United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Categorical Exclusion Not Established By Statute
DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2014-0036-CX

FY15

San Miguel County Road Right Of Way Renewal
COC-36996

Location: San Miguel County, Colorado

Applicant: San Miguel County Roads Department

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

BLM

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Tres Rios Field Office
29211 Highway 184
Dolores, CO 81323

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2014-0036 CX

PROJECT NAME: SMC Road ROW Renewal for COC-36696

PLANNING UNIT: Tres Rios Field Office (TRFO)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NMPM, San Miguel County, Colorado

T. 42 N., R. 19 W.,
Section 05: Lot 3, NWSE, S2SE;
Section 09: NWNW;
Section 19: E2SE, SWSE;
Section 20: W2SW;
Section 29: NW, W2SW and
Section 32: W2W2, SESW.

APPLICANT: San Miguel County Roads Department, San Miguel County, Colorado

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

The proposed action is for BLM to reissue an existing right-of-way (ROW) grant held by San Miguel County Roads Department. The ROW held by San Miguel County is SMC Road #5HN under COC- 36996. Federal regulations under 43 CFR 2807.22 (FLPMA) and 43 CFR 2887.12 (MLA) 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 on lands managed by the Tres Rios Field Office. These are the same standard stipulations that have been used on renewals for the past couple of years. All renewals 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.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan: Tres Rios Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP)

Date Approved: February 27, 2015

Decision Name/Page/Language: The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

Record of Decision for Tres Rios Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP):

2.19 – Lands and Special Uses

Land Use and Access Authorizations

> The BLM issues authorizations for occupancy and use for a variety of private and commercial entities; as well as for local, state, tribal, and other federal agencies. This is accomplished through easements, ROWs, leases, and other instruments. Trespasses and encroachment issues are resolved through removal, remediation, or authorization. The BLM maintains and enhances public access to the lands identified for retention, as well as to other public lands where improved access meets resource and/or management needs. The BLM engages in cooperative management of private and commercial access needs (with private individuals, federal, state, and local agencies, and tribal governments) and encourage the formation of "road-user associations" where multiple users require access. All authorized uses on public lands are required, by law, to meet all applicable environmental protection measures. For all proposed activities that have the potential for disturbance to lands and resources, a project design, prepared by the applicant, is required and is subject to full public environmental analysis, review, and, when necessary, appropriate monitoring.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, Number E (9), which allows "renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or ROWs where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations."

Do any of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply?

Exclusion	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.	___	X
2. Have adverse effects 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.	___	X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.	___	X

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	___	X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	___	X
6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	___	X
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places.	___	X
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	___	X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	___	X
10. Have disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.	___	X
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.	___	X
12. Significantly, 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.	___	X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Nathaniel West	Wildlife Biologist	T&E and Sensitive Species
Julie Bell	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources and Native American Religious Concerns
William Dodd	Minerals/Lands Associate Field Manager	Minerals/Lands
Cara MacMillan	Ecologist	Ecologist

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The systematic CX will not impact cultural resources provided the proposed stipulations are adhered to.

Native American Religious Concerns: The systematic CX will not impact Native American Religious Concerns provided the proposed stipulations are adhered to.

Threatened and Endangered Species: The systematic CX will not impact T&E and sensitive species provided the proposed stipulations are adhered to.

NAME OF PREPARER: Harrison Griffin

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Gina Jones or Lindsey Eoff

DATE: 8/20/15

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.

All ROW renewals will be made subject to the attached proposed stipulations. These stipulations will provide for the protection of natural resources whereby the ROW holder will be required to contact the BLM prior to any surface disturbing activity, and BLM will determine if additional biological and cultural resource clearances or stipulations will be required at that time. Renewal processing will be expedited, by dealing with them in a systematic manner, because staff will no longer need to conduct extensive reviews of stipulations for each renewal. Renewals 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, as determined necessary. Given these measures, natural resources will continue to be protected through this systematic ROW renewal process.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: Connie Clementson DATE: 8·20·15

Connie Clementson,
Field Manager

DOI-BLM-CO-S010-2014-0036 CX

RIGHT-OF-WAY RENEWAL STIPULATIONS

1. All previously authorized stipulations for the right-of-way grant associated with the requested renewal shall remain in full force and effect in addition to these renewal stipulations. Provided, however, the original stipulations are not in conflict with these renewal stipulations, and if so, the renewal stipulations will supersede the original stipulations.

2. The holder shall contact the Authorized Officer (AO) at least 60 days prior to the anticipated start of any surface disturbing activities. It is the holder's responsibility to comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated. The BLM will determine if any surveys or inventories are required. As necessary, the holder shall demonstrate compliance in writing, i.e., with surveys and inventories completed by qualified individuals, with the following laws including, but not limited to, the Endangered Species Act (if potential habitat is determined to be present), the National Historic Preservation Act, the Antiquities Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Evaluations and inventories can be completed by BLM, or by the holder in order to meet the holder's schedule and subject to approval by the AO. It will likely take longer than 60 days to complete surveys and obtain approvals. The holder shall not initiate any surface disturbing activities on the right-of-way without prior written approval as determined necessary by the AO. Contact Harrison Griffin, BLM Realty Specialist, at (970) 882-6827, or Connie Clementson, Tres Rios Field Manager, at (970) 882-6808.

3. Any relocation, additional construction, or use that is not in accordance with the approved conditions shall not be initiated without the prior written approval of the authorized officer. A copy of the complete right-of-way grant, including all plans and stipulations shall be made available at the right-of-way site during construction. Noncompliance with the above will be grounds for an immediate temporary suspension of activities if it constitutes a threat to public health or the environment.

4. Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures will be made by the authorized officer after consulting with the holder. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts.

5. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, 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.

6. Use of pesticides/herbicides shall comply with the applicable Federal and state laws. Pesticides/herbicides shall be used only in accordance with their registered uses and within limitations imposed by the Secretary of the Interior. Prior to the use of pesticides/herbicides, the holder shall obtain from the authorized officer written approval of the applicant's plan showing the type and quantity of material to be used, pest(s) to be controlled, method of application, location of storage and disposal of containers, and any other information deemed necessary by the authorized officer. The plan should be submitted no later than March 1 of any calendar year to cover the proposed activities for the next growing season. Emergency use of pesticides/herbicides shall be approved in writing by the authorized officer prior to such use.

7. The holder shall be responsible for weed control within the limits of the right-of-way. The holder is responsible for consultation with the authorized officer and/or local authorities for acceptable weed control methods (within limits imposed in the grant stipulations) including pesticides/herbicides approved for use on BLM land.

8. The holder shall comply with applicable State standards for public health and safety, environmental protection and siting, construction, operation and maintenance, if these State standards are more stringent than Federal standards for similar projects.

9. The holder shall comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated regarding toxic substances or hazardous materials. In any event, the holder shall comply with the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601, et seq.) with regard to any toxic substances that are used, generated by or stored on the right-of-way or on facilities authorized under this right-of-way grant. (See 40 CFR, Part 702-799 and especially, provisions on polychlorinated biphenyls, 40 CFR 761.1-761.193.) Additionally, any release of toxic substances (leaks, spills, etc.) in excess of the reportable quantity established by 40 CFR, Part 117 shall be reported as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, section 102b. A copy of any report required or requested by any federal agency of state government as a result of a reportable release or spill of any toxic substances shall be furnished to the authorized officer concurrent with the filing of the reports to the involved Federal agency of State government.

10. The authorized officer may suspend or terminate in whole, or in part, any construction or maintenance activities, when in his judgment, unforeseen conditions arise which result in the approved terms and conditions being inadequate to protect the public health and safety or to protect the environment.

11. All construction, operation and maintenance shall be within the authorized limits of the right-of-way granted herein.

12. All brush, grasses, and other woody material cleared from the right-of-way shall be removed from the public land and not scattered on site; unless the debris is used for reclamation as natural materials to enhance surface stability and re-vegetation efforts.

13. No burning of trash, litter, trees, brush or other vegetative material shall be allowed under this grant.

14. No construction or routine maintenance activities shall be performed during periods when the soil is too wet to adequately support such equipment. If the equipment creates ruts in excess of four (4) inches deep, the soil shall be deemed too wet to adequately support the construction equipment.

15. The holder shall disturb the minimum amount of soils and vegetation necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the facility. The holder shall re-contour disturbed areas as necessary by grading to restore the area to approximately the original contour of the ground as directed by the authorized officer.

16. The holder shall contact the AO to determine the appropriate seed mix to be used on all disturbed areas in the right-of-way. BLM places the following requirements on seed mixes which are put on BLM lands:

    1) Use the following minimum PLS (Pure Live Seed) tolerances

PLS tested %	Tolerance % points
81-100	-7
61-80	-6
41-60	-5
21-40	-4
0-20	-3

    All seed must comply with BLM and Colorado weed seed guidelines. There should be no prohibited species seed, and no more than allowable levels of restricted species seed. In addition, there should be no more that 0.5% total weed seed, less than 2% other seed, and no trash larger than ¼" in length. Seed shall not be stored in burlap bags.

    2) The BLM Tres Rios Field Office places additional local restrictions on seed to minimize cheatgrass spread. If seed tests show any *Bromus tectorum* or *Bromus japonicus*, the BLM should be consulted with for approval. No mix placed on BLM shall contain more than 150 *Bromus tectorum* and/or *Bromus japonicus* seeds per pound.

    3) BLM requires additional seed tests on seeding projects that are greater than 20 acres and/or require over 200 lbs of seed. For these seeding projects, the holder should have the seed supply company store the purchased seed prior to mixing, and pull samples to be sent to a certified laboratory, preferably Colorado State Laboratory at the following address. Seed test results must comply with the criteria listed above before seed is mixed, shipped and applied to the project area:

        Colorado State Laboratory
        Colorado State University
        Department of Soil and Crop Sciences
        Fort Collins, CO 80523

    4) BLM will need copies of seed tags and test results for all seed applied regardless of project size.

    5) Only State Certified weed free mulch shall be used.

17. For powerlines, unless otherwise agreed to by the authorized officer in writing, they shall be constructed in accordance to standards outlined in "Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Powerlines: The State of the Art in 2006" (Avian Power Line Interaction Committee. 2006.

Available at: **http://www.aplic.org/uploads/files/2643/SuggestedPractices2006(LR-2).pdf).** The holder shall assume the burden and expense of proving that pole designs not shown in the above publication are "eagle and raptor safe." Such proof shall be provided by a raptor expert approved by the authorized officer. The BLM reserves the right to require modifications or additions to all powerline structures placed on this right-of-way, should they be necessary to ensure the safety of large perching birds. Such modifications and/or additions shall be made by the holder without liability or expense to the United States. All pole replacements will be brought up to this standard. For all maintenance activities that involve, but are not limited to, nest relocation or destruction, temporary possession, depredation, salvage/disposal, harassment, and scientific collection of raptors, the right-of-way holder shall provide the BLM with a copy of their current Migratory Bird Permit for those activities.

18. For access and maintenance of facilities, the holder shall use existing roads. When existing roads are not available, the holder may use the right-of-way for access. BLM roads should not be maintained without first consulting with the authorized officer.

19. Prior to termination of the right-of-way, the holder shall contact the authorized officer to arrange a joint inspection of the right-of-way. This inspection will be held to agree to an acceptable termination and rehabilitation plan as necessary. This plan shall include, but is not limited to, removal of facilities, drainage structures, or surface material, re-contouring, top-soiling, or seeding. The authorized officer must approve the plan in writing prior to the holder's commencement of any termination activities.

20. Per the BLM Wildlife Biologist and Ecologist, the holder shall conform to the following mitigation measures, including the attached Fish and Wildlife Clearance Report, to ensure the project has no effect on any federally listed or sensitive species:

    - Construction activity and new surface disturbance will be prohibited during the period from December 1st to April 30th for the protection of elk and mule deer within winter and severe winter range. Any exceptions to this requirement must have prior written approval from the authorized officer.
    - To the extent possible, reptiles or amphibians observed in the project area will be avoided and will not be intentionally harmed.
    - Migratory Birds and Raptors: To minimize impacts on migratory bird populations, it is <u>recommended</u> that no surface disturbing activities occur from May 15th through July 15th.
    - Surface disturbing activities or application of herbicide will not occur within 660 feet of known federally protected plant populations, or within 330 feet of known BLM sensitive plant populations. For small scale or less intensive treatments or activities (e.g., vegetation trimming, hand tool work, etc., as determined by a BLM biologist or ecologist), ground disturbing activities will not occur within 100 feet of known federally protected plants, or within 50 feet of known BLM sensitive plants. Appropriate sediment and erosion control, weed control, and similar practices will be applied as necessary to protect plant populations.

FISH AND WILDLIFE CLEARANCE REPORT

PROJECT NAME: Blanket Clearance for Categorical Exclusion (CX) for Right-of-way (ROW) Renewals FY 2015.

Table 1. Survey results.

	A field survey was completed on (date) by (name of specialist).				
X	No field survey is required.				
	A field survey is needed, but cannot be completed by required date due to:				
	Inappropriate season		Inadequate lead time		Higher priorities

SPECIES CONSIDERED

Table 2. Federally listed species for the San Juan National Forest and San Juan BLM Resource Area based on August 11th, 2014 list from the FWS and the quarterly updates received at the San Juan Public Lands Center.

Species	Status	Habitat Present In Project Area?	Species Affected?
Canada lynx	Threatened	N	N
New Mexico jumping mouse	Endangered	N	N
Gunnison sage-grouse (BLM)	Threatened	N	N
Mexican spotted owl	Threatened	N	N
Southwestern willow flycatcher	Endangered	N	N
Yellow-billed cuckoo	Candidate	N	N
Bonytail	Endangered	N	N
Colorado pikeminnow	Endangered	N	N
Greenback cutthroat trout	Threatened	N	N
Humpback chub	Endangered	N	N
Razorback sucker	Endangered	N	N
Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly	Endangered	N	N

Table 3. Colorado Bureau of Land Management sensitive fish, plant, and wildlife species based on Information Bulletin No. CO-2000-14 (November 2009) for the San Juan Public Lands.

Species	Habitat Present In Project Area?	Species Impacted?
Mammals		
Allen's big-eared bat	Y	N
Big free-tailed bat	N	N
Fringed myotis	Y	N
Spotted bat	Y	N
Townsend's big-eared bat	Y	N
Desert Bighorn Sheep	N	N
New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse	N	N
Gunnison's Prairie Dog	N	N
Birds		

American Bald Eagle	N	N
American peregrine Falcon	Foraging Habitat	N
Ferruginous hawk	Winter Foraging	N
Western Burrowing Owl	Possibly	N
Western yellow-billed cuckoo	N	N
Colombian sharp-tailed grouse	N	N
Gunnison sage grouse	N	N
Northern goshawk	N	N
White-faced ibis	N	N
Fish, Herps and Amphibians		
Bluehead sucker	N	N
Colorado River cutthroat trout	N	N
Flannelmouth sucker	N	N
Roundtail chub	N	N
Desert spiny lizard	Y	N
Longnose leopard lizard	Y	N
Canyon treefrog	N	N
Northern leopard frog	N	N
Insects		
Great basin silverspot butterfly	N	N

Table 4. Birds of Conservation Concern

Species	Habitat Present In Project Area?	Species Impacted?
Golden eagle	Foraging habitat	No
Bald eagle	No	No
Ferruginous hawk	Foraging habitat (winter only)	No
Peregrine falcon	Foraging Habitat	No
Prairie falcon	No	No
Gunnison sage grouse	No	No
Yellow-billed cuckoo (BLM only)	No	No
Flammulated owl	No	No
Western burrowing owl	Possibly	No
Lewis' woodpecker	No	No
Gray vireo (BLM only)	Yes	No
Pinyon jay	Yes	No
Southwest willow flycatcher	No	No
Juniper titmouse	Yes	No
Brewer's sparrow	No	No
Brown-capped rosy-finch	No	No
Cassin's finch	No	No
Grace's warbler	No	No

MITIGATION MEASURES:

Big Game Species	Activity	Date	Stipulation Applies (yes/no)
Pronghorn	Production	May 1 – July 1st	
	Winter Concentration	Dec. 1st – Apr.30th	
Mule Deer	Production	No dates for mule deer production due to species biology	

	Winter Concentration	Dec. 1st – Apr.30th	
Elk	Production	May 15th – June 30th	
	Winter Concentration	Dec. 1st – Apr.30th	
Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep	Production	April 15th – June 30th	
	Winter Concentration	Nov 1st – Apr. 15th	
Desert Bighorn Sheep	Production	Feb. 1st – May 1st	
	Winter Concentration	Dec. 1st – Apr. 15th	

Bats		**Stipulation Applies (yes/no)**
Maternity Sites	Timing Restriction Apr. 15th – Sept. 1st	
Swarming Sites	Timing Restriction Aug 15th – Oct. 30th (30 min. prior sunset to 30 min after sunrise)	
Winter Hibernaculum	Timing Restriction Oct. 15th – May 15th	
Gunnison sage-grouse		**Stipulation Applies (yes/no)**
Lek Sites	No surface occupancy 0.6 miles	
Winter Concentration Areas	No surface occupancy on winter concentration areas	
Nesting habitat	Timing Restriction Mar. 1st – Jun. 30th	
Winter habitat	Timing Restriction Dec. 1st – Mar. 15th	
Noise	Timing Restriction Mar. 15th – May 15th Noise may not negatively impact lek sites	
Sharp-tailed grouse		
Lek sites	No surface occupancy w/in 0.4 miles	
Nesting habitat	Timing Restriction Mar. 15th – Jul. 30th w/in 1.25 miles of a lek location	
Winter habitat	Timing Restriction Dec. 1st – Mar. 30th	
Noise	Timing Restriction Mar. 15th – May 15th Noise may not negatively impact lek sites	
Migratory Birds		**Stipulation Applies (yes/no)**
Habitat Type	Timing Limitation	
Pinyon-Juniper	May 1 – June 30	
Sagebrush	May 1 – June 30	
Spruce-Fir	June 1 – July 30	
Ponderosa Pine	May 15 – July 15	
Oakbrush	May 15 – July 15	

Raptors			
Species	**Type**	**Buffer**	**Stipulation Applies**

Golden Eagle	Timing Restriction Feb. 1 —July 15	½ mile	
	No surface occupancy	½ mile	
Bald Eagle	Timing Restriction Feb. 1 – July 15	½ mile	
	No surface occupancy	½ mile	
Bald Eagle Winter Roost	Timing Restriction Nov. 15 – Mar. 15	½ mile	
	No surface occupancy	½ mile	
Osprey	Timing Restriction Apr. 1 – Aug. 31	¼ mile	
	No surface occupancy	¼ mile	
Peregrine Falcon	Timing Restriction Mar. 15 – July 31	½ mile	
	No surface occupancy	½ mile	
Northern Goshawk	Timing Restriction Mar. 1 – Aug. 31	½ mile	
	No surface occupancy	½ mile	
Burrowing Owl	Timing Restriction Mar. 15 – Aug. 15	¼ mile	
	No surface occupancy	¼ mile	
Mexican Spotted Owl	Timing Restriction Mar. 15 – Aug. 31	½ mile of canyon rim.	
Other Raptors	Timing and NSO varies by species	by species	

<u>DISCUSSION</u>: This clearance report covers a variety of right-of-way, road maintenance, and lands and minerals projects on BLM public lands unless the project impacts T&E or sensitive species habitat (see below). The assumption is that most of these types of projects are in already disturbed habitats with frequent human disturbance; areas where the initial impact to fish and wildlife occurred possibly decades ago. The project would not create additional disturbance or impact additional habitat.

The previous tables provide a checklist of species considered for all projects on BLM System lands.

This form is not to replace wildlife specialist input. Rather it is intended to facilitate completion of projects where no habitat or species impacts are expected. The Tres Rios Field Office wildlife staff should be contacted, if any concern or question is raised regarding potential impacts to the wildlife and fish species we are responsible for. The realty, and lands and minerals specialists will give careful consideration to the identified sideboards and projects that would be covered. Specific project information will be provided and returned to a BLM biologist with a map of the project area (please use 1:24,000 scale maps). This clearance report will cover projects through fiscal year 2015 and be reviewed on an annual basis for applicability.

The following project types would fall under this blanket clearance:

1. **Maintenance of existing overhead or underground rights-of-way**
2. **Maintenance of existing waterlines**
3. **Reciprocal easements**
4. **Easements**
5. **Use and maintenance of an existing road**
6. **Improvements of an existing road**

7. **Land exchange where the government acquires land**
8. **Gas pipeline rights-of-way in previously disturbed area (e.g. – road)**
9. **Work in existing gravel pits where no expansion would be required**
10. **Upgrading existing facilities (e.g. – compressor stations)**
11. **Upgrading existing communication facilities, including building construction on previously disturbed site**
12. **Chipseal on existing roads**
13. **Grants of rights-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed rights-of-way**
14. **Grants of rights-of-way for an overhead line (no pole or tower on public land) crossing over a corner of public land**
15. **Acquisition of easements for an existing road or issuance of leases, permits, or rights-of-way for the use of existing facilities, improvements, or sites for the same or similar purposes**
16. **Grant of a short right-of-way for utility service or terminal access roads to an individual residence, outbuilding, or water well**
17. **Temporary placement of a pipeline above ground**
18. **Installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, waterbars, gates, or cattleguards on/or adjacent to existing roads**
19. **Temporary closure of roads**
20. **Placement of recreational, special designation or information signs, visitor registers, kiosks and portable sanitation devices**

If the following conditions exist, a site-specific clearance report may be required and review by the wildlife biologist should occur. This blanket clearance report may still be applicable.

1. **Project is located within a riparian area (Southwest willow flycatcher)**
2. **Project proposes to remove vegetation**
3. **Project proposes to remove timber**
4. **Expansion of gas pipeline right-of-way**
5. **The project area is in high elevation aspen or spruce-fir forests (lynx).**
6. **The project area is in sagebrush near Dove Creek or Dry Creek Basin (sage-grouse).**
7. **The project would result in water depletion (listed fishes in Upper Colorado or Dolores Rivers).**
8. **The project is within ¼ mile of inactive mines (sensitive bats).**
9. **The project is within ¼ - ½ mile of large cliff faces (peregrine falcon).**

These types of projects are supported by the San Juan/San Miguel Resource Management Plan (BLM). No federally listed species, BLM sensitive species, or Forest Service sensitive species would be impacted by this project.

MITIGATION MEASURES: No Mitigation measures are required for this action.

CONCLUSIONS

X	There are no federally listed or proposed species known to occur within the project area.
X	The proposed action would have **no effect** on federally listed or proposed species:
X	The proposed action would have **minimal impact** on BLM sensitive species.

SPECIALIST (Signature): **Date:**

/s/ Aaron Rutledge 01/05/2015

Aaron Rutledge
Wildlife Biologist
Tres Rios Field Office