

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0023-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC23734BJ

PROJECT NAME: ETC Canyon Pipeline Repair – Douglas Creek

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian
T.1S., R.101W.,
sec. 33, W½NW¼.

APPLICANT: ETC Canyon Pipeline LLC

ISSUES AND CONCERNS: The project could impact scenic and cultural/paleontological resources in Canyon Pintado and along the National Scenic Highway. The project may need to be designed to deal with the erosive soils found in the area.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction: ETC Canyon Pipeline LLC (ETC Canyon) owns and operates natural gas gathering pipelines located on public lands in the Douglas Creek drainage and generally paralleling Colorado State Highway (SH) 139. Over time, the meanders of Douglas Creek have eroded under the pipelines, exposing the pipe and creating a safety hazard.

The original application was for two repair locations. A data search of ETC Canyon and BLM files revealed the proposed Location #2 reroute had been constructed in 1984, shortly after the line was built; the original pipe was not removed. This location has been removed from the proposed action. A detail of location #1 is attached as Exhibit A and an overview map is attached as Exhibit A-1.

Proposed Action: ETC Canyon has requested authorization from the White River Field Office (WRFO) to repair a section of an existing 10-inch natural gas pipeline located along SH 139. They have determined that the exposed pipeline must be rerouted and the eroded soils stabilized. A Plan of Development and maps are included in the applications.

Location 1 -108.745; 39.923 - The estimated disturbance would be for 760 feet by 50 feet to bypass an erosion cut on Douglas Creek. An onsite was conducted in summer of 2009 with ETC

Canyon and BLM staff. The length of the proposed reroute was extended to avoid power poles and to increase the set-back from the steep slopes of the cut. ETC Canyon has received permission from the Colorado State Highway Dept to encroach on the SH 139 right of way (ROW).

Construction would begin as soon as authorization is received. Installing the rerouted line would require a shutdown of the pipeline which would require coordination with the gas plant and associated lines. The proposal is to access the area by existing roads and along the ROW. Construction would require approximately 7 days and require about 8 workers to be on site. Construction equipment would include a track hoe, pickup trucks, and a semi-truck and flatbed trailer.

Construction would begin with pipeline location and then excavation. A cultural monitor would be on site for the excavation. Top soil would be separated from mineral soil during surface clearing prior to excavation of the pipeline. Once the pipeline is rerouted, the existing pipe would be removed, mineral soil would be placed back into the trench, and the disturbed areas would be regarded as close to possible to the original contours. The topsoil would be placed back on the surface and would be broadcast seeded with a seed mix specified by the BLM.

All waste material would be hauled and properly disposed of in accordance with Federal, State, and local regulations. No waste of unused materials would be disposed of on site.

No Action Alternative: The repairs would not be authorized and ETC Canyon could not meet the DOT safety requirements. There would be a potential for a pipeline failure and discharge into or near Douglas Creek.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD: None

NEED FOR THE ACTION: The need for this action is established by the BLM's responsibility under FLPMA and MLA to respond to the applicant's request to maintain their natural gas pipeline crossing public lands. The purpose of the proposed action is to provide the applicant with the means to maintain the Douglas Creek pipelines industry standards for safety. The decision to be made by the BLM is whether to issue authorization for the pipeline repair and maintenance and under what conditions.

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

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Pages 2-49 thru 2-52

Decision Language: “To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values.”

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS RECORD CHECKLIST

DETERMINATION OF STAFF:		
Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*
Natural, Biological and Cultural Resources		
NI	Air Quality	Pipeline repairs would involve vegetation removal, clearing a work surface, digging a trench and reclamation activities. During these construction phases dust production is likely, and emissions from vehicles would occur. These impacts are temporary (few months) and are unlikely to be measurable.
PI	Soils	This project would require surface disturbance in poor saline soils.
NI	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored, or disposed in the project area. The operator does not identify any hazardous substances to be used during operations associated with this project. This project would reduce the possibility of a leak due to failure associated with erosion from the active channel exposing the pipeline.
PI	Water Quality (Surface/Ground)	This project would require surface disturbance in areas near active erosion along Douglas Creek.
NI	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	In the vicinity of the project proposal, Douglas Creek is generally perennial and supports a ~10-15 meter coyote willow fringe along the channel. The remainder of the broad incise valley (~100 meters wide x 10 meters deep) is dominated by tamarisk. Both project sites are located adjacent to barren, near-vertical outer meander bends that support little, if any, riparian vegetation. Repair work associated with the reroutes would skirt the channel incise and would circumvent any direct involvement of riparian or channel features. Installation of optional A-frame supports in the channel incise would likely involve localized disturbance of the channel and perhaps clearing of willow. Localized disturbance of channel features in this low gradient (~0.4%), sediment-rich system would cause brief pulses of sediment, but former channel morphology would rapidly

DETERMINATION OF STAFF:

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*
		redevelop and, if involved, willow would rapidly recolonize bank positions. Timely pipeline repair would reduce the long-term likelihood of pipeline rupture, the potential for stream contamination, and the need for more extensive repair work. This project is consistent with maintenance of the public land health standard.
PI	Vegetation	The proposed project would require disturbance/removal of vegetation.
PI	Invasive, Non-native Species	There are Invasive annual species present within the project area, as well as potential for invasion of noxious weeds due to vegetation disturbance associated with the proposed action.
NP	Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Plant Species	The nearest special status plant species is the Piceance bladderpod (<i>Lesquerella parviflora</i>), a BLM sensitive species found greater than 5 miles east of the proposed action.
NI	Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animal Species	Douglas Creek, a large and predominantly intermittent drainage, empties into the lower White River and its occupied critical habitat for the endangered Colorado pike-minnow about 15 channel miles downstream of the project sites. In the short term, project construction may contribute discountable levels of sediment to this sediment-rich system, but timely pipeline repair would reduce the long-term likelihood of pipeline rupture and the potential for contaminated flows reaching this fishery. This project is consistent with maintenance of the public land health standard.
NI	Migratory Birds	The project site involves sparse lower-elevation stands of greasewood/basin big sagebrush with annual-dominated ground cover. This habitat type supports a depauperate avian community composed principally of common generalists (e.g., vesper sparrow, western meadowlark) at low nesting densities. In the event any version of the project was conducted coincident with the nesting season (mid April – early August), very few nesting attempts (4 or less) would be at risk of disruption.
NI	Wildlife, Aquatic	See Wetland/Riparian section (above) for a brief description of channel conditions in the project area. The availability of surface flows sufficient to allow development of aquatic-based vegetation and wildlife communities in mainstem Douglas Creek is a relatively recent development (~15-20 years) – a circumstance reflected in its incomplete complement of aquatic vertebrates. Responding to the increased availability and extent of willow, beaver dispersing from Douglas Creek are making increasingly persistent use of the mainstem. Beaver are presently active at the upstream project site; the lower site is not far removed from additional beaver territories. Amphibians, including the chorus frog and tiger salamander, are distributed discontinuously in the mainstem and tend to be closely associated with beaver ponds. The only fish known to inhabit mainstem Douglas are speckled dace, a native minnow. These fish are also widely, but discontinuously distributed according to flow and channel conditions. The lack of additional fish species in Douglas Creek appears to indicate that flow conditions at the mouth of Douglas Creek (e.g., intermittent, heavy suspended sediment) constrains effective continuity with the White River. The influence of the proposed action on this aquatic community would parallel that described in the Riparian/Wetland and Threatened and Endangered Species sections. This project is consistent with maintenance of the public land health standard.

DETERMINATION OF STAFF:		
Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*
NI	Wildlife, Terrestrial	The proposed project is encompassed by deer winter concentration area and severe winter ranges that are occupied principally from October through May. Though these ranges are considered high value critical winter habitats, the utility of the project site is substantially compromised by its proximity to State Highway 139 or well access. It is also unlikely that this work would be conducted during the period of big game winter occupation. These degraded shrubland terraces are likely to support low density small mammal communities composed of the most abundant and generalized species. This project would have no effective influence on the status of the present public land health standard.
NP	Wild Horses	Not present in the area impacted by the proposed action
PI	Cultural Resources	The project is located in Canyon Pintado Historic District (CPHD). Consultation has been initiated with the Colorado SHPO.
NI	Paleontology	The proposed pipeline reroute is located in an area generally mapped as the Mesa Verde unit (Tweto 1979). However, examination of aerial photography shows the location to be in Quaternary alluvium and unlikely to involve excavations into the underlying rock formations.

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for impact analyzed in detail in the EA

NATURAL, BIOLOGICAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

SOILS

Affected Environment: The pipeline repair is in saline soils (Conductivity > 16mmhos) which will make reclamation efforts more difficult. With the minor disturbance proposed in these areas there is not a need for a separate engineering and reclamation plan for these locations.

Soil Classifications within 30 Meters of the Project

Soil Classification	Range Site Description	Acres Potentially Impacted
Tisworth fine sandy loam, 0-5% slopes	Alkaline Slopes	4.0

Tisworth series soils are deep, well drained soils formed in alluvium weathered from sedimentary rock with a high content of gypsum and alkaline salt. The torrfluvents are characterized by gullies and headcuts. These unstable and alkaline soils are partly responsible for the highly erosive environment along Douglas Creek and for exposing the pipeline in these sections.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Rerouting the pipeline would involve the digging of a new trench for the re-route to the south, removing the old pipeline where exposed, and installation and testing of the new pipeline segment. Surface disturbance along the

right-of-way would be similar to pipeline installation and would be reclaimed to the original grade. In addition, the segregation and reapplication of surface soils would result in the mixing of shallow soil horizons, resulting in a blending of soil characteristics and types. This blending would modify physical characteristics of the soils, including structure, texture and rock content, which could lead to reduced permeability and increased runoff from these areas.

Installing the new section of pipe would result in mixing of shallow soil horizons, resulting in a blending of soil characteristics and types. This blending would modify physical characteristics of the soils, including structure, texture and rock content, which could lead to reduced permeability and increased runoff from these areas. Compaction due to construction activities would reduce aeration, permeability and water-holding capacities of the soils. An increase in surface runoff could be expected from these areas and they are likely to be less resilient to erosion from surface runoff, potentially causing increased sheet, rill and gully erosion. During reclamation activities surface runoff should be minimized through the site or the soils would become destabilized before reclamation succeeds.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: The pipeline is currently exposed and therefore more susceptible to pipeline leaks and failure. Such leaks or spills could compromise the productivity of the affected soils. Contaminated soils would likely be removed and disposed of in a permitted facility or would be bioremediated in place after excavation.

Mitigation: The following should be attached as stipulations to the grant.

1. All construction activities shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless there are safety concerns or activities are otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer.
2. If access to the site for construction activities results in the formation of two-tracks or other disturbance, these routes will be decompacted and revegetated as necessary to remove the possibility of tire tracks being used as preferential flow paths for surface runoff.
3. Provide for erosion-resistant surface drainage by adding necessary drainage facilities and armoring prior to fall rain events. Sediment barriers shall be constructed to slow runoff, allow deposition of sediment, and prevent it from leaving the site. In addition, straining or filtration mechanisms may also contribute to sediment removal from runoff. Specifically, waterbars and/or fiber rolls will be installed at the beginning of the disturbance in such a way as to divert surface runoff around the disturbed site in a non erosive manner.
4. ETC Canyon will contact the BLM after reclamation activities have been completed to allow for inspection of the site. If minor measures such as additional water bars and/or fiber rolls are identified by the AO during inspection, ETC Canyon will install these features to avoid erosion in reclaimed areas before fall rain events.
5. The site will be inspected in the summer of 2011 and the summer of 2012 by ETC Canyon to determine if reclamation efforts have been successful. This inspection will evaluate the success of revegetation efforts, assess weeds and determine if sites are stable with no

additional erosion features. If erosion features such as riling, gullying, piping and mass wasting occur at anytime in the future in or near the area of the pipeline repairs as a result of project activities, these features will be addressed immediately after observation by contacting the AO and submitting a plan to assure successful soil stabilization with BMPs to address the erosion problems.

6. Use seed mixes designed for alkaline soils. If salt is observed on the surface of soils (indication that salt is being accumulated in the root zone) after reclamation activities are completed the AO will be notified and a plan will be developed with approval of the BLM to improve reclamation on the site.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: With mitigation this action is unlikely to reduce the productivity of soils impacted by surface disturbing activities.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: The project area is along Douglas Creek and in Segment 23 of the White River that is classified for the protection of aquatic life cold 1, existing primary contact recreation, water supply and agriculture.

Douglas Creek is an active meandering system in poor soils. These soils are prone to piping (preferential shallow groundwater flow) that can lead to rapid and abrupt instability and mass wasting and erosion. These features are more likely in soils such as the Tisworth series soils that have a high content of gypsum and alkaline salts.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: All activities proposed would result in localized erosion. Potential impacts to the surface waters include increased runoff; erosion and sedimentation due to soil disturbance associated with construction activities. The magnitude of the impacts to surface water resources depends on slope aspect and gradient, degree and area of soil disturbance, soil character, duration of construction activities, and the timely implementation and success/failure of mitigation measures.

There is the potential that Douglas Creek would continue to widen the meander bends and expose the rerouted pipeline. The site has been set back from the active erosion in the channel to limit this risk. Changes in channel form are more likely to occur during local severe storm events that occur in these areas. Due to poor vegetation and soils surface runoff can be rapid from the surrounding areas and may result in sheet flow, rilling and gully formation that can be quite rapid. Flooding of the active channel in Douglas Creek can also quickly change the channel configuration.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: The pipeline is currently exposed and therefore more susceptible to pipeline leaks and failure. Such leaks or spills could result in impacts to water quality.

Mitigation: See mitigation in the soil section

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: It is unlikely that the proposed pipeline repairs would result in an exceedence of state water quality standards.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment of both locations: The vegetation of the upper terraces of Douglas Creek is an Alkaline Slopes range site in mid to low seral condition. The dominate plant community for these sites consist of greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*) and various saltbrushes. Other brushes intermixed in the area are various rabbit brushes (*Chrysothamnus spp.*) and Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentate*). Undesirable and invasive annual plant species (i.e. halogeton, cheatgrass) which provide little resource value and hinder efforts to meet Public Land Health Standards, have become dominant components of the plant community within the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would disturb vegetation and soils within a predominately greasewood vegetation community. As this area has a component of cheatgrass and halogeton (undesirable, non-native, and annual plant species) within the plant community, successful re-vegetation efforts would slightly increase desirable plant species within the project area. Without successful reclamation of seeded species within this harsh landscape, a potential exist to increase the ground cover of undesirable plant species which readily invade disturbed sites. Limiting factors for successful reclamation of the site includes soils with a high clay content, low annual precipitation, drought prone, grazing use, and cheatgrass establishment on the adjacent rangelands. With proper reseeding the site is expected to improve in cover and species diversity.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: Promptly re-vegetate all disturbed areas associated with the pipeline repair using standard seed mix #2 in the White River ROD/RMP listed below.

BLM WRFO Standard Seed Mix #2		
Species (Variety)	Lbs. PLS/ Acre	Rangesite
Western wheatgrass (Arriba)	3	Alkaline Slopes, Clayey slopes
Pubescent wheatgrass (Luna)	2	
Russian wildrye (Bozoisky)	2	
Crested wheatgrass (Hycrest)	2	
Fourwing saltbush (Wytana/Rincon)	2	

Seeding rates in the White River ROD/RMP and proposed table are shown as pounds of Pure Live Seed (PLS) per acre and apply to drill seeding. For broadcast application, double the seeding rate and then harrow to insure seed coverage. Applied seed must be certified and free of noxious weeds and seed certification tags must be submitted to the Area Manager within 30 days of seeding.

The holder will be responsible for controlling noxious weeds, and/or problem weeds should they occur and/or increase in density as a result of the proposed action. To control undesirable plant

species, the holder will use materials and methods as outlined in the White River ROD/RMP or authorized in advance by the authorized officer.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): Early seral ecological sites associated with the proposed action lack desirable plant species at an appreciable density and frequency level, thus they are not meeting standards. This is largely due to the prevalence of cheatgrass and halogeton within the vegetative understory. A slight positive benefit would be received through a successful re-vegetation effort, thus increasing preferred plant species. Mid seral ecological sites within the project area have acceptable components within the plant community and are meeting standards for public land health.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: The segment of the pipeline that needs to be rerouted is located within an Alkaline Slope ecological site, which is dominated by salt tolerant vegetation. The invasive annual species Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) is widely established throughout the project locality. Halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*) another invasive annual weed species is known to occur within the project area, most commonly along roadsides and within disturbed sites. Both of these species are highly adapted to disturbed soils.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: With construction there would be disturbance of vegetation and soil which increases the opportunity for noxious weed establishment. The equipment and vehicles used for this project could introduce noxious weed species onto the site. Prompt reclamation with successful establishment would help prevent cheatgrass and halogeton from establishing disturbed site. If other noxious weeds were to invade the site, prompt control would prevent movement to the adjacent plant communities.

The seed mix proposed contains non-native species which have been found to have the greatest chance for reclamation success, including stabilizing soils and providing competition against noxious weed establishment. These non-native species have not been found to move offsite or interbreed with native plant species.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: The applicant shall monitor the disturbed and reclaimed areas for the presence of invasive, non-native, and/or noxious plant species that have become established as a result of the proposed action. The applicant will be responsible for eradicating cheatgrass, noxious weeds, and/or problem weeds should they occur and/or increase in density as a result of the proposed action.

Upon detection of noxious, non-native, and/or invasive plant species, the holder will control their presence before seed production using materials and methods as outlined in the RMP and/or authorized in advance by the White River Field Office Manager. Application of herbicides must

be under field supervision of an EPA certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides must be registered by the EPA and application proposals must be approved by the BLM.

See vegetation section for reclamation seed mixture

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located in the Canyon Pintado Historical District. There is the potential to encounter previously undetected sites during the reroute operations. At the present time the proposed action avoids all known surface manifestations of cultural resources. Various portions of the pipeline have been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level Conner 1997, Compliance Dated 4/14/1977, Gordon and Kranzush 1977, Compliance Dated 11/15/1977, Creasman 1981, Compliance Dated 2, 1981) and no resources were identified on the surface during those inventories.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action avoids all currently known cultural resources within the district. The project will not impact any sites that are considered contributing elements to the values which make the district significant.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to cultural resources or the values that make the district significant under the No action Alternative.

Mitigation: 1. A proposed monitoring and treatment plan has been developed for the project. ETC will be required to monitor all excavations necessary for the pipeline reroute and shall mitigate through data recovery all sites expose during excavations for the project.

2. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator

will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, exist within the area affected by the proposed action. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

OTHER ELEMENTS: For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

Other Elements	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Visual Resources		X	
Fire Management		X	
Forest Management	X		
Hydrology/Water Rights		X	
Rangeland Management		X	
Realty Authorizations			X
Recreation		X	
Access and Transportation		X	
Geology and Minerals	X		
Areas of Environmental Concern	X		
Wilderness	X		
Wild and Scenic Rivers	X		
Cadastral	X		
Socio-Economics	X		
Law Enforcement	X		

REALTY AUTHORIZATIONS

Affected Environment: The proposed action would occur on an existing natural gas pipeline which is co-located with other gathering and trunk lines, buried and overhead utility and communication lines, and Colorado State Highway (SH) 139. The holder of a pipeline grant is required to meet State and National safety requirements. The sites are located within the Canyon Pintado Historic District and along the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway. The pipeline was authorized as COC23734BJ in 1982.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The exposed and suspended portion of the pipeline presents a potential for breaks or leaks, damage to adjoining facilities, and damage to the Douglas Creek drainage.

The maintenance for this location would be authorized as an amendment to COC23734BJ with an additional 760 feet by 50 feet ROW. If the original pipeline is removed, approximately 630 feet of ROW would be relinquished for a net additional 130 feet and an addition of 0.149 acres.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: If the repairs are not approved, there would be no immediate consequences, but the long term integrity and safety of the pipeline would be jeopardized.

Mitigation: The holder is responsible for obtaining and following all necessary State and local permits.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: The proposed reroute and repair of the exposed pipeline is not expected to materially change the status of any resource. Construction and reclamation methods and standards as included in the proposed action and the mitigation would limit impacts to the short term disturbance. The principal long term impact would be the reduction of possible pipeline failure with associated safety concerns and environmental damage.

REFERENCES CITED:

Conner, Carl E.

1977 Archaeological Survey for Northwest pipeline Gathering System to North Douglas #16 Well. Historical Museum and Institute of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, Colorado.

Creasman, Steven D.

1981 Archaeological Investigations in the Canyon Pintado Historic District, Rio Blanco County, Colorado: Phase I – Inventory and Test Excavations. Reports of the Laboratory of Public Archaeology No. 34, February, 1981. Laboratory of Public Archaeology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Gordon, E. Kinzie, and Kris J. Kranzush

1977 Cultural Resource Inventory Report: North Douglas Creek Line, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Gordon and Kranzush, - Archaeological Consultants. Boulder, Colorado.

Tweto, Ogden

1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: Colorado Division of Wildlife, Rio Blanco County

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Bob Lange	Hydrologist	Air Quality, Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights, Soils and Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Maggie Marston	Botanist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Michael Selle	Archeologist	Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources
Tyrell Turner	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species, Vegetation , Rangeland Management
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds, Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife, Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Andrew Burrows	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness, Access and Transportation, Recreation,
Jim Michels	Forester/ Fire / Fuels Technician	Fire Management
Jim Michels	Forester/ Fire / Fuels Technician	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Linda Jones	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Andrew Burrows	Natural Resource Specialist / Outdoor Recreation Planner	Visual Resources
Melissa Kindall	Range Technician	Wild Horse Management

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION/RATIONALE: It is my decision to authorize the construction, maintenance, operation, and removal of the natural gas pipeline as described in the Proposed Action, including the reroute of one segment, the removal of the exposed segment of pipe, and reclamation of the site with the following mitigation measures:

MITIGATION MEASURES:

1. All construction activities shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless there are safety concerns or activities are otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer.
2. If access to the site for construction activities results in the formation of two-tracks or other disturbance, these routes will be decompacted and revegetated as necessary to remove the possibility of tire tracks being used as preferential flow paths for surface runoff.
3. Provide for erosion-resistant surface drainage by adding necessary drainage facilities and armoring prior to fall rain events. Sediment barriers shall be constructed to slow runoff, allow deposition of sediment, and prevent it from leaving the site. In addition, straining or filtration mechanisms may also contribute to sediment removal from runoff. Specifically, waterbars and/or fiber rolls will be installed at the beginning of the disturbance in such a way as to divert surface runoff around the disturbed site in a non erosive manner.
4. ETC Canyon will contact the BLM after reclamation activities have been completed to allow for inspection of the sites. If minor measures such as additional water bars and/or fiber rolls are identified by the AO during inspection, ETC Canyon will install these features to avoid erosion in reclaimed areas before fall rain events.
5. The site will be inspected in the summer of 2011 and the summer of 2012 by ETC Canyon to determine if reclamation efforts have been successful. This inspection will evaluate the success of revegetation efforts, assess weeds and determine if sites are stable with no additional erosion features. If erosion features such as riling, gullying, piping and mass

wasting occur at anytime in the future in or near the area of the pipeline repairs as a result of project activities, these features will be addressed immediately after observation by contacting the AO and submitting a plan to assure successful soil stabilization with BMPs to address the erosion problems.

6. Use seed mixes designed for alkaline soils. If salt is observed on the surface of soils (indication that salt is being accumulated in the root zone) after reclamation activities are completed the AO will be notified and a plan will be developed with approval of the BLM to improve reclamation on the site.
7. Promptly re-vegetate all disturbed areas associated with the pipeline repair using standard seed mix #2 in the White River ROD/RMP listed below.

BLM WRFO Standard Seed Mix #2		
Species (Variety)	Lbs. PLS/ Acre	Rangesite
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Russian wildrye (Bozoisky)	2	
Crested wheatgrass (Hycrest)	2	
Fourwing saltbush (Wytana/Rincon)	2	

Seeding rates in the White River ROD/RMP and proposed table are shown as pounds of Pure Live Seed (PLS) per acre and apply to drill seeding. For broadcast application, double the seeding rate and then harrow to insure seed coverage. Applied seed must be certified and free of noxious weeds and seed certification tags must be submitted to the Area Manager within 30 days of seeding. The holder is responsible for controlling noxious weeds, and/or problem weeds should they occur and/or increase in density as a result of the proposed action. To control undesirable plant species, the holder will use materials and methods as outlined in the White River ROD/RMP or authorized in advance by the authorized officer.

8. The applicant shall monitor the disturbed and reclaimed areas for the presence of invasive, non-native, and/or noxious plant species that have become established as a result of the proposed action. The applicant is responsible for eradicating cheatgrass, noxious weeds, and/or problem weeds should they occur and/or increase in density as a result of the proposed action.

Upon detection of noxious, non-native, and/or invasive plant species, the holder will control their presence before seed production using materials and methods as outlined in the RMP and/or authorized in advance by the White River Field Office Manager. Application of herbicides must be under field supervision of an EPA certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides must be registered by the EPA and application proposals must be approved by the BLM.

9. The holder is responsible for obtaining and following all necessary State and local permits.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by White River Field Office staff during construction, operation, maintenance, and reclamation of the project. Specific mitigation developed in this Environmental Assessment and the terms and conditions of the original associated grants will be followed.

NAME OF PREPARER: Linda Jones

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Caroline Hollowed

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

6/03/10

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A – Pipeline Repair Location
Exhibit A-1 – Project Overview Map



REROUTE OF ETC CANYON GAS PIPELINE

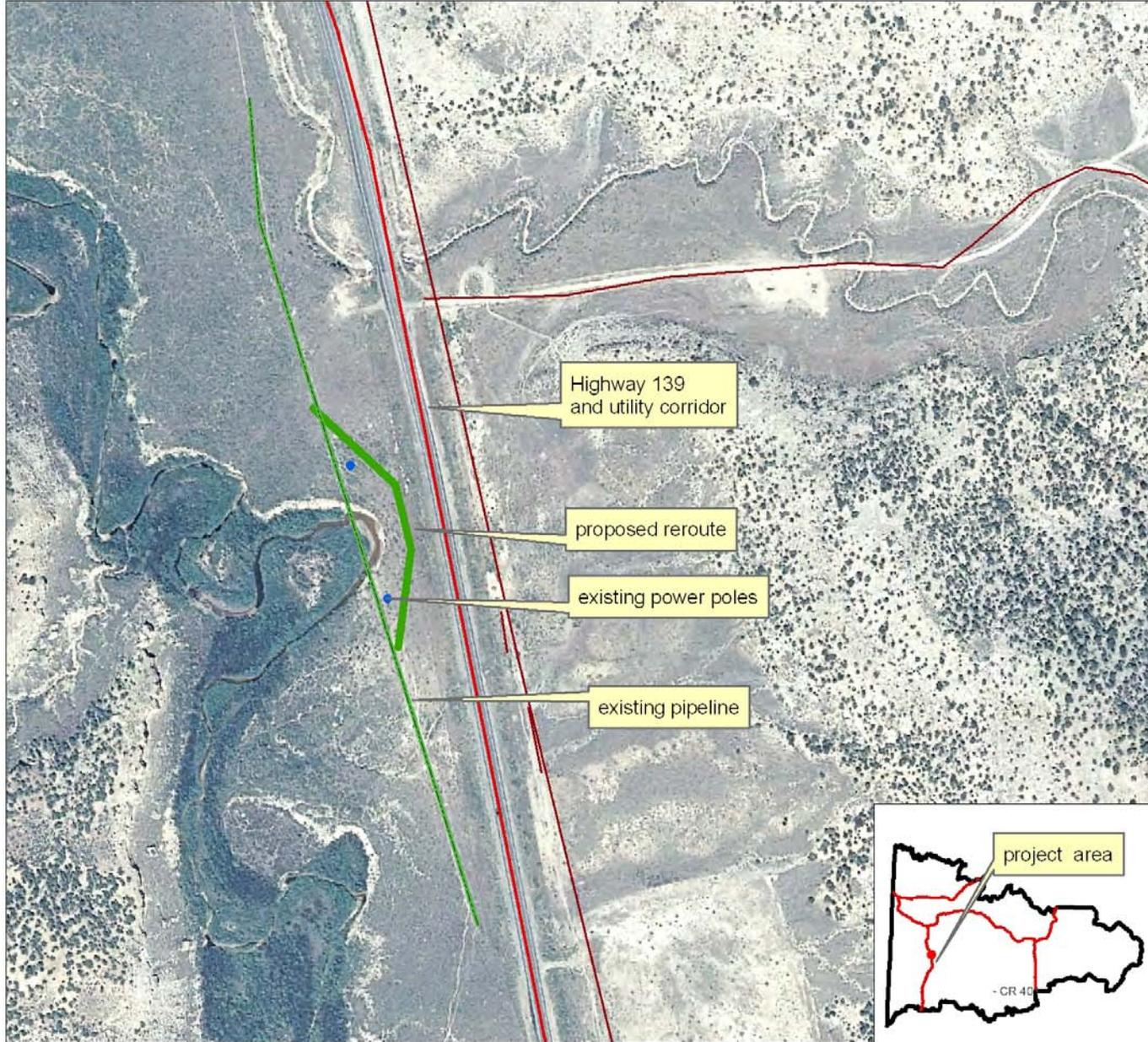


EXHIBIT A

DOIBLMCO110-2010-023EA

6th PM

T1S R101W sec 33, W2NW



Projects: line

— <all other values>

LEASE_NUM

— CO-110-2010-0023-EA

— County

— State

0 75 150 300 450 600 Feet

6/2010 LLJ

Sources:
BLM, USGS, CDOW, etc.

Disclaimer:
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REROUTE OF ETC CANYON GAS PIPELINE



EXHIBIT A - 1 OVERVIEW

DOI-BLMCO110-2010-023EA

6th PM

T1S R101W sec 33, W2NW

amend COC23734BJ

