

**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-110-2012-0115-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC75545

PROJECT NAME: Questar access road to ML-103

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian
T. 2 S., R. 103 W.,
Sec. 5 Lots 5-6, SWNW, SW
Sec. 6 Lot 1
T. 1 S., R. 103 W.,
Sec. 31 Lots 1-3 and 9, S2NE, NENW, NESE
T. 1 S., R. 104 W.,
Sec. 25 Lots 1-4 and 6, N2SE, SESE
Sec. 26 Lot 7, N2SW, W2SE, SESE
Sec. 27 Lots 2 and 3
Sec. 36 Lot 1

APPLICANT: Questar Pipeline Company

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Questar Pipeline Company plans on delivering steel pipe and other large equipment to the Utah ML-103 Pipeline replacement project along a 7-mile unnamed Bureau of Land Management (BLM) road (see Exhibit A). Two sharp bends in the BLM road make access difficult and potentially unsafe. Questar proposes to grade/widen the existing road and increase the turning radius at the following bends: Site 1: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 5 (0.80 ac.), Site 2: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 5 (0.5 ac.) for a total disturbance of approximately 1.3 acres, more or less. A third site is located on the Colorado/Utah border: N $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 27, T1S. R.104W. Questar intends to repair and maintain approximately 500 feet (in Colorado) to allow for two-way truck traffic.

This right-of-way is for use while the pipeline project is completed in Utah as well as operation and maintenance of the existing pipeline and related facilities. The project will require the use of one track hoe and one grader. A total of three to four workers will be required. All work will take place within or along the shoulder of the previously disturbed, road rights-of-way. The proposed grading/widening will take place in conjunction with the start of Questar's Mainline 103 Pipeline Project which is expected to commence in late July/early August 2012. It is anticipated that

construction will be completed within 1 to 2 days per site. No staging areas would be required. Access to the project area is via Rio Blanco County Road 114.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM 1601.08) 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, E16: *Acquisition of easements for an existing road or issuances of leases, permits, or rights-of-way for the use of existing facilities, improvements, or sites for the same or similar purposes.*

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

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
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 7/3/2012. 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	8/1/2012
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	7/3/2012
Amber Shanklin	Biological Technician – Plants	Special Status Plant Species	7/23/2012

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The proposed road upgrade areas have been inventoried at the Class III (100 percent pedestrian) level (Baer 2012 compliance dated 5/9/2012, Fife 2011 compliance dated 12/5/2011) with no surface manifestations of cultural resources identified in the inventoried areas.

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: Site #1: This site is located in an area generally mapped as the Lower Green River/Wasatch formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM, WRFO has classified as a Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 5 meaning it is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources (c.f. Armstrong and Wolny 1989).

Site #2: This road improvement location is 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.

Site #3: This site is located in an area generally mapped as the Lower Green River/Wasatch formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM, WRFO has classified as a Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 5 meaning it is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources (c.f. Armstrong and Wolny 1989).

If it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying sedimentary rock formation at any of the three locations, to level the road, to improve grade, or staging/passing areas, there is a very high potential to impact scientifically noteworthy fossil resources.

Special Status Wildlife Species: No listed, proposed, or candidate animals are known to inhabit or derive important benefit from the project vicinity. It is unlikely that woodland raptor nest sites would have been established in close proximity to the road improvement sites (i.e., direct effects in close proximity to roadbeds). However, high frequency truck traffic on this road would have potential to exert disruptive influences on nests located in suitable woodland habitat that parallels the road at distances of more than 30 meters. Frequent truck traffic is not expected to take place until late July or early August when virtually all woodland raptor nest activity should be complete. The final 380-foot road segment (presently about 20-foot wide) that accesses the pipeline right-of-way into Utah, based on adjacent tree growth, was never established as a 50-foot wide road, and this segment should be reclaimed back to its original 20-foot width when project access is no longer required.

Special Status Plant Species: A plant survey concluded that there were 3.6 acres of suitable habitat scattered in a patchy distribution throughout the Weaver Ridge project area. No habitat was identified in either the County Road 114 North or South project areas. The CR 114S and Weaver Ridge project areas overlay the Laney Member of the Green River Formation and CR 114N overlays the Wasatch Formation. No special status plant species were identified in the proposed area. However, because the flowering periods had passed for all of the special status plant species and 2012 has been an exceptionally dry year, the absence of plant occurrences on this survey does not preclude the chance that they may be present in the project or buffer area (SWCA 2012).

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.

Baer, Sarah

2012 A Class I and Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of an Access Road for the Mainline 103 pipeline for Questar Pipeline Company, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. SWCA Environmental Consultants, Broomfield, Colorado. (12-127-02: SHPO #RB.LM.NR2302)

Fife, Ashley R.

2011 A Class I and Class III Cultural Resource inventory of Two Additional Work Space Areas for Road Widening for the Mainline 103 pipeline for Questar Pipeline Company, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. SWCA Environmental Consultants, Broomfield, Colorado. (11-127-02: SHPO #RB.LM.NR2292)

SWCA. 2012. Special Status Plant Species Survey Report. SWCA Environmental Consultants, Logan, UT.

Tweto, Ogden

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

MITIGATION:

1. The final 380-foot road segment that accesses the pipeline right-of-way into Utah will be reshaped and reclaimed (i.e., roughened and properly seeded with a WRFO-specified seed mix) back to its original 20-foot width when project access is no longer required.
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. 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 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.
6. 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 operator 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.
7. 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.
8. The holder shall conduct all activities associated with the construction, operation, and termination of the right-of-way within the authorized limits of the ROW.

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 operator will be notified of compliance related issues in writing, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), will be provided 30 days to resolve such issues.

NAME OF PREPARER: Janet Doll

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, E16. 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:

Theresa C. Walter

Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

08/02/12

ATTACHMENTS:

Exhibit A-Map

Questar road access to ML-103 PL in Utah COC75545

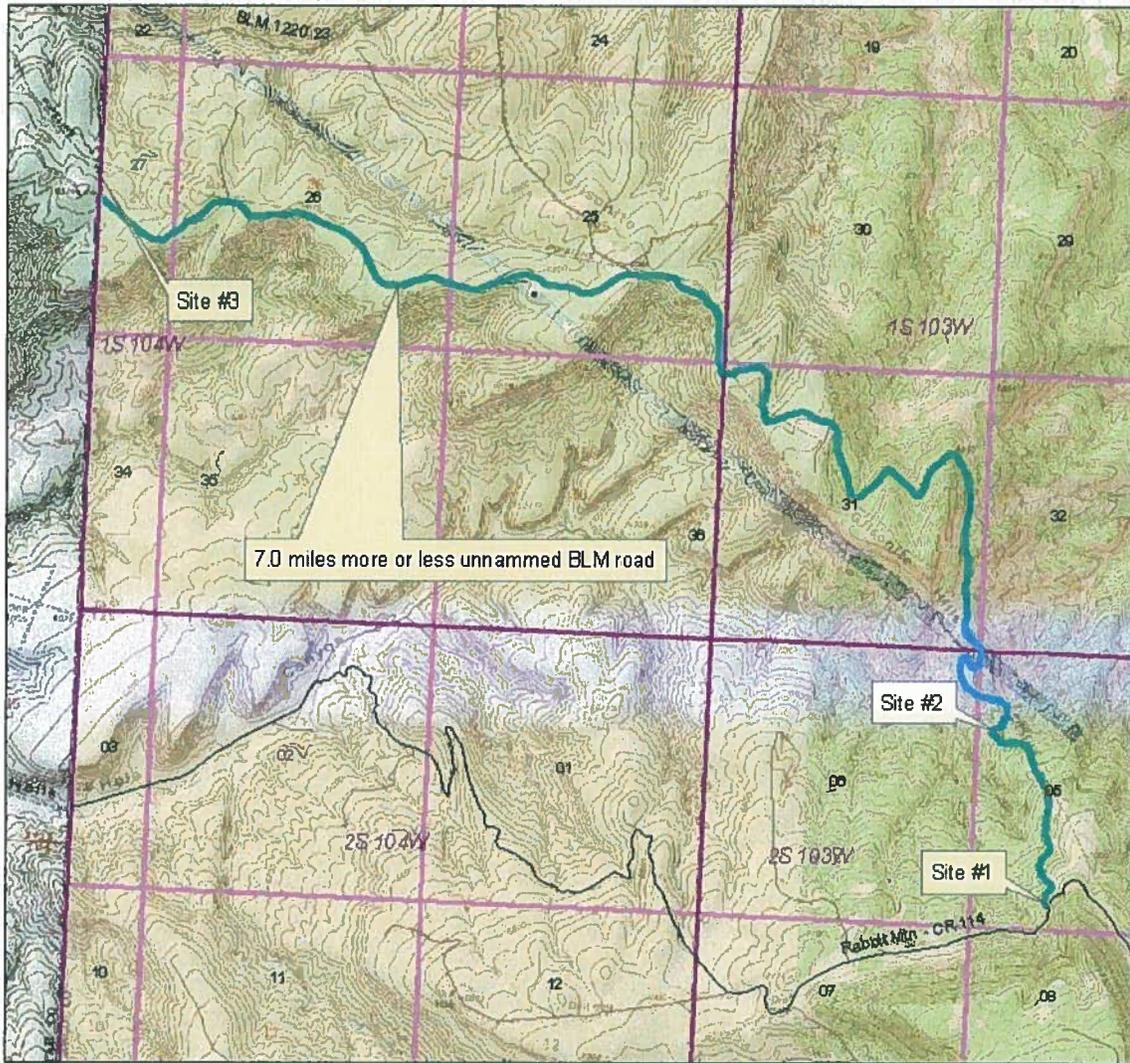
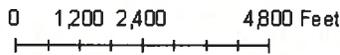


Exhibit A

- Projects: line selection
- State
- County
- BLM
- USFS
- NPS
- Other
- PLSS_Townships_GCDB2008

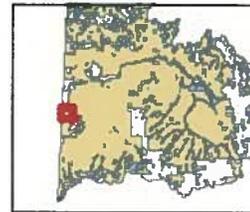


July 2012 JD



SOURCES:
BLM, USGS, CDOW, etc.

Disclaimer:
Although the data presented in this map, and the map itself, have been processed successfully on computers of BLM, no warranty, expressed or implied, is made by BLM regarding the use of the map or the data presented, nor does the fact of distribution constitute or imply any such warranty.



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220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641**

DECISION RECORD

PROJECT NAME: Questar access road to ML-103

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-2012-0115-CX

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-2012-0115-CX, authorizing the right-of-way grant for Questar Pipeline Company for access via an unnamed BLM road while the pipeline replacement project is completed in Utah. The road will also be used during construction, operation and maintenance of the existing pipeline and related facilities.

Mitigation Measures

1. The final 380-foot road segment that accesses the pipeline right-of-way into Utah will be reshaped and reclaimed (i.e., roughened and properly seeded with a WRFO-specified seed mix) back to its original 20-foot width when project access is no longer required.
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. 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 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.
6. 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 operator 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.
7. 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.
8. The holder shall conduct all activities associated with the construction, operation, and termination of the right-of-way within the authorized limits of the ROW.

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 7/11/2012 and a copy of the completed Categorical Exclusion 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, E16. 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:



Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

08/02/12

