

**DECISION**  
**Categorical Exclusion**  
**DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2014-0027-CX**  
**CX for ROW Renewals**

**Proposed Action:** The proposed action is to issue two existing right-of-way (ROW) grants held by Qwest Corporation to Centurylink. The two ROWs held by Qwest Corporation are buried telephone wire, serial numbers COC-26061 and COC-35370. The ROW grants expired in 2008 and 2012, respectively. New serial numbers would need to be issued, and back rent collected, but the ROWs are essentially renewals. Federal regulations under 43 CFR 2807.21(d) specify that BLM may add terms and conditions to the ROW grant when approving a renewal.

The proposed attached stipulations will be applied to all ROW grants when they are renewed or assigned on lands managed by the Tres Rios Field Office. These are the same standard stipulations that have been used on renewals and assignments for the past couple of years. All renewals and assignments will be subject to the these stipulations, which specifically includes that the ROW holder will be required to contact BLM prior to any surface disturbing activity in the ROW, and the BLM will make a determination at that time whether or not additional clearances or stipulations would be necessary.

Renewals and assignments will continue to be subject to the stipulations contained in the original grant, in addition to the proposed stipulations, provided the original stipulations are not in conflict with the proposed, and if so, the proposed will supersede the original stipulations. Further, in accordance with regulations mentioned above, new stipulations can be added at the time of renewal or assignment, as determined necessary.

**Authorities:** The authority for this decision is contained in Federal regulations under 43 CFR 2807.21, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA).

**Compliance and Monitoring:** Compliance reviews of individual authorizations will be performed at regular intervals (usually in five to ten year increments). This will be done to ensure associated rights-of-way conditions, standards and stipulations are being met, and all maintenance is being performed on a regular basis as per the lease term requirements. Monitoring the original, existing authorized rights-of-way will also ensure no additional unauthorized rights-of-way exist within the approved footprints.

**Terms / Conditions / Stipulations:** Please see CX Attachment "Right-of-Way Renewal Stipulations."

**PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CONSISTENCY:**

The proposed action has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with one or more of the following BLM Land Use Plans and the associated decision(s):

Name of Plan: San Juan/San Miguel Resource Management Plan (RMP)

Date Approved: September 1985

**United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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Categorical Exclusion**

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**DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2014-0027-CX**

**Qwest Buried Telephone Wire Right-of-Ways Renewals**

***Location:*** NMPM, T. 34 N., R. 8 W., sec. 11 NE/SW, NW/SE, SW/SE and sec. 12 SW/SW SE/SW, NW/SE, NE/SE.

***Applicant/Address:*** Centurylink

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Tres Rios Field Office  
29211 Highway 184  
Dolores, CO 81323  
(970)882-7296 (O)  
(970)882-6841 (F)



**United States Department of the Interior  
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Decision Name/Page/Language:

- Record of Decision/Page 20/**Land Laws and Policies.**

The lands program in the planning area is primarily concerned with the authorization of uses on the public lands by others, including private parties, state, county, and other federal agencies. The objective is to ensure compatibility of the various multiple uses with environmental protection of natural resources.

**Rationale for Decision:**

I have evaluated the action relative to the twelve extraordinary circumstances in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 and have determined that none apply and the proposed action is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

All ROW renewals and assignments will be made subject to the attached proposed stipulations. These stipulations will provide for the protection of natural resources and requires the ROW holder to contact the BLM prior to any surface disturbing activity.

Renewals and assignments will continue to be subject to the stipulations contained in the original grant, in addition to the proposed stipulations, provided the original stipulations are not in conflict with the proposed, and if so, the proposed will supersede the original stipulations. Further, in accordance with regulations mentioned above, new stipulations can be added at the time of renewal or assignment, as determined necessary. Given these measures, natural resources will continue to be protected through this systematic ROW renewal/assignment process.

**Protest/Appeal Language:**

This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the Authorized Officer Connie Clementson, Tres Rios Field Office Manager, date, 2014, and shall remain in effect while any appeal is pending unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals issues a stay (43 CFR 2801.10(b)). Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4.

Within 30 days of the decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at the Tres Rios Field Office, 29211 Highway 184, Dolores, CO 81323. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

  
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Connie Clementson  
Tres Rios Field Office Manager

9-10-14  
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Date