

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Royal Gorge Field Office
3028 E. Main Street
Canon City, CO 81212**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-F02-2013-001 CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC-76310

PROJECT NAME: Realty– Verizon Wireless Site – CO4 Parkdale on Twin Mountain

PLANNING UNIT: Royal Gorge Resource Area, Eco-Subregion 5 (Gold Belt)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Colorado, Fremont County, 6th Prime Meridian

Communication Site: T. 18 S., R. 71 W., sec. 02: Lot 7.

Access Road: T. 17 S., R. 71 W., sec. 34, Lots 9, 10, 12 and 13; sec. 35, Lots 7, 8.
T. 18 S., R. 71 W., sec. 02, Lot 7, sec. 03, Lots 1, 5.

APPLICANT: Cellular Inc. Network Corporation d/b/a Verizon Wireless
180 Washington Valley Road, Bedminster, New Jersey 07921.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: On February 14, 2013, Cellular Inc. Network Corporation (d/b/a Verizon Wireless) submitted an application to locate communication facilities on the Twin Mountain Communication Site. The proposal consists of the following activities:

- construct a 14' X 28' equipment shelter;
- route coax cables from the shelter to an existing tower operated by SBA Tower;
- install a diesel generator, power pole, and meter; and
- utilize the existing access road that serves the site.

The communication site is approximately 170 feet by 150 feet, containing 0.585 acres more or less. Three existing equipment shelters and their associated towers, antennas, microwave dishes, generators and support equipment are operated on the site by other entities.

The existing access road is used by the existing users of the Twin Mountain Communication Site. The road is 20 feet wide and approximately 3.87 miles long, incorporating a total of 9.37 acres of both private and public land. Approximately 2.58 miles of the road is located on 6.25 acres of public land. (Note: The remaining 1.29 miles of the access road is located on private land. The United States holds an exclusive easement (serialized as COC-38692) limited to providing administrative access by federal personnel only; the easement does not provide permission for users of the communication site to cross the private property. Therefore, the applicant needs to

obtain the right to cross the private property in the same manner as the existing communication site users, and , should the proposed action be approved, the applicant would be required to provide documentation of that right to the BLM prior to issuance of a ROW grant.)

The applicant (Verizon) is a licensed wireless carrier with the FCC and is authorized to provide wireless services in the Canon City area. The proposed communication facility would improve service to Verizon's customers living in the area as well as those traveling through the area on Highway 50. In addition, the expanded service would improve the ability of emergency personnel to communicate in the area when the need arises.

Verizon is an established company that is capable of installing, operating, maintaining and terminating the proposed new site. Verizon Wireless has numerous facilities on Federal lands and has a record of maintaining its facilities to meet all industry standards.

The new shelter is expected to have minimal impact to the area and there would be no change to any streams, bodies of water, land surfaces, vegetation, soil, and permafrost or soil stability. The generator would be located inside the new building and would run only briefly on a regular basis maintain it in operable condition. Noise level would be low and would not be seen or heard beyond the immediate area. No impacts on fish, plant life, wildlife and marine life are associated with the proposed facilities. Sealed batteries and diesel fuel associated with the back up power for the proposed facilities would be stored in an approved tank integrated into the generator located inside the new equipment shelter. No other hazardous materials would be used, stored or otherwise involved with the installation or use of the new building or generator.

The BLM is the only agency contacted by the applicant to consider this project.

The Twin Mountain Communication Site Plan would be incorporated as a stipulation in the authorization. The Plan requires its members to maintain specific standards of construction, operation, and maintenance for communications sites, and to coordinate with each other to prevent interference between operations.

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

Name of Plan: Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: May 13, 1996

Decision Number: 8-48 There are areas non-excluded for rights-of-way.

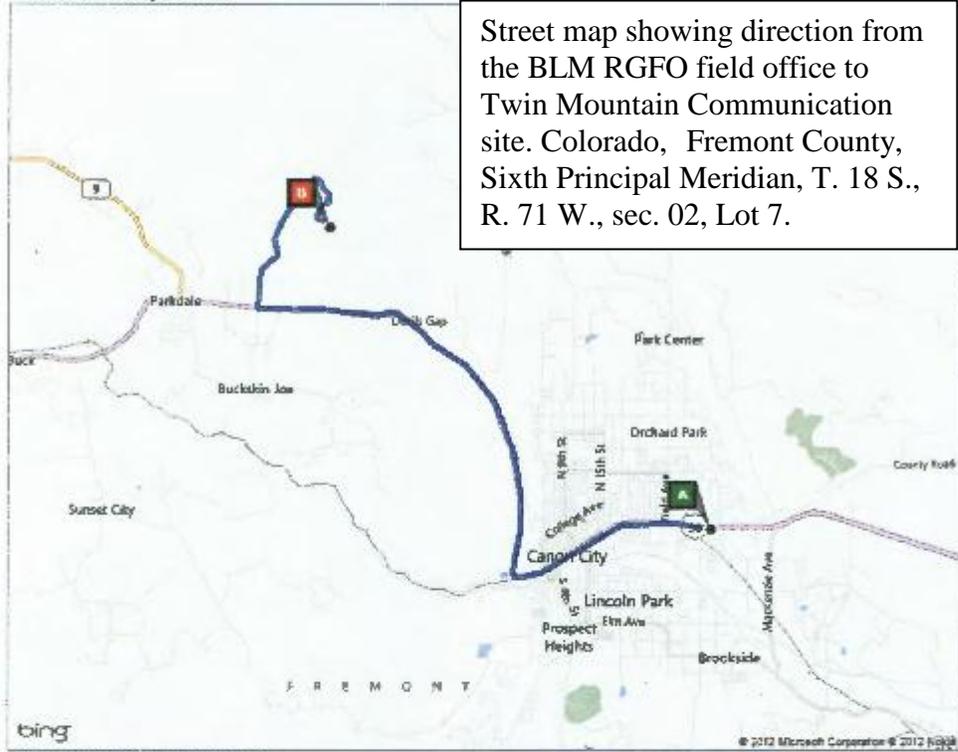
The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3).

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: This proposed action is listed as a Categorical Exclusion in DOI Departmental Manual Part 516 Chapter 11 E (12): *Grants of rights-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed rights-of-way.*

None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Route: 14.5 mi, 25 min

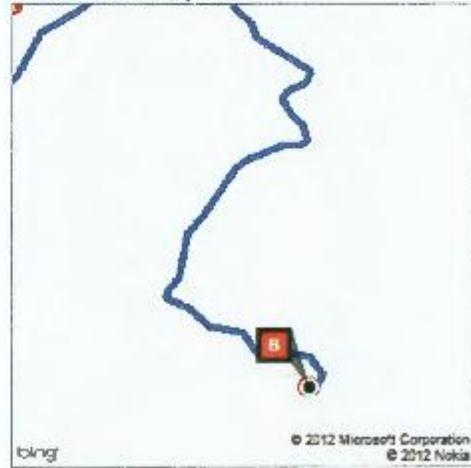
Street map showing direction from the BLM RGFO field office to Twin Mountain Communication site. Colorado, Fremont County, Sixth Principal Meridian, T. 18 S., R. 71 W., sec. 02, Lot 7.

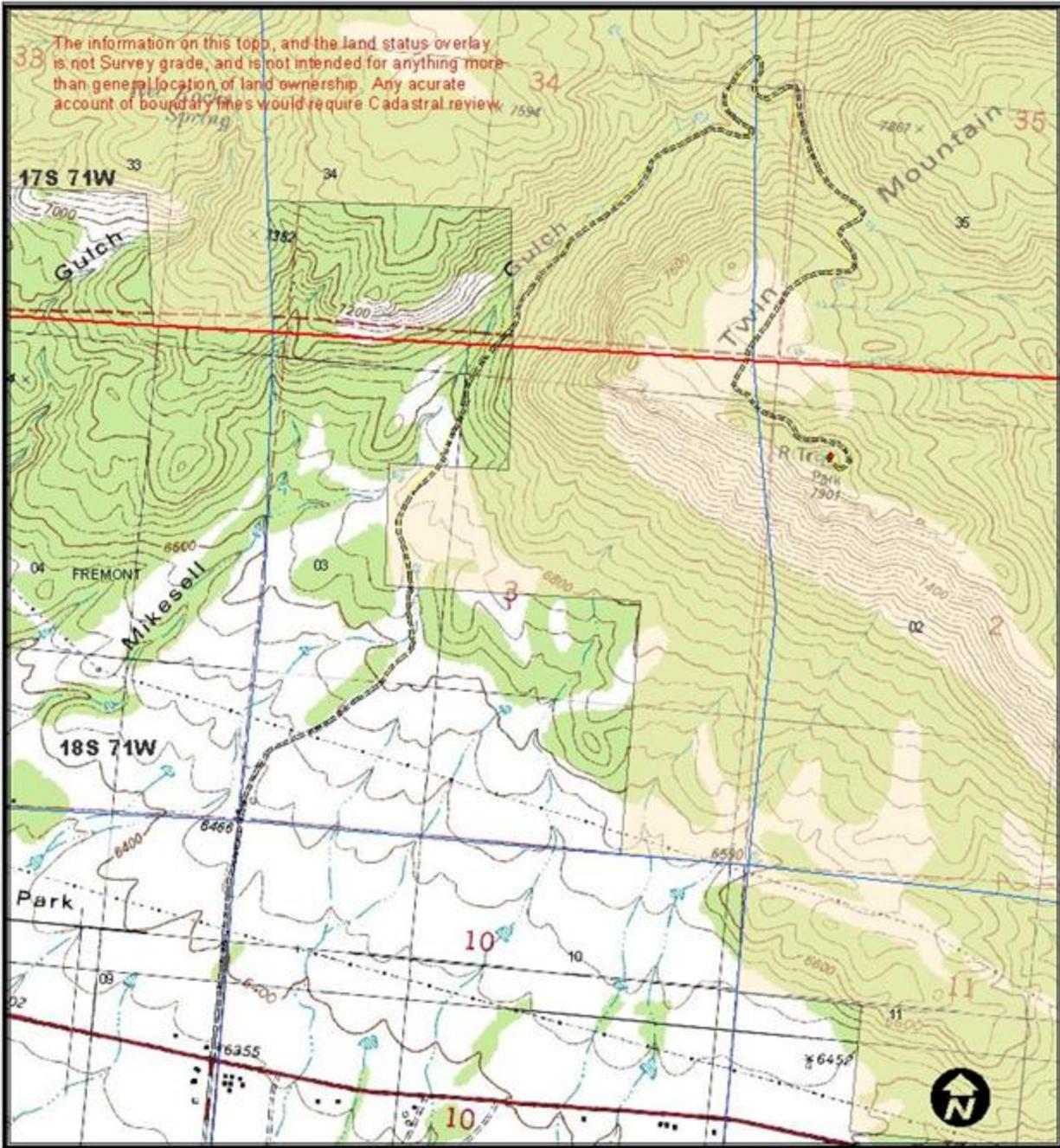


A: 3028 E Main St, CO 81212



B: Twin Mountain, CO





August 22, 2013



1:15,903

0 005 01 015 02



DOI-BLM-CO-200-2013-001 CX serial number COC-76310
 Colorado, Fremont County, Sixth Principal Meridian,
 Communication site: T. 18 S., R. 71 W., sec. 02: Lot 7.
 Road over BLM: T. 17 S., R. 71 W., sec. 34, Lots 9, 10, 12 and 13; sec. 35, Lots 7, 8.
 T. 18 S., R. 71 W., sec. 02, Lot 7; sec. 03, Lot 1, 5.
 Road over private, exclusive easement to the US serial number COC-38692:
 T. 17 S., R. 71 W., sec. 34, SE1/4SW1/4.
 T. 18 S., R. 71 W., sec. 03, Lot 3, and N1/2SW1/4, SW1/4SW1/4; sec. 10, W1/2NW1/4.
 The private access requires a separate agreement from the private land owner, and the description above identifies its location only.

Exclusion Criteria		YES	NO
1.	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
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; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
3.	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
4.	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
5.	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
6.	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
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.	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
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.	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
9.	Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
10.	Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
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.	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
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.	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	MR, 11/5/2013
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	-----
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	CC, 2/27/13
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Weeds	JL, 02/27/2013
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG 10/30/13
Stephanie Carter	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	SSC, 10/28/13
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology	MJS, 10/29/2013
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 10/28/2013
Ty Webb	Prescribed Fire Specialist	Air Quality	
Jeff Covington	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	JC, 2/27/2013
Kalem Lenard	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	KL, 10/28/2013
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	-----
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	MKSG 11/1/2013
Martin Weimer	NEPA Coordinator	Environmental Justice, Noise, SocioEconomics	mw, 2/27/13
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MMW, 5/8/13
Michael Troyer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MDT, 8/28/13
Steve Craddock	Realty Specialist	Realty	SRC, 11/7/2013
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	-----

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: No historic properties were found in the area of potential effect [see report CR-RG-03-070 (N) and CR-RG-14-042 (N)]. Therefore, the proposed undertaking would have no effect on any historic properties (those eligible for the NRHP).

Native American Religious Concerns: No possible traditional cultural properties were located during the cultural resources inventory (see above). There is no other known evidence that suggests the project area holds special significance for Native Americans.

Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no records of any federally listed or BLM sensitive species within or near the project area. The Proposed Action will not result in impacts to TES species.

Migratory Birds: To be in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Memorandum of Understanding between BLM and USFWS required by Executive Order 13186, BLM must avoid actions, where possible, that result in a “take” of migratory birds. Pursuant to BLM Instruction Memorandum 2008-050, to reduce impacts to Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC), no habitat disturbance (removal of vegetation such as timber, brush, or grass) is allowed during the periods of May 15 - July 15, the breeding and brood rearing season for most Colorado migratory birds. The provision will not apply to completion activities in disturbed areas that were initiated prior to May 15 and continue into the 60-day period.

An exception to this timing limitation will be granted if nesting surveys conducted no more than one week prior to vegetation-disturbing activities indicate no nesting within 30 meters (100 feet) of the area to be disturbed. Surveys shall be conducted by a qualified breeding bird surveyor between sunrise and 10:00 a.m. under favorable conditions.

Hydrology & Forestry: The current access road needs to be brought up to BLM’s Gold Book standards by improving drainage from the access roadway. Currently there are severe ruts due to improper drainage and water channeling down the roadbed. Due to the nature of the improvements proposed by Sangre De Cristo Cellular, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Wireless, it would be a requirement for them to bring the road up to Gold book Standards prior to the initiation of the construction of their project. The BLM standards for road construction and maintenance outlined in the gold book would be added to the grant and are required to be followed as if they were placed there in their entirety.

http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/oil_and_gas/best_management_practices/gold_book.html

Lands and Realty: The Twin Mountain Communication site is currently used by three authorized holders, as follows:

- COC-0-071616 (State of Colorado, Admin Dept., expires 12/31/2031, includes road)
- COC-003928 (Union Pacific Railroad, expires 9/25/2018)
- COC-27939 (SBA Structures, Inc., expires 12/31/2038*)
 - Since Verizon will use SBA’s tower for its antenna, the lease should be structured to expire on the same date as SBA’s lease)

Two previous users recently ceased operations at the site, as follows:

- COC-51307 (Alltel Communications, use ceased and case closed on 10/12/2010)
- COC-51312 (Fremont County, use ceased and case closed on 10/12/2010)

The site is accessed via a 20’ ROW issued under COC-0-071616 (State of Colorado, above). The road is rent exempt, but a road users agreement needs to be established as discussed below).

Power is provided to the site under COC-0-71615 (Black Hills Corporation, expires 12/11/2020)

A condition of the lease would be to develop a road user’s agreement with the other current communication site users to establish responsibilities for maintenance of the access road. This requirement is consistent with the Twin Mountain Communication Site Management Plan,

Section L, as approved on July 8, 2009.

The holder would be responsible for any and all authorizations to cross other private lands, and any and all permits or authorizations needed with the State or County

The holder would be responsible for obtaining any and all pertinent or required Federal, State and local permits, easements, license and any other authorizations to legally operate or access Twin Mountain Communication site, and for submitting copies of all such documents to the BLM prior to issuance of a Notice to Proceed.

The Grantee would be required to post financial security in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the purpose of assuring that all restoration and reclamation requirements are performed upon expiration or termination of the grant. The financial security would need to be in the form of a cash bond, irrevocable letter of credit, dedicated certificate of deposit, surety bond, or other financial instrument, and approved and accepted by the BLM authorized officer prior to issuance of a Notice to Proceed.

Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste: It is assumed that conditions associated with the proposed project site are currently clean and that no contamination is evident. No hazardous material, as defined by 42 U.S.C. 9601 (which includes materials regulated under CERCLA, RCRA and the Atomic Energy Act, but does not include petroleum or natural gas), will be used, produced, transported or stored during project implementation. Since this project involves some type of oil or fuel use, transfer and/or storage, an adequate spill kit is required to be onsite. The project proponent will be responsible for adhering to all applicable local, State and Federal regulations in the event of a spill, which includes following the proper notification procedures in BLM's Spill Contingency Plan. If concrete is proposed as part of the project, all concrete washout water needs to be contained and properly disposed of at a permitted offsite disposal facility. Nothing in the analysis or approval of this action by BLM authorizes or in any way permits a release or threat of a release of hazardous materials (as defined under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq., and its regulations) into the environment that will require a response action or result in the incurrence of response costs.

Visual Resources Management: All above-ground structures not subject to safety requirements shall be painted by the holder to blend with the natural color of the landscape following BLM Best Management Practices for Visual Resource Management. The paint used shall be a color that simulates "Standard Environmental Colors" designated by the Rocky Mountain Five-State Interagency Committee. The color selected for this project will be "Beetle" or "Yuma Green" or similar upon approval of the BLM authorized officer.

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics: The project area does not meet the criteria for having wilderness characteristics due to lack of naturalness.

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARERS: Steve Craddock, Realty Specialist
Vera Matthews, Realty Specialist

SUPERVISORY REVIEW: s/Jay M. Raiford

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

DATE: 11/14/13

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this Categorical Exclusion and have decided to implement the Proposed Action.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 10 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

/s/ Keith E. Berger
Keith E. Berger, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 11/14/13

The next six (6) photos were taken ascending the access road from Hwy 50, and show some of the erosion and grade on the road which may cause problems for construction materials and equipment. Location: Colorado, Fremont County, Sixth Principal Meridian, T. 18 S., R. 71 W., sec. 02, Lot 7







This photo is taken from the communication site looking down at Hwy 50, and the Royal Gorge. Business that can be seen include White Water Grill, Fort Royal Stable, commercial helicopter rides, rafting companies, several other restaurants, feed store, the edge of the electric power plant, Black hills energy power poles. Part of the Royal Gorge area was burned in 2013 after this photo was taken. Sixth PM, T. 18 S., R. 71 W., sec. 02, Lot 7.



This photo is taken approaching Twin Mountain from the access road north of the site. SBA's tower is on the left, State of Colorado's tower on the right. Colorado, Fremont County, Sixth PM, T. 18 S., R. 71 W., sec. 02, Lot 7. Several trees have been cut away since the photo was taken.

This photo is taken approaching Twin Mountain from north of the site. SBA tower is on the left, State tower on the right. Colorado, Fremont County, Sixth PM, T. 18 S., R. 71 W., sec. 02, Lot 7. The trees have been cut away since the photo was taken.



State of Colorado COC-0-71616 – Also houses equipment for the Forest Service, BLM, Pueblo on Twin - dispatch – Looking West/South West towards Parkdale, Colorado, Fremont County, Sixth Principal Meridian, T. 18 S., R. 71 W., sec. 02, Lot 7. The trees have been cut away since the photo was taken.



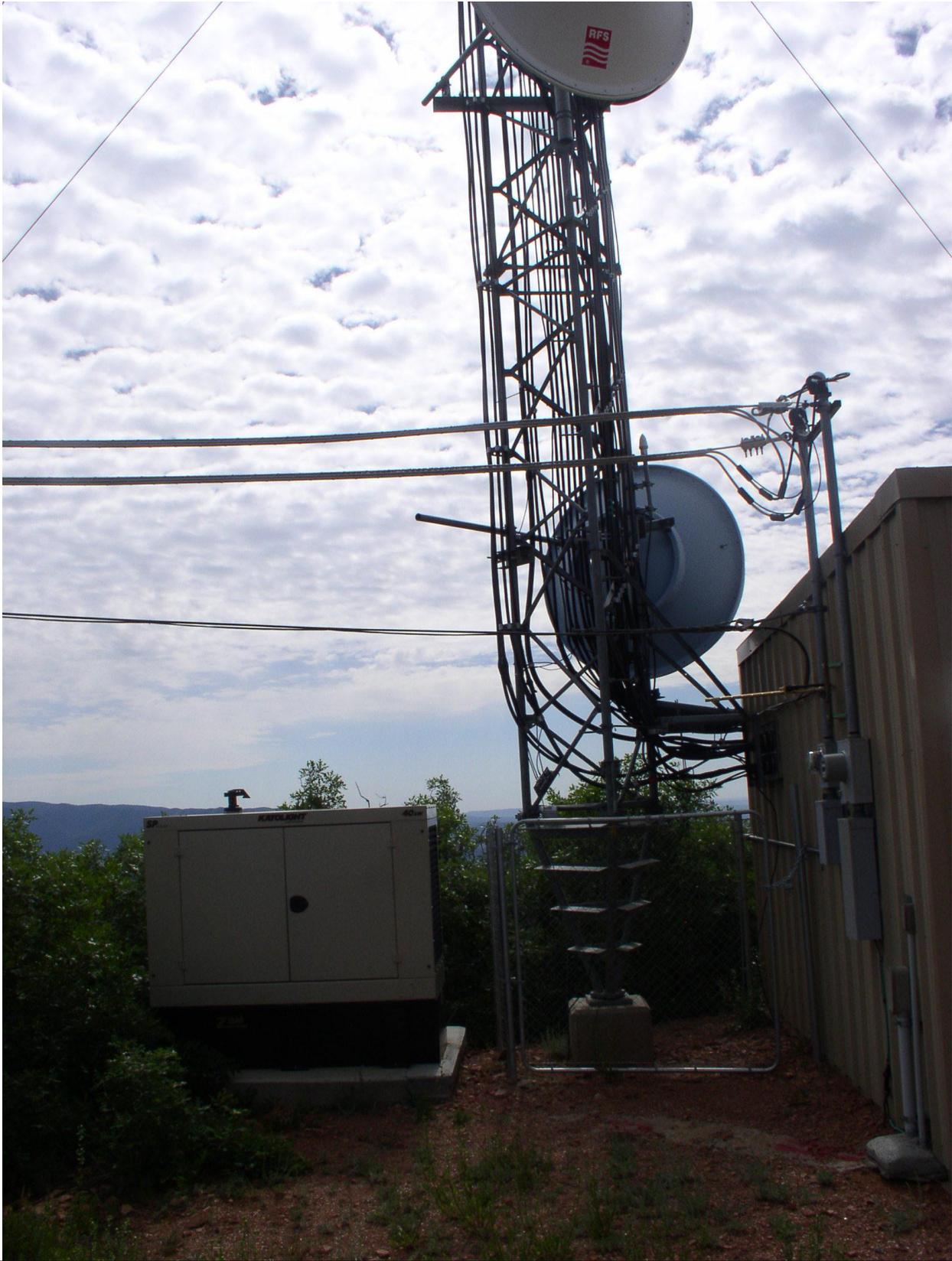




State of Colorado COC-0-71616 – Also houses equipment for the Forest Service, BLM, and other public entities. Looking WSW towards Parkdale, Colorado, Fremont County, Sixth PM, T. 18 S., R. 71 W., sec. 02, Lot 7. The trees have been cut away since the photo.



Union Pacific – COC-3928 – Union Pacific building and Mono pole, looking South toward the Royal Gorge – Colorado, Fremont County, Sixth PM, T. 18 S., R. 71 W., sec. 02, Lot 7. The trees have been cut away since the photo.



Base of SBA's tower, and the generator housing – COC-27939 - Fremont County, Sixth PM, T. 18 S., R. 71 W., sec. 02, Lot 7. The trees have been cut away since the photo.



Both of these photos are looking WSW from the west edge of the site. Fremont County, Sixth PM, T. 18 S., R. 71 W., sec. 02, Lot 7. The trees have been cut away since the photo.



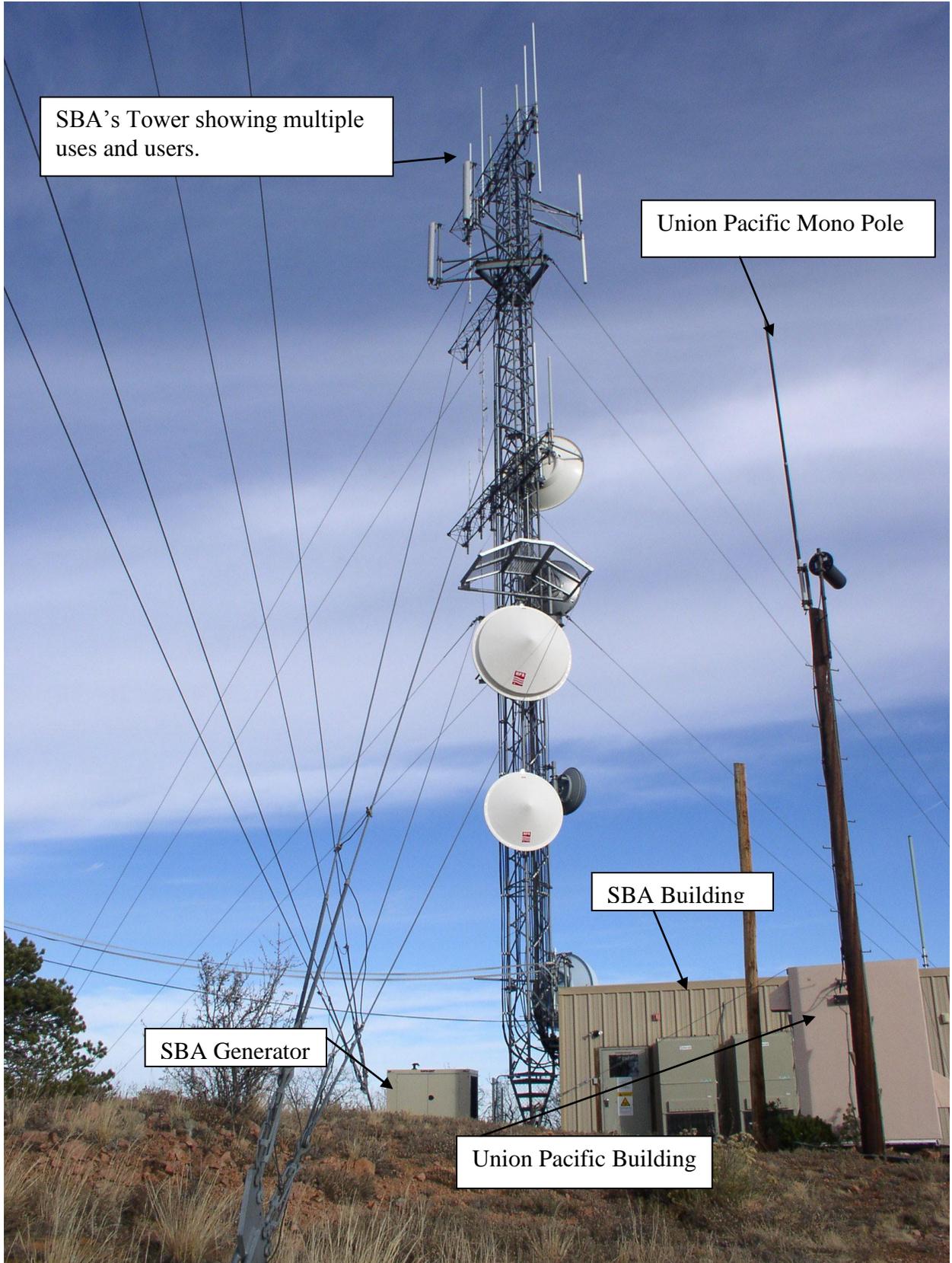
SBA Tower on Twin Mountain, Colorado From the East,- COC-27939 -
Fremont County, Sixth PM, T. 18 S., R. 71 W., sec. 02, Lot 7. The trees have been
cut away since the photo.



SBA Tower on Twin Mountain, - COC-27939 - Colorado From the East, Fremont County, Sixth Principal Meridian, T. 18 S., R. 71 W., sec. 02, Lot 7. These trees have been cut away since the photo was taken



SBA Tower on Twin Mountain, - COC-27939 - Colorado, Fremont County, Sixth Principal Meridian, T. 18 S., R. 71 W., sec. 02, Lot 7.



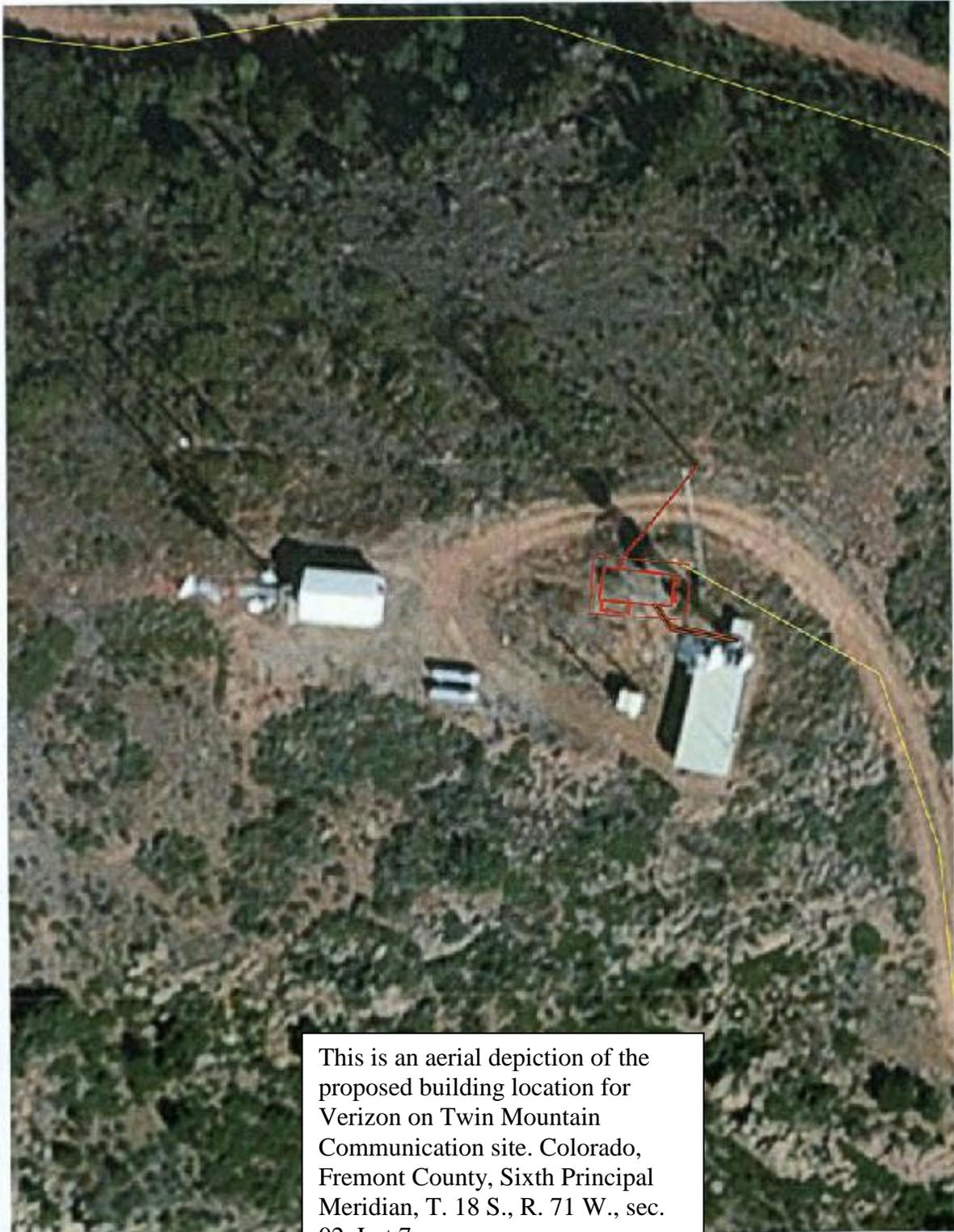
SBA's Tower showing multiple uses and users.

Union Pacific Mono Pole

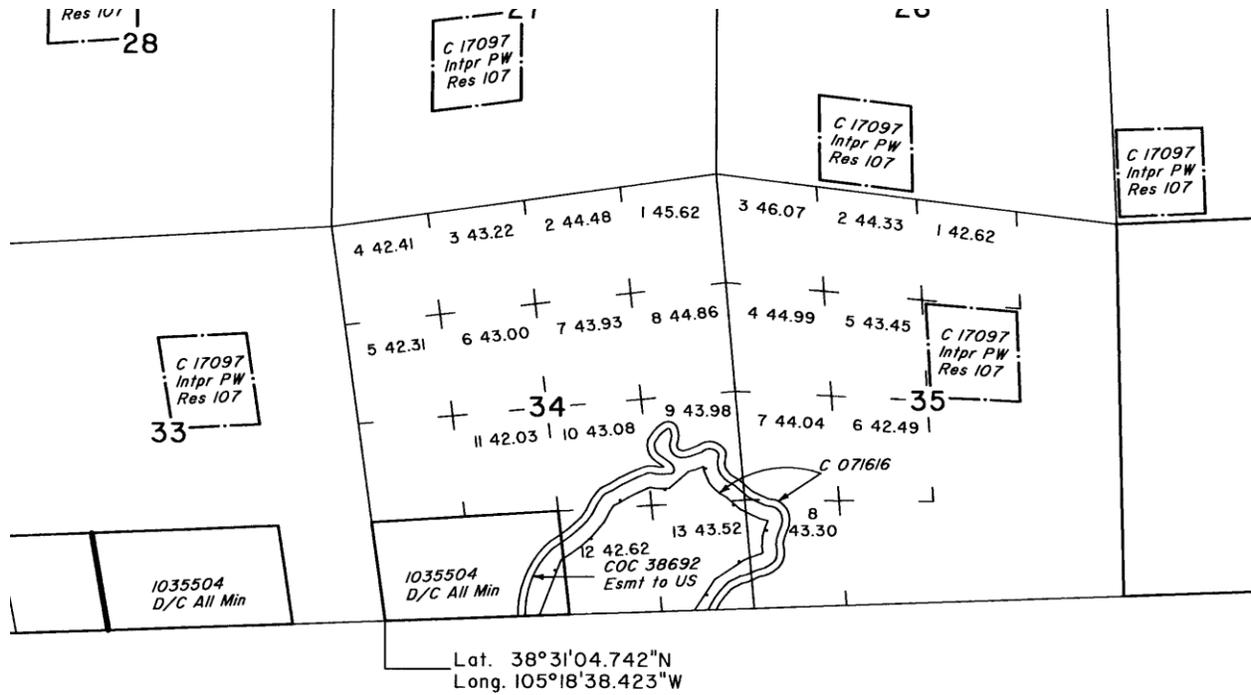
SBA Building

SBA Generator

Union Pacific Building



This is an aerial depiction of the proposed building location for Verizon on Twin Mountain Communication site. Colorado, Fremont County, Sixth Principal Meridian, T. 18 S., R. 71 W., sec. 02, Lot 7.



bing Maps

A 3028 E Main St, CO 81212

B Twin Mountain, CO

Route: 14.5 mi, 25 min

Step by step directions from the BLM RGFO field office to Twin Mountain Communication site. Colorado, Fremont County, Sixth Principal Meridian, T. 18 S., R. 71 W., sec. 02, Lot 7.

A	3028 E Main St, CO 81212	A-B: 14.5 mi 25 min
	1. Depart E Main St toward Rhodes Ave	0.2 mi
	2. Turn right , and then immediately turn left onto US-50 / Royal Gorge Blvd <i>Pass Valero in 1.6 mi</i>	4.3 mi
	3. Keep straight onto US-50 W	1.7 mi
	4. Keep straight onto US-50	4.3 mi
	5. Turn right onto road  <i>Unpaved Road</i>	3.9 mi
B	6. Arrive at Twin Mountain, CO on the left	

These directions are subject to the Microsoft® Services Agreement and for informational purposes only. No guarantee is made regarding their completeness or accuracy. Construction projects, traffic, or other events may cause actual conditions to differ from these results. Map and traffic data © 2010 NAVTEQ™