

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
San Luis Valley Field Office
46525 Highway 114
Saguache, CO 81212**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-300-2013-0005 CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC-76066

PROJECT NAME: CDOT Storm Water Diversion Channel

PLANNING UNIT: #1

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: New Mexico Principal Meridian, T.38N, R.13E, Sec 6, NW
Alamosa County, Colorado

APPLICANT: Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION The above applicant has requested construction of a storm water diversion channel through BLM property to eliminate storm waters spilling onto Colorado Highway 150 (Figure 1). The storm water diversion channel is needed to mitigate public safety concerns that arise from flooding during large precipitation events, usually during the spring and summer months. The accumulation of water from these large precipitation events, usually bring mud and debris onto the roadway of Hwy 150, causing a hazardous situation to motorists. The diversion channel would be constructed approximately 760 ft. east of the intersection of King Pit Road (TP09 - Quarry Rd.) and Hwy 150, continuing approximately 1,060 ft. in a southwesterly direction into a CDOT culvert, conveying storm waters off of the surface of Hwy 150. Storm water is then able to pass safely under Hwy 150, into an ephemeral channel and then spread out into the prairie. The diversion channel would be approximately 1,060 ft. in length, 4 ft. wide and 3 ft. deep (Figure 2). CDOT would assume all responsibility for construction and maintenance under the ROW Grant.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

Name of Plan: San Luis Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: December 18, 1991

Decision Number: ROD – 1 -17 (Lands and Realty- LUA), Page 15

Decision Language: All other BLM lands will be open to rights-of-ways for other utility lines, roads, etc... and each request will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for alignment and mitigation stipulations.

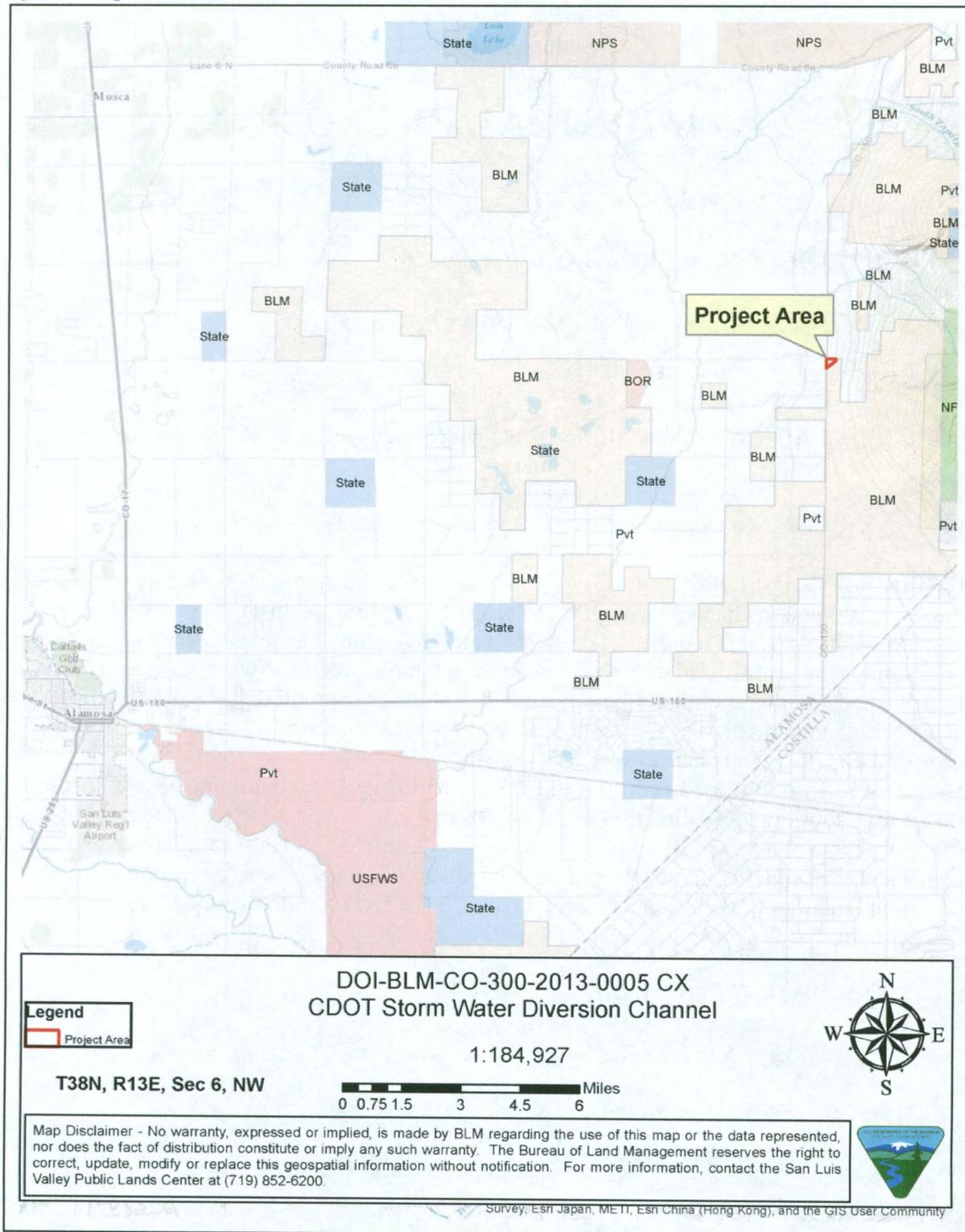


Figure 1: CDOT Storm Water Diversion Channel Vicinity Map



Figure 2: CDOT Storm Water Diversion Channel Project Location Map

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: This proposed action is listed as a Categorical Exclusion in DOI Departmental Manual Part 516 Chapter 11.9(I), "Emergency Stabilization. Planned actions in response to wildfires, floods, weather events, earthquakes, or landslips that threaten public health or safety, property, and/or natural and cultural resources, and that are necessary to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover to a management-approved condition as a result of the event."

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

Exclusion Criteria	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; lands with wilderness characteristics; 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. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
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.		X
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.		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 a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X
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.		X
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.		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW

NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Alyssa Radcliff	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds, Invasive Plants	ANR4/22/2013
Melissa Shawcroft	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation	MS 4/22/2013
Sue Swift-Miller/Jill Lucero	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands/Fisheries	JL 6/17/2013
Eduardo Duran	NRS	Riparian, T&E species Prime and Unique Farmlands	END 4/15/2013
Andrew Archuleta	Physical Scientist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	ASA 7/11/2013
Negussie Tedela	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils, Air Quality	NT 5/24/2013
Sean Hines	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	SJH 4/17/2013
Sean Noonan	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	SN 4/16/2013
Martin Weimer	NEPA Coordinator	Environmental Justice, Noise, SocioEconomics	mw, 7/17/13
Angie Krall/ Jeff Brown	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	JGB 7/15/2013
Leon Montoya	Realty Specialist	Lands & Realty	LAM 5/13/2013

REMARKS: correspondence

Cultural Resources:

The Diversion Ditch location was surveyed for cultural resources on May 2nd, 2013 with negative results. No cultural resources were present.

Native American Religious Concerns: There are no known Native American concerns within the Area of potential Effect (APE).

Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no known threatened, endangered, candidate, proposed, special status, sensitive, or other species of concern that would be affected by the construction of this water diversion and the associated maintenance involved if the following mitigation measures is implemented: Prior to construction, monitor site for nesting ground bird (As required by Migratory Bird Act), if ground nesting birds are found discontinue construction until chicks are fledged.

/s/ Alyssa Radcliff
Alyssa Radcliff
BLM Wildlife Biologist

Invasive Plants: Within this project area there are no known invasive plant species at this time; however with the construction of this project, ground disturbed area could increase the likelihood of invasive plant becoming established in the area. Prior to construction, all heavy equipment will be washed. Please include within the maintenance for this project that water diversion will be monitored for invasive plants, and treated if become established. Also, prior to treatment, BLM will be informed.

/s/ Alyssa Radcliff
Alyssa Radcliff
BLM Wildlife Biologist

Vegetation: Any areas within the project area disturbed by heavy equipment or vehicles will need to be reseeded with native seed within two weeks after completion of diversion channel or during routine maintenance.

/s/ Melissa Shawcroft
Melissa Shawcroft
BLM Range Management Specialist

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER: Eduardo Duran

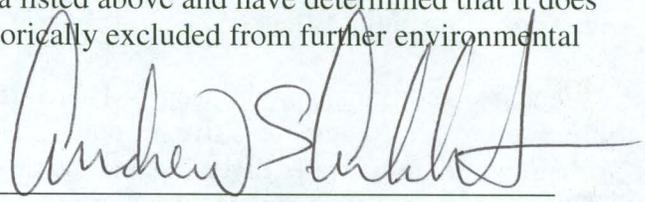
NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Martin Weimer

DATE: 7/17/13

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:



Andrew S. Archuleta, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

7/17/2013