

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-110-2012-0116-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC75607 (Temporary Use Permit)

PROJECT NAME: NWP Ignacio Sumas Recoats and TUP

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado

T. 2 S., R 101 W.,
sec. 9, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$. } MP 266.13 recoat

T. 3 S., R. 102 W.,
sec. 36, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$. } MP 254.92 recoat

APPLICANT: Northwest Pipeline GP

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Northwest Pipeline GP (NWP) has two reconditioning (recoat) segments along the Ignacio-Sumas pipeline (see Exhibit A). The right-of-way (ROW) width for the Ignacio-Sumas 26-inch natural gas pipeline (COC011243) is 50 feet. Temporary extra work areas outside of the existing pipeline ROW would be needed to complete each of the recoat segments. A temporary use permit (TUP) would be issued for the temporary extra work areas. The temporary extra work areas are needed for trench spoil storage and equipment/material storage.

Access to the work locations would be by existing and approved roads and along the pipeline ROW. Some minor improvements may be needed on the existing access roads to allow construction equipment and personnel to safely reach the recoat locations. All improvements would be done within the existing road footprint.

The two reconditioning segments would be at pipeline MP (mile post) 266.13 and MP 254.92 on the Ignacio-Sumas pipeline. Temporary extra work areas would be needed outside of the ROW in order to excavate around the pipe to recoat the segments. An area (within the pipeline ROW) 300 ft long, 50 ft wide and containing approximately 0.34 acres would be needed to recoat the pipeline at MP 266.13. An area (within the pipeline ROW) 400 ft long, 50 ft wide and containing approximately 0.46 acres would be needed to recoat the pipeline at MP 254.92.

The following table summarizes the temporary extra work areas needed during excavation of the pipeline for reconditioning.

Proposed work	Case file	Temporary Extra Work Area (ft)	Temporary Use Permit (acres)
MP 266.13 recoat	COC75607	154 x 25	0.09 (west of pipeline)
		147 x 57	0.19 (east of pipeline)
MP 254.92 recoat	COC75607	91 x 152 x 202	0.15 (west of pipeline)
		Total acres	0.43 acres

Total disturbance for the recoats would be approximately 1.23 acres with 0.43 acres authorized as a temporary use permit for work areas outside of the existing pipeline ROW. Construction would begin November 2012 and require approximately three months to complete. The pipeline and work areas would be flagged, and NWP would have an inspector on site during construction and reclamation to insure federal, state, and county regulations and requirements are adhered to. One-Call notification would be completed prior to beginning work. Final site work would include cleanup/remediation of the ROW, temporary extra work areas, and access roads to preconstruction conditions and the area would be reseeded using the seed mix below. A copy of the plan of development can be found in the case files at the White River Field Office.

Native Seed Mix #	Species (Variety)	Lbs. PLS per Acre
1	Western wheatgrass (Arriba)	3
	Streambank wheatgrass (Sodar)	2
	Thickspike wheatgrass (Critana)	2
	Fourwing saltbush (Wytana, Rincon, VNS northern lat)	2
	Alternates: Winterfat, shadscale, globemallow	

Decision to be Made: The BLM will decide whether or not to approve the two reconditioning sites and the temporary work areas, and if so, under what conditions.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

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, E19: *“Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations for such uses as storage sites, apiary, sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition”*.

The Proposed Action has been reviewed with the list of extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) described in the table below.

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
a) Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.		X
b) 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
c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.		X
h) 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
i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X
k) 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
l) 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 7/24/2012. A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	11/13/2012
Laura Dixon	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	8/22/2012
Amber Shanklin	Biological Technician - Plants	Special Status Plant Species	8/1/2012

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The proposed recoat and TUP locations have been inventoried at the Class III (100 percent pedestrian) level (Collister and Rood 2012, compliance dated 11/13/2012).

Recoat location 254.9 is located near the confluence of West Douglas Creek and Douglas Creek and appears to directly impact a known archaeological site. The site was impacted during initial pipeline construction in 1956, and the extent of total damage to the original site context cannot be determined. Based on the current site information, the BLM and the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) have determined that the site no longer meets the eligibility criteria for nomination to or listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The recoat and TUP area will likely further impact the site causing further loss of scientific data but, given the current understanding of the site and its context, the loss is likely to be very small. The mitigation measures outlined below should also serve to limit the impacts to the regional archaeological database.

Recoat location 266.13 is located within the Canyon Pintado Historic District (District). No new surface manifestations were located at the location, but there is no assurance subsurface remains are not present. There is also the temporary, relatively short term visual impact from the disturbance associated with excavation of the pipe for the recoat. There are no anticipated impacts to any known cultural resources; however, previously unrecorded subsurface remains could be adversely impacted by excavation to expose the pipeline. This could represent a severe, irreversible, and irretrievable loss of scientific data for the regional archaeological database. Monitoring of all excavations could reduce the loss somewhat but not completely mitigate the loss.

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.

Paleontological Resources: Recoat location 254.9 is located in an area mapped as the Upper (undifferentiated) Mesa Verde formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM WRFO has classified as a Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 5 formation. A PFYC 5 formation is one that is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources. If it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying sedimentary rock formation to expand the pipeline trench out to a safe working area for workers, there is a high potential to impact scientifically noteworthy fossil resources. Any impacts to fossil resources as a result of the excavations have the potential to be highly significant and represent an irreversible and irretrievable loss of data to the regional paleontological database.

Recoat location 266.13 is located in an area mapped as the Upper (undifferentiated) Mesa Verde formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM WRFO has classified as a PFYC 5 formation. A PFYC 5 formation is one that is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources. If it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying sedimentary rock formation to expand the pipeline trench out to a safe working area for workers, there is a high potential to impact scientifically noteworthy fossil resources. Any impacts to fossil resources as a result of the excavations have the potential to be highly significant and represent an irreversible and irretrievable loss of data to the regional paleontological database.

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: There are no known threatened or endangered wildlife species that inhabit or derive important use from the area encompassed by the Proposed Action. The recoat at MP 266.13 is located within mapped mule deer critical winter range; however, WRFO will not apply a timing stipulation due to the proximity of the project area to State Highway 139.

Threatened and Endangered Plant Species: There are no SSP (special status plant) species concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

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.
- Colister, Rachel, and Ronald J. Rood
2012 a Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for Northwest pipeline GP Vernal District CPS 1855, Culverts, and Recoat Locations 254.9 and 266.13, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Cardno ENTRIX, Salt Lake City, Utah. (12-174-02: SHPO # RB.LM.R1298)

Tweto, Ogden

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

MITIGATION:

1. All applicable terms and conditions contained in original right-of-way grant COC011243 and any amendments shall be carried forward and remain in full force and effect.
2. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
3. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The holder will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The holder, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
4. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the holder must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
5. All excavations into the alluvial fill of the Douglas Creek drainage shall require the presence of an archaeological monitor. The monitor shall be present on site before the initiation of any excavations and through excavation completion.
6. 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 (over 25 lbs./day, up to 250 lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.
7. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the holder or any of his agents must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated

paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the holder will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.

8. Any excavations into the underlying native sedimentary stone must be monitored by a permitted paleontologist. The monitoring paleontologist must be present before the start of excavations that may impact bedrock.

9. 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.

10. Pesticide Use Proposals (PUPs) shall be submitted to and approved by the BLM before applying herbicides on BLM lands. The PUP will include target weed species, the herbicides to be used, application rates and timeframes, estimated acres to be treated, as well as maps depicting the areas to be treated and known locations of weeds.

11. For reclamation of the site and management of weeds on the site, guidance can be found in the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol.

12. 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. The inspection will result in the development of an acceptable termination and rehabilitation plan submitted by the holder. 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.

13. The holder shall conduct all activities associated with the operation and termination of the right-of-way within the authorized limits of the right-of-way.

14. All activity shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless there are safety concerns or if activities are otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer.

15. A release of any chemical, oil, petroleum product, produced water, or sewage, etc. (regardless of quantity) must be reported to the Bureau of Land Management – WRFO Hazardous Materials Coordinator at (970) 878-3800. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) should be notified, if applicable, through the 24-hour spill reporting line at 1 (877) 518-5608.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: 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: Heather Sauls

COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E19. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

11/19/12

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A - Map of Proposed Action

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

DECISION RECORD

PROJECT NAME: NWP Ignacio Sumas Recoats and TUP

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2012-0116-CX

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2012-0116-CX, authorizing the construction, operation, and maintenance of temporary work areas for reconditioning of two sites along the Ignacio-Sumas natural gas pipeline.

Mitigation Measures

1. All applicable terms and conditions contained in original right-of-way grant COC011243 and any amendments shall be carried forward and remain in full force and effect.
2. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
3. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The holder will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The holder, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
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of an archaeological monitor. The monitor shall be present on site before the initiation of any excavations and through excavation completion.

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7. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the holder or any of his agents must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the holder will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.

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11. For reclamation of the site and management of weeds on the site, guidance can be found in the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol.

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13. The holder shall conduct all activities associated with the operation and termination of the right-of-way within the authorized limits of the right-of-way.

14. All activity shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless there are safety concerns or if activities are otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer.

15. A release of any chemical, oil, petroleum product, produced water, or sewage, etc. (regardless of quantity) must be reported to the Bureau of Land Management – WRFO Hazardous Materials Coordinator at (970) 878-3800. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) should be notified, if applicable, through the 24-hour spill reporting line at 1 (877) 518-5608.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS & CONFORMANCE WITH THE LAND USE PLAN

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the 1997 White River Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The BLM informed the public about this project by listing it on the online WRFO NEPA Register on 7/24/2012 and a copy of the completed Determination of NEPA Adequacy will be posted on the WRFO website.

RATIONALE

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E19. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the Authorized Officer and shall remain in effect while any appeal is pending unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals issues a stay (43 CFR 2801.10(b)). Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a Notice of Appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at White River Field Office, 220 East Market St., Meeker, CO 81641 with copies sent to the Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, 755 Parfet St., Suite 151, Lakewood, CO 80215, and to the Department of the Interior, Board of Land Appeals, 801 North Quincy St., MS300-QC, Arlington, VA, 22203. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals at the above address within 30 days after the Notice of Appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

Kent E. Walter

Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

11/19/12