

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-110-2010-0126-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC74418 (Piceance Lateral Pipeline)
COC74418-01 (Piceance Lateral temporary work areas)
COC74436 (Ignacio-Sumas Pipeline)
COC74436-01 (Ignacio-Sumas temporary work areas)
COC74433 (Colorado Hub Pipeline)
COC74433-01 (Colorado Hub temporary work area)
COC39357C (White River Electric Assoc. Power Line)
COC40628 (White River Electric Assoc. Power Line)

PROJECT NAME: Piceance Lateral Piggng Project and Ignacio-Sumas CPS sites

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 1 S., R. 96 W.,
sec. 19, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.
T. 2 S., R. 96 W.,
sec. 5, lots 23 and 26.
T. 1 S., R. 97 W.,
sec. 1, lot 8.
T. 1 N., R. 97 W.,
sec. 22, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.
T. 2 N., R. 98 W.,
sec. 13, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; (power line)
sec. 13, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.
T. 3 N., R. 99 W.,
sec. 35, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.
T. 2 N., R. 99 W.,
sec. 1, lots 7 and 8; (power line)
sec. 2, lots 5 to 8, inclusive; (power line)
sec. 2, lot 8;
sec. 4, lot 5.
T. 2 S., R. 99 W.,
sec. 17, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 20, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.
T. 2 N., R. 100 W.,

sec. 9, lot 1.
T. 1 N., R. 101 W.,
sec. 18, NW¹/₄SE¹/₄;
sec. 18, SE¹/₄SW¹/₄;
sec. 19, NE¹/₄NW¹/₄ . } (private land)
T. 2 N., R. 103 W.,
sec. 22, N¹/₂NW¹/₄;
sec. 23, SE¹/₄SW¹/₄;
sec. 26, NE¹/₄NW¹/₄; (private land)

APPLICANT: Northwest Pipeline (NWP)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction: Northwest Pipeline (NWP) is required by the U.S. Department of Transportation to operate and maintain a Cathodic Protection System (CPS) along its entire pipeline system. Cathodic Protection provides a low voltage current across the pipeline and along with specialized pipeline coatings, helps to prevent corrosion of the pipeline. As part of the Integrity Management Plan, NWP has requested authorization to repair and/or install new Cathodic Protection Stations (CPS) for the Ignacio Sumas 26-inch pipeline (ROW COC011243), the 10-inch Piceance Creek Lateral (ROW COC011409), and the Colorado Hub Connection 24-inch pipeline (ROW COC72181). CPS sites for the Ignacio-Sumas and Piceance Creek Lateral pipelines were analyzed in environmental assessment (EA) CO-110-2008-179-EA. Pipeline recoating with an additional 25 feet temporary work area on each side of the 50 feet pipeline right of way (ROW) and CPS sites for the Piceance Creek Lateral and the Ignacio-Sumas pipelines were analyzed in CO-110-2009-220-EA and CO-110-2009-221-EA.

NWP is preparing to internally inspect the 10-inch Piceance Creek Lateral pipeline. The internal inspection will be conducted by “smart pigs” in 2011, however to facilitate the inspections, several facilities must be modified to accommodate the inspection tools. NWP has a full Piceance Creek Lateral pipeline outage scheduled to begin on August 24, 2010. The temporary use permit for the work areas must be received by July 30, 2010, in order to begin excavation and prep work on the pigging modifications to ensure that all tie-ins and inspections can be completed during the scheduled 4 day outage.

Proposed Action: The project has three components:

1. Modify and install pigging facilities on the Piceance Creek Lateral pipeline,
2. Install cathodic protection station #1910 on the Colorado Hub Connection (CHUB) pipeline, install 2 anode beds due to low readings at existing cathodic protection sites #674 and #1027 on the Ignacio-Sumas pipeline, and install 2 cathodic protection sites #1847 and #1848 on the Piceance Creek Lateral pipeline, and
3. Install two electrical power connections by White River Electric Association to serve the CPS #1847 and CPS #1848 sites.

The existing Piceance Creek Lateral pipeline (component 1) runs from Outlaw Ridge Hub in the Piceance Basin to a compressor station located approximately three miles south of Rangely, Colorado. The ROW is 50 feet wide. At the sites proposed for smart-pig access and drip valve removal or installation, work would be conducted within the pipeline right-of-way and the designated additional temporary work areas. Temporary work areas (TWA) are listed in the following table.

Project segment	Pipeline Milepost (MP)	Temporary Work Area (acres)	GPS Coordinates
Pig launcher	0.00	0.66	39.89892 -108.19724
Rifle & Greasewood Meter Stations	0.3207	120'x255'= 0.7	39.90236 -108.19981 39.90251 -108.19992
Mueller Tap	3.7032	100'x200'= 0.46	39.94956 -108.20251
Drip 27-1 Removal	7.65	0.52	39.99820 -108.23797
Valve 27-2	10.50	4.35	40.03401 -108.26237
Valve 27-3	28.87	200'x200'= 0.92	40.17696 -108.50402
Fletcher Gulch Meter Station	35.004	100'x200'= 0.46	40.16261 -108.61507
Pig receiver 27-4B	47.69	200'x200'= 0.92	40.05532 -108.77146

At each site an existing above-ground pipeline facility has already been developed, and work would take place on and around each facility. The TWA would be issued for approximately two years to allow construction and reclamation before reverting to the original ROW. Aerial photo maps were provided and included in the file.

- *Pig launcher site*: cut out antiquated pig launcher piping and replace with new piping; then install a new 2-inch liquids injection valve.
- *Rifle & Greasewood meter stations*: cut out the 4-inch Rifle tap valve and the 6-inch Greasewood tap valve and replace; then install a 6 feet x 8 feet cattle guard fence around each of the above ground hand wheel tap valve operators.
- *Mueller tap*: cut out the 2-inch tap and replace with 10-inch pipe.
- *Drip 27-1 removal*: cut out an underground 10-inch diameter mainline drip with the associated 2-inch piping and an above ground tank; then install a length of 10-inch pipe in the place of the drip.
- *Valve 27-2*: cut out mainline block valve and replace it with a new piggable block valve.
- *Valve 27-3*: cut out mainline block valve and replace it with a new piggable block valve.
- *Fletcher Gulch meter station*: cut out the 6-inch tap valve and replace; then install a 6 feet x 8 feet cattle guard fence around the above ground hand wheel tap valve operator.
- *Pig receiver 27-4B*: cut out and remove all existing antiquated pig receiver piping and replace it with 10-inch pipe.
- *Pig receiver 27-5CK*: cut out and remove all mainline check meter piping and replace it with a straight length of 10-inch pipe on **private** surface.
- *Pig receiver at end*: install new pig receiver piping and piping for a mainline check meter at the NWP Rangely Compressor Station valve yard on **private** surface.

Each of the CPS sites (component 2) would include temporary work areas of 200 feet by 200 feet, encompassing 0.92 acres that would surround the proposed deep well location, to be used for parking of vehicles and construction equipment and would be used for general construction needs such as spoil piles. A level drilling pad would be constructed to drill 8-inch diameter deep

wells that would be cased and a carbon anode would be installed in each of the wellbores. Equipment would be used to expose the pipeline and open a trench to the deep well location, and an underground electric cable would be installed connecting the well to the pipeline.

Soil would be stored within the existing or proposed rights-of-way and used to rebury the pipeline and cable following maintenance activities. A permanent 40 feet wide ROW is requested for the actual cable and deep well. As shown on the attached drawings (Exhibit A), one deep well groundbed and associated electrical connection, rectifier, and power drop would be installed for each of the cathodic protection facilities. CPS #1848 would also require a 20 foot wide permanent access road right-of-way approximately 100 feet long to access the deep well from Colorado Highway 64.

Project segment	Pipeline Milepost (MP)	Length of permanent ROW (feet)	Permanent ROW (acres)	GPS coordinates	
CPS #1910	14.30	520	0.48	39.87088	-108.52128
CPS #674	289.40	327	0.30	40.13333	-108.94728
CPS #1027	287.10	320	0.29	40.12209	-108.92672
CPS #1847	19.23	160	0.15	40.13832	-108.33584
CPS #1848	27.57	210	0.19	40.17848	-108.47996
access road	----	100' x 20'	0.05	----	----
Total Permanent ROW			1.46		
Total Temporary Work Area			4.60		

CPS construction is proposed to take place spring of 2010. The location of the existing, permanent pipeline right-of-way, repairs, and temporary work areas would be flagged prior to construction. NWP would comply with all applicable federal, state, county, and local laws and regulations as they relate to public health and safety, environmental protection, construction operation, and maintenance. No toxic substances would be stored or used on the right-of-way. NWP would have an inspector on site during construction and reclamation to insure Federal and state regulations and requirements are adhered to. Any accidents to persons or property on federal lands would be reported immediately to the authorized officer.

An archaeological survey and biological surveys have been completed and submitted with the application. Water trucks would be used, as needed, for dust suppression. The disturbed areas would be reclaimed, as close as possible, to their original condition and above-ground appurtenances would be painted to blend with the surrounding area. Vehicles would use existing highways, county road, dirt roads, and the pipeline ROW.

The CPS sites would require electrical power (component 3). White River Electric Association has submitted applications, including GPS points, (see table below) for two overhead power lines to serve CPS #1847 and CPS #1848.

Project Segment	Length of power line ROW (feet)	Width of power line ROW (feet)	Permanent ROW (acres)	GPS coordinates	
CPS #1847	3,600	25	2.07	WREA existing pole	N 40° 8' 40.27" W 108° 20' 47.34"

				NWP rectifier	N 40° 8' 21.29" W 108° 20' 13.89"
CPS #1848	8,300	25	4.76	WREA existing pole	N 40° 10' 41.11" W 108° 27' 11.57"
				NWP rectifier	N 40° 10' 42.44" W 108° 28' 45.60"

- **CPS #1847:** White River Electric Association (WREA) would construct a new 7.2-kV single-phase overhead power line from the existing pole in T. 2 N., R. 98 W., section 13 to Northwest Pipeline’s CPS #1847. Access to construct and maintain the power line would be parallel to the pipeline right-of-way and the use of an existing two track road. The power line right-of-way would be 25 feet wide and 3,600 feet long, encompassing approximately 2.07 acres. WREA would place approximately 12 wooden poles spaced approximately 300 feet apart. Each structure would be raptor friendly with perching deterrents installed if necessary. Equipment to be used would be a backhoe, 4-wheel drive 2-ton digger truck and standard utility line trucks and construction would take 1 to 2 weeks. WREA submitted a Plan for Surface Reclamation of Disturbed Power Line Right-of-Way which is available for review in case file COC39357C located in the White River Field Office.
- **CPS #1848:** WREA would construct a new 15-kV single-phase overhead distribution power line from the existing pole in T. 2 N., R. 99 W., sec. 1. The power line would be constructed along the existing pipeline right-of-way and it would take a small amount of grading and removing obstacles from the ROW for WREA equipment access. The power line right-of-way would be 25 feet wide and 8,300 feet long, encompassing approximately 4.76 acres. Tree cutting would be required to accommodate clearances and stringing operations. Equipment to be used would be a backhoe, 4-wheel drive 2-ton digger truck, and standard utility line trucks and construction would take 6 days. WREA submitted a Plan for Surface Reclamation of Disturbed Power Line Right-of-Way which is available for review in case file COC40628 located in the White River Field Office.

No Action Alternative: The application would be denied. Therefore, the pigging facilities and cathodic protection stations would not be modified.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD: None

PURPOSE & NEED FOR THE ACTION: The purpose of the action is to provide access and modifications to natural gas pipelines across public land managed by the BLM. The need for the action is established by the BLM’s responsibility under FLPMA and MLA (Minerals Leasing Act) to respond to a request for a Right-of-Way grant and Temporary Use Permit.

Decision to be Made: The BLM will decide whether or not to approve the right-of-way, and if so, under what terms and 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:

NATURAL, BIOLOGICAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: This proposed action is located in rural northwest Colorado in the White River Basin, more than ten miles from special designation air sheds or non-attainment areas. Industrial facilities in White River Basin include coal mines, soda ash mines, natural gas processing plants and power plants. The White River Basin has been classified as either attainment or unclassified for all air pollutants National Ambient Air Quality Standards and Colorado Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS and CAAQS), and most of the area has been designated for the prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) class II for the PSD areas nearby. Because the historic air quality in the White River Basin has been good, small changes in air quality may have noticeable localized effects, especially on visibility.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Maintenance actions include the disturbance of about 13.6 acres with less than 1.5 acres of long-term disturbance. Most of the locations have been disturbed in the past during the installation of the pipeline and/or due to past support infrastructure. Most of the surface disturbance will be temporary as vegetation establishes in the reclaimed areas. The only dust production that is likely is due to vehicles traveling on the work locations and to service the maintenance sites.

The proposed action would result in very minor increases in the level of inhalable particulate matter during installation and construction, specifically particles ten microns or less in diameter (PM₁₀) associated with fugitive dust. In addition, increases in the following criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide, ozone (secondary pollutant), nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide would also occur due to combustion of fossil fuels during installation and recoat activities. Non-criteria pollutants such as visibility, nitric oxide, air toxics (e.g. benzene) and total suspended particulates (TSP) may also experience slight, temporary increases as a result of the Proposed Action (no national ambient air quality standards have been set for non-criteria pollutants). Even with these increased pollutants, this project is unlikely to result in an exceedance of NAAQ and CAAQ standards and is likely to be under PSD thresholds.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No impacts would occur

Mitigation: None Identified

SOILS

Affected Environment: Many of these areas proposed for surface disturbance, have previously been disturbed, and may have steep slopes or saline soils that would likely be difficult to reclaim. Sites that have the potential to result in soil impacts are shown in the table below.

Site Name	Site Purpose	Soil Concern	Soil Type	Mitigation
Drip Site 27-1 (Work Area)	Pig launch and receiver replacement	Steep Slopes	Torriorthents -Rock outcrop complex	Stabilize site during use and restore site to original contours during reclamation
Fletcher Gulch Site	Meter Station	Saline and Poor Soils	N/A	Stabilize the portion of the site that will be used long term
CPS 674 and 1027 (work areas)	Cathodic Protection Site	Saline Soils	Chipeta-Killpack silty clay loams	Use seed mix for saline soils

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Potential impacts to soils from the proposed action would include removal of vegetation, mixing of soil horizons, soil compaction, increased susceptibility to erosion, loss of topsoil productivity and contamination of soils with petroleum constituents. If reclamation is successful, impacts from this project will be minor and localized to disturbed areas. Many of these areas have saline and unstable soils that would likely be more difficult to reclaim. The use of the BLM seed mix given in the vegetation section for reclamation activities will increase the likelihood of success.

The construction of the CPS location and power lines will include some temporary surface disturbance and drilling operations for installation of the anode. The proposed action will not include any blade work and will use rubber tired vehicles, therefore soil disturbance is expected to be minimal. The construction of the CPS sites would result in the damage of vegetative cover and compaction of soils, increasing surface disturbance. Compaction due to construction activities would slightly reduce aeration, permeability, and water-holding capacities of the soils. An increase in surface runoff could be expected from these areas, potentially causing increased sheet, rill, and gully erosion. The applicant's stormwater plan should reduce stormwater runoff

from sites and if done correctly should capture any additional surface runoff that might be generated by this disturbance.

Contamination of surface and subsurface soils can occur from leaks or spills of chemicals, fuels, and lubricants during activities. Such leaks or spills could compromise the productivity of the affected soils. Depending on the size and type of spill, the impact to soils would primarily consist of the loss of soil productivity. Typically contaminated soils would be removed and disposed of in a permitted facility or would be bioremediated in place.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No impacts to soils would likely occur.

Mitigation: The following should be attached as conditions of approval.

1. All construction and drilling activity 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 salt is observed on the surface of soils during reclamation activities, the AO will be notified and a plan will be developed with approval of the BLM to improve reclamation on the site.
3. If erosion features such as riling, gulying, piping and mass wasting occur on disturbed surfaces subject to reclamation, the erosion features will be addressed immediately after observation by submitting a plan to assure successful soil stabilization with BMPs to address the erosion problems.
4. Mitigation from the table will be employed at the sites specified.

Site Name/Work Area	Mitigation
Drip Site 27-1 (WA)	Stabilize site during use and restore site to original contours during reclamation
Fletcher Gulch Site	Stabilize the portion of the site that will be used long term
CPS 674 and 1027 (WA)	Use seed mix for saline soils

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.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored, or disposed of at sites included in the project area. The operator does not identify in their proposed action any hazardous substances to be used during operations associated with this project.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: No listed or extremely hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities are proposed for use in this project. While

commercial preparations of fuels and lubricants proposed for use may contain some hazardous constituents, they would be stored, used, and transported in a manner consistent with applicable laws such that generation of hazardous wastes is not anticipated. All left-over chemicals and materials will be hauled off-site for use or disposal. Solid wastes would be properly disposed of off-site at an approved facility.

Accidental releases associated with equipment failures, equipment maintenance and refueling, and storage of fuel, oil, other fluids, and chemicals could cause soil, surface water, and/or groundwater contamination. With implementation of the mitigation measures described below, impacts would likely be temporary.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under the no-action alternative.

Mitigation: The release of any chemical, oil, petroleum product, or sewage, etc, must be contained immediately, cleaned up as soon as possible, and reported by the project proponent to the Bureau of Land Management.

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

Affected Environment: Most of the sites will result in small surface disturbance in locations of previous disturbance. None of the locations are located close to perennial waters. Fletcher Gulch and Drip Site 27-1 are in drainages, but should not impede surface flows or restrict floodplains.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Potential impacts to the surface waters include increased runoff and erosion and sedimentation due to soil disturbance associated with construction activities. The magnitude of the impacts to surface water resources would depend on the proximity of the disturbance to drainage channels, 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.

The proposed action is expected to have no direct influence of stream channels since most of the sites are in uplands or on terraces next to channels.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No impacts identified.

Mitigation: Provide for erosion-resistant surface drainage by adding necessary drainage facilities and armoring prior to fall rain or snow. When erosion is anticipated, sediment barriers shall be constructed to slow runoff, allow deposition of sediment, and prevent it from leaving the site. In addition, use of straining or filtration mechanisms may also contribute to sediment removal from runoff.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: It is unlikely that the construction of infrastructure both new and replaced would result in an exceedence of state water

quality standards. Cumulative impacts from this activity and others may eventually impact sediment yields to the degree that they impact listing.

WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: The small scale features associated with the proposed action are well removed from channel systems that support riparian vegetation. The following table lists features nearest such systems:

Feature	Distance from nearest riparian community (channel meters and type)
Pig receiver 27-4B	400 meters of ephemeral channel to Douglas Creek (intermittent)
Fletcher meter station	1300 meters of ephemeral channel to White River
CPS 1847	911 meters of ephemeral channel to White River
Drip 27-1	1050 meters of ephemeral channel to Piceance Creek
Valve 27-3	600 meters of ephemeral to Little Spring Creek (intermittent) and additional 1000 meters to White River
Piceance Creek station, Valve 27-2	within 50 meters of Piceance Creek wetlands, but within long established, graveled compound yard

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action involves a number of small scale (typically ~1 acre each of temporarily cleared and subsequently reclaimed work area) widely dispersed features that are well removed from channel systems that support riparian communities. The proposed action would have no reasonable potential to directly or indirectly influence channels (e.g., sediment source) that support riparian communities.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that could influence riparian communities.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: Neither of the alternative actions have any reasonable probability of influencing channel systems that support riparian communities and, as such, would have no effective bearing on land health standards applied to these systems.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: For the Piceance Lateral, the sites of the proposed action occur primarily in previously disturbed areas that were previously occupied primarily by pinyon-juniper woodland and Wyoming/mountain big sagebrush vegetation. The pinyon-juniper areas are woodland sites and the big sagebrush sites are primarily Rolling Loam, Stony Foothills, and Loam Slopes ecological sites. The vegetation on the pipeline right of way is early seral and is primarily dominated by perennial grasses. Cathodic protection stations and repair segments located generally south of the town of Rangely, CO along State Highway 139 are located primarily within Alkaline Slopes, Clayey Slopes, and Stony Foothills ecological sites with the majority occurring in the Alkaline Slopes ecological site. The two Ignacio-Sumas CPS sites,

#1027 and #674, are located in salt desert ecological sites with a Mancos shale derived substrate. These sites are primarily Alkaline Slope and Clayey Salt Desert ecological sites which are dominated by salt tolerant vegetation. The dominant vegetation for these sites consist of greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*) and various saltbrushes such as shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), Gardner saltbrush (*Atriplex gardneri*), mat saltbush (*Atriplex corrugata*), and fourwing saltbrush (*Atriplex canescens*). Other brushes intermixed in the area are various rabbit brushes (*Chrysothamnus spp.*) and Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*). The understory of these shrubs primarily consists of western wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*), salina wild rye (*Elymus salinus*), Sandberg bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), and bottlebrush squirreltail (*Sitanion hystrix*). Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*) are undesirable, invasive, and alien plant species that are present within the locality of the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would create approximately 15 acres of new vegetation/earthen disturbance. If the disturbed areas are promptly revegetated *in compliance with the listed mitigation*, there would be no negative impact beyond that which was analyzed in the environmental assessment prepared for the pipeline.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: The following should be added as stipulations to the grant:

1. In order to aid revegetation, the project proponent will submit a Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP) as part of project approval to use Glyphosate, Imazapic, or both herbicides to control cheatgrass and weedy annuals.
2. Seedbed Preparation. Initial seedbed preparation will consist of recontouring all disturbed areas. All compacted areas will be ripped to a minimum depth of 18 inches with a minimum furrow spacing of 2 feet. After recontouring the surface, stockpiled subsoil and then topsoil should be evenly spread over the site. Prior to seeding, the seedbed will be scarified to a depth of no less than 4 - 6 inches by disking or other suitable method of cultivation. Further seedbed preparation such as cultipacking may be necessary. Drill seeding should only be accomplished in a firm seedbed. If the site is too steep to be drilled, it should be broadcast seeded with the surface being left rough enough to trap seed and snow, control erosion, and increase water infiltration.
3. On sites CPS 674, CPS 1027, Pig 27-48, Fletcher Gulch, Valve 27-3 and CPS 1848, after seedbed preparation and seeding, the surface should be mulched or crimped with 1000-1500 # per acre certified noxious weed free straw.
4. The following site specific seed mixes should be used:

CPS 674, CPS 1027, Pig 27-4B:

BLM WRFO Standard Seed Mix #1		
Species/Variety	Lbs. PLS/Acre	Ecological Site
Western wheatgrass (Arriba)	3	Alkaline Slopes, Clayey Saltdesert

Russian Wildrye (Bozoisky)	2	
Crested wheatgrass (Hycrest)	3	

Fletcher Gulch, Valve 27-3, CPS 1848, CPS 1847, and Valve 27-2:

BLM WRFO Standard Seed Mix #1		
Species/Variety	Lbs. PLS/Acre	Ecological Site
Western wheatgrass (Arriba)	3	Alkaline Slopes, Clayey Saltdesert
Russian Wildrye (Bozoisky)	2	
Crested wheatgrass (Hycrest)	3	

Drip 27-1, Mueller Tap, Rifle and Greasewood Meter Stations and pig launcher:

BLM WRFO Native Seed Mix #3		
Species/Variety	Lbs.PLS/Acre	Ecological Site
Western wheatgrass (Rosanna)	2	Gravelly 10"-14", Pinyon/Juniper Woodland, Stony Foothills, 147 (Mountain Mahogany)
Beardless wheatgrass , (Whitmar)	2	
Thickspike wheatgrass (Critana)	1	
Indian ricegrass (Rimrock)	2	
Fourwing saltbush (Wytana, VNS Nortn. Lat)	1	
Scarlet globemallow	0.5	

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): Vegetation currently meets the Standard on a site, watershed and landscape scale and is expected to continue to meet the Standard in the future following implementation of the Proposed Action.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: There are few noxious weeds known to occur in the areas of the proposed action. For the Piceance Lateral, mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*) and bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) are known to occur as spot infestations along the pipeline right-of-way from above Greasewood Gulch to its terminus at the compressor station on Magnolia. The invasive alien cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*) occur along the pipeline right-of-ways primarily as a result of unsuccessful revegetation of previous pipeline disturbance.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action will create about 15 acres of new earthen disturbance which if it is not effectively revegetated could provide safe sites for the establishment and proliferation of noxious weeds and cheatgrass.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: See *Vegetation* section and include: The project proponent will be responsible for monitoring and control/eradication of all noxious and invasive species which establish on site for the life of the project.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: There are no plant species listed, proposed, or candidate to the Endangered Species Act, or plants considered sensitive by the BLM, that are known to inhabit areas influenced by the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action should have no influence on special status plant species or associated habitats.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: The no action alternative should have no influence on special status plant species or associated habitats.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: The proposed and no-action alternatives should have no influence on populations or habitats of plants associated with the Endangered Species Act or BLM sensitive species and, as such, should have no influence on the status of applicable Land Health Standards.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE ANIMAL SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: Special status animals potentially influenced by the proposed action are bald eagle (Eagle Protection Act), white-tailed prairie dog (BLM sensitive) towns that support burrowing owl (BLM sensitive) and reintroduced black-footed ferret (experimental non-essential population; federally endangered), greater sage-grouse (Endangered Species Act candidate, BLM sensitive), and Brewer's sparrow (BLM sensitive). A number of BLM sensitive fish (roundtail chub, mountain and flannelmouth sucker, bluehead sucker), the northern leopard frog (BLM sensitive) and the endangered Colorado pike-minnow (below Taylor Draw dam) inhabit the White River. Mountain and flannelmouth suckers and leopard frog also inhabit Piceance Creek and its adjoining wetlands.

The White River corridor is the hub of bald eagle activity in the project area. Migrants and winter residents make wide opportunistic foraging use of the project area during the winter months, with most roosting nocturnally as small communal groups in riverine cottonwood stands. The White River corridor on this reach of river hosts few stands of trees and identified roosts; nearest project features are greater than 1 mile from work associated with CPS #1848 and CPS #1847.

The 2 CPS sites associated with the Ignacio-Sumas portion of the project are located in the Rangely Oil Field. The CPS #674 site is located within a mapped white-tailed prairie dog town. Prairie dogs' reproductive period begins in early March with young emerging by early May. Prairie dog burrows in the Rangely Oil Field support a number of nesting burrowing owl that begin to arrive in early April and normally complete nesting activity by mid-August.

Although no reintroduced black-footed ferret have been documented in Coal Oil Basin, it is likely that small numbers have emigrated to this area from ferret releases made in Coyote Basin, about 5 miles to the west. Ferret reproductive activities begin in early March with birthing in early May and emergence of young from natal burrows by mid July.

Greater sage-grouse involvement with this project is confined to the CPS #1910 location on the CHUB pipeline. This site lies on the lower margin (7350 feet) of habitat presently occupied by the Parachute-Piceance-Roan population. Grouse formerly (late 1970s) leked within one-quarter mile of the project site, and there are presently no known active leks within 4 miles of the CPS site. The CPS would be located on a spur ridge in a grassland knoll above a southwesterly slope of scattered pinyon and juniper trees. Although this feature is well integrated with other oil and gas infrastructure in the area (including a small compressor station), recent surveys continue to document sage-grouse use within ½ mile (upridge) of this CPS site.

Brewer's sparrows were recently added to the Colorado State Director's Sensitive Species List (2010). Continental breeding bird surveys suggest this species has undergone substantial population declines (nearly 60%) since 1966. Although fluctuating strongly, current survey work in the WRFO indicate stable short term population trends. This sagebrush-associated species is common and widely distributed in nearly all sagebrush and mixed shrub habitat available in the WRFO, and they are commonly present even in small insular parks among predominantly woodland or deciduous shrublands. Virtually every project location (except the fenced pipeline yard housing Valve 27-2) is likely to be inhabited by this bird during the core nesting season (late May through mid-July).

Populations of special status fish and amphibians are relatively distant from project-related activity (see Riparian and Wetland section).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Small scale, short term, widely distributed, and well separated from special use areas (e.g., nocturnal winter roosts, riverine gallery forests), the proposed activities would have no reasonable likelihood of affecting bald eagle.

The CPS #674 site represents short term and small scale disturbance of prairie dog habitat. Vegetation clearing and minor leveling work would involve about 1 acre of cheatgrass-dominated Wyoming big sagebrush/black greasewood basin within 100 meters of an existing well access road. Cleared work areas would be subject to immediate reclamation procedures as prescribed by BLM. Subsurface disturbance would be limited primarily to a narrow 100 meter trench connecting the deep well to the pipeline, excavation to expose the pipeline, and the 8-inch diameter well bore; this work would involve a total of about 0.1 acre. This level of disturbance would have no measurable influence on the local distribution or abundance of prairie dogs. Although the likelihood of these prairie dogs burrow systems being inhabited by black-footed ferret or burrowing owl at any given time is remote, absent any current survey data for burrowing owl and/or ferret, BLM would curtail project-related excavation associated with CPS location #674 from 15 April to 15 August in order to avoid inopportune disruption of prairie dog burrow systems during their reproductive seasons.

Direct involvement of sage-grouse habitat during installation of the CPS #1910 location would be superficial (~1.25 acres), but based on persistent occupation of nearby habitat, construction activity may have unintended behavioral consequences on important reproductive functions of sage-grouse (e.g., nesting and lekking). Given the overall objective of promoting sage-grouse recovery through expanded use of suitable and formerly occupied sagebrush habitats, BLM would curtail activity associated with CPS #1910 installation from 15 March through 15 July.

The entire project array would involve clearing of about 7 acres of sagebrush habitat suited for Brewer's sparrow nesting functions. An additional 50 acres would be subject to potential disruption of ongoing nest efforts. In the event this work were conducted during the peak of nesting, it is likely that up to 15 initial nest attempts of Brewer's sparrow would be subject to failure. However, it is expected that all work associated with the Piceance Lateral would be conducted after 1 August 2010 and prior to the birds return in 2011. This schedule would avoid nesting-related influences associated with a minimum 65% of the direct impacts (vegetation clearing) and 90% of the indirect (behavioral disruption) impacts. The potential level of effect associated with the proposed action would have no effective influence on the short or long term abundance or distribution of Brewer's sparrow populations at any landscape scale.

Considering the small and widely dispersed nature of surface disturbance, physical separation of these projects from aquatic features, and the array of federal and state regulatory requirements that are designed to reduce the risk of erosion and off-site contaminant transport (including sediments), there is no reasonable likelihood that this project would have any discernible influence on downstream aquatic wildlife habitats or populations.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that could influence special status species or their habitats.

Mitigation: Project-related excavation associated with CPS location #674 would not be allowed from 15 April to 15 August in order to avoid potential disruption of black-footed ferret or burrowing owl reproductive activities.

To avoid the risk of deterring expanded use of suitable habitat by sage-grouse, project-related activity associated with CPS location 1910 location would not be allowed from 15 March through 15 July.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: The no action and proposed action, as conditioned, would have no potential to influence status of special status animal habitat or populations, and as such, neither alternative would be capable of altering the present status of this land health standard as applied to any of the species or species groups addressed above.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: A large number of migratory birds nest in the shrubland and woodland communities associated with the proposed action. These birds typically arrive by mid-

May with most nesting activity occurring between late May and mid-July. Virtually all nesting activity is complete by mid-August and these birds are generally absent from their breeding habitats by mid-September. Several species are regarded as Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC) by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). These species are considered especially vulnerable to significant range-wide population declines and subsequent listing under the Endangered Species Act. Cassin's finch, juniper titmouse, and pinyon jay are widely distributed at appropriate densities throughout the project area's woodland habitats. Gray vireos are distributed locally in juniper dominated habitats below 6100' in the western half of Rio Blanco County (e.g., woodlands near CPS #1848 and Valve 27-3). Brewer's sparrow and burrowing owl, also BOCC, are discussed in the *Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animals* section. Based on WRFO monitoring and regional USFWS Breeding Bird Survey data over the last 30 years, these birds exhibit relatively stable demographics.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The entire project array would involve clearing of about 7 acres of sagebrush nesting habitat (e.g., Brewer's sparrow, green-tailed towhee) and about 1 acre of pinyon-juniper woodland nesting habitat (e.g., black-throated gray warbler, juniper titmouse). In the event work was to take place during the nesting season, an additional 50 acres of sagebrush and 5 acres of woodland would be subject to potential disruption. However, it is expected that all work associated with the Piceance Lateral would be conducted after 1 August 2010 and prior to the birds return in 2011. This schedule would avoid nesting-related influences associated with a minimum 65% of the direct impacts (vegetation clearing) and over 90% of the indirect (behavioral disruption) impacts. Conditions of approval established for special status animals (see *Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animals* section) would also constrain development-related effects on portions of the Ignacio-Sumas and Colorado Hub pipelines, such that direct and indirect impacts to migratory bird nesting activity would be limited to about 1 and 2 acres of sagebrush habitat, respectively (i.e., CPS #1027 site adjacent to existing well access). The potential level of effect associated with the proposed action would have no effective influence on the short or long term abundance or distribution of any shrubland or woodland-associated migratory bird population at any landscape scale.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that could influence migratory bird nesting activity.

Mitigation: None.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: See discussions addressing fish and amphibians in the *Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animal* and *Wetland and Riparian Zone* sections above.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Considering the small and widely dispersed nature of surface disturbance, physical separation of these projects from aquatic features, and the array of federal and state regulatory requirements that are designed to reduce the risk of erosion and off-site contaminant transport (including sediments), there is no

reasonable likelihood that this project would have any discernible influence on downstream aquatic wildlife habitats or populations.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that could influence aquatic communities.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The no action and proposed action, as conditioned, would have no reasonable potential to influence aquatic habitats or the animal communities on which they depend. As such, neither alternative would be capable of altering the present status of this land health standard.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Much of the proposed project work is encompassed by ranges delineated by the Colorado Division of Wildlife as big game severe winter range. These ranges provide for the efficient and concentrated use of forage and cover resources for big game during the most inclement periods of winter (January through April). The remaining project locales are located on general winter ranges that are normally used during the earlier portions of the winter or at lower densities throughout the winter.

Few of the project sites involve woodland raptor nest habitat. Notable exceptions include the Mueller Tap site (2 raptor nests within 80 meters), Valve 27-3, and the power line feeding CPS #1848, which skirts a number of low elevation woodland stands that have limited potential to serve as nesting habitat. The CPS #1848 power line route was surveyed by contract biologists in June 2010 and no evidence of raptor nest activity was found. The potential for burrowing owl nest activity is discussed in the *Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animal* section.

Small mammals associated with these habitats (much previously disturbed and reclaimed) are typically more abundant, tolerant of disturbances, and generalized in habitat preferences. There are no highly specialized or uncommon species known to inhabit any of the project sites. Non-game birds associated with habitats influenced by the proposed action are addressed in the *Migratory Bird* section.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Severe winter ranges are subject to RMP-approved timing limitations that restrict activities that hamper efficient use of these ranges by deer and elk (i.e., increased energetic costs and reduced animal fitness). This measure is particularly important at present due to the extent and intensity of gas development work now being conducted in the Piceance Basin during the winter season. This provision is of limited utility when disturbances are confined to existing all-weather transportation corridors. For purposes of this project, the following project sites would remain subject to timing limitations that disallow project-related activity from 1 January to 30 April, and that would be applied

regardless of winter weather conditions: CPS #1847 and 0.7 mile of associated power line, 1.6 miles of power line associated with CPS #1848, and Valve 27-3.

The proposed action would not be expected to have any adverse consequence on raptor nesting activity. Activity at the Mueller Tap would have no direct effect of woodland habitat and installation would occur outside the raptor nesting season. The Valve 27-3 site would involve the clearing of about 0.3 acre of woodland confined to within 20 meters of an existing pipeline corridor and road. The likelihood of raptors selecting these small, open-canopied stands adjacent to a woodland edge is remote and, again, work at this site would take place outside the raptor nest season. Installation of the power line for CPS #1848 would have no direct involvement with adjacent woodlands and, based on recent survey information, would pose little, if any, risk of nest disruption during the 2011 nesting season (if delayed).

Direct habitat loss imposed on nongame birds and mammals would be limited to about 7 acres of sagebrush habitat and 2 acres of woodlands. This level of effect, particularly when situated almost exclusively along existing disturbance corridors, would have no effective influence on the distribution or abundance of these species groups.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have potential to influence terrestrial wildlife populations or habitat.

Mitigation: Project-related activity would not be authorized to occur from 1 January to 30 April on the following project components and regardless of winter weather conditions: CPS #1847 and 0.7 mile of associated powerline, 1.6 miles of powerline associated with CPS #1848, and Valve 27-3.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): The project area broadly meets the land health standards for terrestrial wildlife communities. This project, as conditioned, would have no effective influence on continued meeting of this standard.

WILD HORSES

Affected Environment: Portions of the Proposed Action are located within the North Piceance Herd Area (NPHA) which covers approximately of 89,355 acres, however this area is currently to be managed to provide forage for a herd of 0 wild horses. Portions of the Proposed Action are also located within the Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area (PEDHMA) which covers approximately 190,000 acres, and this area is currently to be managed to provide forage for a herd of 135 – 235 wild horses (BLM/WRRMP, 1997). Further, portions of the proposed action are located on the Magnolia Bench where wild horses also are known to occupy the area but are beyond an adjacent allotment to the PEDHMA where WRFO does not manage for wild horses. WRFO is planning on gathering and removing excess wild horses from all of the above listed areas in fall of 2010.

The Proposed Action occurs in various areas that are generally dominated by mixed-aged pinyon-juniper woodland and grassland, with pockets of sagebrush and greasewood. The woodland provides cover for the wild horses, and the other vegetative communities provide foraging habitat.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Implementation of the proposed action could result in indirect impacts to wild horses in the Project Area(s). Surface-disturbing activities associated with the proposed project would result in the initial loss of approximately 33.41 acres in portions of the NPHA and PEDHMA. For wild horses that do not avoid the project activities, cattle guards or fences and gates pose potential for injuries to wild horses. It is also possible for wild horses to become trapped should they fall into an open trench. Due to the short-term project period, minimum human presence in the project area(s) would not increase the potential for wild horses to become habituated to human activities. Increased traffic in the project area could result in young foals becoming dislocated from their mares if they are in the area.

Construction activities associated with this project may cause short-term displacement of wild horses from the immediate area. Due to nearby county roads and existing oil and gas activities, wild horses in the area are likely to be habituated to human activity to some degree. During construction the wild horses may use areas within ¼ mile of the associated construction and construction areas. Additionally wild horses may, in the long term, make use of the forage with the result that they might negatively impact reclamation efforts at locations associated with wild horse occupation.

Short-term forage loss would occur for wild horses in the action area due to project construction. Approximately 2.38 animal unit months (AUMs) of forage loss would result from the construction. An adult wild horse requires 1.25 AUMs of forage production per month. It is assumed that reclamation is likely to replace a portion of the short-term forage loss, bringing the long-term loss down to approximately 0.0 AUMs over the long term. These levels of forage loss within the NPHA or the PEDHMA are not expected to result in displacement of wild horses or change in wild horse population trend in the areas associated with the Proposed Action.

Should atypical environmental conditions exist, forage loss may place added stress on the wild horses, especially during peak foaling season (March 1 to June 15). Such conditions include heavy snow cover late in winter, drought, fire, or a late spring green-up. Under the Proposed Action construction would occur in August which is outside the foaling season thus relieving stress to the wild horses during that sensitive time period. Normal operations following construction completion would not require implementation of work windows.

It is not anticipated that any of the proposed locations could affect the PEDHMA wild horse herd or the NPHA wild horse herd known to occupy the area. Impacts to wild horses from oil and gas development have not been widely studied or documented. Inferences regarding potential impacts to wild horses utilizing the portion of the PEDHMA or NPHA within the Project Area(s) are largely based on anecdotal information and observations of the effects of oil and gas activities on the herd, and on known impacts to other large mammals (e.g., mule deer and cattle) that are dependent upon similar habitats and also forage within the Project Area.

Further, project activities may need to be adjusted around a wild horse gather if scheduled during the same time as the gather.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No impacts to wild horses would result from the No Action Alternative.

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

1. In wild horse use areas, open trenches associated with modifying and installing pigging facilities, cathodic protection, and pipeline construction should be inspected daily to reduce the potential for wild horses to become trapped should they fall into a trench. Operator will notify the BLM in either case; if a wild horse become trapped in the trench and is alive needing to be removed or has died due to being trapped.
2. Should the proposed action occur simultaneous with a wild horse gather, all project-related traffic would need to be coordinated with the BLM and the contractor for the gather if within an area being gathered.
3. To minimize the incidents of young foals becoming dislocated from their mares, construction personnel would be required to slow or stop when wild horses are encountered, allowing bands to move away at a pace slow enough so that the foals can keep pace and are not separated.
4. Access gates along the project will be kept closed so that wild horses are not allowed to gain to state highways within close proximity.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed project was covered by a Class III, 100% pedestrian, survey in 2009 (Peterson and Nelson 2010). This inventory recorded no new cultural resources. Three of the specific locations included in this proposal fall within the boundary of the Canyon Pintado National Historic District (CPHD). The project will have no affect on archaeological resources outside of CPHD.

The three pig receivers are located within the boundary of Canyon Pintado, but not within any of the identified archaeological sites in the District. Pig Receiver 27-4B is on BLM land, but will only consist of cutting out an old receiver and replacing it with a new. Pig receiver 27-5CK is on private land and will also involve cutting out an old receiver and installing a new. The installation of the new pig receiver in undisturbed ground is on private land within the District.

The first potential impact may be to the visual and aesthetic qualities of the District. During the construction process, cleared areas, heavy equipment, excavated holes, and piles of spoil soil will be visible at the three locations. This is expected to be a short term impact to the visual characteristics of the District, and the BLM does not believe that this constitutes an adverse

effect on CPHD. All above ground facilities will be painted covert green so there will be minor visual impacts to the district after construction is completed.

The second potential effect is that of the actual ground disturbance itself. Ground disturbance will involve using either backhoes or trackhoes to excavate down to the pipeline and open up the trench to be able to cut out the old piping and install the new. However most of the locations are in already disturbed ground. The only new disturbance proposed in the CPHD is the new pig receiver location on private land.

The BLM in consultation with the Colorado SHPO has determined that if the following mitigation measures are followed this project will have no adverse effect to cultural resources.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action will not adversely impact any known cultural resources if the mitigation measures are adhered to.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there would be no surface disturbance resulting in no impacts to cultural resources.

Mitigation: All above ground facilities within the boundary of Canyon Pintado will be painted covert green so there will be minor visual impacts to the district after construction is completed.

All ground disturbances in Canyon Pintado will be monitored by an archaeologist. Should previously unknown buried remains be located the following procedures are required:

- If the archaeological monitor determines that the remains constitute an isolated hearth feature, or other similar isolated feature, lacking artifacts or evidence of occupation surfaces the feature will be recorded on appropriate Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) forms, photographed, drawn in profile and radiocarbon and floatation samples will be collected following standard archaeological procedures. Floatation samples will be one dry liter in volume if adequate fill is present in the feature. There will be no need to notify the BLM.
- If the feature is more substantial all work must immediately stop in the vicinity of the find, and the BLM Authorized Officer shall be notified immediately by telephone.
- Within 48 hours of notification BLM will meet in the field with the consulting monitor and representatives of Northwest to evaluate the remains and determine any additional mitigation that may be required.
- If it is determined that the find is a significant feature such as a house basin or an occupation surface or similar feature and that preservation in situ is not possible one or more permanent datums shall be established outside the construction area to facilitate relocation of the site. All datum locations shall be mapped with a GPS unit capable of sub-meter accuracy. All remains that are within the construction zone shall be mapped in plan and profile and photographed. All pertinent and applicable OAHP site forms shall be completed along with any excavation forms used by the consultant to record artifacts recovered or stratigraphic data etc. Pollen and/or floatation samples shall be collected

from hearths or storage pits, as appropriate, and all fill shall be screened through appropriately sized hardware fabric (no larger than ¼ inch mesh).

- Upon completion of required mitigation Northwest will be given written notification to proceed.

Buried human remains are not anticipated during any phase of the Piceance Piggings Project. However, in the unlikely event that human remains are encountered Northwest shall:

- Immediately cease all operations in the vicinity of the find, a 300 foot buffer in all directions, to prevent further impacts. After construction has been halted construction personnel will promptly vacate the 300 foot buffer area. Vehicles and equipment may be removed from the buffer area or may be left in place until an archaeological monitor determines whether the bones are human. If the remains are determined to be human vehicle traffic within the buffer zone will be limited to that necessary to remove vehicle and equipment from the buffer zone. Orange construction barrier fencing may be installed to prevent inadvertent entry into the buffer zone.
- Immediately notify the Authorized Officer, by telephone, of the find with written follow up within 72 hours.
- Secure the site, with 24 hour onsite personnel if necessary, until any required consultation with the Colorado State Archaeologist and Native American tribes and required mitigation is completed.

Upon notification by Northwest that human remains have been encountered the BLM shall:

- Immediately notify the Rio Blanco County, Sheriff's office of the discovery and the location.
- Coordinate with the Sheriff's office to determine if the remains are modern or archaeological in nature.
- If the remains are determined to be modern the BLM will surrender jurisdiction to the Sheriff's office and render any aid requested by the Sheriff.
- For Non-Native American human remains found on BLM land the BLM will meet the requirements of applicable Colorado state law regarding Unmarked Human Graves at CRS 24-80-1302.
- If the remains are archaeological in nature the BLM shall notify the Colorado SHPO by telephone with written follow up within 72 hours, and notify Native American tribes by telephone with written follow up within 72 hours.

The BLM's policy is to leave burial sites and their content undisturbed whenever possible. If preservation in place is not an option for human remains discovered during this project and it becomes necessary to excavate and remove the remains to prevent further damage then Northwest shall:

- Ensure site security until such time as all excavations have been completed and they have been given written authorization to proceed.
- Bear full responsibility for all costs associated with removal, analysis, and repatriation and/or reburial of the remains.

If preservation in place is not an option for human remains discovered during this project and it becomes necessary to excavate and remove the remains to prevent further damage then the BLM shall:

- Consult with Native American tribes regarding repatriation and/or reburial of the remains.

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located in an area mapped primarily as Lower Part of the Green River Formation, with Modern Alluvium (Tweto 1979) in the Douglas Creek floodplain. The BLM, WRFO has classified these units as a PFYC 4 and PFYC 2, respectively. PFYC 4 formations are known to contain a high occurrence of significant fossil resources, while PFYC 2 units are not likely to contain significant fossils.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: If it becomes necessary, for any reason, to excavate into the underlying rock formation, the Lower Part of the Green River Formation, there is a potential to impact scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there would be no surface disturbance resulting in no impacts to fossil resources.

Mitigation: The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood, or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands. If significant paleontological resources are discovered during surface disturbing actions or at any other time, the operator or any of his agents must stop work immediately at the site, immediately contact the appropriate BLM representative, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage.

The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the official BLM representative.

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, significant delays may occur while the AO enacts mitigation procedures. The operator may elect to contract an approved paleontologist to execute site mitigations in order to expedite proceedings. 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.

All excavations into the underlying Green River Formation must be monitored by an approved paleontologist at the time of excavation.

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 known 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 Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, Not Brought Forward for Analysis	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 Critical Environmental Concern	X		
Wilderness	X		
Wild and Scenic Rivers	X		
Cadastral	X		
Socio-Economics	X		
Law Enforcement	X		

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed action would traverse areas with a VRM II, III, and IV classifications. The objective of the VRM II class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. Management activities may be visible but should not attract attention. The objective of the VRM III class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. The objective of the VRM IV class is to allow management activities that may attract attention and dominate the view through major modifications of the existing landscape but still mitigated.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action for the repair/replacement of pipeline structures and installation of pig launching stations/valves may attract some attention to the casual observer. The majority of the attention will be drawn during

the construction phase of the project due to heavy equipment activities. These construction activities are short in duration and will not have a lasting visual impact on the casual observer. Because of the change to the above ground valves and pigging valve installation the casual observer may be drawn to the area. The cattle guard fences placed around the Rifle and Greasewood Meter Stations, the Fletcher Gulch Meter Station and the replaced pigging valve(s) may attract attention if the materials are not painted to match the surrounding vegetation or if natural materials are not used. By painting all above ground facilities Covert Green or Carlsbad Canyon to mimic the nearby vegetation, the level of change to the characteristic landscape would be low, and the objectives of the VRM II, III and IV classifications would be retained.

The proposed action for the construction of new CPS sites would include the need to install new power poles. These power poles may attract attention to the casual observer. By using the same type of materials and height for the power poles, the level of change to the characteristic landscape would be low and the objectives of the VRM II, III and IV classifications would be retained.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there would be no new activities or structures that would attract the attention of the casual observer.

Mitigation: Any above ground power poles installed will use the same materials and height as the existing type of power poles in the area. Paint and maintain paint on all facilities approved with the proposed action to match surrounding vegetation with Covert Green or Carlsbad Canyon (Munsell Soil Color Chart of Standard Environmental Colors). Within Canyon Pintado Historical District, paint and maintain paint on all ground facilities with Covert Green and aerial facilities (i.e. rectifier pole boxes) with Carlsbad Canyon. Initial painting will occur within 6 months of installation and regularly maintained.

ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION

Affected Environment: The proposed action will traverse a network of Rio Blanco County, Colorado State Highway, and BLM road networks. The roads that will be involved are Colorado State Highway (SH) 64, Rio Blanco County (RBC) roads 76, 89, and 5, along with multiple numbered and unnumbered BLM roads. The roads that have a paved surface are SH 64 and RBC 5; all other road surfaces are dirt.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Increased traffic is expected as each CPS site is constructed and for each section of pipeline that is repaired/replaced, and for each valve that is replaced for the pigging operations. The majority of the traffic that could impact the public would be along SH 64, RBC 5, and RBC 76. Access would be short sections of roads that would branch off of the highway or county road to the pipeline ROW. Trucks turning onto the highway will be of concern especially on blind corners. RBC 76 is a dirt road that is primarily used for access to the Magnolia Bench area where multiple Compressor stations are located and runs adjacent to the Piceance Creek Lateral pipeline. Other roads used for access are primarily dirt surfaced with lesser amounts of traffic. It is expected that the dirt roads will experience some form of degradation due to the increase in heavy truck traffic and heavy

equipment traffic. Frequent use in dry conditions may result in an increase in fugitive dust and may impact some privately owned property or reduce visibility along the roadway when encountering oncoming traffic.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, no new routes will be established and there would be no travel along or adjacent to the pipeline ROW.

Mitigation: Damage to existing roads as a result of the proposed action will be repaired to a condition that is similar to the original state or better than what existed prior to the commencement of construction. Access to the pipeline route off of existing roads through vegetation will be reclaimed in its entirety to as close as possible to the preexisting condition. Any travel deterrents established on the pipeline ROW removed for access reasons will be replaced to continue to deter off road traffic along the pipeline ROW. If dust becomes an issue along the proposed action due to traffic, access routes may require watering or some form dust abatement.

REALTY AUTHORIZATIONS

Affected Environment: For CPS sites, placement of the deep well and electric cable would be outside of the authorized ROW. The Colorado Department of Transportation has requested that any access to/from permanent facilities, such as a CPS site, be granted as a part of the permanent ROW. White River Electric Association will provide electrical service. The rectifier pole would be within the pipeline right-of-way and electrical service would be brought in from nearby existing power lines. The temporary work areas for the CPS sites and the pigging modifications will require a temporary use permit.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The Piceance Creek Lateral pipeline CPS sites would be authorized as a permanent ROW containing 0.39 acres, more or less. Access to CPS location #1848 from Hwy 64 would be authorized as a part of the permanent ROW. Additional ROWs would be granted for the permanent facilities and would be authorized as described in the tables in the proposed action. Temporary use permits for the work areas associated with the pigging modifications and CPS sites would be authorized as described in the proposed action. The power structures required to connect the new CPS sites #1847 and #1848 to existing power lines would be amendments to ROWs COC39357C and COC40268.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: All activities would be required to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws, statutes, regulations, standards, and implementation plans. This would include acquiring all required State and Rio Blanco County permits, effectively coordinating with existing facility ROW holders, and implementing all applicable mitigation measures required by each permit.

The applicant shall provide the BLM AO with data in a format compatible with the WRFO's

ESRI ArcGIS Geographic Information System (GIS) to accurately locate and identify the right-of-way and all constructed infrastructure, (as-built maps) within 60 days of construction completion. Acceptable data formats are: (1) corrected global positioning system (GPS) files with sub-meter accuracy or better; (2) ESRI shapefiles or geodatabases; or at last resort, (3) AutoCAD .dwg or .dxf files. Option 2 is highly preferred. In ALL cases the data must be submitted in UTM Zone 13N, NAD 83, in units of meters. Data may be submitted as: (1) an email attachment; or (2) on a standard compact disk (CD) in compressed (WinZip only) or uncompressed format. All data shall include metadata, for each submitted layer, that conforms to the Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata from the Federal Geographic Data Committee standards. Questions should be directed to WRFO BLM GIS staff at (970) 878-3800.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: 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:

DOI BLM

2010 Treatment Plan for Northwest Pipeline Piceance Creek Pigging Project in Canyon Pintado, on file at the Bureau of Land Management White River Field Office, Meeker, Colorado.

Peterson, Marcia and Zachary Nelson

2010 A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for the Northwest Pipeline Piceance Creek Pigging Project and Class I File Search for the Piceance Creek Pipeline, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. ENTRIX, Inc., Salt Lake City, Utah.

Tweto, Ogden

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

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED:

Consultation with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office was completed on 4/12/2010, and is available in the case file located at the White River Field Office. Native American tribes were notified of the project, and no concerns were identified. In addition, the Colorado Division of Wildlife and Rio Blanco County reviewed this project.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: The proposed action was presented to, and reviewed by the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on 03/16/2010.

Date

BLM Interdisciplinary Team

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility	Date Signed
Bob Lange	Hydrologist	Air Quality, Wastes (Hazardous or Solids), Water Quality (Surface and Ground), Hydrology and Water Rights, and Soils	7/7/2010
Jill Schulte	Botanist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Threatened and Endangered Plant Species	5/24/10
Kristin Bowen	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources	
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species, Vegetation , Rangeland Management	7/20/10
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds, Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife, Wetlands and Riparian Zones	6/25/2010
Jim Michels	Forester /Fire / Fuels Technician	Wilderness, Access and Transportation, Recreation,	6/29/2010
Jim Michels	Forester /Fire / Fuels Technician	Fire Management, Forest Management	6/29/2010
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals	06/24/2010
Stacey Burke	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations	06/28/2010
Jim Michels	Forester /Fire / Fuels Technician	Visual Resources	6/29/2010
Melissa J. Kindall	Range Technician	Wild Horse Management	6/29/2010

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

DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0126-EA

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 approve the proposed action with the implementation of the mitigation measures listed below.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

Preliminary

1. All activities would be required to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws, statutes, regulations, standards, and implementation plans. This would include acquiring all required State and Rio Blanco County permits, effectively coordinating with existing facility ROW holders, and implementing all applicable mitigation measures required by each permit.

Soils

2. All construction and drilling activity shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless there are safety concerns or activities are approved by the Authorized Officer.
3. If salt is observed on the surface of soils during reclamation activities, a plan will be developed with approval of the BLM to improve reclamation on the site.
4. If erosion features such as riling, gullyng, piping, and/or mass wasting occur on disturbed surfaces subject to reclamation, the erosion features shall be addressed immediately after observation by submitting a plan to assure successful soil stabilization with BMPs to address the erosion problems.
5. Mitigation in the table shall be employed at the sites specified.

Site Name/Work Area	Mitigation
Drip Site 27-1 (WA)	Stabilize site during use and restore site to original contours during reclamation
Fletcher Gulch Site	Stabilize the portion of the site that will be used long term
CPS 674 and 1027 (WAs)	Use seed mix for saline soils

6. The release of any chemical, oil, petroleum product, or sewage, etc, must be contained immediately, cleaned up as soon as possible, and reported by the holder to the Bureau of Land Management.
7. Provide for erosion-resistant surface drainage by adding necessary drainage facilities and armoring prior to fall rain or snow. When erosion is anticipated, sediment barriers shall be constructed to slow runoff, allow deposition of sediment, and prevent it from leaving the site. In addition, use of straining or filtration mechanisms may also contribute to sediment removal from runoff.

GIS Reporting

8. The holder shall provide the BLM AO with data in a format compatible with the WRFO's ESRI ArcGIS Geographic Information System (GIS) to accurately locate and identify the right-of-way and all constructed infrastructure, (as-built maps) within 60 days of construction completion. Acceptable data formats are: (1) corrected global positioning system (GPS) files with sub-meter accuracy or better; (2) ESRI shapefiles or geodatabases; or at last resort, (3) AutoCAD .dwg or .dxf files. Option 2 is highly preferred. In ALL cases the data must be submitted in UTM Zone 13N, NAD 83, in units of meters. Data may be submitted as: (1) an email attachment; or (2) on a standard compact disk (CD) in compressed (WinZip only) or uncompressed format. All data shall include metadata, for each submitted layer, that conforms to the Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata from the Federal Geographic Data Committee standards. Questions should be directed to WRFO BLM GIS staff at (970) 878-3800.

Vegetation:

9. In order to aid revegetation, the holder shall submit a Pesticide Use Proposal as part of project approval to use Glyphosate, Imazapic, or both herbicides to control cheatgrass and weedy annuals.
10. Seedbed Preparation: Initial seedbed preparation will consist of recontouring all disturbed areas. All compacted areas will be ripped to a minimum depth of 18 inches with a minimum furrow spacing of 2 feet. After recontouring the surface, stockpiled subsoil and then topsoil should be evenly spread over the site. Prior to seeding, the seedbed will be scarified to a depth of no less than 4 - 6 inches by disking or other suitable method of cultivation. Further seedbed preparation such as cultipacking may be necessary. Drill seeding should only be accomplished in a firm seedbed. If the site is too steep to be drilled, it should be broadcast seeded, the surface being left rough enough to trap seed and snow, control erosion, and increase water infiltration.
11. On sites CPS 674, CPS 1027, Pig 27-48, Fletcher Gulch, Valve 27-3 and CPS 1848, after seedbed preparation and seeding, the surface should be mulched or crimped with 1000-1500 # per acre certified noxious weed free straw.
12. The holder shall be responsible for monitoring and control/eradication of all noxious and invasive species which establish on site for the life of the project.

13. The following site specific seed mixes shall be used:

CPS 674, CPS 1027, Pig 27-4B:

BLM WRFO Standard Seed Mix #1	
Species/Variety	Lbs. PLS/Acre
Western wheatgrass (Arriba)	3
Russian Wildrye (Bozoisky)	2
Crested wheatgrass (Hycrest)	3

Fletcher Gulch, Valve 27-3, CPS 1848, CPS 1847, and Valve 27-2:

BLM WRFO Standard Seed Mix #1	
Species/Variety	Lbs. PLS/Acre
Western wheatgrass (Arriba)	3
Russian Wildrye (Bozoisky)	2
Crested wheatgrass (Hycrest)	3

Drip 27-1, Mueller Tap, Rifle and Greasewood Meter Stations and pig launcher:

BLM WRFO Native Seed Mix #3	
Species/Variety	Lbs.PLS/Acre
Western wheatgrass (Rosanna)	2
Beardless wheatgrass , (Whitmar)	2
Thickspike wheatgrass (Critana)	1
Indian ricegrass (Rimrock)	2
Fourwing saltbush (Wytana, VNS Nortn. Lat)	1
Scarlet globemallow	0.5

Wildlife

14. Project-related excavation associated with **CPS location #674 shall not be allowed from 15 April to 15 August** in order to avoid potential disruption of black-footed ferret or burrowing owl reproductive activities.
15. To avoid the risk of deterring expanded use of suitable habitat by sage-grouse, project-related activity associated with **CPS location #1910 location shall not be allowed from 15 March through 15 July**.
16. Project-related activity **shall not be authorized to occur from 1 January to 30 April** on the following project components and regardless of winter weather conditions: **CPS #1847 and 0.7 mile of associated power line, 1.6 miles of power line associated with CPS #1848, and Valve 27-3**.

Wild Horses

17. In wild horse use areas, open trenches associated with modifying and installing pigging facilities, cathodic protection, and pipeline construction should be inspected daily to reduce the potential for wild horses to become trapped should they fall into a trench. The holder shall notify the BLM if a wild horse becomes trapped in the trench and is alive needing to be removed or has died due to being trapped.

18. Should the proposed action occur simultaneous with a wild horse gather, all project-related traffic would need to be coordinated with the BLM and the contractor for the gather, if within an area being gathered.
19. To minimize the incidents of young foals becoming dislocated from their mares, construction personnel shall slow or stop when wild horses are encountered, allowing bands to move away at a pace slow enough so that the foals can keep pace and are not separated.
20. Access gates along the project will be kept closed so that wild horses are not allowed to gain to state highways within close proximity.

Cultural/Paleontology

21. All ground disturbances in Canyon Pintado shall be monitored by an archaeologist. Should previously unknown buried remains be located the following procedures are required:
 - If the archaeological monitor determines that the remains constitute an isolated hearth feature or other similar isolated feature, lacking artifacts or evidence of occupation surfaces, the feature will be recorded on appropriate Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) forms, photographed, drawn in profile, and radiocarbon and flotation samples will be collected following standard archaeological procedures. Flotation samples will be one dry liter in volume if adequate fill is present in the feature. There will be no need to notify the BLM.
 - If the feature is more substantial, all work must immediately stop in the vicinity of the find, and the BLM Authorized Officer shall be notified immediately by telephone.
 - Within 48 hours of notification, BLM will meet in the field with the consulting monitor and representatives of the holder to evaluate the remains and determine any additional mitigation that may be required.
 - If it is determined that the find is a significant feature, such as a house basin or an occupation surface or similar feature, and that preservation in situ is not possible one or more permanent datums shall be established outside the construction area to facilitate relocation of the site. All datum locations shall be mapped with a GPS unit capable of sub-meter accuracy. All remains that are within the construction zone shall be mapped in plan and profile and photographed. All pertinent and applicable OAHP site forms shall be completed along with any excavation forms used by the consultant to record artifacts recovered or stratigraphic data, etc. Pollen and/or flotation samples shall be collected from hearths or storage pits, as appropriate, and all fill shall be screened through appropriately sized hardware fabric (no larger than ¼ inch mesh).
 - Upon completion of required mitigation the holder shall be given written notification to proceed.
22. Buried human remains are not anticipated during any phase of the project. However, in the unlikely event that human remains are encountered the holder shall:
 - Immediately cease all operations in the vicinity of the find (a 300 foot buffer in all directions) to prevent further impacts. After construction has been halted, construction personnel will promptly vacate the 300 foot buffer area. Vehicles and equipment may be removed from the buffer area or may be left in place until an archaeological monitor determines whether the bones are human. If the remains are determined to be human,

vehicle traffic within the buffer zone will be limited to that necessary to remove vehicle and equipment from the buffer zone. Orange construction barrier fencing may be installed to prevent inadvertent entry into the buffer zone.

- Immediately notify the Authorized Officer, by telephone, of the find with written follow up within 72 hours.
- Secure the site, with 24 hour onsite personnel if necessary, until any required consultation with the Colorado State Archaeologist and Native American tribes and required mitigation is completed.

The BLM's policy is to leave burial sites and their content undisturbed whenever possible. If preservation in place is not an option for human remains discovered during this project and it becomes necessary to excavate and remove the remains to prevent further damage then the holder shall:

- Ensure site security until such time as all excavations have been completed and they have been given written authorization to proceed.
- Bear full responsibility for all costs associated with removal, analysis, and repatriation and/or reburial of the remains.

23. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood, or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands. If significant paleontological resources are discovered during surface disturbing actions or at any other time, the holder or any of his agents must stop work immediately at the site, immediately contact the appropriate BLM representative, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage.

- The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the official BLM representative.
- If the holder 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, significant delays may occur while the AO enacts mitigation procedures. The holder may elect to contract an approved paleontologist to execute site mitigations in order to expedite proceedings. 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 holder will then be allowed to resume construction.

24. All excavations into the underlying Green River Formation must be monitored by an approved paleontologist at the time of excavation.

Visual Resources

25. Any above ground power poles installed will use the same materials and height as the existing type of power poles in the area.

26. Paint and maintain paint on all facilities approved with the proposed action to match surrounding vegetation with Covert Green or Carlsbad Canyon (Munsell Soil Color Chart of Standard Environmental Colors). Initial painting will occur within 6 months of installation and regularly maintained. ***Within Canyon Pintado Historical District***, paint and maintain paint on all ground facilities with Covert Green and aerial facilities (i.e. rectifier pole boxes) with Carlsbad Canyon.

Transportation/Roads

27. Damage to existing roads as a result of the proposed action shall be repaired to a condition that is similar to the original state or better than what existed prior to the commencement of construction.
28. Access to the pipeline route off of existing roads through vegetation shall be reclaimed in its entirety to as close as possible to the preexisting condition. Any travel deterrents established on the pipeline ROW removed for access reasons will be replaced to continue to deter off road traffic along the pipeline ROW.
29. If dust becomes an issue along the proposed action due to traffic, access routes may require watering or some form dust abatement.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by the BLM White River Field Office staff during and after construction. Specific mitigation developed in this document will be followed. The holder will be notified of compliance related issues, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), will be provided 30 days to resolve such issues.

NAME OF PREPARER: Stacey Burke

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Caroline Hollowed

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

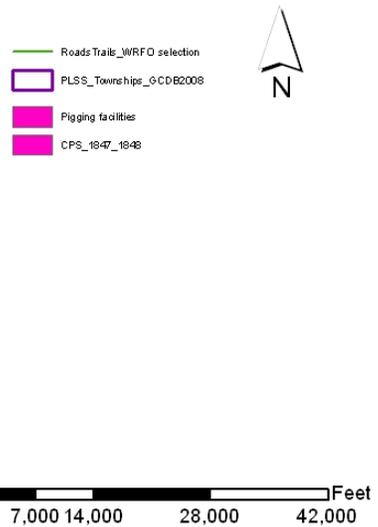
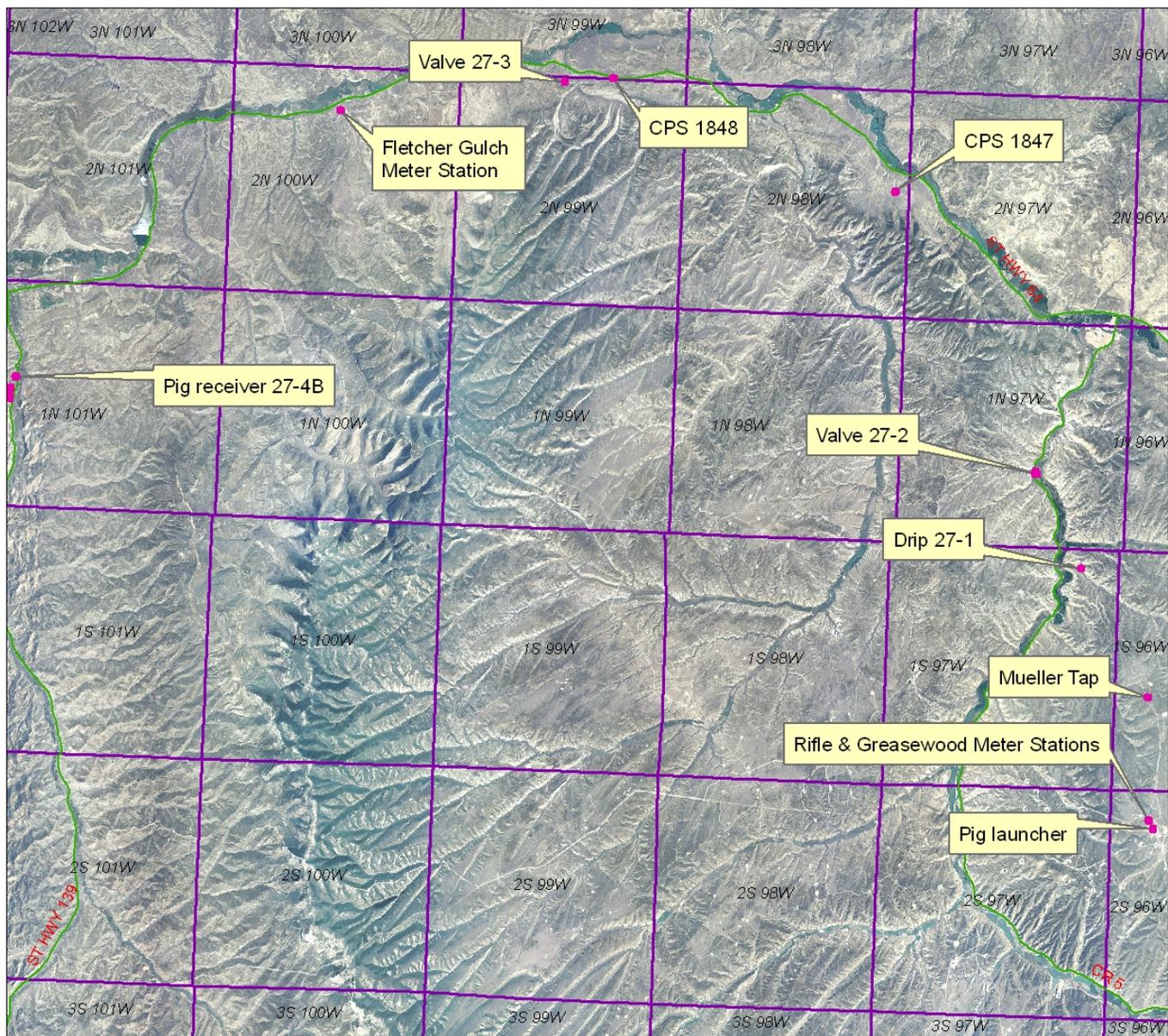

Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 7/27/10

ATTACHMENTS: Project Maps (3)

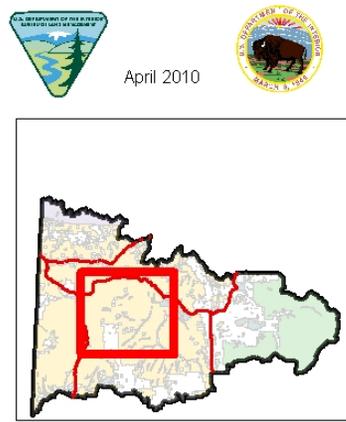
Piceance Lateral Pigging Modifications and CPS

EXHIBIT A



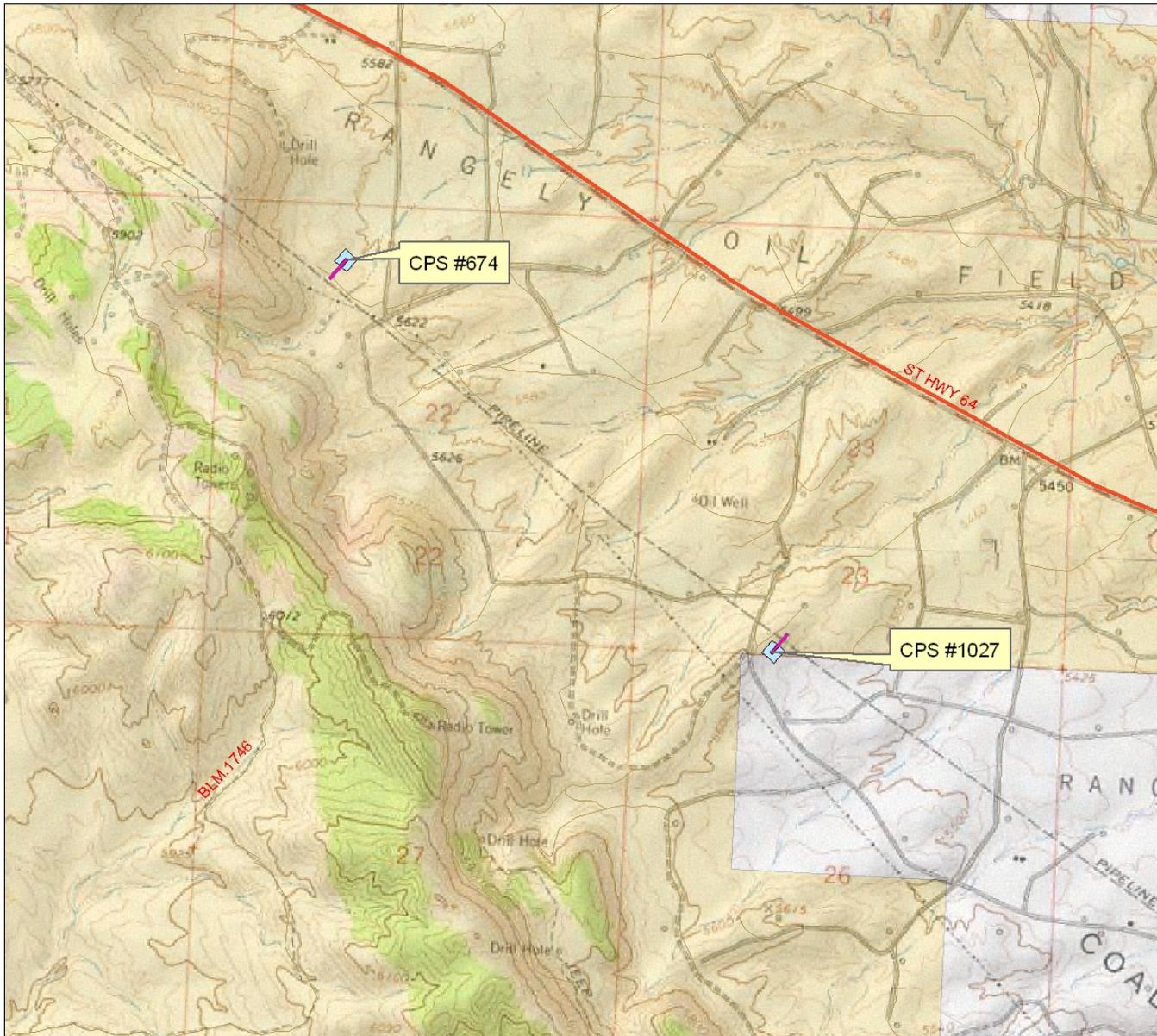
Sources:
BLM, USGS, CDOW, etc.

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Ignacio-Sumas Cathodic Protection Sites T. 2 N., R. 103 W.

EXHIBIT A



- Temporary Work Area
- CPS
- BLM
- CDW
- County
- FDR
- NPS
- PRI
- STA
- State
- County
- BLM
- USFS
- NPS
- Other

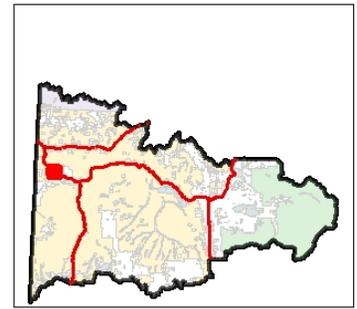


Sources:
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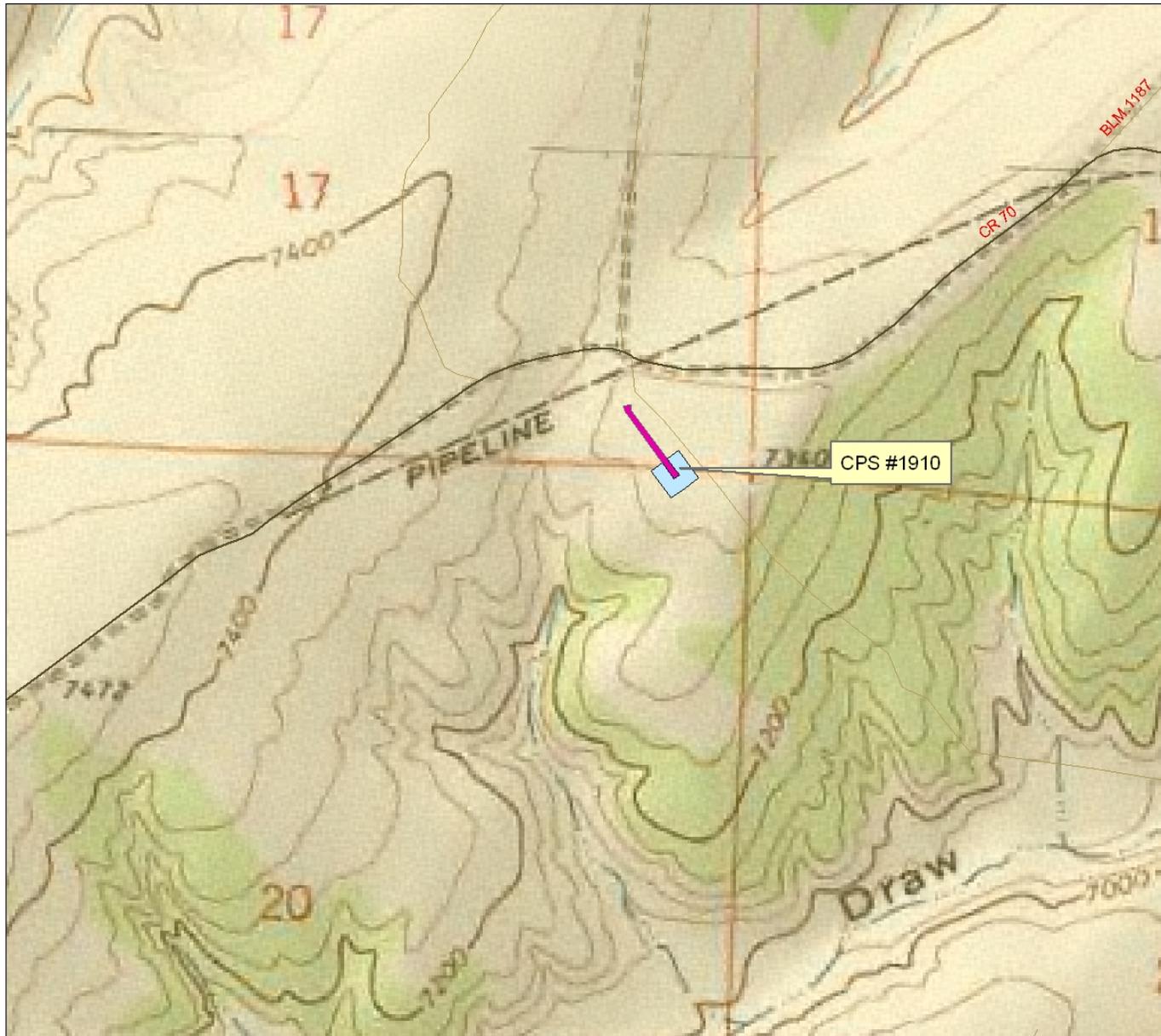


June 2010



Colorado Hub (CHUB) Cathodic Protection Site T. 2 S., R. 99 W.

EXHIBIT A



- Temporary Work Area
- CPS 1910
- Temporary Work Area
- CPS
- BLM
- CDW
- County
- FOR
- NPS
- PRI
- STA
- State
- County
- BLM
- USFS
- NPS
- Other



Sources:
BLM, USGS, CDOW, etc.

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June 2010

