

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-110-2011-0118-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC31245 and COC061150

PROJECT NAME: Renewal of Existing ROWs

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado

T. 3 N., R. 99 W.,
sec. 31, lot 33;
sec. 32, lots 13 and 15.
T. 2 N., R. 100 W.,
sec. 1, lots 5 to 8, inclusive;
sec. 2, lots 6 and 21;
sec. 3, lot 27;
sec. 4, lots 26, 28, and 30;
sec. 7, lot 6;
sec. 8, lots 2 and 20;
sec. 9, lots 3, 7, and 9,
T. 1 N., R. 101 W.,
sec.
T. 2 N., R. 101 W.,
sec. 2, lots 3 and 4, NE¹/₄NW¹/₄, and W¹/₂SW¹/₄;
sec. 3, lots 1 to 3, inclusive, S¹/₂NW¹/₄, and W¹/₂SW¹/₄;
sec. 4, SE¹/₄SE¹/₄;
sec. 11, lots 2, 3, 5, 8, 15, and 17, and NE¹/₄NW¹/₄;
sec. 12, NW¹/₄SE¹/₄;
sec. 14, lots 4 and 5;
sec. 23, lots 1, 3, 4, and 8;
sec. 26, W¹/₂NW¹/₄;
sec. 27, lots 7 and 13;
sec. 33, lots 14 and 15;
sec. 34, lot 1.

COC31245

T. 5 S., R. 103 W.,
sec. 34, NW¹/₄NW¹/₄. } COC061150

APPLICANT: CenturyTel of Eagle

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: CenturyTel of Eagle (hereafter CenturyTel) requests renewal of two existing right-of-way grants that expire in 2011 (see attached maps). No new construction is authorized by this action and standard renewal stipulations and applicable terms and conditions of the original grant shall be carried forward.

Right-of-way (ROW) COC31245 was issued on July 31, 1981 for a buried/aerial telephone cable within Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Highway 64 ROW. The telephone cable begins approximately 2.8 miles east of Rangely and extends approximately 17 miles east along Highway 64. The telephone cable provides service to customers including Deserado Mine. The ROW is 54,590 feet long, 16 feet wide, and contains approximately 20.05 acres.

ROW COC061150 was issued on May 22, 1961 for the Baxter Pass communication site. The site is 300 feet by 300 feet for a microwave repeater station and access road.

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-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 43 CFR 46.215, apply.

Exception	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.		X

Exception	YES	NO
2. Have adverse effects 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. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7. Have adverse effects on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places.		X
8. Have adverse effects 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. Have the potential to violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10. Have the potential for a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X
11. Restrict access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
12. Significantly, 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 May 24, 2011. A list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office.

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: Renewing the existing ROWs, without authorizing any new ground disturbance, will have no impact to cultural resources. All the routes installed since 1981 have been inventoried and needed mitigation has already been completed. New disturbance will need to be analyzed in a new action to ensure no new impacts occur. (MRS 6/22/2011)

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 6/20/2011)

Paleontological Resources: Renewing the existing ROWs should have no new impacts to paleontological resources. No new disturbance of underlying rock is anticipated which would potentially impact fossil resources. New actions to upgrade or alter routes would need to be analyzed in a new action. (MRS 6/22/2011)

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: There are no wildlife-related issues or concerns associated with the renewal of existing rights-of-way. The Proposed Action will not have any foreseeable impacts to terrestrial or aquatic wildlife populations or associated habitats. (LRB 6/14/2011)

Threatened and Endangered Plant Species: There is known habitat of special status plant species within 600 meters of the existing ROW, additionally Areas of Critical Concern (ACECs) fall within the ROW. Because no new surface disturbance will be associated with this renewal of the ROW, the Proposed Action is expected to have no impact on threatened plant populations or habitats. (ZMM 6/08/2011)

MITIGATION:

1. All applicable terms, conditions, and stipulations contained in original ROW grants COC31245 and COC061150 shall be carried forward and remain in full force and effect. The following mitigation will also apply:
2. At least 90 days prior to termination of the right-of-way, the holder shall contact the authorized Officer to arrange a joint inspection of the right-of-way. This inspection will be held to agree to an acceptable termination and rehabilitation plan. This plan shall include, but is not

limited to, removal of facilities, drainage structures, and surface material; recontouring; topsoiling; or seeding. The Authorized Officer must approve the plan in writing prior to the holder's commencement of any termination activities.

3. 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.

4. Any proposal involving additional surface disturbance outside of the authorized right-of-way requires an application to the BLM for analysis and authorization. New stipulations for construction would be applied to projects subject to the regulations and policies existing at the time of authorization.

5. The holder shall monitor all disturbed and reclaimed areas through final abandonment for the presence of invasive, non-native, and/or noxious plant species. The applicant will be responsible for eradication of noxious weeds that occur on site using materials and methods approved in advance by the Authorized Officer.

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

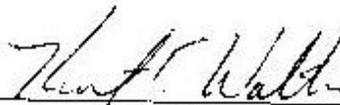
NAME OF PREPARER: Stacey Burke

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:

08/04/2011

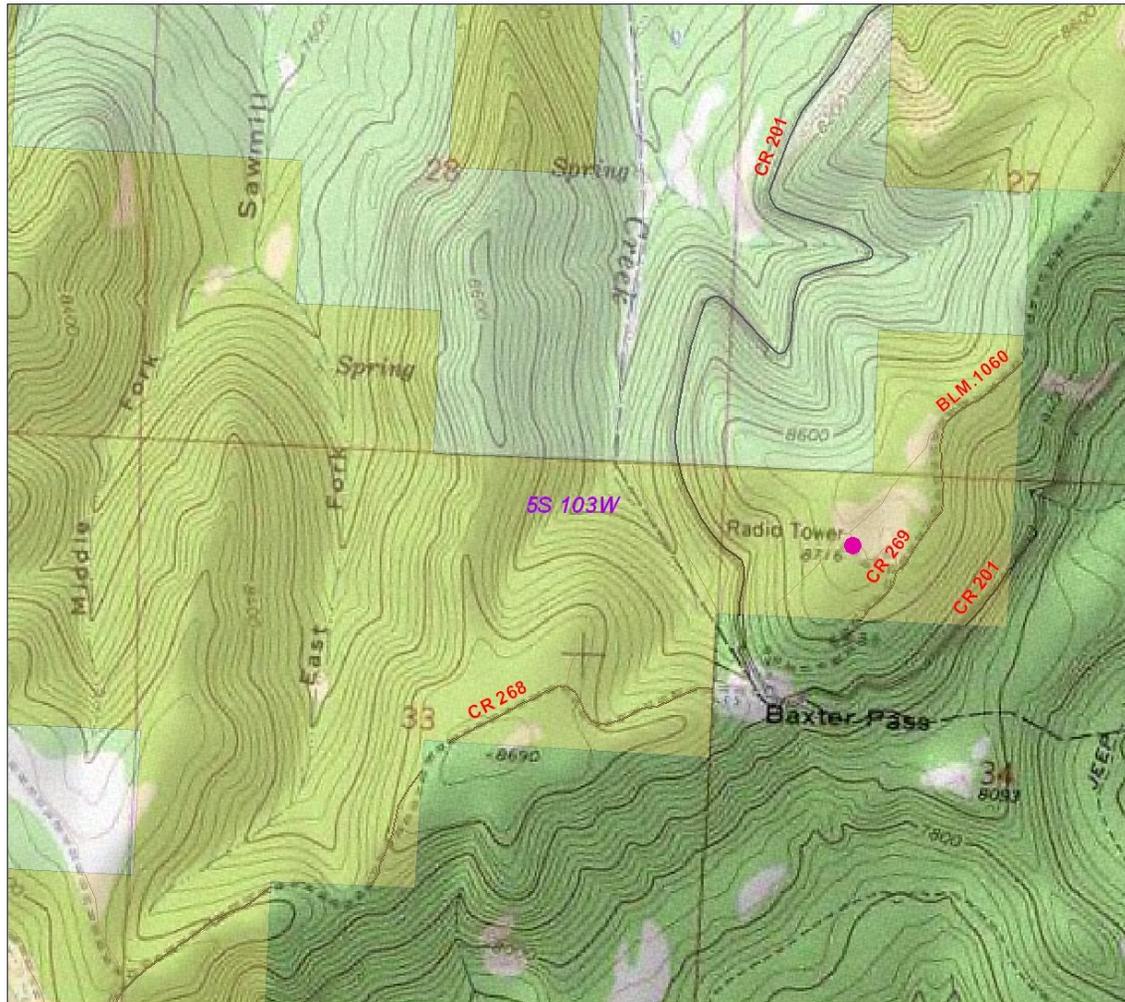
ATTACHMENTS:

Exhibit A: Renewal of Baxter Pass Communication Site ROW

Exhibit A: Renewal of Buried/Aerial Telephone Cable ROW

Renewal of Baxter Pass Communication Site ROW COC061150

EXHIBIT A



- BLM
- CDOW
- County
- FOR
- NPS
- PRI
- STA
- State
- County
- BLM
- USFS
- NPS
- Other
- FLSS_Township_GCD02008

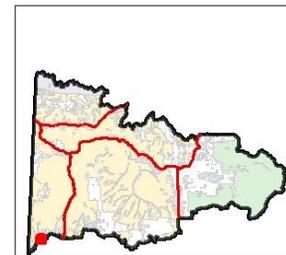


Sources:
BLM, USGS, CDOW, etc.

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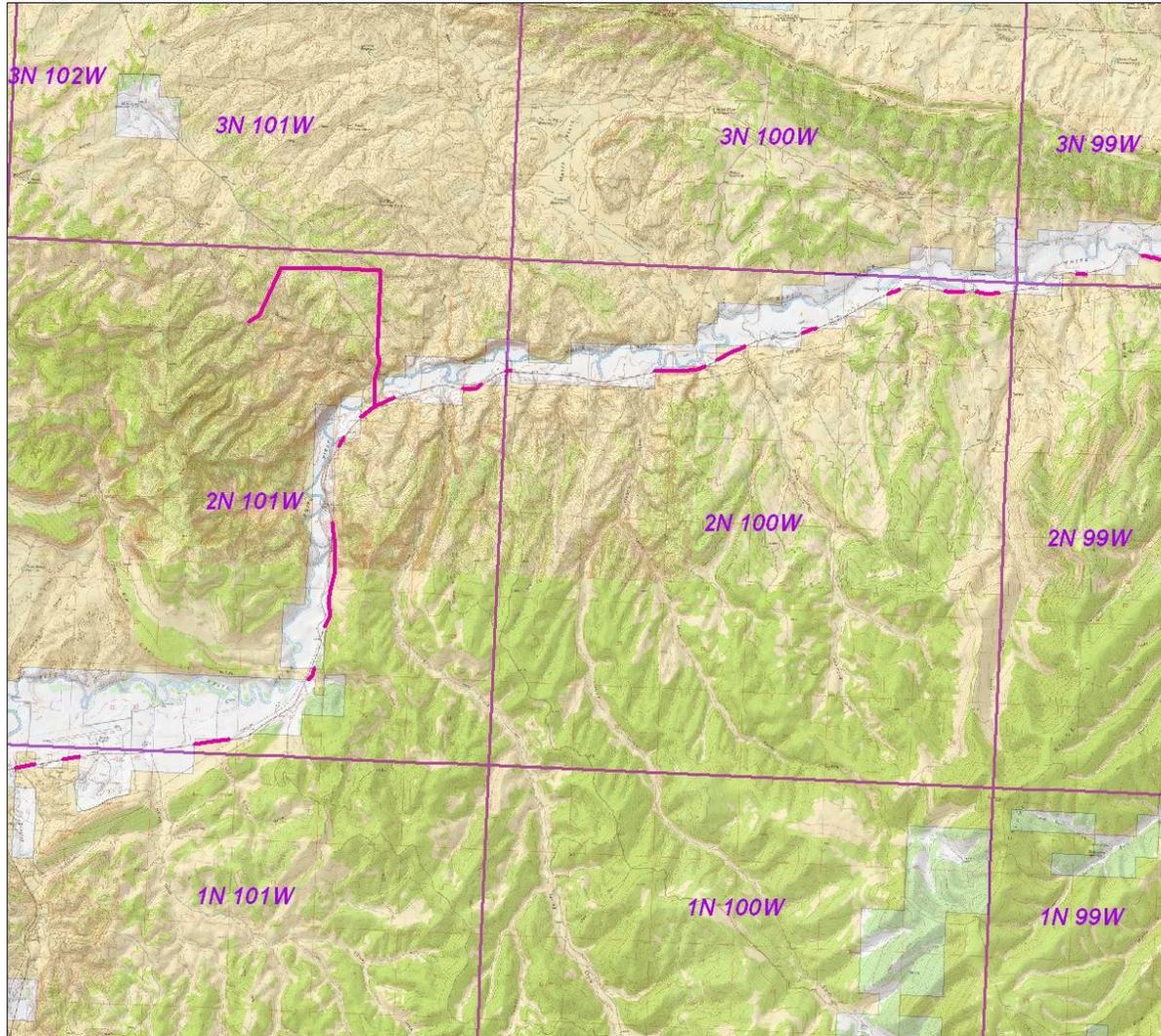


May 2011

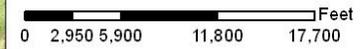


Renewal of Buried/Aerial Telephone Cable ROW COC31245

EXHIBIT A



- COC31245
- BLM
- CDW
- County
- FOR
- NPS
- PRI
- STA
- PLS5_Townships_GCD82008



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May 2011

