moffat County, Colorado. The ROW is 1,160 feet long and 10 feet wide. The ROW grant is issued for 20 years with the right of renewal. The ROW is subject to rental pursuant to 43 CFR 2806. The project will be monitored as stated in the Compliance Plan outlined below.

It is the policy of the Bureau of Land Management to grant ROWS to occupy and use public land where such is consistent with resource values, the Bureau’s planning system, and local government concerns. To this effect, no conflicts were found; the action does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. The action is consistent with the Little Snake Resource Management Plan. The proposed use, as planned and mitigated, is a suitable use of the land, which will not conflict with the present or known future use of the area. The action is consistent with Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976 (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761) and the regulations authorizing use of federal land under 43 CFR 2800.

MITIGATION MEASURES: See Exhibit B, Stipulations.

COMPLIANCE PLAN(S):

Compliance Schedule: Compliance will be conducted during the construction phase and reclamation phase to insure that all terms and conditions specified in the right-of-way grant and stipulations are followed. The water line ROW will be on a five-year compliance schedule after completion of the project.

Monitoring Plan: The water line will be monitored during the term of the right-of-way for compliance with the grant, stipulations, POD, and pertinent regulations until final abandonment is approved; monitoring will help determine the effectiveness of mitigation and document the need for additional mitigative measures.

Assignment of Responsibility: Responsibility for implementation of the compliance schedule and monitoring plan will be assigned to the Realty staff in the Little Snake Field Office. The primary inspector will be the Realty Specialist.

SIGNATURE OF PREPARER:

DATE SIGNED:

SIGNATURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWER:

DATE SIGNED:

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

DATE SIGNED:

EXHIBITS: A & B