

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-110-2011-0037-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC74742

PROJECT NAME: Access Road ROW to Rangely NE Weber Unit

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 2 N., R. 102 W.,
sec. 25, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 36, lots 4, 6, and 10, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

APPLICANT: Saga Petroleum Corporation (Saga)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

Saga requests authorization to use existing roads authorized in road right-of-way (ROW) COC54945 to access wells within the Rangely NE Weber Unit. Saga originally requested an assignment of road ROW COC54945 from Samson Resources Company (Samson). Samson is responsible for the Government #1041-2 well within the Rangely NE Weber Unit; therefore, Samson needs to retain the ROW for the road until final abandonment is approved. Total length of the road ROW will be approximately 10,000 feet with a width of 20 feet, containing 4.59 acres. Saga agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of ROW grant COC54945 which would be applied to the new ROW COC74742. No new construction or additional disturbance would be authorized.

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

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-12) *Grants of right-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatible developed rights-of-way*.

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
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

Exception	YES	NO
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 December 14, 2010. A list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office.

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The proposed action does not involve any new soil disturbance and represents a new right-of-way holder on an existing, approved right-of-way. There should be no new impacts to cultural resources under the proposed action. (MRS 12/16/2010)

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 12/16/2010)

Paleontological Resources: The project is located in an area that crosses three geological units, Quaternary Alluviums, and Aeolian Alluviums (Tweto 1979) which the BLM WRFO has classified as PFYC 1 formations as they are not generally known to produce fossil resources in northwest Colorado (Armstrong and Wolny 1989). The third formation is Mancos Shale (Tweto 1979) which the BLM WRFO has classified as a PFYC 3 formation. In other areas this formation has produced scientifically noteworthy fossils, but none are known from this area (Armstrong and Wolny 1989). (MRS 12/16/2010)

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: No wildlife-related issues or concerns. (EH 12/16/2010)

Threatened and Endangered Plant Species: This proposed action has no potential to impact threatened and/or endangered plant species. (MT 12/28/2010)

Wastes/Hazardous Materials: 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 potential for harm to the environment is presented by risks associated with spills of fuel, oil and/or hazardous substances during oil and gas operations. Accidents and mechanical breakdown of machinery are also possible.

1. As a reasonable and prudent right-of-way holder, acting in good faith, the holder will report all emissions or releases that may pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, regardless of a substance's status as exempt or nonexempt and regardless of fault, to the Bureau of Land Management's White River Field Office at (970) 878-3800.
2. As a reasonable and prudent right-of-way holder, acting in good faith, the holder will provide for the immediate clean-up and testing of air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils contaminated by the emission or release of any substance that may pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, regardless of that substance's status as exempt or non-exempt. Where the holder fails, refuses or neglects to provide for the immediate clean-up and testing of air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils contaminated by the emission or release of any quantity of a substance that poses a risk of harm to human health or the environment, the Bureau of Land Management's White River Field Office may take measures to clean-up and test air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils at the lessee/operator's expense. Such action will not relieve the holder of any liability or responsibility.

REFERENCES CITED:

Armstrong, Harley J. and David G. Wolny
1989 Paleontological Resources of Northwest Colorado: A Regional Analysis. Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, Colorado.

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

MITIGATION: All terms, conditions, and stipulations contained in ROW grant COC54945 shall be applied to ROW grant COC74742.

1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing paleontological sites, or for collecting fossils. If fossil materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO).

Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear to be of noteworthy scientific interest
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not feasible)

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

for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. As a reasonable and prudent right-of-way holder, acting in good faith, the holder will report all emissions or releases that may pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, regardless of a substance's status as exempt or nonexempt and regardless of fault, to the Bureau of Land Management's White River Field Office at (970) 878-3800.

3. As a reasonable and prudent right-of-way holder, acting in good faith, the holder will provide for the immediate clean-up and testing of air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils contaminated by the emission or release of any substance that may pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, regardless of that substance's status as exempt or non-exempt. Where the holder fails, refuses or neglects to provide for the immediate clean-up and testing of air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils contaminated by the emission or release of any quantity of a substance that poses a risk of harm to human health or the environment, the Bureau of Land Management's White River Field Office may take measures to clean-up and test air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils at the lessee/operator's expense. Such action will not relieve the holder of any liability or responsibility.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by WRFO 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 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: 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: 1/31/11

ATTACHMENTS:

Exhibit A – Map of proposed action

Exhibit B – Stipulations contained in ROW COC54945

Access Road ROW COC74742
T. 2 N., R. 102 W.

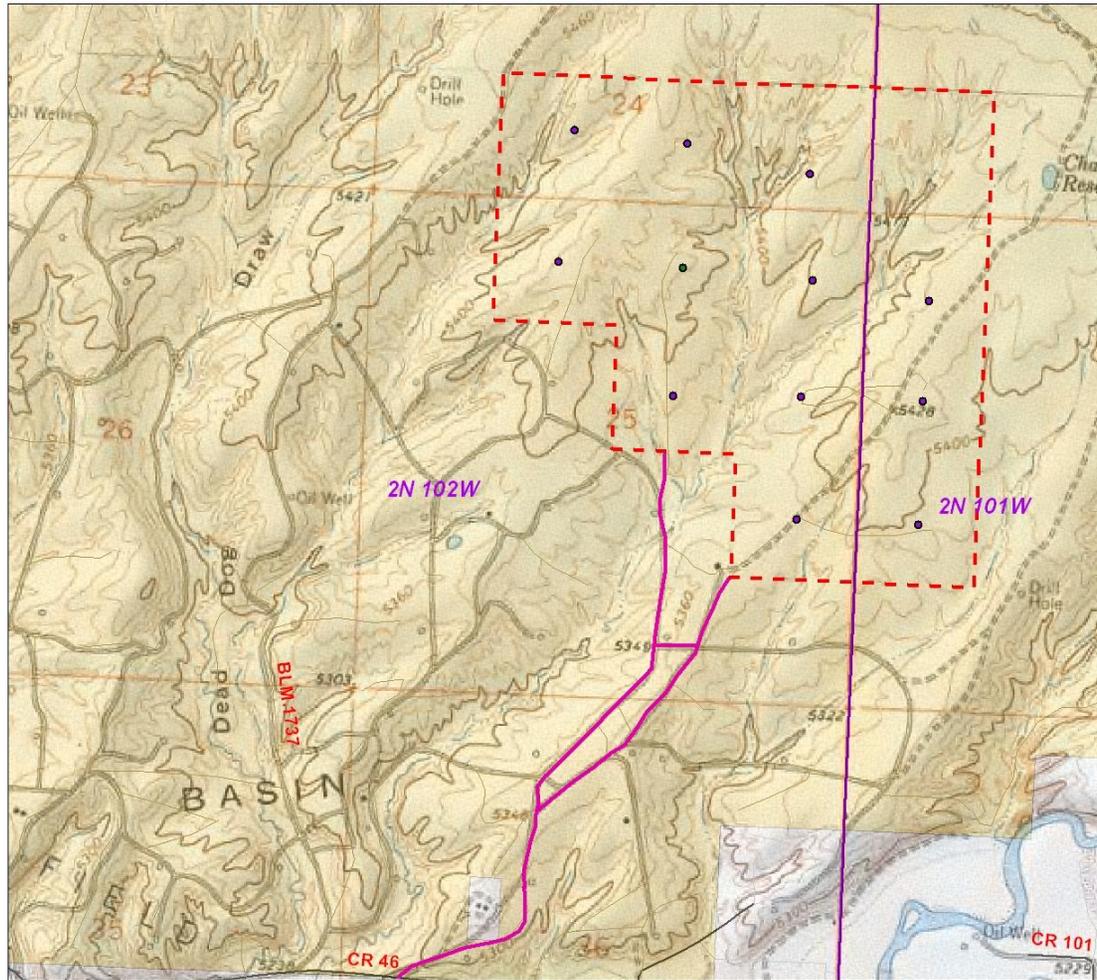
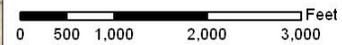


EXHIBIT A

- Samson well
- Saga Petroleum WMLs
- DO Units selection
- COC54945_Road_ROW
- FLS5_Township_GCD82008
- BLM
- CDW
- County
- FOR
- NPS
- PRI
- STA
- State
- County
- BLM
- USFS
- NPS
- Other

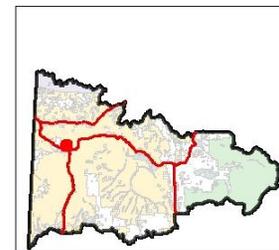


Sources:
BLM, USGS, CDDW, etc.

Disclaimer:
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January 2011



SPECIAL STIPULATIONS

1. The holder shall conduct all activities associated with the construction, operation, and termination of the right-of-way within the authorized limits of the right-of-way.
2. Holder shall maintain the right-of-way in a safe, usable condition, as directed by the authorized officer. A regular maintenance program shall include, but is not limited to, blading, ditching, culvert installation, and surfacing.
3. Right-of-way sites shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials, as designated by the authorized officer, shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. "Waste" means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment.
4. This right-of-way shall terminate without further action or notice on the part of this Bureau if at any time subsequent to its effective date, the access road facilities authorized are no longer necessary for the holder to service an active oil and gas well.
5. Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures will be made by the authorized officer after consulting with the holder.
6. Boundary adjustments in the Rangely NE Weber Sand Unit shall automatically amend this right-of-way to include that portion of the facility no longer contained within the above described Unit. In the event of an automatic amendment to this right-of-way grant, the prior lease conditions of approval of this facility will not be affected even though they would now apply to facilities outside of the Rangely NE Weber Sand Unit as a result of a boundary adjustment. Rental fees, if appropriate shall be recalculated based on the conditions of this grant and the regulations in effect at the time of an automatic amendment.