

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

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0265-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC50066, COC52847, COC57750, COC61655, COC62191, COC62936, COC63382, COC63391, and COC66798

PROJECT NAME: Assignment of ROWs Encana to Koch

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 2 N., R. 96 W. }
T. 2 N., R. 97 W. } See attached Exhibit B for complete legal description

APPLICANT: Koch Exploration Company, LLC

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. has sold their interests in the Ant Hill Unit and several leases to Koch Exploration Company, LLC. Koch Exploration Company, LLC (hereafter Koch) operates the wells and has submitted an application requesting the assignment of 9 access road and pipeline rights-of-way from Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc (see Exhibit A for maps). They have provided a copy of the executed assignment document signed by each company. Koch agrees to be bound by all of the terms and conditions of the right-of-way grants.

No construction would be authorized by this action. Any new disturbance would require an application, analysis, and authorization. Applicable stipulations from original grants would be carried forward.

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

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

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Page 2-49

DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0265-CX

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.”

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, Number (E-9): “*Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.*”

The proposed action has been reviewed with the list of extraordinary circumstances described in the table below. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Exception	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.		X
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands, floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau of office.		X
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations		X

Exception	YES	NO
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

The proposed action was presented to, and reviewed by the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on October 05, 2010. A list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office.

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: A change in lessee does not currently present any new threat to cultural resources. The various rights-of-way and well pads were inventoried before construction and appropriate mitigation measures were attached to the approvals. There should be no new impacts to cultural resources. (MRS 10/29/2010)

Native American Religious Concerns: No Native American Religious Concerns are known in the area, and none have been noted by Northern Ute tribal authorities. Should recommended inventories or future consultations with Tribal authorities reveal the existence of such sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken. (MRS 10/29/2010)

Paleontological Resources: The rights-of-way and wells in question are located in an area generally mapped as the Wasatch Formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM WRFO has classified as a PFYC 5 formation, meaning it is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources (Armstrong and Wolny 1989). As long as there is no new ground disturbance, there should be no new impacts to fossil resources. (MRS 10/29/2010)

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: As this is a transfer in name only and will not involve any surface disturbance, there will be no influence on special status, terrestrial, or aquatic wildlife species. (LRB 11/03/10)

Special Status Plant Species: There are no special status plant species known to occur in the vicinity of the ROWs. The proposed action is expected to have no impact on special status plants or associated habitats. (JKS 10/08/10)

MITIGATION: All applicable terms and conditions of the original right-of-way grants will be carried forward and remain in full force and effect.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring activities will be conducted by White River Field Office staff. Specific mitigation developed in the associated Categorical Exclusion and the grant terms and conditions will be followed. The holder will be notified of compliance related issues and will be provided 30 days to resolve such issues.

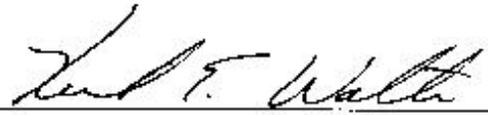
NAME OF PREPARER: Stacey Burke

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Heather Sauls

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this CX and have decided to approve the proposed action.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: _____



Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

01/03/2011

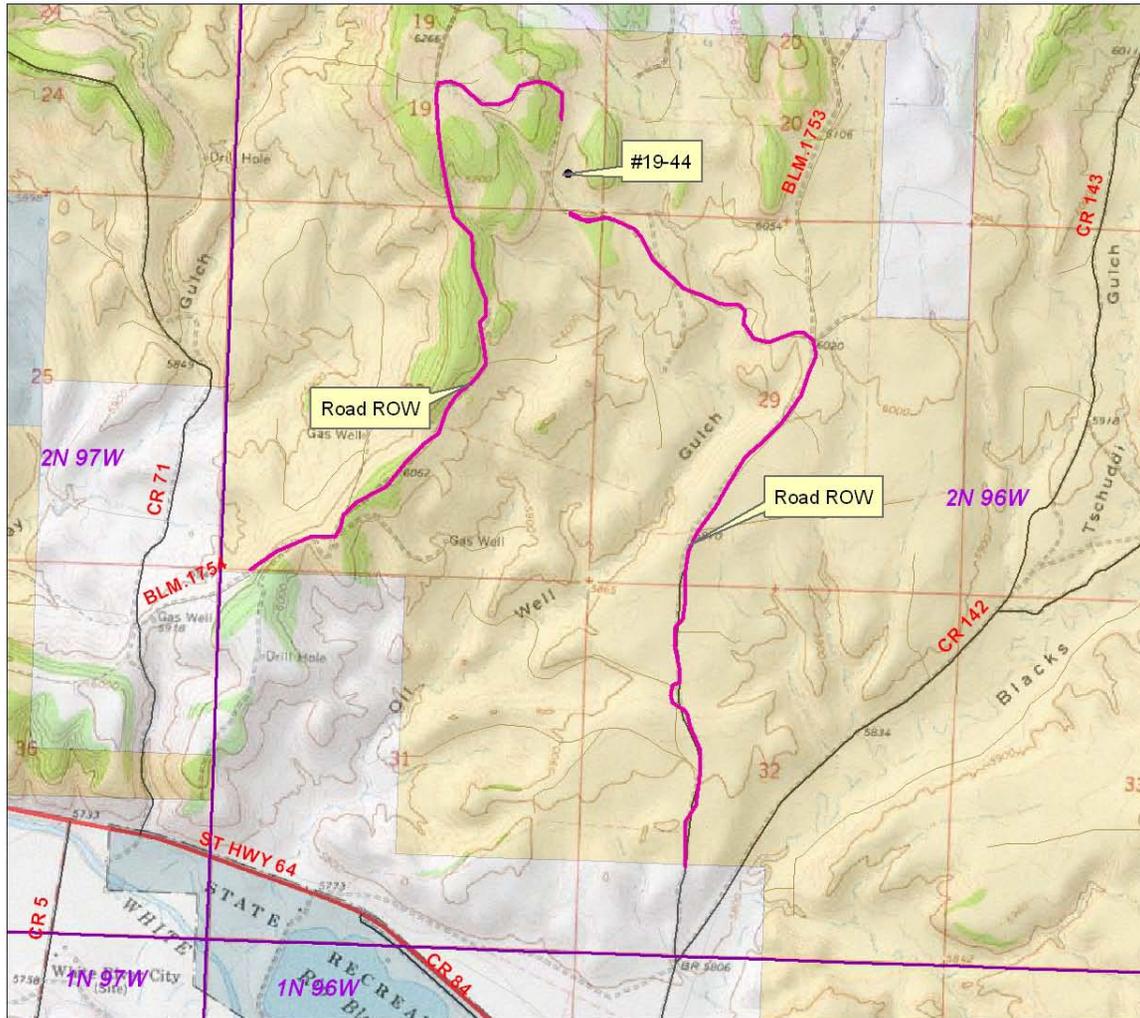
ATTACHMENTS:

Exhibit A – Nine maps of the ROWs

Exhibit B – ROW legal descriptions

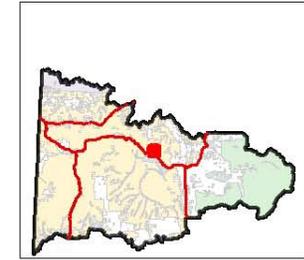
COC57750 Assignment of access road ROW
T. 2 N., R. 96 W.

EXHIBIT A



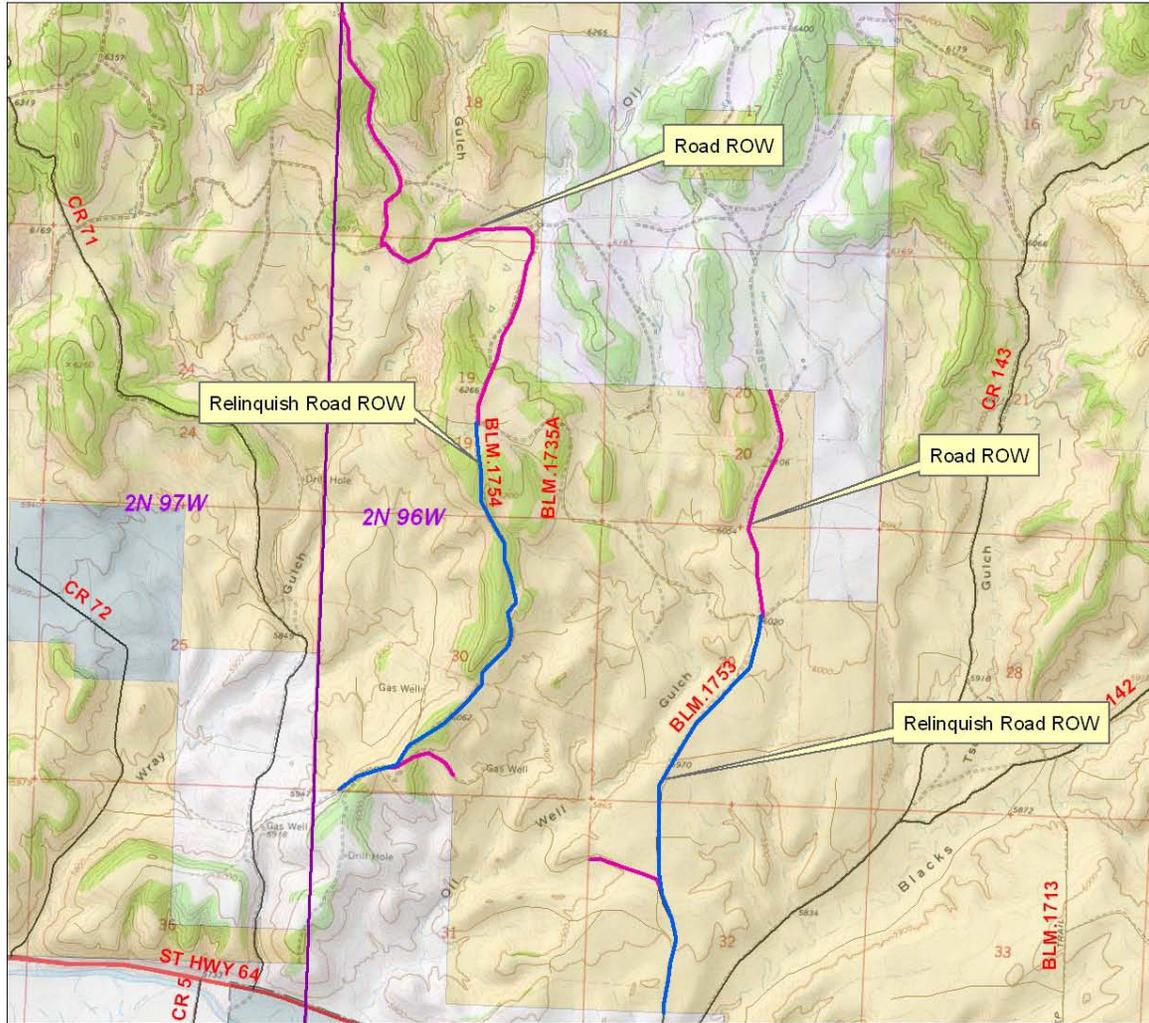
Sources:
BLM, USGS, CDOW, etc.

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COC50066 Assignment & Partial Relinquishment of Road ROW
T. 2 N., R. 96 W.

EXHIBIT A



- COC50066 Relinquishment
- COC50066 Road ROW
- PLS5 Townships_OCD82008
- BLM
- CDW
- County
- FOR
- NPS
- PRI
- STA
- State
- County
- BLM
- USFS
- NPS
- Other



Sources:
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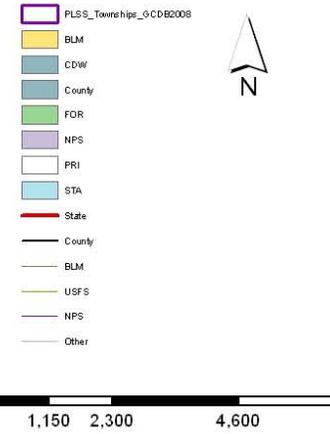
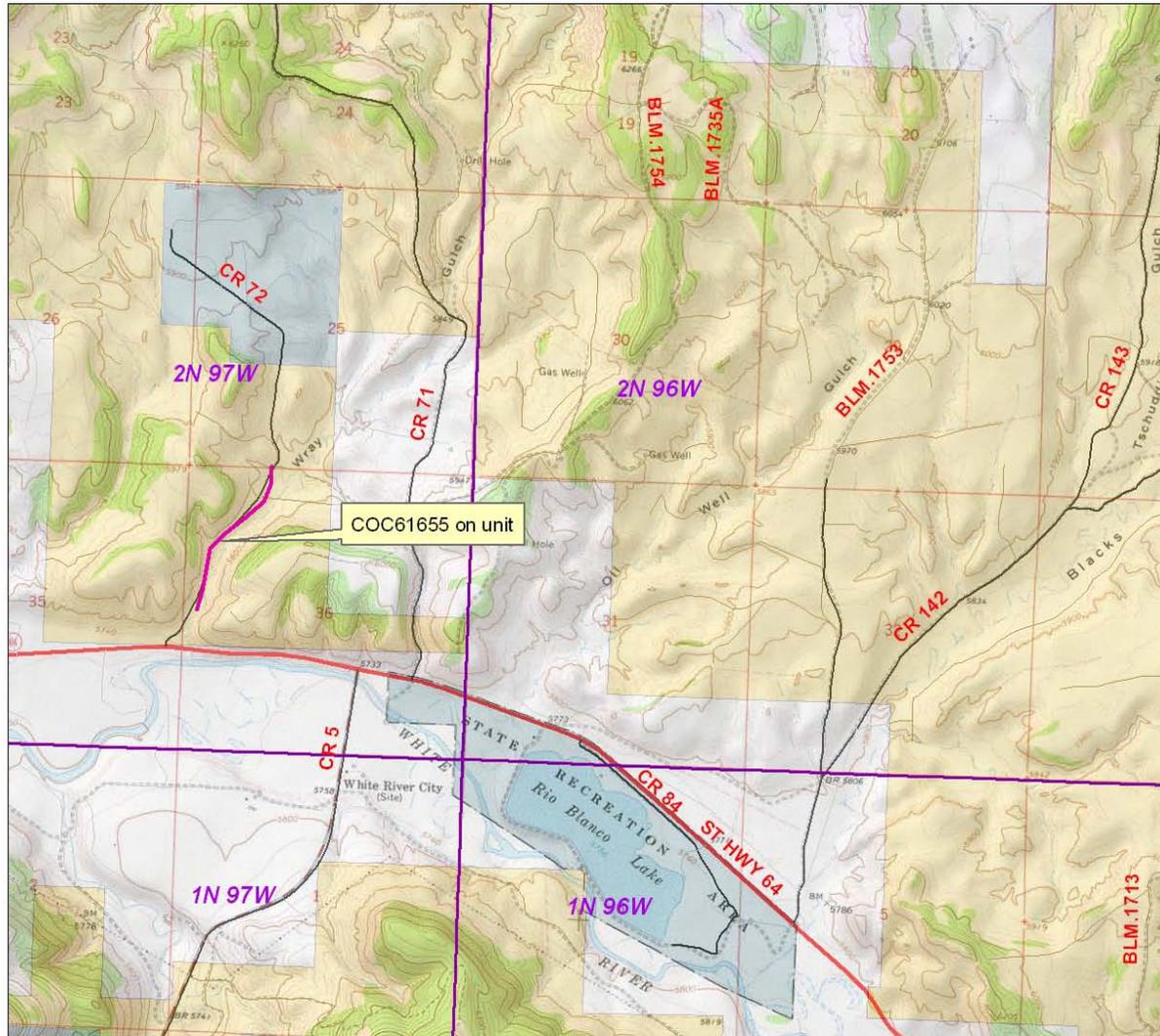


December 2010



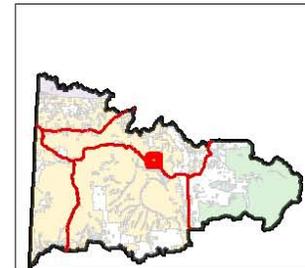
COC61655 Assignment of access road ROW
T. 2 N., R. 96 W.

EXHIBIT A



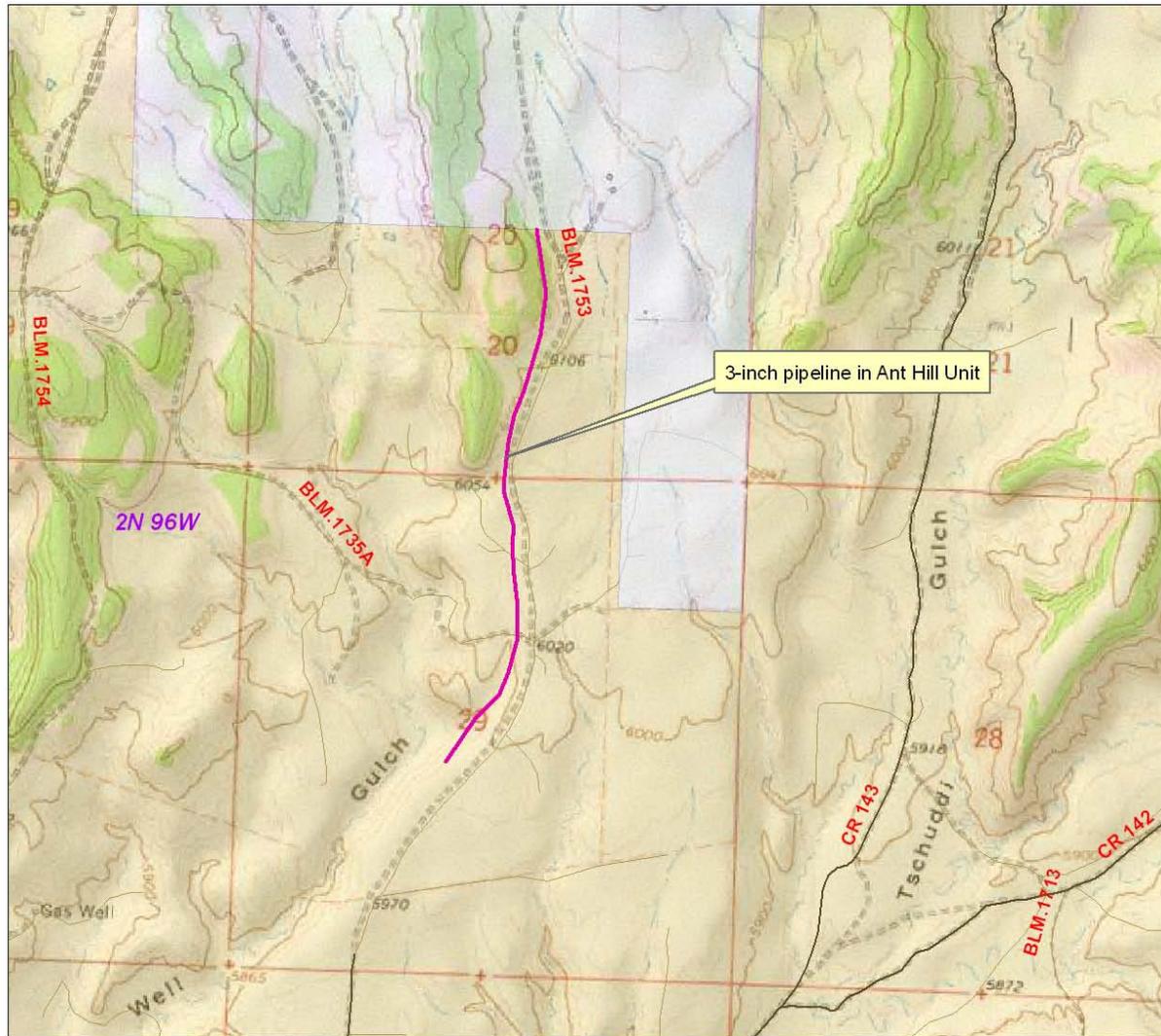
Sources:
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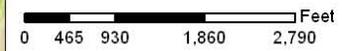


COC62191 Assignment of Pipeline ROW
T. 2 N., R. 96 W.

EXHIBIT A



- PLS3_Townships_GCD82008
- BLM
- CDW
- County
- FOR
- NPS
- PRI
- STA
- State
- County
- BLM
- USFS
- NPS
- Other

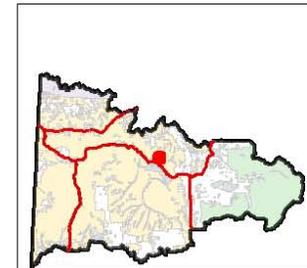


Sources:
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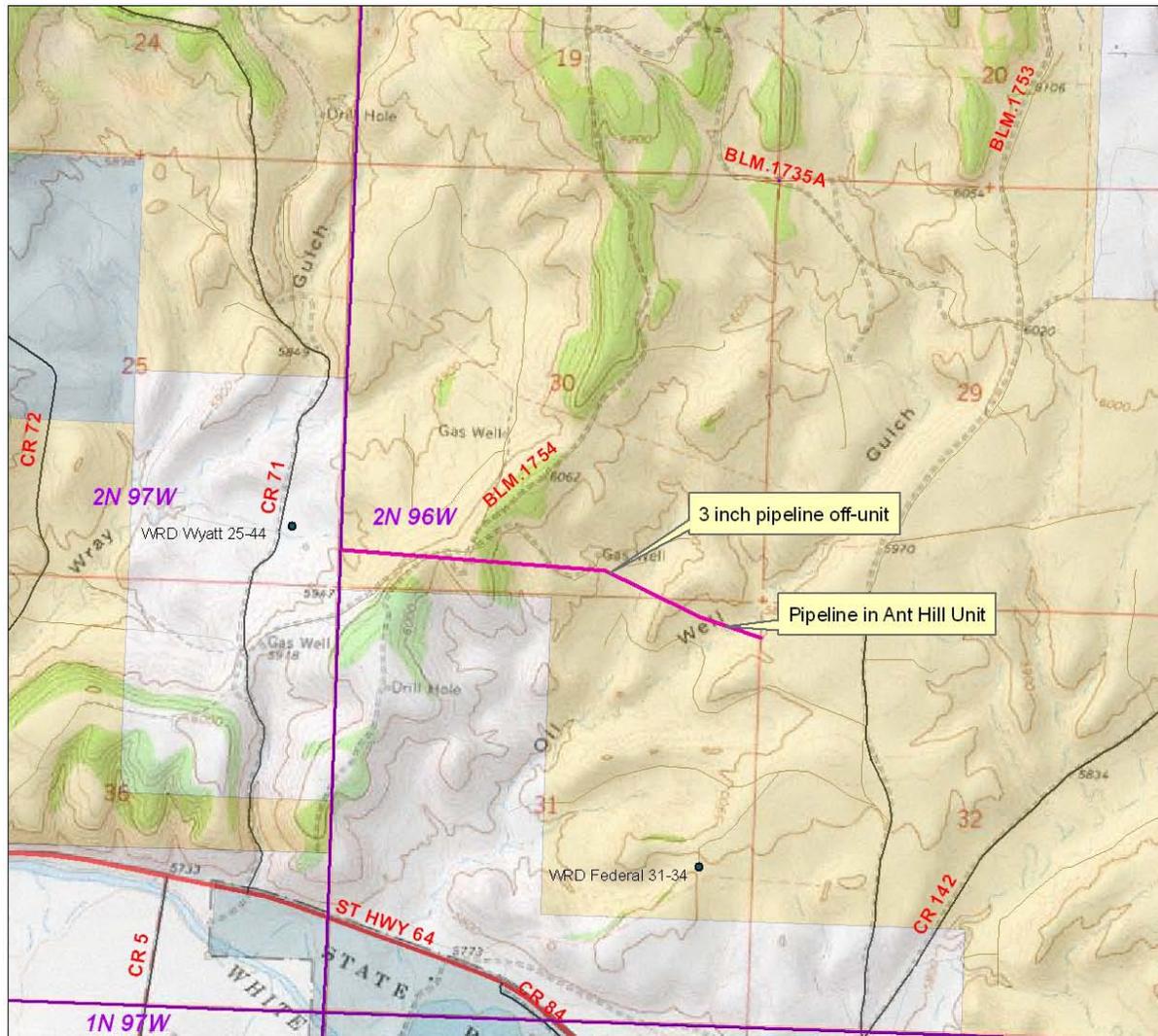


December 2010

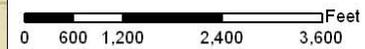


COC63391 Assignment of pipeline ROW T. 2 N., R. 96 W.

EXHIBIT A



- Wells
- PLSSTownships_GCD82008
- BLM
- CDOW
- County
- FOR
- NPS
- PRI
- STA
- State
- County
- BLM
- USFS
- NPS
- Other

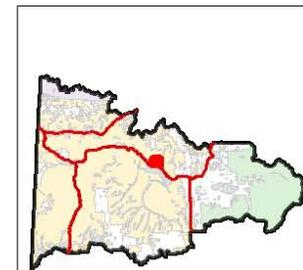


Sources:
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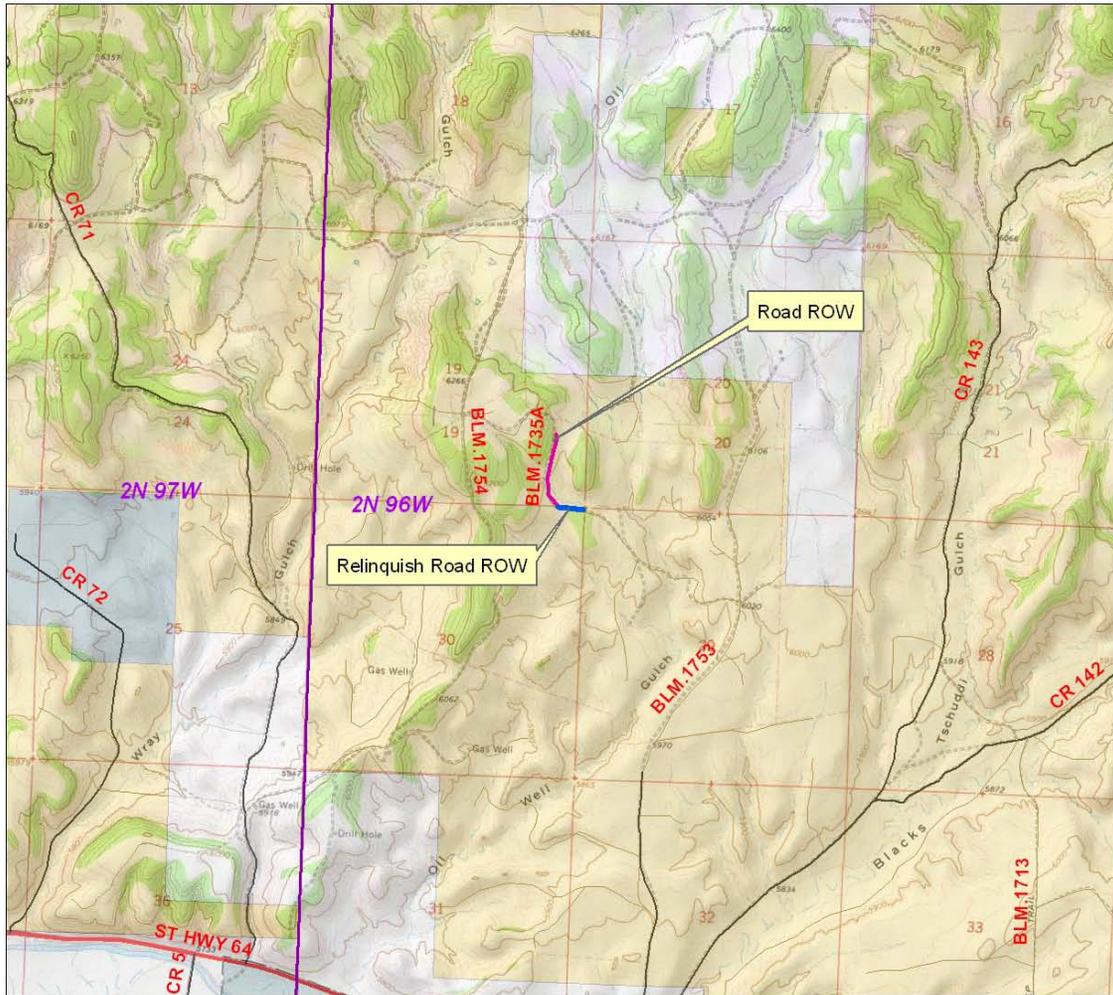


October 2010



COC62936 Assignment & Partial Relinquishment of Road ROW
T. 2 N., R. 96 W.

EXHIBIT A



- COC62936 Relinquishment
- ROW COC62936
- PLS5_Townships_GCDB2008
- BLM
- CDW
- County
- FDR
- NPS
- PRI
- STA
- State
- County
- BLM
- USFS
- NPS
- Other

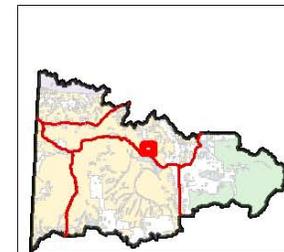


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December 2010



COC63382 Assignment of pipeline ROW T. 2 N., R. 96 W.

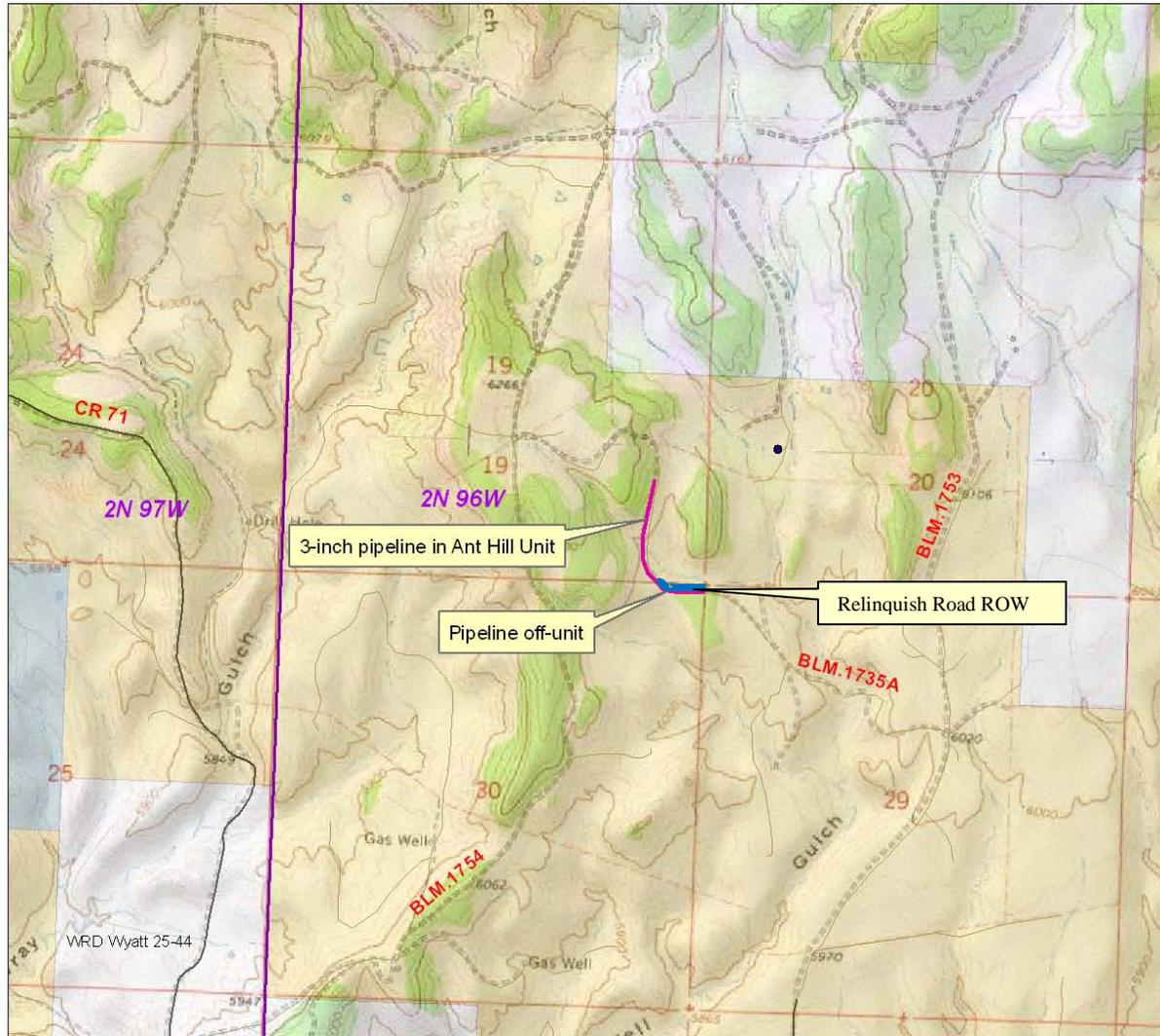
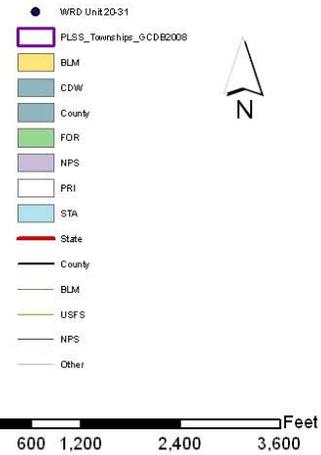


EXHIBIT A

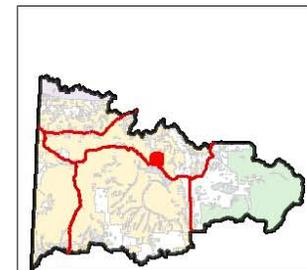


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October 2010



COC52847 Partial Assignment of Water Pipeline ROW T. 2 N., R. 96 W.

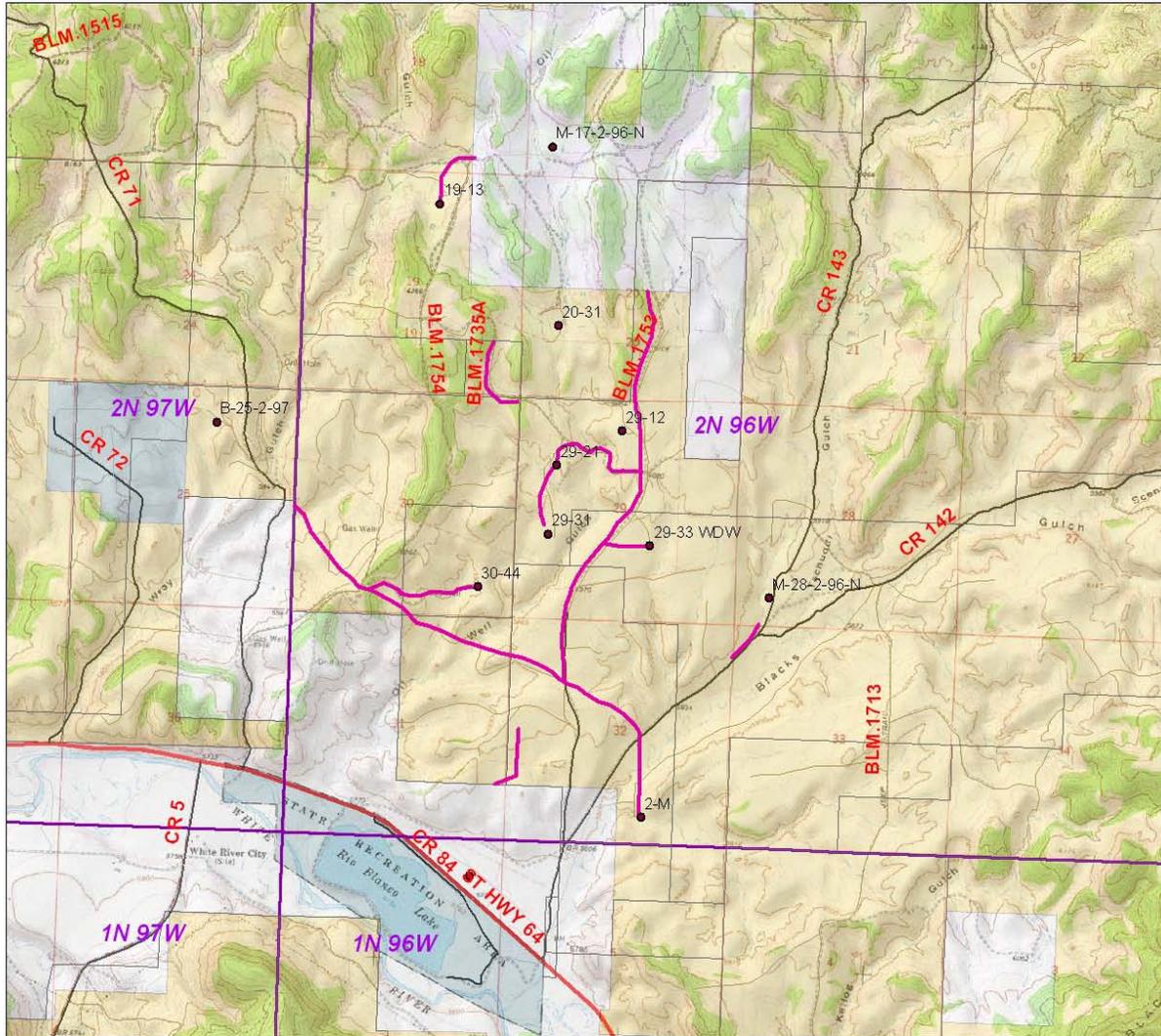
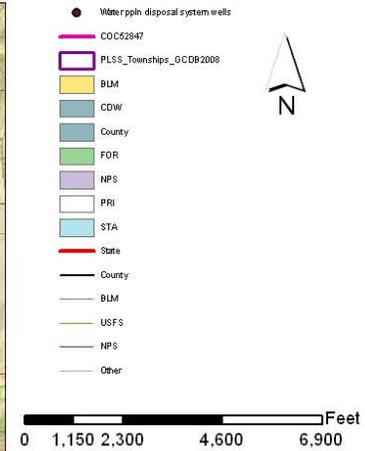


EXHIBIT A



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December 2010



COC66798 Assignment of Access Road ROW
T. 2 N., R. 97 W.

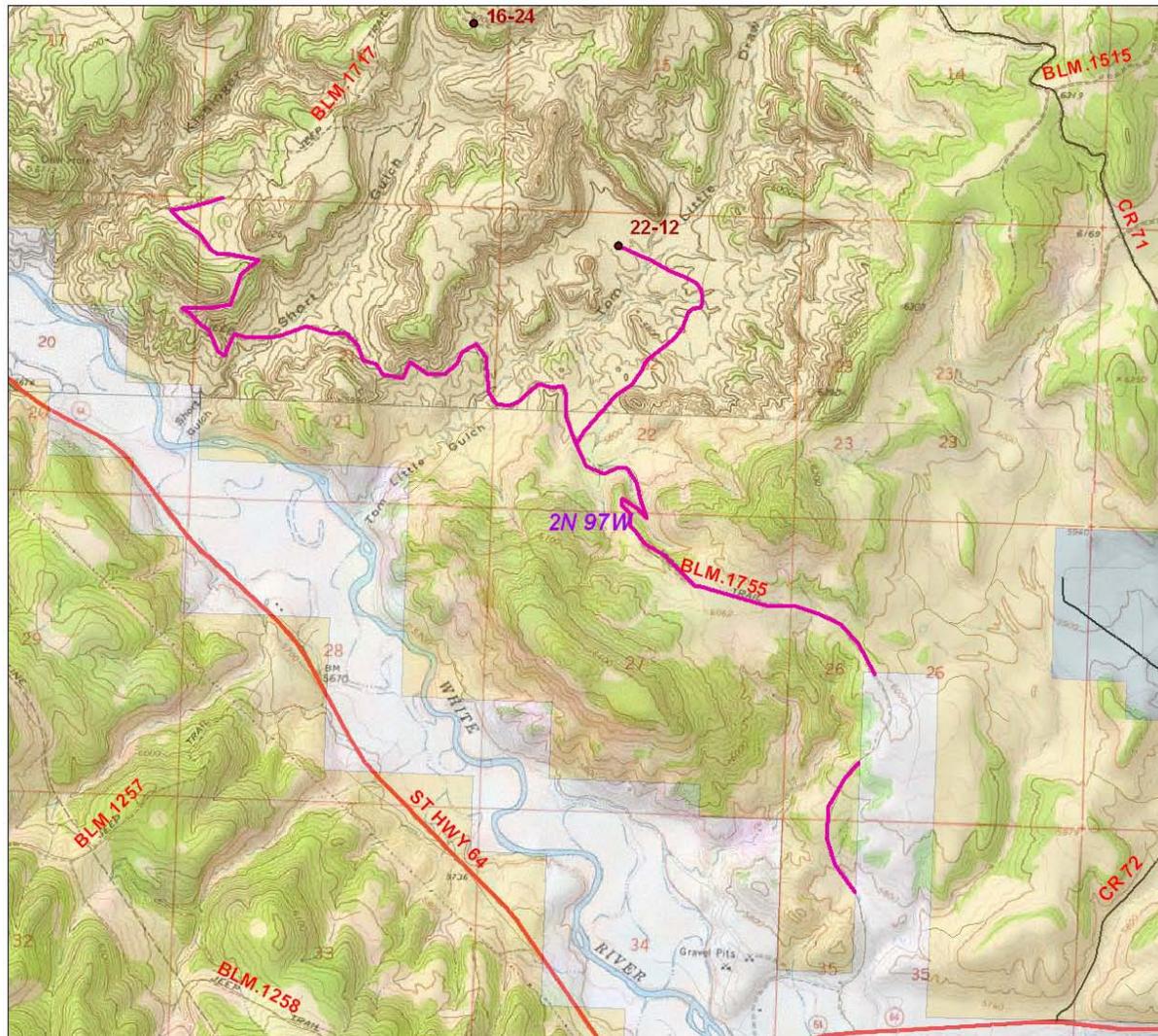
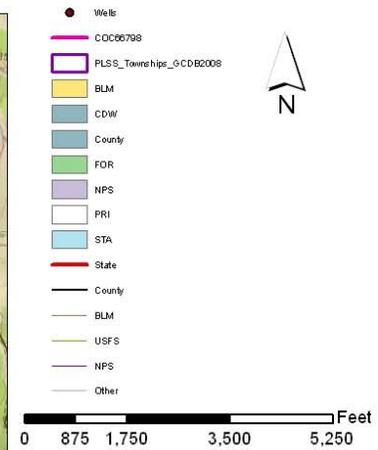


EXHIBIT A



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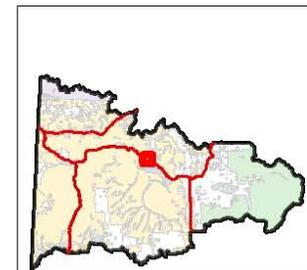


EXHIBIT B – ROW Legal Descriptions

ROW Serial #	Case Type	Legal Description	Expiration Date	Length	Width (feet)	Acres
COC57750	Road	T. 2 N., R. 96 W., sec. 19, N2SE, SWSE; sec. 29, E2W2, NWNW, SWNE, NWSE, SWSW ; sec. 30, lot 8, W2NE, NENE, E2SW, SWSW, NWSE; sec. 32, NW, NESW.	12/31/2025	25,000 feet	25	14.35
COC50066	Road	T. 2 N., R. 96 W., sec. 18, lots 5-8, SESW, SWSE; sec. 19, lot 5, W2NE, NENW, NWSE; sec. 20, W2SE; sec. 29, W2NE; sec. 30, SESW; sec. 32, W2NW, SENW.	12/31/2020	40,700 feet	25	23.36
	Relinquish	T. 2 N., R. 96 W., sec. 19, SWSE; sec. 29, SWSW, E2SW, NWSE; sec. 30, lot 8, W2NE, NESW, NWSE; sec. 32, NESW.		Relinquish ~20,500 feet		Relinquish ~11.77 acres
COC61655	Road	T. 2 N., R. 97 W., sec. 36, W2NW.	12/31/2028	3,200 feet	30	2.2
COC62191	Pipeline	T. 2 N., R. 96 W., sec. 20, W2SE; sec. 29, W2NE, SENW, NESW.	12/31/2018	6,200 feet	35	4.98
COC63391	Pipeline	T. 2 N., R. 96 W., sec. 30, lot 8, SESW, SWSE; sec. 31, N2NE.	12/31/2029	4,000 feet	35	3.21
COC62936	Road	T. 2 N., R. 96 W., sec. 19, SESE.	12/31/2029	2,000 feet	35	1.61
	Relinquish	T. 2 N., R. 96 W., sec. 30, NENE.		Relinquish ~ 520 feet		Relinquish ~0.42 acres
				ROW = 1,480 feet		ROW= 1.19 acres

COC63382	Pipeline	T. 2 N., R. 96 W., sec. 19, SESE; sec. 30, NENE.	12/31/2029	1,000 feet	35	0.8
COC74695	Partial Assignment of Water pipeline	T. 2 N., R. 96 W., sec. 18, SWSE; sec. 19, SESE, NENE; sec. 20, W2SE; sec. 29, W2NE, NW, SW, NWSE; sec. 30, lot 7, 8, S2SE; sec. 31, N2NE, SESE; sec. 32, SWNE, SW, W2SW, W2SE; sec. 33, NWNW.	12/31/2011	41,620 feet	35 to 50	34.74
	*Encana will retain disposal well #2M in COC52847	T. 2 N., R. 96 W., Sec. 18, SWSE.		200 feet	250 feet	1.15
COC66798	Road	T. 2 N., R. 97 W., sec. 20, lot 16, NENE; sec. 21, lot 1, NWNW, S2N2, N2SE; sec. 22, W2NE, E2W2, NWSW, SWSE; sec. 26, S2NW, SWSW; sec. 27, N2NE, SENE, NENW; sec. 35, NWNW.	12/31/2032	27,000 feet	30	18.6