

**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-200-2013-0025 CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC-35436

PROJECT NAME: Realty–SDCEA Electric ROW renewal South of Howard

PLANNING UNIT: Collegiate/Sangre Subregion #2

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Colorado, Fremont County, New Mexico Principal Meridian,
T. 48 N., R. 10 E., sec. 09, SE1/4SE1/4;
sec. 10, Lot 1, SW1/4NE1/4 and NE1/4SW1/4.

APPLICANT: Sangre De Cristo Electric Association, Inc., PO box 2013, Buena Vista, Colorado
81211-2013

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

Sangre De Cristo Electric Association (SDCEA) is proposing to renew the buried and overhead electric line serial number COC-35436. The length of the right of way is 5267 feet long and 20 feet wide equal to approximately 2.419 acres. Processing fees have been paid and a new map was submitted with the application. The electric line is 7.2 KV and has both buried and above ground lines. The location is South of Howard in Fremont County.

The Electric line will be authorized for a term of 30 years and will expire December 31, 2042.

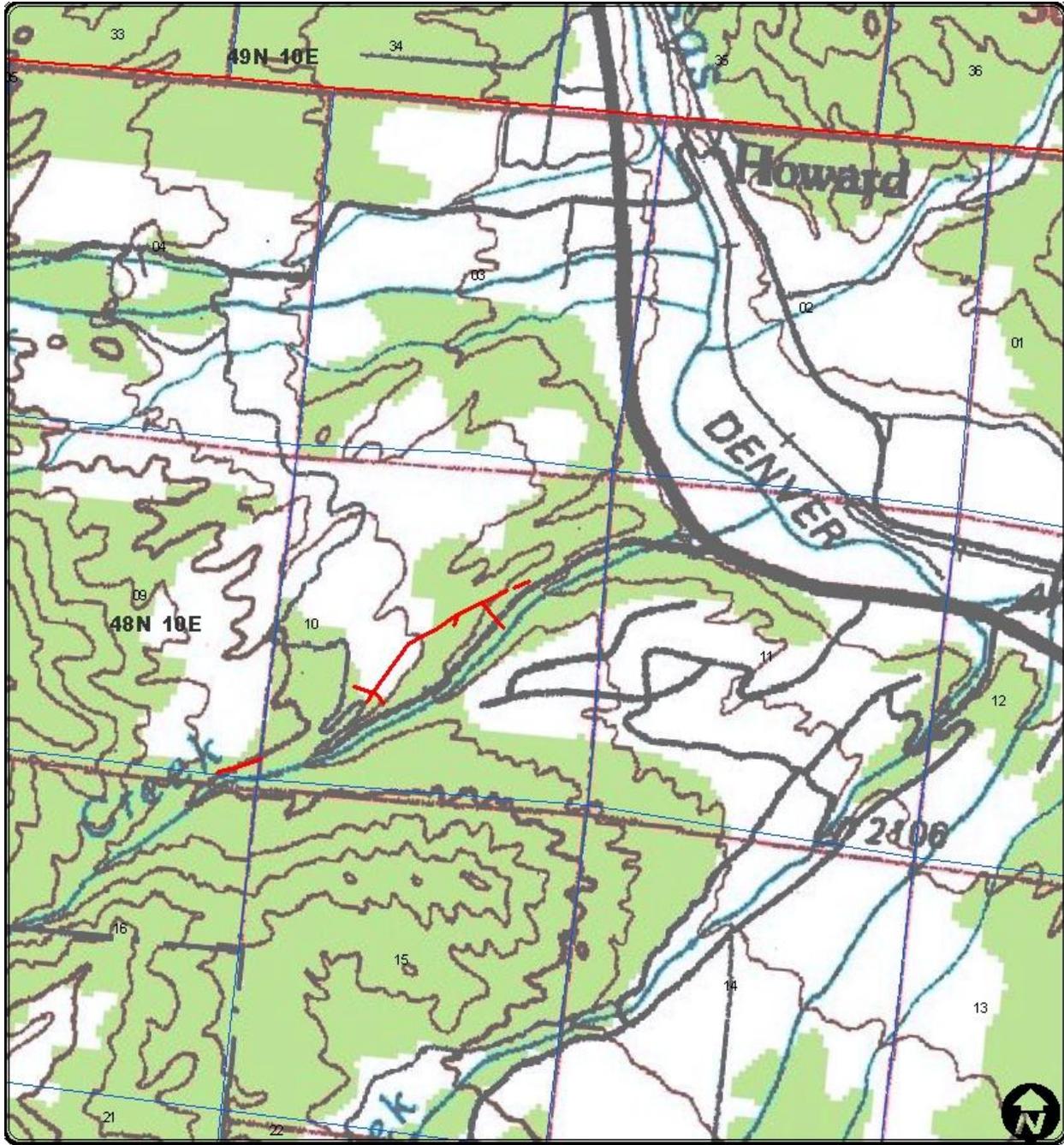
PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

Name of Plan: Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: May 13, 1996

Decision Number: 2-46

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



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

April 9, 2013
 1:24,000



COC-35436 Renewal SDCEA 7.2 KV Electric line
 Fremont County, New Mexico Principal Meridian,
 T. 48 N., R. 10 E., sec. 09, SE1/4SE1/4;
 sec. 10, Lot 1, SW1/4NE1/4 and NE1/4SW1/4.
 DOI-BLM-CO-200-2013-0025 CX

CAUTION:
 Land ownership data is derived from less accurate data than the 1:24,000 scale base map. Therefore, land ownership may not be shown for parcels smaller than 40 acres, and land ownership lines may have positional errors due to source data.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: This proposed action is listed as a Categorical Exclusion in DOI Departmental Manual Part 516 Chapter 11.9 E (9). None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Exclusion	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	_____	<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> X </u>
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.	_____	<u> X </u>
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	_____	<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> X </u>
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	_____	<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> 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> X </u>
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	_____	<u> X </u>
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.	_____	<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> 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> X </u>

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E,	MR, 02/11/2013

		Migratory Birds	
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	JW, 02/04/2013
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	-----
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Weeds	JL, 02/01/2013
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG, 02/01/2013
Stephanie Carter	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	SSC, 02/14/13
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology	-----
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 2/4/13
Ty Webb	Prescribed Fire Specialist	Air Quality	TW, 2/4/13
Kalem Lenard	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	KL, 2/14/2013
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	-----
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	KR, 2/11/13
Martin Weimer	NEPA Coordinator	Environmental Justice, Noise, SocioEconomics	mw, 2/1/13
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MMW, 3/11/13
Erin Watkins	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	-----
Vera Matthews	Realty Specialist	Realty	1/31/2013
Jeff Covington	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Surveyor	JC, 2/1/2013
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	SC 3/1/13

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: No historic properties were found in the area of potential effect [see report CR-RG-02-46 (P)]. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact 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.

Wastes, hazardous or solid: If the project involves oil or fuel usage, transfer or storage, an

adequate spill kit and shovels are required to be onsite during project implementation. 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. 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.

Lands and Realty:

Other authorizations in the area include:

COC-44142: Is authorized pursuant to the authority of RS-2477 roads and issued to Fremont County for Fremont County Road 48 et al.

COC-35450: Is authorized pursuant to FLPMA and is issued to an individual for a road which gives access to private property.

COC-36824: Is authorized pursuant to FLPMA and is issued to Century Link/Centurytel of Eagle for a buried telephone cable.

COC-57122: Is authorized pursuant to FLPMA and is issued to an individual for a road which gives access to private property.

The renewal of the existing electric line will have no additional impact to the above mentioned existing realty actions.

Mitigation measures:

- 1) Water control structures may be required at any time as determined necessary by the authorized officer of the BLM.
- 2) Seeding of native species may be required at any time as determined necessary by the authorized officer in areas disturbed by construction or maintenance.
- 3) Authorized officer at any time may require improvements or closure, if necessary for health, safety and welfare of the public or environment.
- 4) There is no new construction with the re-authorization of this power line, any new construction will be applied for on a separate application as an amendment and may require archaeology survey.
- 5) Right of way will be kept free of all invasive weed species.

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional): Routine compliance will be conducted by the Royal Gorge Field Office Realty Staff.

NAME OF PREPARER: Vera Matthews, Realty Specialist

SUPERVISORY REVIEW: Jay Raiford

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

DATE: 4/10/13

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 12 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: 4/10/13