

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2012-0048-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC75285 (Temporary Use Permit)
COC011409 (ROW for Piceance Creek Lateral Pipeline)

PROJECT NAME: Piceance Creek Lateral Maintenance Projects

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: See Exhibit A for complete legal descriptions

6 th Principal Meridian,	T1N, R101W, various sections
	T2N, R101W, various sections
	T2N, R100W, various sections
	T2N, R099W, various sections
	T3N, R099W, various sections
	T2N, R098W, various sections
	T2N, R097W, various sections
	T1N, R097W, various sections
	T1S, R097W, various sections
	T1S, R096W, various sections
	T2S, R096W, various sections

APPLICANT: Northwest Pipeline GP

PURPOSE & NEED FOR THE ACTION:

The need for this action is established by the BLM's responsibility under FLPMA and MLA to respond to the applicant's request to maintain their natural gas pipeline crossing public lands. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide the applicant with the means to maintain the Piceance Lateral Pipeline in accordance with Department of Transportation (DOT) standards for safety.

Decision to be Made: The decision to be made by the BLM is under what conditions to issue temporary use permits (TUPs) for the workspace required for the operation & maintenance (O&M) activities associated with the Piceance Creek Lateral natural gas pipeline.

SCOPING, PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AND ISSUES:

Scoping: Scoping was the primary mechanism used by the BLM to initially identify issues. Internal scoping was initiated when the project was presented to the White River Field Office

(WRFO) interdisciplinary team on 2/7/2012. External scoping was conducted by posting this project on the WRFO's on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register on 2/7/2012.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction: Northwest Pipeline GP (NWP), a master limited partnership with Williams Gas Pipeline as a general partner, owns and operates a 48 mile, 10-inch diameter high-pressure underground natural gas transmission pipeline known as the Piceance Creek Lateral (Piceance Lateral; see attached location map represented on Figure 1). The Piceance Lateral was originally installed in 1956 and is located in Rio Blanco County, CO on lands mostly administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) White River Field Office (WRFO).

The Proposed Action describes all reasonably foreseeable operation & maintenance (O&M) activities that could occur along the entire 48-mile Piceance Lateral. This comprehensive approach is intended to allow for a more expeditious review of the currently proposed project applications and facilitate more expeditious reviews of future O&M projects. Once future O&M projects are planned and defined, an SF-299 application will be filed and submitted for the appropriate temporary use permits (TUP). Each application will include a project specific Plan of Development (POD) that describes the work in more detail. The BLM WRFO would then complete a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) assessment in order to issue TUPs for individual projects in the future.

Proposed Action: Northwest Pipeline GP (NWP) performs several routine tasks within and near the pipeline ROW to assess and mitigate risks that may pose a threat to the safety and reliability of its pipelines. A comprehensive analysis of the entire pipeline's ROW will be performed to help facilitate evaluations on future O&M projects. A general description of the types of O&M tasks is summarized below. This EA is limited to the action described below; therefore, other actions such as stream channel modifications/improvements to protect pipe integrity are not actions included in this Proposed Action. In-stream activities would be considered separate projects and would be analyzed, if required.

Leak Surveys

The purpose of leak surveys is to use either visual techniques or leak detection equipment to comprehensively inspect for gas escaping the normal confinement of pipeline facilities. Visual surveys such as walking, driving, or flying are made on a regular basis to detect abnormal or unusual indications in vegetation on the right-of-way (ROW). Fixed wing aircraft surveys are conducted every two weeks and instrumented aerial leak detection surveys are done by the use of a helicopter flying at low level above the ROW on an annual basis. Leak detection surveys are done more frequently at cased highway and railroad crossings. Instrumented surface gas detection surveys are performed periodically as conditions warrant. A surface gas detection survey is performed by foot and typically requires only one technician with a gas detector that samples the air just above the pipeline centerline. Existing access roads and the pipeline ROW may be used by a company utility vehicle to reach various locations along the ROW.

Corrosion Protection

Close Interval Survey (CIS) is commonly used to assess the performance and operation of the cathodic protection (CP) system and to find areas along the pipeline with coating degradation and corrosion. CIS is performed by foot on an annual basis and typically requires a small crew

of two to three technicians that walk the centerline at various intervals. After completing (CIS), NWP's Integrity group will determine the necessary remediation. Acceptable assessment methods include removing old pipeline coating and reapplying a new coating, otherwise known as pipeline reconditioning, or repairing existing or installing new CP sites. Coatings are intended to form a continuous film of electrically insulating material over the metallic pipeline. Cathodic protection includes conventional ground-beds (impressed current) and deep-well ground beds. The selection of the CP system is dependent on pipe to soil potentials and is assessed at the completion of annual surveys.

Pipeline reconditioning is generally done within the existing ROW with the use of select temporary extra workspace (TEWS) and existing access routes. Since pipeline reconditioning requires the entire circumference of the pipe to be exposed and the trench walls to be sloped for safety of the workers, TEWS is typically required to accommodate the additional spoil that is excavated from the trench. The amount of TEWS required can vary based on topographical or landowner constraints, type of substrate, or length of reconditioning but would generally be 20 to 50 ft wide and varying in length along both sides of the ROW. The length of the recoat, dimensions of the TEWS, and proposed access routes will be provided on location maps and shapefiles for each TUP application. Once the pipeline segment requiring reconditioning is excavated, the old pipe coating will be sandblasted off, and the pipe will be inspected. If necessary, any and all repairs to the pipe will be completed, and the pipe will be recoated with a new epoxy coating. Final site work includes backfilling the trench and clean up and reclamation of all disturbed areas to preconstruction conditions and as per BLM WRFO stipulations.

Deepwell CP systems are most common along the Piceance Lateral but conventional CP systems could be installed in the future as well. Based on the recommendation from NWP's Integrity group, the existing CP system may require modifications or repairs such as redrilling a new deepwell adjacent to an existing well and/or replacing cables, anodes, or rectifiers. A new CP site may also be warranted. A deepwell CP site is typically arranged perpendicularly from the pipeline ROW and is placed approximately 300 feet from the pipeline centerline. Typically, a 20 to 40-ft wide easement is required that contains the electrical conduit cable necessary to provide power to the anodes. During installation or replacement of a deepwell, additional TEWS is usually required for access and trenching along the 300 ft conduit cable run and an up to 200 ft x 200 ft TEWS can be required for the drill rig, spoils, and material staging around the deepwell site. Typically, a 6 inch x 3 ft deep trench is necessary for the conduit cable, and the deepwell is typically 10 inches in diameter by 300 ft deep. The deepwell is normally cased with steel pipe and houses approximately 20 anodes separated by coke breeze.

Electrical supply is typically available from adjacent power line utilities along the length of the Piceance Lateral. In cases where power is not available, a thermal electrical generator may be needed which would rest on a 10 ft x 10 ft concrete pad and be surrounded by chain link fence within the pipeline ROW. To provide power to the deepwell, a rectifier box is located within the pipeline ROW and is mounted to a 6 ft high pole which is connected to available power supply. The electrical cable then connects the rectifier to an electrical junction box located above the well which rests on a concrete pad and is protected by a metal guard rail.

A conventional CP system is similar in workspace requirements to the deepwell but requires 500 ft of easement perpendicular to the pipeline ROW and does not include a deep well. Rather, the anodes are spaced evenly from 300 ft to 500 ft beyond the pipeline ROW in a 3 ft x 2 ft trench.

In addition to the typical workspaces described above, existing access routes and the pipeline ROW would be used for the repair or installation of the CP system along the Piceance Lateral.

Anomaly Investigations

As part of NWP's Integrity Management Program (IMP), the Piceance Lateral was internally inspected in 2011 using internal inspection instruments known as "smart pigs" to identify any anomalies along the lateral. These instruments are designed to measure the ovality of the pipeline in order to identify and locate possible dents, cracks, and corrosion along the inspected segment of pipeline. NWP's IMP requires smart pigs to be run periodically through the system based on a number of factors but is generally completed every 7 to 10 years. Data is collected during the pig runs and subsequently processed and analyzed by NWP's Integrity group. If significant integrity indications are interpreted from the data, it might be necessary to undertake an "immediate" anomaly investigation dig which means that work is required to be commenced within five days from the date of discovery. If no immediate digs are required, then any anomaly results are identified as "scheduled" investigations which must be completed within one year of their identification. It should be noted that facility modifications were completed in 2010 to make the Piceance Lateral piggable and no additional similar modifications are expected along the lateral.

Depending on the type of anomaly that requires investigation, varying lengths of excavation and workspace are required. Generally, an anomaly investigation is similar to the construction activities associated with reconditioning. Anomaly investigations are done within the existing ROW with the use of select TEWS and existing access routes. Since an anomaly investigation requires the entire circumference of the pipe to be exposed and the trench walls to be sloped for safety of the workers, TEWS is typically required to accommodate the additional spoil that is excavated from the trench. The amount of TEWS required can vary based on topographical or landowner constraints, type of substrate, or length of the anomaly but would generally be about 20 to 50 ft wide and varying in length along both sides of the ROW.

At each of the anomaly investigation sites, excavation will occur to expose the pipe with excavated spoil windrowed along or adjacent to the ROW and TEWS, as identified on the location maps and shapefiles provided in the TUP application. Following excavation, the exposed pipe will be sandblasted and inspected for anomalies. A NWP Integrity specialist will then determine what, if any, repairs will be done to the pipeline. A repair could include a cut-out and replacement of the pipeline. Once the repairs are completed, the pipeline will be recoated, and the excavated spoil will be used to fill the excavated ditch line. Final site work includes backfilling the trench and clean up and remediation of all disturbed areas to preconstruction conditions and as per BLM WRFO stipulations.

For any work that involves excavation on or adjacent to the Piceance Lateral ROW, the location of the existing permanent ROW, repairs, and TEWS would be flagged prior to construction. NWP would comply with all applicable federal, state, county, and local laws and regulations as they relate to the public health and safety, environmental protection, construction, operation, and maintenance. NWP will have an inspector on-site during construction and reclamation to ensure federal and state regulations and requirements are adhered to. Access will be from existing roads and along the permanent ROW. Some minor access road improvements may be needed at select locations which would include blading and grading repair work to allow construction equipment

and utility vehicles to safely access the ROW. Water trucks would be used, as needed, for dust suppression on access roads and along the ROW.

Design Features:

2012 O&M Projects

As part of this comprehensive evaluation, operation & maintenance (O&M) projects currently scheduled for 2012 will be assessed. Specifically, on January 19, 2012, NWP submitted two SF-299 applications to the WRFO to perform protective maintenance on its Piceance Lateral pipeline. One application includes five segments requiring reconditioning (recoats) and a redrill of an existing CP station (right-of-way COC053774). The other application covers 60 anomaly digs locations that were identified using smart pigs. These sites are detailed in Appendix A, Appendix B, and Appendix C.

Reclamation and Revegetation

Initial reclamation of the disturbed areas will begin as soon as possible after O&M activities are complete. Construction related debris will be taken to an approved facility and original ground contours will be restored, unless site-specific conditions dictate otherwise. Permanent erosion control devices will be installed, and the disturbed work area will be revegetated. All disturbed areas will be seeded within a reasonable timeframe following final grading, weather and soil conditions permitting.

Before seeding, a firm seed bed will be prepared using a disk, field cultivator, drag, rake, or similar implement. If soils are compacted or rutted, the soil structure will be rehabilitated so that productivity can be maintained. During seeding, seed will be uniformly applied and incorporated into the top layer of soil. Where seed is broadcast, the seed will be incorporated into the soil by raking or dragging. Where a hydroseeder is used, the seed bed will be scarified to allow the seeds to lodge and germinate. All seed will be applied at manufacturer's suggested rates based on the equipment dispersal type.

Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with WRFO *Surface Reclamation Protocol* (April 2011). For optimal results, seeding should occur between September 1 and March 15. However, it may be necessary to conduct seeding outside of the prime seeding season. Mulch may be applied as necessary to prevent the seed from eroding before the seed begins to germinate. Specifically, most range sites within the WRFO have been assigned a recommended standard seed mix. Subsequently all range sites have been identified along the Piceance Lateral utilizing Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey data. The soils and associated range sites crossed by the project were utilized to identify the standard seed mixes that should be utilized for permanent seeding by milepost.

No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed 2012 O&M projects and on-going O&M projects would not occur. However, without conducting the digs, the Piceance Lateral would be out of compliance with federal DOT safety regulations.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD: New Build

Alternative: Under the New Build Alternative, rather than completing the annual maintenance along the existing Piceance Lateral, the Proponent would abandon the existing pipeline and construct and maintain a new pipeline serving the same purpose. This alternative would require

establishing a new right-of-way in the vicinity of the existing pipeline. The new ROW would be a minimum of 75 ft wide for the entire pipeline approximately 48 miles length, for a minimum of 436 acres required for construction. This acreage would be expected to primarily be in areas not previously disturbed by existing projects, and would have significantly more impacts. Thus, the New Build Alternative is not considered reasonable.

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

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

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Pages 2-5 through 2-6

Decision Language: “Make federal oil and gas resources available for leasing and development in a manner that provides reasonable protection for other resource values.”

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Standards for Public Land Health: In January 1997, the Colorado BLM approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, special status species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis (EA). These findings are located in specific elements listed below.

Cumulative Effects Analysis Assumptions: Cumulative effects are defined in the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1508.7) as “...the impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions.” Table 1 lists the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions within the area that might be affected by the Proposed Action; for this project the area considered was the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 5th Level Watershed. However, the geographic scope used for analysis may vary for each cumulative effects issue and is described in the Affected Environment section for each resource.

Table 1. Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Actions			
Action Description	Status		
	Past	Present	Future
Livestock Grazing	X	X	X
Wild Horse Gathers	X	X	X
Recreation	X	X	X

Action Description	Status		
	Past	Present	Future
Invasive Weed Inventory and Treatments	X	X	X
Range Improvement Projects : Water Developments Fences & Cattle Guards	X	X	X
Wildfire and Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation	X	X	X
Oil and Gas Development: Well Pads Access Roads Pipelines Gas Plants Facilities	X	X	X
Power Lines	X	X	X
Oil Shale	X	X	X
Seismic	X	X	X
Vegetation Treatments	X	X	X

Affected Resources: The CEQ Regulations state that NEPA documents “must concentrate on the issues that are truly significant to the action in question, rather than amassing needless detail” (40 CFR 1500.1(b)). While many issues may arise during scoping, not all of the issues raised warrant analysis in an environmental assessment (EA). Issues will be analyzed if: 1) an analysis of the issue is necessary to make a reasoned choice between alternatives, or 2) if the issue is associated with a significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impact, or where analysis is necessary to determine the significance of the impacts. Table 2 lists the resources considered and the determination as to whether they require additional analysis.

Determination ¹	Resource	Rationale for Determination
Physical Resources		
NI	Air Quality	O&M activities could involve vegetation removal, clearing of work surface, digging a trench and reclamation activities. During these construction phases dust production is likely, and emissions from vehicles would occur. These impacts are temporary (few days to months) and are unlikely to be measurable.
NI	Geology and Minerals	Maintenance and installation of cathodic protection on the Piceance Creek Lateral pipeline would have minimal effect on mineral or geologic resources located along the area.
PI	Soil Resources*	O&M activities could require surface disturbance in fragile soils, including saline soils or soils on slopes greater than 35 percent
PI	Surface and Ground Water Quality*	O&M activities could temporarily change natural surface water recharge patterns. Soil compaction from construction could lower absorption rates, increase sedimentation, surface runoff, and salt loading in some locations.
Biological Resources		
PI	Wetlands and	O&M activities could require disturbance and removal of vegetation in

Table 2. Resources and Determination of Need for Further Analysis

Determination¹	Resource	Rationale for Determination
	Riparian Zones*	wetlands or riparian zones.
PI	Vegetation*	O&M activities could require disturbance/removal of vegetation.
PI	Invasive, Non-native Species	There are Invasive annual species present within the project area, as well as potential for invasion of noxious weeds due to vegetation disturbance associated with the Proposed Action.
PI	Special Status Animal Species*	O&M activities may cause temporary loss of habitat for special status birds and terrestrial mammal species. Human disturbance associated with O&M activities may cause special status animals to temporarily utilize adjacent habitats. No in-water activities are planned, so impacts to sensitive aquatic species are only likely if activities occur adjacent to wetlands and waterbodies associated with these species.
PI	Special Status Plant Species*	Suitable habitat for the federally listed Dudley Bluffs bladderpod and Dudley Bluffs twinpod occurs within the project ROW. Occupied habitat of the BLM Sensitive debris milkvetch occurs within the ROW. Potential habitat for other BLM sensitive species is also located within the ROW. Project activities have the potential to impact individuals of these species if present in the area of disturbance for O&M activities. See Additional Discussion Below.
PI	Migratory Birds	The project area is located within greasewood/sagebrush, sagebrush, and pinyon-juniper habitats, which provide nesting habitat for a variety of migratory birds. O&M activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period when possible or as conditioned by BLM; however, if activities did occur during the nesting season, there could be a loss of nesting habitat and bird nests.
PI	Aquatic Wildlife*	No in-water activities are planned, so impacts to aquatic wildlife species are only likely if activities occur adjacent to wetlands and waterbodies associated with these species.
PI	Terrestrial Wildlife*	O&M activities may cause temporary loss of habitat for terrestrial wildlife species. Human disturbance associated with O&M activities may cause terrestrial wildlife to temporarily utilize adjacent habitats.
PI	Wild Horses	The project crosses the North Piceance Herd Area and the Piceance-East Douglas Creek Herd Management Area. O&M activities may cause temporary displacement to a given location and loss of foraging habitat for wild horses. O&M activities conducted during a BLM authorized wild horse gather or during the foaling period, could interfere with the ability of the BLM to gather horses, or may cause stress to pregnant mares or separation of mares and foals.
Heritage Resources and the Human Environment		
PI	Cultural Resources	Cultural resources have been identified in the area.
PI	Paleontological Resources	The majority of O&M activities would occur in previously disturbed areas, however activities occurring outside would be located in areas with high to very high paleontological potential.
NI	Native American Religious Concerns	There are no Native American religious concerns associated with the Proposed Action.
PI	Visual Resources	The project area is within a VRM Class III area because of the existing pipeline and adjacent power line rights-of-way.
PI	Hazardous or Solid Wastes	See discussion below.
NI	Fire Management	BLM fire prevention plan to be implemented, including coordination with fuel reduction program.
NI	Social and Economic	O&M activities would not impact or change any social or economic

Table 2. Resources and Determination of Need for Further Analysis

Determination ¹	Resource	Rationale for Determination
	Conditions	conditions within the WRFO.
NP	Environmental Justice	According to the most recent Census Bureau statistics (2010), there are no minority or low income populations within the WRFO.
Resource Uses		
NI	Forest Management	See Discussion Below
PI	Rangeland Management	O&M activities could require disturbance/removal of vegetation.
PI	Floodplains, Hydrology, and Water Rights	O&M activities could alter natural ground and surface water patterns which could affect recharge and discharge patterns, spring productivity, stream channel morphology, and riparian areas.
PI	Realty Authorizations	O&M activities may affect realty authorizations in some locations such as road crossings or other authorized ROWs.
PI	Recreation	O&M activities may affect impact or change recreational activities in the area.
PI	Access and Transportation	O&M activities may affect impact or change Access and Transportation in the area.
NP	Prime and Unique Farmlands	There are no Prime and Unique Farmlands within the project area.
Special Designations		
PI	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	A small portion of the White River ACEC falls within the project area. However, there are no specific dig locations within 100 meters of the ACEC in question. See discussion below.
NP	Wilderness	No Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas are present in the project area.
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	There are no Wild and Scenic Rivers in the WRFO.
NI	Scenic Byways	Project activities near or along SH 139, the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway, occur outside of Canyon Pintado National Historic District and in an already heavily modified visual setting. As such, no impacts to the integrity of the Scenic Byway are expected.
¹ NP = Not present in the area impacted by the Proposed Action or Alternatives. NI = Present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required. PI = Present with potential for impact analyzed in detail in the EA.		
* Public Land Health Standard		

SOIL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The classifications of soils that may be impacted by the Proposed Action are shown in Table 3, which identifies important soils characteristics for each soil type.

Table 3. Soil Classifications within the Proposed Action Area

SMU	Soil Name	Slope (percent)	Drainage Class	Available Water Capacity	Run Off	Soil Erosion Potential	Depth to Bedrock (inches)
1	Abor clay loam	3-30	Well drained	Low	Rapid	High	20-40
5	Badland	10-65	N/A	Very low	Rapid	High	0-10
6	Barcus channery loamy sand	2-8	Somewhat excessively drained	Low	Slow	Moderate	>60
10	Blazon moist-Rentsac complex	8-65	Well drained	Low	Rapid	Moderate to very high	10-20

SMU	Soil Name	Slope (percent)	Drainage Class	Available Water Capacity	Run Off	Soil Erosion Potential	Depth to Bedrock (inches)
11	Borollic Calciorthids-Guben Complex	6-50	Well drained	Low to moderate	Medium to rapid	Slight to high	20 to >60
15	Chastner channery loam	5-50	Well drained	Very low	Medium to rapid	Moderate to very high	10-20
21	Cliffdown-Cliffdown Variant complex	5-65	Somewhat excessively to well drained	Very low	Slow to Rapid	Slight to high	10 to >60
25	Colorow sandy loam	0-3	Moderately well drained	Moderate	Medium	Slight	>60
26	Cowdrey-Tampico loams	15-50	Well drained	High	Medium	High to very high	>60
31	Dollard silty clay loam	15-40	Well drained	Low	Rapid	Very high	20-40
33	Forelle loam	3-8	Well drained	High	Medium	Moderate	>60
34	Forelle loam	8-15	Well drained	High	Medium	Moderate to high	>60
36	Glendive fine sandy loam	2-4	Well drained	Moderate	Slow	Slight	>60
40	Hagga loam	0-5	Poorly drained	High	Slow	Slight	>60
43	Irigul-Parachute complex	5-30	Well drained	Low	Medium to rapid	Slight to very high	10-40
46	Kinnear fine sandy loam	1-5	Well drained	High	Medium	Slight	>60
53	Moyerson stony clay loam	15-65	Well drained	Low	Rapid	Very High	10-20
55	Nihill channery sandy loam	5-50	Somewhat excessively drained	Low	Medium	Moderate to very high	>60
59	Parachute-Rhone loams	5-30	Well drained	Low to high	Medium	Moderate to high	20-60
61	Patent loam	3-8	Well drained	High	Medium	Moderate	>60
64	Piceance fine sandy loam	5-15	Well drained	Moderately low	Slow to Medium	Moderate to high	20-40
66	Potts-Begay fine sandy loams	2-7	Well drained	Moderate to high	Slow to medium	Slight to moderate	>60
70	Redcreek-Rentsac complex	5-30	Well drained	Very low	Medium	Moderate to high	10-20
73	Rentsac channery loam	5-50	Well drained	Very low	Rapid	Moderate to very high	10-20
74	Rentsac-Moyerson-Rock outcrop complex	5-65	Well drained	Very low to low	Medium to rapid	Moderate to very high	10-20
75	Rentsac-Piceance complex	2-30	Well drained	Very low to low	Medium	Slight to high	10-40

Table 3. Soil Classifications within the Proposed Action Area							
SMU	Soil Name	Slope (percent)	Drainage Class	Available Water Capacity	Run Off	Soil Erosion Potential	Depth to Bedrock (inches)
78	Rock outcrop	50-100	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
90	Torrifluvents gullied	0-5	Well drained to somewhat excessively drained	Moderate to high	Rapid	Very high	>60
91	Torriorthents-Rock outcrop complex	15-90	Well drained to somewhat excessively drained	Very low	Very rapid	Very High	10-20
93	Turley fine sandy loam	0-3	Well drained	High	Medium	Slight	>60
94	Turley fine sandy loam	3-8	Well drained	High	Medium	Slight to moderate	>60
95	Uffens loam	0-5	Well drained	Moderate	Slow	Moderate	>60
104	Yamac loam	2-15	Well drained	Moderate to high	Medium	Slight to moderate	>60
129	Water						
131	Dam						
<i>Source: USDA et. Al, 1982.</i>							

Approximately 21 acres of “fragile soils” are located within the Proposed Action. Soils identified as fragile in the Planning Area are typically located on steep slopes (greater than 35 percent) and also have one of the following characteristics:

- A surface texture of sand, loamy sand, very fine sandy loam, fine sandy loam, silty clay, or clay;
- A depth to bedrock that is less than 20 inches;
- An erosion condition rated as poor;
- A soil erodibility factor (K factor) that exceeds 0.32.

Activities proposed on fragile soils are subject to surface use stipulations that would mitigate surface erosion and subsequent watershed problems. These soil classes are managed as CSU-1 areas according to the 1997 White River RMP (BLM, 1997). Surface disturbing activities in CSU-1 areas require an engineered construction/reclamation plan that addresses restoration of soil productivity and soil erosion.

The fragile soils impacted by the Proposed Action typically consist of saline soils (approximately 13 acres) or soils on slopes greater than 35 percent (approximately 8 acres). Based on a review of the BLM’s fragile soil mapping and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil data, there are 11 soil map units (SMU) located on fragile soil areas within the Proposed Action. As indicated in Table 3 these include SMUs: 11 (Borollic Calciorthids-Guben Complex), 21 (Cliffdown-Cliffdown Variant complex), 36 (Glendive fine sandy loam), 40 (Hagga loam), 55 (Nihill channery sandy loam), 66 (Potts-Begay fine sandy loams), 73 (Rentsac channery loam), 74 (Rentsac-Moyerson-Rock outcrop complex), 90 (Torrifluvents gullied), 91 (Torriorthents-Rock outcrop complex), and 95 (Uffens loam). Figure 2 shows the locations of fragile soils and saline soils that could be impacted by the Proposed Action, and Table 4 shows the approximate milepost crossings of these soils along the Proposed Action area.

Table 4. Fragile Soils Crossed by the Proposed Action Area on BLM Lands			
SMU	MP In	MP Out	Slopes
73	6.53	6.60	>35%
73	6.65	6.67	>35%
73	6.73	6.75	>35%
73	6.79	6.80	>35%
73	6.86	6.90	>35%
36	7.36	7.38	>35%
36	7.38	7.40	>35%
36	7.40	7.43	>35%
36	7.45	7.45	>35%
36	7.47	7.48	>35%
36	7.55	7.63	>35%
91	7.67	7.73	>35%
40	10.64	10.68	>35%
91	11.13	11.21	>35%
73	14.07	14.08	>35%
73	14.10	14.14	>35%
73	14.69	14.69	>35%
73	14.71	14.72	>35%
73	14.95	14.96	>35%
11	19.73	19.76	>35%
95	24.66	24.83	>35%
21	30.94	30.95	>35%
66	30.99	31.00	>35%
21 and 90	31.59	31.64	>35%
55	31.77	31.77	>35%
55 and 74	31.77	31.79	>35%
91	32.26	32.30	>35%
91	32.73	32.76	>35%
91	33.07	33.08	>35%
55	41.04	41.06	>35%
55	41.07	41.16	>35%

SMU	MP In	MP Out	Slopes
55	45.13	45.19	>35%
91	46.56	46.56	>35%
55	46.58	46.61	>35%
55	46.62	46.64	>35%
55	46.65	46.70	>35%
55	46.71	46.73	>35%
55	46.76	46.77	>35%

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: Activities associated with the Proposed Action (e.g., leak surveys, corrosion protection, and anomaly investigations) would remove protective vegetative cover from the affected soils thereby accelerating the erosion process. Grading, trenching, and backfilling activities associated with the anomaly investigations could cause mixing of the soil horizons which could result in reduced soil fertility and reduced revegetation potential. Construction equipment, increased vehicle use, and removal of vegetation could cause surface soil compaction that could lead to lower absorption levels and increases in surface runoff and sedimentation. Water erosion of soils associated with anomaly investigations activities could result in a net loss of valuable topsoil by sheet, rill, and gully erosion.

Any leaks or spills of pollutants (e.g., diesel fuel) or hazardous substances could compromise the productivity of affected soils. Decreased soil productivity at these sites would hinder reclamation efforts and leave soils further exposed to erosional processes. Spills and leaks, once detected, would be cleaned up by removing contaminated soil and replacing it with clean soil or by bioremediation onsite and then reclaimed. This would occur depending on the volume of the spill, under direction of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the BLM when on BLM administered lands. Productivity of soils would be compromised until cleanup and reclamation efforts are successful.

Some minor access road improvements are expected at select locations which would include blading and grading repair work to allow construction equipment and utility vehicles to safely access the ROW. Access roads used and or improved to construction sites may include the use of culverts to cross small drainages and may require minor improvements to make them passable by construction equipment. These roads should be considered temporary for the maintenance actions and should be stabilized and reclaimed according to the Proposed Action.

Water trucks would be used, as needed, for dust suppression on access roads and along the ROW, which should reduce dust and loss of soil by winds.

Plant growth is slightly stunted in areas with steeper slopes, which is to be expected. There has not been a complete assessment of the ROW for reclamation efforts or the success of vegetation; therefore, standards have not been assessed in a systematic way along the ROW. In fragile, saline, and soils on steep slopes this lack of reclamation success can lead to local erosion and loss of productivity of soils. Good reclamation efforts, including the mitigation described below, are likely to restore healthy soil productivity to these areas.

Cumulative Effects: Past activities along the pipeline ROW include soil and vegetation disturbance associated with the original construction of the Piceance Creek Lateral pipeline in 1956. Current and future activities within and adjacent to the project area that could contribute to cumulative effects include livestock grazing, range improvements, recreational activities including hiking and off-road vehicles, oil and gas development, power lines, and vegetation treatments.

Mitigation: As outlined in the White River Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, all surface disturbing activities in areas of fragile soils would only be allowed after the submitted reclamation plan is approved by the Area Manager. This plan explains how soil productivity would be restored in these areas, and how surface runoff would be treated to avoid accelerated erosion including rilling, gulying, piping, and mass wasting.

To mitigate additional soils erosion at O&M project sites and potential increased sedimentation and salt loading, all disturbed areas affected by O&M projects shall be reclaimed as quickly as possible and as exact to their original condition as possible. Interim reclamation at O&M project locations along the pipeline ROW would follow the applicable Conditions of Approval outlined in the White River Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (1997) including:

- When preparing the site, all suitable topsoil shall be stripped from the surface for the location and stockpiled for reclamation.
- All activity shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches or when construction equipment is unable to stay within the ROW and approved access roads unless otherwise approved by the Authorization Officer.
- All culverts used to improve temporary access to worksites shall be removed after work is completed and disturbance shall be reclaimed according to the POD and mitigation described in the vegetation section. Culverts installed on access roads to long-term maintenance facilities shall be designed to pass the 10-year storm without erosion and the 25-year storm without failure.
- Disturbed areas shall be restored as nearly as possible to its original contour, restoring the surface hydrology before seeding and topsoil spreading efforts begin.
- Slopes within the disturbed area shall be stabilized by non-vegetative practices designed to hold the soil in place and minimize erosion. Vegetative cover shall be reestablished to increase infiltration and provide additional protection from erosion.
- When erosion is anticipated, sediment barriers shall be constructed to slow runoff, allow deposition of sediment, and prevent it from leaving the site.
- Fill materials shall be pushed into cut areas and up over backslopes. Leave no depressions that would trap water or form ponds.

The following additional BLM mitigation measures will be applied to improve reclamation success and stabilize soils:

- All maintenance actions that include surface disturbance on fragile soils are subject to the requirements of CSU-1. The holder shall provide a detailed reclamation plan that will include, at a minimum, the following information for maintenance actions that require surface disturbance:
 - a. Photos of area to be disturbed, taken from permanent photo points.

- b. Pre-disturbance or current terrain and contour.
 - c. Establishment of monitoring sites to assess successful reclamation should include the collection of the following soils information; soil type, texture, erosion potential, average topsoil depth and characteristics (i.e., physical and chemical properties), and average depth to bedrock by soil type.
 - d. Pre-disturbance ground cover, including surface rock and vegetation composition (by species). Data must be gathered using quantitative methods to measure the six Core Terrestrial Indicators and Methods in BLM Technical Note 440. Approved methods are found in Monitoring Manual for Grassland, Shrubland, and Savanna Ecosystems, Volume I and II: Quick Start. Other data collection methods such as those described in BLM Technical Reference 1730-1 or 1734-4 may be used if pre-approved by the BLM (Appendix B).
 - e. Pre-disturbance survey identifying and quantifying noxious and/or invasive weeds within the area of direct and indirect use (project disturbance and a 200 foot buffer), including all access roads, pipelines, or other associated surface disturbance.
 - f. NRCS range site(s) or associated reference site(s) (identified and mapped). Reference sites can be used when the holder and the BLM agree that the site does not reflect the range site. The reference site must be approved by the BLM. The holder must provide statistically valid quantitative reference site measurements of vegetation cover, vegetation composition, woody plant density, and percent bare ground. Pre-disturbance vegetation data must be gathered using quantitative methods as explained above
- Natural slopes greater than 35 percent (as identified on 10-meter Digital Elevation Model data) and saline soils will be avoided. When these areas cannot be avoided a detailed engineering/reclamation plan will be submitted as described for CSU-1 and according to pre-disturbance data collection efforts described above.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard #1 for Upland Soils: Soils in the vicinity of the Proposed Action are likely meeting the indicators defined by Standard 1; however, in some areas weedy species and poor soil may hinder reclamation and keep local areas from meeting standards. There are both herbaceous and woody vegetation present with a mixture of sagebrush and juniper on the 50 year old ROW.

Standard 1 soil indicators include:

- Expression of rills and soils pedestals is minimal.
- Evidence of actively-eroding gullies is minimal.
- Canopy and ground cover are appropriate.
- There is litter accumulating in place and is not sorted by normal overland water flow.
- There is appropriate organic matter in soil.
- There is a diversity of plant species with a variety of root depths.
- Upland Swales have vegetation cover or density greater than that of adjacent uplands.
- There are vigorous, desirable plants.

By following the suggested mitigation techniques and reclamation procedures, the Proposed Action should not change this status.

SURFACE AND GROUND WATER QUALITY

Affected Environment:

Surface Water: The Proposed Action is located within the White River Basin across five tenth level watersheds, which are the outlet Piceance Creek, Yellow Creek, Crooked/White River, Red Wash/White River, and outlet Douglas Creek. All five of these watersheds feed into the White River, which is a tributary itself to the Green River in Utah. Specifically, according to available National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), the Proposed Action crosses approximately 100 waterbodies including the following: multiple unnamed tributaries to Douglas Creek; Douglas Creek; White River (at Kenney Reservoir); multiple unnamed tributaries to the White River; Gilliam Draw; Little Gilliam Draw; Taylor Draw; Spring Creek; unnamed tributary to Quinn Draw; Quinn Draw; Fletcher Gulch; Hammond Draw; multiple unnamed tributaries to Hammond Ditch; School Gulch; Alkali Gulch; Boise Gulch; multiple unnamed tributaries to Spring Gulch; Spring Gulch; tributary to Burnt Gulch; Burnt Gulch; Little Spring Creek; multiple unnamed tributaries to Yellow Creek; Yellow Creek; multiple unnamed tributaries to Blair Ditch; multiple unnamed tributaries to Piceance Creek; Piceance Creek; Dry Fork Piceance Creek; multiple unnamed tributaries to Greasewood Gulch; and Greasewood Gulch (USGS, 2007).

Regulation No. 37 Classifications and Numeric Standards for Lower Colorado River Basin and the “Status of Water Quality in Colorado-2006” were both reviewed for information relating to drainages within the project area. The area encompasses multiple stream segments of the White River Basin. These segments are described in Table 5.

Stream Segment	Description	Use Designation	Beneficial Use Classification	Physical and Biological Standards
9a	All tributaries to the White River, including all wetlands, from the confluence of the North and South Forks to a point immediately above the confluence with Piceance Creek, which are not within the boundary of national forest lands, except for the specific listings in Segments 9b and 10b.	Use Protected	Aquatic Life Cold 2 Recreation 2 Water Supply Agriculture	D.O = 6.0 mg/l D.O. (sp) = 7.0 mg/l pH = 6.5 – 9.0 F. Coli = 2000/100ml E. Coli = 630/100ml
12	Mainstream of the White River from a point immediately above the confluence with Piceance Creek to a point immediately above the confluence with Douglas Creek including Taylor Draw Reservoir.		Aquatic Life Warm 1 Recreation 1a Water Supply Agriculture	D.O = 5.0 mg/l pH = 6.5 – 9.0 F. Coli = 200/100ml E. Coli = 126/100ml

Table 5. White River Stream Segments Within the Proposed Action Area				
Stream Segment	Description	Use Designation	Beneficial Use Classification	Physical and Biological Standards
13a	All tributaries to the White River, including all wetlands, lakes and reservoirs from a point immediately above the confluence with Piceance Creek to a point immediately above the confluence with Douglas Creek, except for the specific listings in Segments 13b through 20.	Use Protected	Aquatic Life Warm 2 Recreation 2 Agriculture	D.O = 5.0 mg/l pH = 6.5 – 9.0 F. Coli = 2000/100ml E. Coli = 630/100ml
13b	Mainstem of Yellow Creek, including all tributaries, from the source to the confluence with the White River.	Use Protected	Aquatic Life Warm 2 Recreation 2 Agriculture	D.O = 5.0 mg/l pH = 6.5 – 9.0 F. Coli = 2000/100ml E. Coli = 630/100ml
15	Mainstem of Piceance Creek from the Emily Oldhand diversion dam to the confluence with the White River.		Aquatic Life Warm 2 Recreation 1b Agriculture	D.O = 5.0 mg/l pH = 6.5 – 9.0 F. Coli = 325/100ml E. Coli = 205/100ml
16	All tributaries to Piceance Creek, including all wetlands, lakes and reservoirs, from the source to the confluence with the White River, except for the specific listings in Segments 17 and 20.	Use Protected	Aquatic Life Warm 2 Recreation 2 Agriculture	D.O = 5.0 mg/l pH = 6.5 – 9.0 F. Coli = 2000/100ml E. Coli = 630/100ml
17	Stewart Gulch from the sources of the East, Middle, and West Forks to the confluence with Piceance Creek. Mainstem of Willow Creek from the source to the confluence with Piceance Creek. Mainstem of Fawn Creek from the source to the confluence with Black Sulphur Creek. Mainstem of Dry Fork of the Piceance Creek including all tributaries, wetlands, lakes, and reservoirs from the source to the confluence with Piceance Creek.	Use Protected	Aquatic Life Cold 2 Recreation 2 Agriculture	D.O = 6.0 mg/l D.O. (sp) = 7.0 mg/l pH = 6.5 – 9.0 F. Coli = 2000/100ml E. Coli = 630/100ml
22	All tributaries to the White River, including all wetlands, lakes and reservoirs, from a point immediately above the confluence with Douglas Creek to the Colorado/Utah border, except for specific listing in Segment 23	Use Protected	Aquatic Life Warm 2 Recreation 1b Agriculture	D.O = 5.0 mg/l pH = 6.5 – 9.0 F. Coli = 325/100ml E. Coli = 205/100ml
<i>Sources: CDPHE-WQCC 2006 and 2012.</i>				

Colorado’s Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulation No. 93 in Colorado’s Section 303(d) list of Impaired Waters and Monitoring and Evaluation List was reviewed for information related to drainage areas within the project area. The 2012 303(d) list included four segments of the White River within the Proposed Action, specifically, segment 9a (Strawberry

Creek), segment 13c (Yellow Creek), segment 15 (Piceance Creek), segment 16 (Ryan Gulch), and segment 22 (West Evacuation Creek and Douglas Creek). Segment 15 is listed for aquatic life and segment 22 is listed for sediment. Both of the segments are classified as a low priority. Within the Proposed Action area, three segments of the White River are included in the 2012 Monitoring and Evaluation List. These segments are 9a, 13b and 16. Segment 9a is listed for copper and zinc, segment 13b is listed for selenium, and segment 16 is listed for *E. coli* (CDPHE-WQCC, 2012).

Of the impaired segments, most are crossed perpendicular to the channels such as Yellow Creek, Piceance Creek, etc.; however, approximately 1.5 miles of the pipeline route runs parallel to the Douglas Creek stream channel. There are several sections of this pipeline that have required armoring of outside meander bends and installation of rock weirs designed to maintain the current channel of Douglas Creek.

Ground Water: Surface geologic formations along the Proposed Action include the Uinta formation, Green River formation, Wasatch formation, and the Mesaverde group. The Uinta formation is Tertiary in age and consists predominantly of interbedded siltstone and sandstone. The Green River formation is Tertiary in age and is composed of dolomitic marlstone, fine-grained sandstone, shale, claystone, siltstone, and oil shale. The Wasatch formation is Tertiary in age and consists of shale and sandstone. The Mesaverde group is Cretaceous in age and composed of interbedded sandstone, shale, and coal (Topper et al., 2003).

A review of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Ground Water Atlas of the United States (Topper et al., 2003) and the Ground Water Atlas of Colorado (Robson, S.G. and E.R Banta, 1995) was done to evaluate ground water resources in the area. The Proposed Action is located primarily within the Piceance Creek structural basin. The basin is located within portions of eight Colorado counties including Rio Blanco County, and is characterized by high plateaus and deep valleys covering approximately 7,110 square miles. The Colorado, White, Gunnison, and North Fork Gunnison rivers are the principal rivers that drain the basin.

The Uinta-Animas aquifer is the shallowest aquifer underlying the Proposed Action. Within the Piceance Creek basin, this aquifer is located within the Uinta formation and the Green River formation with the mahogany confining unit separating upper and lower portions of the aquifer. Thickness of these Tertiary aged formations varies from 2,000 to 12,000 ft across the basin. The aquifer receives approximately 24,000 acre-ft per year of recharge, with approximately equal levels of discharge. Water quality dissolved-solid concentrations within the upper part of the aquifer range from 500 to >1,000 milligrams per liter while the lower part has >10,000 milligrams per liter (Topper et al., 2003; Robson, S.G. and E.R Banta, 1995).

Other deeper aquifers include the Fort Union aquifer and the Mesaverde aquifer. The Fort Union aquifer is a very thin aquifer located below the confining unit that separates the Uinta-Animas aquifer from older units. This aquifer is not considered a primary aquifer. The Mesaverde aquifer averages 3,000 ft in thickness and is located in the Mesaverde group. As of 2001, there were about 2,200 water supply wells located within Piceance Basin with approximately 30 percent of the population of Rio Blanco County relying solely on public ground water systems (Topper et al., 2003).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: Surface Water: The Proposed Action would temporarily expose soils thereby accelerating the erosional process. The Proposed Action activities including any clearing, grading, and soil stockpiling could temporarily change natural surface water recharge patterns. Construction equipment, increased vehicle use, and removal of vegetation could cause surface soil compaction which could in turn lead to lower absorption levels and increases in sedimentation, surface runoff, and salt loading to surface waters in the Yellow Creek, Piceance Creek, and White River systems. The level and extent of the potential impacts would depend on a variety of factors including; soil type, soil depth, slope, vegetation, and the timely implementation and success/failure of mitigation measures.

Some of the maintenance activities located near Douglas Creek could contribute additional sediment to Douglas Creek, but impacts should be temporary and associated with storm events. Best management practices, stormwater management, and construction practices are likely to minimize this impact. Any new exposure or potential exposure of the pipeline that requires in-channel work, such as armoring and installation of bendway weirs, in Douglas Creek would be done under a separate authorization for which impacts would be described.

Ground Water: Local groundwater could be impacted if any leaks or spills of hazardous materials occur during O&M activities are not identified and rectified in a timely manner and are thus able to infiltrate soils. The project would have a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan in place prior to any ground disturbing activities taking place. By implementing this SPCC Plan, short and long-term impacts on groundwater resources would be greatly reduced or eliminated. Impacts to bedrock aquifers are not expected.

Cumulative Effects: Surface Water: Past activities along the pipeline ROW that could have adverse cumulative effects on the Proposed Action include the overall disturbance associated with the original construction of the Piceance Creek Lateral pipeline in 1956, oil and gas development activities, and recreation. Current and future activities in the project area that could contribute to cumulative effects include livestock grazing, water related recreational activities, range improvements (water development), oil and gas development, power lines, and vegetation treatments.

Ground Water: Past activities along the pipeline ROW that could have adverse cumulative effects on the Proposed Action include the overall disturbance associated with the original construction of the Piceance Creek Lateral pipeline in 1956, including construction of associated roads and facilities. Current and future activities in the project area that could contribute to cumulative effects include range improvements (water development), oil and gas development, and oil shale.

Mitigation: To mitigate for impacts to water quality, all disturbed areas shall be reclaimed as quickly and as exact to their original condition as possible. Interim reclamation of O&M projects along the pipeline ROW would follow the applicable Conditions of Approval outlined in the White River Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan including:

- Blasting or vibrating within 1/8 –mile of federally-owned or controlled springs and flowing water wells would not be allowed.

- Water bars shall be constructed on all of the rights-of-way, and across the full width of the disturbed area per the Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan or as directed by the Authorized Officer.
- To help manage livestock use, restore all fences disturbed by the Proposed Action with adequate H-braces and to conditions as good as or better than prior to the project disturbance.

The following additional mitigation measures will be applied:

- Any leaks or spills from the pipeline or construction and maintenance activities with the potential to impact surface or groundwater quality will be immediately reported to the Authorized Officer along with plans for containment, clean-up and restoration of impacted waters and/or soils in conformance with CDPHE and/or BLM requirements and standards.
- Springs, wells used as water supplies, floodplains, and perennial surface water features will be avoided within 500 feet of the feature, when possible. Any maintenance action that cannot avoid these areas will be clearly identified in maintenance actions proposed and will require a detailed engineering/reclamation plan as described for CSU-1 for fragile soils.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard #5 for Water Quality: Stream segments 9a, 12, 13a, 13b, 15, 16, 17, and 22 of the White River Basin are currently meeting State Water Quality levels with the exception of segment 9a, segment 16, and segment 22. Of these segments only segment 22 has a listed impairment due to sediment. The 2010 Monitoring and Evaluation List includes two segments of the White River within the Proposed Action area: segment 13b and segment 16. Segment 13b is listed for selenium and segment 16 is listed for *E. coli* (CDPHE-WQCC, 2010). Segments 13c (Yellow Creek) is listed for aquatic life and iron. The mainstem of Piceance Creek (segment 15) is provisionally listed for aquatic life. Following the suggested mitigation measures described above, water quality in the affected stream segment should not change from current levels; however, segment 22 may need to be monitored to insure sediment levels are not increasing.

WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN ZONES

Affected Environment: The Proposed Action is located in the White River Basin and crosses river floodplains, several small drainages, small riparian corridors, and a reservoir. Associated with these areas are herbaceous and woody wetland and riparian plant communities as well as various types of waterbodies, wetlands, rivers, creeks, dry washes, and springs (BLM, 2007). O&M activities would potentially involve localized disturbance of seeps, springs, stream or creek channels, and riparian corridors. Potentially affected wetland and riparian zones within the vicinity of the Proposed Action could be jurisdictional, could be located adjacent to, or could include:

- Eight stream segments of the White River (listed in *Surface & Ground Water Quality* section),
- 36 BLM springs (listed in *Floodplains, Hydrology, and Water Rights* section),
- Approximately 100 waterbodies (listed in the *Surface & Groundwater Quality* section).

The 2012 proposed project work involves only two sites where excavation of a riparian/wetland-bearing channel on BLM-administered surface would occur. These sites are in adjacent drainages, Boise Creek, and Spring Gulch (see locations below). As mapped, pipeline repair would remove 28 meters of channel vegetation from each site (about 0.04 and 0.9 acre of riparian/wetland vegetation in Spring Gulch and Boise Creek, respectively).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Localized disturbances of wetland and riparian features could cause brief releases of sediment into channels, cause erosion, change channel morphology, displace native or desirable vegetation along channel banks, or disturb the natural function of a seep or spring. Direct and indirect impacts would be avoided or minimized by implementing BMPs as defined in NWP's POD (NWP, 2012). With proper mitigation after O&M activities, no long term impacts to wetlands and riparian areas downstream of local disturbance are expected.

Specific to 2012 project work, excavation of the two affected channels (see channel locations in following table) represents a substantial (28 meters) break in the continuity of erosion-resistant wetland root masses that would leave the channel vulnerable to adverse adjustments (e.g., nick point formation and dow-cutting) and risks degrading the condition and function of these small systems for extended periods of time. Application of wetland-oriented reclamation to these sites would be expected to promote rapid redevelopment of wetland vegetation and minimize the risk of channel deterioration. Establishing small fenced exclosures around each of the two disturbed channels would aid in rapid reclamation success and would be expected to largely eliminate the need for remedial wetland revegetation and monitoring efforts that may be required over the ensuing three or more years (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) objective VI.D. 4). Annual inspection and repair of the fences' integrity would remain important and may be integrated with routine pipeline inspections.

Mitigation: In areas where avoiding direct disturbance of wetland or riparian features are not considered possible, NWP would notify the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) of any potentially jurisdictional areas and/or any wetland or riparian areas that would be affected by the Proposed Action. Copies of all correspondence with COE, including wetland/riparian mapping, would be submitted to BLM WRFO. NWP would comply with all COE conditions on any applicable Nationwide Permits issued as a result of the Proposed Action. The holder will also remain subject to Conditions of Approval that are developed by BLM WRFO through project-specific NEPA analysis for purposes of wetland/riparian avoidance, mitigation, or reclamation.

For the limited number of wetland and riparian features that would be affected by the Proposed Action, NWP would meet the criteria set forth in the Public Land Health Standard for Riparian Systems (BLM, 1997a). NWP would also adhere to FERC's *Wetland and Waterbody Construction and Mitigation Procedures* and the appropriate BMPs in the Proposed Action's POD (NWP, 2012). By following the suggested mitigation techniques and reclamation procedures throughout the small amount of affected habitat, it is probable that these areas would return to wetland vegetation, thereby continuing to meet the standard for the life of the project.

Specific to the 2012 project proposals, a durable (minimum functional equivalent of Type-D four-strand barbed-wire with braced six-inch diameter wooden fence corners) fence that will prevent access by livestock for a minimum of three years will be erected to enclose each of the two affected channels on BLM surface (locations described in table below). The excavated channels must be reestablished at their original base levels. Upland areas within the exclosure

will be subject to standard reclamation practices; disturbed portions of the wetted channels would be allowed to revegetate with native sources of wetland plants. Maintenance of these structures would remain the responsibility of the applicant until the sites are successfully restored (FERC objective VI.D.4). Consistent with reclamation objectives established in FERC’s 2003 “Wetland and Waterbody Construction and Mitigation Procedures” (i.e., VI.C.4. and VI.D.3-4) and as committed to in NWP’s POD, reclamation would be considered successful when appropriate herbaceous cover (obligate riparian forms) reach at least 80% of the type, density, and distribution of vegetation in adjacent wetland areas.

System Name	Site	Channel Crossing UTM's (NAD 83 Zone 12)	Legal Subdivision
Boise Creek channel	Anomaly Dig 40480	708260m E./4449795m N	T2N R99W sec 6: Lot 21 (~SWNW)
Spring Gulch channel	Recoat MP 30.48	710012m E./4450336m N	T2N R99W sec 5: Lot 8 (~NWNW)

VEGETATION

Affected Environment: The dominant plant communities along the reclaimed and revegetated pipeline ROW are grassland, salt desert, sagebrush, and pinyon-juniper woodlands (BLM, 2007; CPW, 1993; Entrix, 2010). Dominants in these shrub/scrub communities are greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*), saltbush (*Atriplex* sp.), Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopularum*), and pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*). A final cover type occurring along the ROW, in areas where vegetation was either not reclaimed due to facilities development or where there is bare or rocky ground or open water, is considered developed and non-vegetated land (BLM, 2007).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: Disturbance associated with maintenance activities including digging, dust and soil compaction from vehicles and equipment, and trampling from foot traffic could adversely impact existing vegetation in the short- and long-term. In the short-term, direct effects (within the project area) and indirect effects (adjacent to the project area) include 1) disturbance of the seedbed making an area vulnerable to non-native species establishment, and 2) removal of vegetation creating bare ground making an area susceptible to non-native species colonization and erosion. In the long-term, effects in and outside the project area could include lowering overall plant species diversity and richness, which could impact wildlife and livestock by degrading habitat and grazing areas.

Cumulative Effects: Past activities along the pipeline ROW that could have adverse cumulative effects on the Proposed Action include the overall vegetation disturbance and the remnant vegetation disturbance (BLM, 2007) associated with the original construction of the Piceance Creek Lateral pipeline in 1956, including construction of associated roads and facilities, invasion by non-native and noxious weed species. Current and future activities within and adjacent to the project area that could disturb vegetation by decreasing cover or species richness or by degrading intact native plant communities adjacent to the ROW include commercial development maintenance, such as routine facilities maintenance, vehicle traffic, and foot traffic; livestock and wildlife grazing, especially heavy grazing; recreational activities, including but not limited to off-road vehicle traffic, hiking, and hunting; invasive weed treatments; range improvement projects, including fencing and vegetation treatments; power line development; and other oil and gas development.

Mitigation: As stated in the Proposed Action, the *Design Features (Applicant Committed Mitigation)* include:

- Initial reclamation of the disturbed areas will begin as soon as possible after O&M activities are complete. Debris will be taken to an approved facility and original ground contours will be restored, unless site-specific conditions dictate otherwise. Permanent erosion control devices will be installed and the disturbed work area will be revegetated. All disturbed areas will be seeded within a reasonable timeframe following final grading, weather and soil conditions permitting.
- Before seeding, a firm seed bed will be prepared using a disk, field cultivator, drag, rake, or similar implement. If soils are compacted or rutted, the soil structure will be rehabilitated so that productivity can be maintained. During seeding, seed will be uniformly applied and incorporated into the top layer of soil. Where seed is broadcast, the seed will be incorporated into the soil by raking or dragging. Where a hydroseeder is used, the seed bed will be scarified to allow the seeds to lodge and germinate. All seed will be applied at manufacturer's suggested rates based on the equipment dispersal type.
- As stated in the Proposed Action, permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO *Surface Reclamation Protocol* (April 2011) and NWP will adhere to mitigation techniques explained in NWP's POD (2012). Soil survey data from Natural Resource Conservation Service and associated range sites crossed by the project were utilized to identify the standard seed mixes that will be used for seeding by milepost (Appendix B). For optimal results, seeding should occur between September 1 and March 15. It may be necessary to conduct seeding outside of the prime seeding season. Mulch may be applied as necessary to prevent the seed from eroding before the seed begins to germinate.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard #3 for Plant and Animal Communities:

Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat potential. Plants and animals at both the community and population level are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations, and ecological processes.

Indicators for Standard #3 include:

- Noxious weeds and undesirable species are minimal in the overall plant community.
- Native plant and animal communities are spatially distributed across the landscape with a density, composition, and frequency of species suitable to ensure reproductive capability and sustainability.
- Plants and animals are present in mixed age classes sufficient to sustain recruitment and mortality fluctuations.
- Landscapes exhibit connectivity of habitat or presence of corridors to prevent habitat fragmentation.
- Photosynthetic activity is evident throughout the growing season.
- Diversity and density of plant and animal species are in balance with habitat/landscape potential and exhibit resilience to human activities.
- Appropriate plant litter accumulates and is evenly distributed across the landscape.

- Landscapes composed of several plant communities that may be in a variety of successional stages and patterns.

By following the procedures in WRFO’s *Surface Reclamation Protocol* (April 2011) as well as the mitigation and reseeding techniques set forth in NWP’s POD (2012), the Proposed Action should not change this status.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: Non-native invasive plant species include those listed by the Colorado Department of Agriculture as noxious weeds and other species that are not formally listed as noxious, but are aggressive and tend to displace native plants (DPI, 2006). Noxious weeds are defined by the Colorado Noxious Weed Act as plants that aggressively invade or are detrimental to economic crops or native plant communities; are poisonous to livestock; are carriers of detrimental insects, diseases, or parasites; or are detrimental to the environmentally sound management of natural or agricultural ecosystems (DPI, 2006). Noxious weeds present in the White River Field Office and with the potential to occur along or to colonize the pipeline ROW are listed in Table 6.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Colorado Rating ¹
Russian knapweed	<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	B
Cheatgrass	<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	C
White top	<i>Cardaria draba</i>	B
Plumeless thistle	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>	B
Musk thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	B
Diffuse knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	B
Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>	B
Squarrose knapweed	<i>Centaurea virgata</i>	A
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	B
Bull thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	B
Chinese clematis	<i>Clematis orientalis</i>	B
Poison hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	C
Houndstongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	B
Leafy spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	B
Black henbane	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	B
Tall whitetop	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	B
Oxeye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	B
Dalmatian toadflax	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>	B
Yellow toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	B
Scotch thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	B
Common mullein	<i>Verbascum Thapsus</i>	C
¹ A – Subject to eradication whenever detected. B – Discrete statewide distributions that are subject to eradication, containment, or suppression. C – Controls are recommended, but populations exist statewide ² BLM 2007, DPI 2006		

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: Disturbance associated with maintenance activities including digging, soil compaction from vehicles and equipment, and trampling and seed disbursement from foot and vehicle traffic could adversely impact the project site by increasing invasive plant cover in the short- and long-term. In the short-term, direct effects (within the project area) and indirect effects (adjacent to the project area) include 1) disturbance of the seedbed allowing otherwise dormant non-native species to grow, 2) increased movement and spread of non-native seed via latching on to vehicle undercarriages or wheel wells, or on to a person's bootlaces, and 3) creation of bare ground making an area susceptible to non-native species colonization. In the long-term, effects in and outside the project area could include lowering overall plant species diversity and richness, which could impact native plant communities, wildlife, and livestock by degrading habitat and grazing areas.

Existing conditions were surveyed in May 2012. During this pre-disturbance survey, Cardno Entrix identified and quantified noxious and/or invasive weeds within the area of direct and indirect use (project disturbance and a 200 ft buffer), including all access roads, pipelines, or other associated surface disturbance associated with the 2012 Anomaly Digs (Appendix C).

Cumulative Effects: Past activities along the pipeline ROW that could have adverse cumulative effects on the Proposed Action include the potential for non-native and noxious weed species establishment associated with the original construction of the Piceance Creek Lateral pipeline in 1956 (including associated roads and facilities construction), the 2011 maintenance updates for the nine sites associated with William's integrity management program, and the reclamation following construction performed in 2011.

Current and future activities within and adjacent to the project area that could promote non-native and noxious weed colonization include commercial development maintenance (including but not limited to routine facilities maintenance, vehicle traffic, and foot traffic), livestock and wildlife grazing (especially heavy grazing), recreational activities (including but not limited to off-road vehicle traffic, hiking, and hunting), range improvement projects (including but not limited to fencing), power line development, and other oil and gas development.

Mitigation: To minimize the opportunity for establishment and spread of noxious or invasive weeds associated with maintenance activities, disturbed area reclamation will begin as soon as possible after O&M activities are complete utilizing the seed mixes recommended in the WRFO *Surface Reclamation Protocol* (April 2011). O&M activities will comply with FERC's *Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan* and the BMPs in NWP's POD that pertain to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds (2012). Successful re-vegetation should be achieved within five years. The applicant shall monitor the project area for the presence or invasion of invasive non-native species for the life of the project. Noxious weed species found to establish and/ or spread within or from the project area as a result of the Proposed Action shall be treated using materials and methods approved by the authorized officer (Appendix A).

SPECIAL STATUS ANIMAL SPECIES

Affected Environment: The existing pipeline crosses primarily greasewood/sagebrush, sagebrush, and pinyon-juniper habitats that have distinctive communities of animals associated with them. Approximately 36.8 miles of the project are within BLM owned land, and the remaining 11.5 miles are within private and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) owned land. Sagebrush/grass mix is the predominant community type within the pipeline ROW, followed by sparse juniper/shrub/rock mix and dominated by grass species. Several types of wetlands, rivers, creeks, and dry washes are present in the project area, as well as one reservoir. The existing pipeline ROW is 50-ft wide centered on the pipeline centerline and is maintained as shrub/scrub.

A summary of the federally listed species with potential to occur in the project area is found below, along with descriptions of the BLM sensitive species and state listed species potentially found within the project area. Special status animal species are those listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), listed as sensitive by the BLM, or listed as endangered, threatened or special concern by CPW. Special status species of animals with the potential to occur in the project area are listed below in Table 7. A summary of biological resources within the 50-ft ROW is included in Appendix A.

Table 7. Special Status Animal Species With Potential to Occur in Project Area			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Listed Status ¹	Habitat Within Project Area ²
Birds			
American peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	BLM S, SSC	Potential nesting habitat.
American white pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	BLM S	No suitable nesting habitat; small groups migrate through and reside as non-breeding summer residents in the project area at Rio Blanco Lake and Kenney Reservoir.
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	BLM S, SSC, BGEPA	Suitable nesting habitat and 3 known nests and 3 roosting areas within 1-mile.
Brewer's sparrow	<i>Spizella breweri</i>	BLM S	Nesting habitat widespread and well distributed.
Burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	BLM S, ST	Potential nesting habitat in prairie dog towns.
Columbian sharp-tailed grouse	<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus Columbiana</i>	BLM S, SSC	No potential habitat.
Ferruginous hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	BLM S, SSC	Known nesting habitat north of White River and Highway 64.
Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	BGEPA	Suitable nesting habitat and 17 known nests within 1-mile.
Greater sage-grouse	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	FC, BLM S, SSC	A known lek and brood, production, overall, and winter range.
Greater sandhill crane	<i>Grus canadensis tabida</i>	SSC	No suitable nesting habitat; individuals migrate through project area.
Long-billed curlew	<i>Numerus americanus</i>	BLM S, SSC	No suitable nesting habitat; individuals migrate through project area.

Table 7. Special Status Animal Species With Potential to Occur in Project Area			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Listed Status ¹	Habitat Within Project Area ²
Mountain plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	BLM S, SSC	No suitable nesting habitat; individuals may migrate through project area.
Northern goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	BLM S	Suitable nesting habitat and two known nests within 1-mile.
Western snowy plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	BLM S, SSC	No suitable nesting habitat; migrating individuals use Rio Blanco Lake, a minimum of 3 miles away from project location.
White-faced ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	BLM S	No suitable nesting habitat; small groups migrate through project area.
Yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	FC, BLM S, SSC	No potential habitat.
Mammals			
Big free-tailed bat	<i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i>	BLM S	Potential roost habitat adjacent to project, individuals may fly through area.
Black-footed ferret	<i>Mustela nigripes</i>	FE, SE	Nonessential/experimental population approximately 1.5 miles north
Fringed myotis	<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	BLM S	Potential roost habitat adjacent to project, individuals may fly through area.
Kit fox	<i>Vulpes macrotis</i>	SE	No suitable habitat.
Lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	SE	No potential habitat.
North American wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo luscus</i>	FC, BLM S, SE	No potential habitat
River otter	<i>Lontra canadensis</i>	ST	Suitable and occupied habitat along White River.
Spotted bat	<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	BLM S	Potential roost habitat adjacent to project, individuals may fly through area.
Townsend's big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	BLM S, SSC	Potential roost habitat adjacent to project, individuals may fly through area.
White-tailed prairie dog	<i>Cynomys leucurus</i>	BLM S	Suitable habitat; two known colonies within 1-mile.
Fish			
Bluehead sucker	<i>Catostomus discobolus</i>	BLM S	Suitable and occupied habitat in White River.
Bonytail chub	<i>Gila elegans</i>	FE, SE	No known historic occupation of the White River system in Colorado.
Colorado cutthroat trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii virginalis</i>	BLM S	No suitable habitat.

Table 7. Special Status Animal Species With Potential to Occur in Project Area			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Listed Status ¹	Habitat Within Project Area ²
Colorado pikeminnow (squawfish)	<i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i>	FE, FH, ST	Occupied habitat in the White River below Kenney Reservoir; designated critical habitat represented by the White River's 100-year floodplain and the White River below Rio Blanco Lake.
Flannelmouth sucker	<i>Catostomas latipinnis</i>	BLM S, SSC	Suitable and occupied habitat in White River, Piceance and Yellow Creeks.
Humpback chub	<i>Gila cypha</i>	FE, ST	No historic occupation of the White River system in Colorado.
Mountain sucker	<i>Catostomas platyrhynchus</i>	BLM S, SSC	Suitable and occupied habitat in White River, Piceance Creek and some of its tributaries, and Yellow Creek near the project area.
Razorback sucker	<i>Xyrauchen texanus</i>	FE, SE	No historic occupation of the White River system in Colorado.
Roundtail chub	<i>Gila robusta</i>	BLM S, SSC	Suitable and occupied habitat in White River.
Reptiles and Amphibians			
Boreal western toad	<i>Bufo boreas boreas</i>	BLM S, SE	No suitable habitat.
Great Basin spadefoot toad	<i>Spea intermontana</i>	BLM S	Suitable habitat near Piceance Creek and White River.
Longnose leopard lizard	<i>Gambelia wislizenii</i>	SSC	Distribution not known to include the White River watershed.
Midget faded rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus viridis concolor</i>	BLM S, SSC	Potential habitat below 7000'.
Northern leopard frog	<i>Rana pipiens</i>	BLM S, SSC	Suitable habitat along White River and Piceance and Yellow Creeks.
¹ FE – Federal Endangered FT – Federal Threatened FC – Federal Candidate FH – Federal Designated Critical Habitat BLM S – BLM Sensitive SE – State Endangered ST – State Threatened SSC – State Special Concern BGEPA – Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ² BLM State Director's Sensitive Species List (2009); BLM 2007; Colorado Natural Heritage Program			

Federally Listed Species

The yellow-billed cuckoo and wolverine are known to occur in Rio Blanco County; however, they are unlikely to be found in the project area. Habitat for the yellow-billed cuckoo is not known to occur within the project area, and there are no known recent records of the species occurring in the White River Field Office (BLM, 2007). In Colorado, potential habitat for the wolverine consists of large wilderness areas in mountainous regions. The project is not located in high-elevation terrain, and due to their elusive nature, wolverines are likely to avoid the project area due to human presence.

There is no reasonable likelihood that black-footed ferrets occur in the project area. Relative to the project area, a nonessential/experimental population occurs within the Wolf Creek Management Area (WCMA) located a minimum 1.5 miles north of the project in Rio Blanco and Moffat Counties, Colorado. Ferrets were reintroduced into the WCMA beginning in 2001. Recent survey efforts indicate that ferret numbers have decreased considerably (total of 13 and 12 observations in 2006 and 2008, respectively; 0 observations in 2009 and 2010). Currently, the WCMA does not support a viable ferret population, although a small number of individuals may persist.

The pipeline ROW crosses a complex of three small prairie dog towns on BLM surface, as potential ferret habitat, between mileposts 44 and 45. One of the larger towns (approximately 19.8 acres) would be traversed (about 170 meters) as brief vehicle access on the existing ROW; the remaining town is about 1.6 acres and would be subject to excavation and soil storage necessary for redrilling of a CP deep well. Typical of diminutive and widely separated prairie dog towns along the White River valley, this isolated colony supports a small population of prairie dogs, but due to small town size and low prairie dog abundance, it is incapable of supporting sustained or substantive use by ferrets. This complex is separated from the nearest neighboring prairie dog complex by a minimum 2 miles of unoccupied or unsuitable habitats, including a series of partial barriers (i.e., irrigated agricultural lands, the White River, and Highway 64 corridor) and lies at least 10 miles from the WCMA.

Based on most current CPW mapping, the project occurs within the overall range for the greater sage-grouse between project mileposts 0 to 2.1, 21.2 to 21.8, 22.7 to 23.9, and 29.0 to 39.0. Brood, production, overall, and winter range for the grouse also occurs between mileposts 0.0 and 2.1. Current assessments indicate there is a known lek approximately 2.6 miles east of the pipeline centerline near milepost 0.0. Those habitat intervals along the White River valley (i.e., Blair Mesa, Yellow Creek mouth, Spring Creek/Hammond Draw/Boise Creek) are presently unoccupied and represent either historic habitat or habitats that may yet receive sporadic use during winters with abnormally heavy snow accumulations. The proximity of active leks to these project sites exceeds eight miles. The only interval supporting sage-grouse at the present time is the pipeline's first mile (MP 0-1) on Magnolia. In this reach, the pipeline corridor is closely associated with existing oil and gas infrastructure (compressor station and well pad) and Rio Blanco County Road 76.

The White River and its 100-year floodplain below Rio Blanco Lake is designated critical habitat for Colorado pikeminnow, although the fish are currently confined to the river below Taylor Draw Dam (the westernmost four miles of this project). The pipeline ROW parallels the White River to the south, but is located exclusively on elevated terraces or uplands south of Highway 64 and none of the proposed maintenance actions or access would directly involve critical habitat regardless of ownership. On average, identified maintenance activity would take place about 0.7 channel mile from the margin of critical habitat and would never approach closer than 0.25 channel mile. The endangered bonytail, humpback chub, and razorback sucker do not occur in Colorado portions of the White River, but influences to habitat in the White River basin may affect downstream habitats occupied by these species in the Green River (Utah).

BLM Sensitive Species and Colorado State Listed Species

Northern goshawks, golden eagles, ferruginous hawks, peregrine falcons, and bald eagles are known to nest in habitats associated with or near the project area. There are 58 active, inactive, and historic raptor nests within one-mile of the project on BLM land (BLM, 2010). Although the project area has not been surveyed thoroughly, based on current records, proposed 2012 maintenance activity would not occur within protective nest buffers assigned to those nests (i.e., areas vulnerable to disturbance). Three bald eagle winter roosts occur along the White River near mileposts 14, 20, and 40, and are located within one-mile, but beyond a half mile, of the project. The Colorado Highway 64 corridor separates all roost sites from scheduled 2012 maintenance activity. Burrowing owls are closely associated with prairie dog towns and nest in prairie dog burrows. One prairie dog town is located near the western end of the pipeline and a small prairie dog complex, consisting of three towns, occurs within the ROW between mileposts 44 and 45. Two of these towns (approximately 19.8 and 11.2 acres) would be traversed as brief vehicle access on the existing ROW; the remaining town is about 1.6 acres and would be subject to excavation and soil storage necessary for redrilling of a CP deep well. Specific to proposed 2012 project work, the area required for redrilling of the MP 43.91 deepwell was inspected by a BLM biologist in mid-July 2012. No indications of owl occupation (e.g., owls, white-wash, burrow decoration) were found in the small prairie dog colony encompassing the site.

Surveys for active raptor nests will occur per the 2012 White River Field Office Diurnal Raptor Survey Protocol, or other BLM approved raptor survey protocol, if subsequent maintenance activities would occur between February 1 and August 15. Nests located in areas potentially influenced by maintenance activity would be subject to timing limitations as authorized by the WRFO's most current RMP decisions.

Four bat species, Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, big free-tailed bat, and fringed myotis, may roost in small numbers in pinyon-juniper trees and rock outcrops near the project area, but no habitat or features capable of supporting concentrated roost, hibernacula, or maternity sites are known to occur within 0.5 mile of the project ROW. Bats likely forage widely across the project area, particularly along the White River, and Piceance, Yellow, and Douglas Creeks.

The distribution of midget faded rattlesnake and their habitat is not fully understood in the WRFO. Biological clearances have documented a number of sites that support the snakes in the Douglas Creek and Piceance Creek basins, the nearest being about 850 meters from the existing ROW in the Piceance Basin. Communal hibernacula are used during winter hibernation and all reproductive activity and are composed of appropriately configured rock on south to southeast facing slopes (Travsky and Beauvais, 2004). Emerging in May, gravid females and juvenile snakes remain in close association with these features throughout the year, whereas remaining snakes disperse up to 1.25 miles before returning to hibernacula in mid to late September.

Much of the pipeline corridor in the Piceance Basin and along the White River does not appear to meet the general requirements for this species' choice of hibernacula (e.g., inappropriate aspect and lack of rock substrate) and these features, if they occur, are expected to be fine-scale and widely separated. It is unlikely that those habitats previously modified by ROW development would be capable of serving as midget faded rattlesnake hibernacula, although widely dispersed male and non-reproductive female snakes could occur in any area within 2 km of a den from June through September. Based on an examination of 2011 National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) imagery, those proposed 2012 temporary work space areas (i.e., 4.6

total acres of surface disturbance outside existing ROW corridor) with a southerly orientation do not appear to involve rocky slopes or outcrops that may serve as potential hibernacula.

Bluehead sucker and roundtail chub occupy the White River. Flannelmouth and mountain suckers may be found in the White River and its larger tributaries, including Piceance and Yellow Creeks. The project runs adjacent to the White River at varying distance between mileposts 15 and 44. The project crosses Piceance and Yellow Creeks at mileposts 9 and 23, respectively.

Several historic occurrences of Great Basin spadefoot toad have been documented along the White River at Powell Park and the Piceance Creek valley. Over the past decade, WRFO surveys have documented breeding toads in ephemeral stockponds at low elevations only within several miles of the Colorado-Utah border. Northern leopard frogs are relatively well distributed and locally common along Piceance and Yellow Creeks and are presumed to have similar distribution patterns along the White River.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: Vegetation and ground disturbing activities such as pipeline maintenance activities have the potential to affect special status animal species, if present. Impacts on special status species were evaluated based on consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). The ROW has already been established for this project; therefore, new ground disturbance would be limited, minimizing potential impacts to sensitive species and their habitats.

A summary of potential impacts to federally listed species can be found below, along with a review of effects to BLM sensitive species and state listed species. A Biological Assessment (BA) is being prepared for the Project to determine impacts to federally listed species from 2012 operations and maintenance activities.

Federally Listed Species

The potential effects of project related activities on the black-footed ferret may include loss of shelter due to vegetation clearing, collapsed burrows, and temporary disruption of foraging and resting activities due to disturbance associated with project related equipment. Ground disturbing activities within a prairie dog town inhabited by ferrets may result in injury or direct mortality of ferrets if occupied burrows collapse underneath equipment. Indirect effects to ferrets include loss of habitat that individuals may utilize if populations eventually expand out of the WCMA into new areas. The present (2012) proposal involves about 0.13 acre of prairie dog habitat immediately adjacent to Highway 64. The affected prairie dog town is an isolated 1.6 acre town that has no reasonable potential to attract or support ferret activity. Considering the status of ferret in the WRFO at this point in time, there is no conceivable possibility that disruption of this diminutive tract of prairie dog habitat would have any adverse influence on ferrets or their prey/habitat base.

Potential direct impacts of project related activities on sage-grouse habitats could include loss of lekking grounds, nesting areas, or foraging areas. Depending on the timing of project activities within known lekking and nesting areas for the greater sage-grouse, activities could impact breeding success as sage grouse are particularly sensitive to disturbance and noise in the vicinity

of lekking grounds. Nesting habitat can occur up to four miles from leks, so activities within this area could directly impact nesting sage grouse by destroying nests, causing nest abandonment, or causing injury or direct mortality to the young (Colorado Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan 2008). Sage-grouse could be indirectly impacted as individuals are flushed or relocate to avoid project related activities. Sage-grouse could move to lesser quality habitat where they may be more susceptible to predation. O&M activities would not contribute to increased loss of sagebrush habitat, as work will occur within the previously disturbed ROW; however, due to the long regeneration time of sagebrush, impacts to habitat may last for several decades. Specific to the 2012 proposal, the only proposed activities that have potential to disrupt nesting, brood-rearing, or winter use functions are those located in T2S, R96W, Section 5 (Magnolia). This site is located in suitable sagebrush habitat within four miles of the single lek. Maintenance work would be subject to a timing limitation designed to prevent disruption of nest and early brood-rearing functions (15 April to 15 July). This timing limitation interval would allow most sage-grouse nests to progress through hatch (67 percent of years) prior to potential disruptions caused by maintenance activities.

Waters within the project area are part of the Upper Colorado River basin. O&M activities are not anticipated to withdraw water from surface water sources; therefore, no depletions are expected from project activities. However, if water withdrawals would occur from surface waters within the Upper Colorado River basin, downstream effects to federally listed fish species could occur. These downstream effects may include impacts to spawning habitats and nursery areas for larval fish. Fish could also become entrained on equipment used to withdraw water from surface waters. Surface disturbing activities near waterbodies could contribute increased sedimentation and turbidity to adjacent waterbodies. Considering the application of applicant-committed BMPs and BLM-imposed conditions of approval that are designed to maintain soil stability and promote rapid restoration of vegetative cover on these small and widely dispersed maintenance sites, the movement of fugitive sediments into the White River would be immeasurably small relative to baseline levels. Nearly all the 2012 proposed ground-disturbing activities would take place above Taylor Draw Dam and, with the reservoir acting as a sediment trap, any sediment transport to occupied pikeminnow habitat below the dam would be limited to imperceptible levels. The 2012 project segment would have no potential to affect pikeminnow populations or adversely affect designated critical habitat in the White River.

BLM Sensitive Species and State Listed Species

Raptors may be disturbed by human activities that occur within sight and sound of their nesting and roosting habitat, causing the adults to abandon nests and chicks, or move away from winter roosting areas. Active bird nests may be destroyed and temporary impacts to nesting habitat may occur if vegetation clearing activities take place during the nesting season.

Roosting habitat for bats is unlikely to occur within the ROW; however, bats traveling through the project area may avoid these habitats during O&M activities.

Impacts to white-tailed prairie dogs could occur if surface disturbing activities occurred in occupied towns. During the breeding season, pups in burrows may not be able to move out of the way of project equipment and burrows may be destroyed. There are two active white-tailed prairie dog towns in the ROW on BLM land that may be influenced by maintenance activity proposed in 2012. Maintenance vehicles would traverse about 170 meters of the larger town

(19.8 acres) along an existing two-track. This use would have no reasonable potential to compromise the integrity of underground burrow systems. About 7 percent (0.1 acre) of the smaller 1.6 acre town would be subject to excavation associated with re-drilling a CP deepwell. Although several prairie dog burrow systems would be intersected by this operation, mortality attributable to subsurface disruption would be minimal and have no long-term effect on local prairie dog populations. Timing limitations would confine maintenance activities to timeframes outside the prairie dog reproductive period.

If any in-stream project related activities were to occur, BLM sensitive fish species would experience a temporary loss of habitat. O&M activities are not anticipated to withdraw water from surface water sources; therefore, no depletions are expected from project activities. However, if any water withdrawals were to occur for the project, fish could also become entrained on equipment used to withdraw water from surface waters. Surface disturbing activities near waterbodies could contribute increased sedimentation and turbidity to adjacent waterbodies. Relative to the 2012 project proposal, there would be no direct effects on any stream segment that supports aquatic life on BLM-administered lands. As conditioned by BMPs and BLM-imposed conditions, short term and negligible increases in sediments delivered to the White River, Piceance, and Yellow Creeks would have no effect on fishery conditions.

Midget faded rattlesnakes are unlikely to be affected by the project because the existing ROW has been previously disturbed and hibernacula are not likely to be found in vegetated areas, as would be found in the ROW. Additional disturbance outside the existing pipeline corridor would be limited to narrow corridor widenings immediately adjacent to the previously disturbed ROW (total of 4.6 acres). The small number of these sites that have a southern orientation do not appear to support rock features suitable for hibernacula. Individual rattlesnakes could be killed if basking individuals are found on public roads with project vehicle traffic (Travsky and Beauvais, 2004).

Potential impacts to state listed species are identified in Table 8. Implementation of BMP's and measures necessary to protect other resources will also benefit state listed species.

Table 8. Colorado Parks and Wildlife State-Listed Species ¹			
Common Name	Scientific Name	State Listing Status	Potential Effects from Project ²
Birds			
Greater sandhill crane	<i>Grus canadensis tabida</i>	Special concern	Sandhill cranes are not likely to nest in the project area, but may migrate through the project area. Sandhill cranes would not be affected by the project.
Mammals			
Kit fox	<i>Vulpes macrotis</i>	Endangered	Known kit fox range does not extend into the project area.
Lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	Endangered	Known lynx range does not extend into the project area.
River otter	<i>Lontra canadensis</i>	Threatened	River otters may occur in the White River, however, no in stream impacts are expected; therefore, no affects to river otters are expected.

Common Name	Scientific Name	State Listing Status	Potential Effects from Project²
Reptiles			
Longnose leopard lizard	<i>Gambelia wislizenii</i>	Special concern	Longnose leopard lizards are not known to occur at the elevations the project occurs at; therefore, no effects to longnose leopard lizards are expected.
¹ Colorado Parks and Wildlife does not maintain a plant species list. ² Resources: (CDOW, 2009; Species occurrence data provided by CPW, 2011; Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, 2012)			

Cumulative Effects: Current and future activities in the project area that could contribute to cumulative effects include livestock grazing, recreational activities, invasive weed treatments, range improvement projects, oil and gas development, power lines, and vegetation treatments. O&M activities would not likely contribute to alteration and disturbance of vegetation and habitats utilized by special status animal species, as activities are occurring in previously disturbed ROW which is regularly maintained as shrub/scrub habitat.

Mitigation: Any activities within 0.5 mile of active bald eagle winter roost and concentration areas would be avoided from November 15 through April 15, unless approved by the BLM (BLM, 1997).

Vegetation clearing activities will generally be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through July 15), unless BLM specifically authorizes work in situations that have little effective utility for nesting (e.g., roadsides).

Surveys for active raptor nests, consistent with most current WRFO raptor survey protocols, would be required before any activities are authorized to occur within or in close proximity to suitable nest habitat during the nesting season (defined for 2012 project work in Appendix A). Maintenance activities would be subject to timing limitations applied during species-specific nesting seasons as developed in the most current WRFO Resource Management Plan (see Table 9 below).

Raptor Species	No activities buffer	Dates
American peregrine falcon and northern goshawk (and other BLM Sensitive species)	½ mile	February 15 through August 15, or until fledgling and dispersal of young
Bald and golden eagles	½ mile	December 15 through July 15, or until fledgling and dispersal of young
Burrowing owls	1/8 mile	March 1 through August 15, or until fledgling and dispersal of young
Ferruginous hawks	1 mile	February 1 through August 15, or until fledgling and dispersal of young
Non-listed raptor species	¼ mile	February 15 through August 15, or until fledgling and dispersal of young
¹ BLM 2012, BLM RMP 1997, CDOW 2012.		

Per the Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan (2008) or WRFO's 1997 RMP, surface occupancy is restricted on federal lands within 0.6 mile of known occupied sage-grouse
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leks; surface use activities are prohibited in winter concentration areas (December 16 through March 15) and in breeding habitats within four miles of active leks (April 15 through July 15). Project activities will occur outside of sensitive periods in sage-grouse winter concentration areas, and lek and breeding habitats. Vegetation clearing should be minimized within 0.6 mile of an active lek. If these habitats are occupied, seasonal/spatial restrictions would be implemented unless otherwise allowed by the BLM.

Activities in white-tailed prairie dog towns will not be authorized during their reproduction period, from April 15 through July 15. The project will minimize ground disturbing activities in prairie dog towns, as possible, which will minimize potential impacts to black-footed ferrets and their habitats. If a ferret is identified near the project, the FWS would be alerted immediately, and project activities would cease in the immediate area until BLM confers with the FWS.

The Piceance Lateral Project does not anticipate withdrawing any surface water for project related activities; therefore, downstream depletion effects to listed aquatic species are not expected. If future activities require depletions from the upper Colorado River system, Northwest will pursue relevant authorizations and, in coordination with the BLM, initiate formal consultation with the FWS. Conservation measures, including payment to the Recovery Implementation Plan for water depletions (consistent with protocols established in the most current version of BLM's Fluid Mineral Programmatic Biological Assessment), and BMP's for work within and near surface waters would be implemented to reduce sedimentation and turbidity increases in waterbodies adjacent to project activities. If water would be withdrawn from surface waters for project use, a screen would be placed on the equipment to minimize the potential for entrainment of aquatic organisms. If any in-stream project related activities were to occur, activities would be avoided during the following time periods for: mountain sucker, May 1 through August 31; bluehead sucker, May 1 through July 15; flannelmouth sucker, April 1 through July 1; roundtail chub, May 15 through July 15.

Extra workspaces, refueling, and storage areas will be placed more than 50 ft from wetlands and 100 ft from waterbodies, when practical. Disturbance to riparian vegetation will be minimized to reduce impacts on aquatic species, such as fish, amphibians, and otters.

Disturbed areas would be revegetated according to the reclamation and revegetation plans in the Proposed Action and as specifically conditioned by WRFO. All equipment will be removed from the project area upon completion of work.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard #4 for Special Status Species: Special status, threatened and endangered species (federal and state), and other plants and animals officially designated by the BLM, and their habitats are maintained or enhanced by sustaining healthy, native plant and animal communities. Indicators include:

- All the indicators associated with the plant and animal communities standard apply.
- There are stable and increasing populations of endemic and protected species in suitable habitat.
- Suitable habitat is available for recovery of endemic and protected species.

By following the suggested mitigation techniques and reclamation procedures, the Proposed Action should not change this status.

SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SPECIES

Affected Environment: The existing pipeline crosses primarily grassland, reasewood/sagebrush, sagebrush, and pinyon-juniper habitats. Approximately 36.8 miles of the project are within BLM owned land, and the remaining 11.5 miles are within private and CPW owned land. Sagebrush/grass mix is the predominant community type within the pipeline ROW, followed by sparse juniper/shrub/rock mix and dominated by grass species. Several types of wetlands, rivers, creeks, and dry washes are present in the project area, as well as one reservoir. The existing pipeline ROW is 50-ft wide, centered along the pipeline, and is maintained as shrub/scrub.

Vegetation and ground disturbing activities such as pipeline maintenance activities have the potential to affect special status plant species, if present. Special status plant species are those listed under the ESA, and as sensitive by the BLM (CPW does not maintain a list of sensitive plant species). Impacts on special status species were evaluated based on consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW).

Surveys for special status plant species will be required by the BLM within and near potential habitat for federally listed and BLM sensitive species. The BLM will consult the FWS for all project related disturbances which occur within 600 meters of potential habitat for federally listed plant species. Further discussion of special status plant species will be discussed in the project Biological Assessment (BA).

Biological surveys for special status plant (SSP) species were conducted by Cardno ENTRIX during June 2012 (Cardno, 2012 and 2012a). Potential and suitable habitat for the federally listed Dudley Bluffs bladderpod occurs in the project area on knolls and ridge crests along Piceance Creek and tributaries between mileposts 1.0 and 25.5 and on knolls and ridge crests along Yellow Creek. Potential and suitable habitat for the federally listed Dudley Bluffs twinpod occurs in the project area on steep slopes along Piceance Creek between mileposts 1.0 and 30. No populations of the bladderpod or twinpod were found by the surveyors within the project area, however there is occupied twinpod habitat within 200m of the project area's 50-ft ROW (between mileposts 17 and 18) (SWCA, June 2012).

Currently known occupied habitat for the BLM sensitive species debris milkvetch occurs within 200m of the proposed project between mileposts 32 and 33; the project crosses an area of approximately 0.4 acres (based on the current maintained ROW width of 50 ft) (BLM, 2012). A summary of biological resources within the 50-ft ROW is included in Appendix A.

Locations of potential, suitable, and occupied habitat for federally listed plant species or BLM sensitive species may change as new information becomes available; the BLM should be contacted to determine the most recent locations of potential and suitable habitat within the project area. Surveys for federally listed or BLM sensitive species will follow the BLM WRFO Standards for Contractor Inventories for Special Status Plant Species and Noxious Weed Affiliates, April 2012, or other BLM approved sensitive plant survey protocols. Surveys would

be required in suitable and potential habitat, as determined by the BLM to ensure use of the most recent habitat information, prior to any ground disturbing activities.

Special status plant (SSP) species with the potential to occur in the BLM’s WRFO are listed below in Table 10.

Table 10. Special Status Plant Species With Potential to Occur in Project Area			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Listed Status ¹	Habitat Within Project Area ²
Dudley Bluffs bladderpod	<i>Physaria congesta</i>	FT	Suitable, marginal, potential, and occupied habitat within 1-mile.
Dudley Bluffs twinpod	<i>Physaria obcordata</i>	FT	Suitable, marginal, potential, and occupied habitat within 1-mile.
Cathedral Bluff meadowrue	<i>Thalictrum heliophilum</i>	BLM S	No potential habitat.
Debris milkvetch	<i>Astragalus detritalis</i>	BLM S	Occupied habitat and potential habitat crossed and within 1-mile.
Duchesne milkvetch	<i>Astragalus duchesnensis</i>	BLM S	No potential habitat.
Ephedra buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum ephedroides</i>	BLM S	No potential habitat.
Graham’s beardtongue	<i>Penstemon grahamii</i>	BLM S, FP	No potential habitat.
Ligulate feverfew	<i>Bolophyta (Parthenium) ligulata</i>	BLM S	No potential habitat.
Narrowleaf evening primrose	<i>Oenothera acutissima</i>	BLM S	No potential habitat.
Narrowstem gilia	<i>Gilia stenothyrsa</i>	BLM S	Potential habitat within 1 mile.
Piceance bladderpod	<i>Lesquerella parviflora</i>	BLM S	Occupied habitat.
Rollins cryptanth	<i>Cryptantha rollinsii (Oreocarya rollinsii)</i>	BLM S	No potential habitat.
Utah gentian	<i>Gentianella tortulosa</i>	BLM S	No potential habitat.
White River penstemon	<i>Penstemon scariosus var. albifluvis</i>	BLM S, FC	No potential habitat.

¹ FE – Federal Endangered; FT – Federal Threatened; FC – Federal Candidate; FP – Federal Proposed; BLM S – BLM Sensitive

² BLM 1997; BLM 2007; BLM 2012

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: The Proposed Action is not likely to directly impact the SSP species, as activities are occurring in a previously disturbed ROW which is regularly maintained as shrub/scrub habitat. However, this ROW was disturbed approximately 50 years prior to the current Proposed Action; this time period may have allowed for the revegetation of at least a portion of the ROW. Therefore, impacts to occupied, suitable, and potential habitat within the ROW for sensitive plant species may occur.

The closest known population of the threatened twinpod is approximately 200m from proposed 2012 construction activities, for which an informal consultation with FWS will be required. There is potential for destruction or injury to possible future newly established individual plants
DOI-BLM-CO-110-2012-0048-EA

and a potential for seed displacement during ground disturbing activities within the ROW for future maintenance actions (further discussion will be discussed in a BA). There are also indirect effects related to the project that may impact SSP species. Fugitive dust from project related activities may cover plants during their above ground growth stages, potentially reducing productivity and growth until a sufficient rainfall removes the displaced dust.

Encroachment by invasive weed species may lead to further degradation of habitat and possible destruction of pollinator habitat and/or nests within the ROW. Disturbed areas often harbor noxious weed species, and indirect impacts may include invasion of the habitat by weedy plant species, thus increasing competition for water, sunlight, or other resources.

Cumulative Effects: Current and future activities in the project area that could contribute to cumulative effects include livestock grazing, recreational activities, invasive weed treatments, range improvement projects, oil and gas development, power lines, and vegetation treatments.

Mitigation: Disturbed areas would be revegetated according to the reclamation and revegetation plans in the Proposed Action and the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocols, dated April 2011. WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocols for special status plant species habitat may require reclamation efforts to “include additional conditions to prevent topsoil from mixing into or percolating through large diameter spoils”. A complete weed monitoring, management, and control plan (in accordance with DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA) is required for the life of the project. Mitigation for listed plant species would also include measures outlined in the invasive, non-native species section of this EA. BLM must be consulted prior to implementing weed control as only specific herbicides can be used to avoid negative impacts to special status plant species. Additionally, three to four additional forbs species will be added to seed mixes within 600 meters of occupied federally listed plants. Fugitive dust control measures (utilizing water with no added chemicals, solvents, or oils) will be implemented within 600 meters of potential habitat for federally listed plant species, and 100 meters of potential habitat for BLM sensitive species. If any special status plant species are found within 100 meters of project related activities, a third party monitor would be required on site during construction activities. If any individual BLM sensitive plant species will be impacted by project activities, additional mitigation measures such as seed collection and grow-out, may be required by the BLM. Fencing or other deterrents may be required if special status plants species are found within 100 meters of project areas.

If a BA is required for impacts to federally listed plant species, conservation measures would be required and developed in coordination with the holder, BLM, and FWS. The holder will adhere to any conservation measures as outlined in the BA. Any new mitigation measures brought forth in the Biological Opinion (BO) must also be adhered to.

A BA is required for anomaly dig 22200 since the Dudley Bluffs twinpod was found within 200 meters. There will be a notice to proceed for this location until the BA is finalized and BLM has received concurrence from the FWS.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard #4 for Special Status Species: Special status, threatened and endangered species (federal and state), and other plants and animals officially designated by the BLM, and their habitats are maintained or enhanced by sustaining healthy, native plant and animal communities. Indicators include:

- All the indicators associated with the plant and animal communities standard apply.
- There are stable and increasing populations of endemic and protected species in suitable habitat.
- Suitable habitat is available for recovery of endemic and protected species.

By following the suggested mitigation techniques and reclamation procedures, the Proposed Action should not change this status.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: The existing pipeline crosses primarily greasewood/sagebrush, sagebrush, and pinyon-juniper habitats, which have distinctive communities of animals associated with them. Approximately 36.8 miles of the project are within BLM owned land, and the remaining 11.5 miles are within private and CPW owned land. Sagebrush/grass mix is the predominant community type within the pipeline ROW, followed by sparse juniper/shrub/rock mix and dominated by grass species. Several types of wetlands, rivers, creeks, and dry washes are present in the project area, as well as one reservoir. The existing pipeline ROW is 50-ft wide centered on the pipeline centerline and is maintained as shrub/scrub.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the take or killing of individual birds, their eggs and chicks, and active nests. Executive Order (EO) 13186 provides guidance to federal agencies regarding the implementation of the MBTA. EO 13186 (January 2001) was established to ensure that the environmental impacts of federal actions are properly evaluated for migratory birds and states that particular importance should be given to species of concern, priority habitat, and key risk factors. Habitats crossed by the pipeline ROW may provide suitable nesting habitat for many birds listed under the MBTA. Vegetation and ground disturbing activities have the potential to affect migratory birds or their nests, if present. The typical nesting season for non-raptor species is May 15 through July 15 (BLM, 2012). Table 11 lists the 26 migratory birds within the list of Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) in Bird Conservation Region 16 (Southern Rockies/Colorado Plateau) (FWS, Birds of Conservation Concern, 2008; FWS Migratory Birds Protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act 2011).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status^{1,2}	Nesting Habitat³	Likely to nest in project area?⁴
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	BOCC	Nest in freshwater marshes with tall vegetation.	No
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Federally Delisted, BGEPA, BLM S, SSC	Massive nest of sticks in a tall tree.	Yes, known nests within 1 mile of project.
Bendire's Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma bendirei</i>	BOCC	Nest placed in shrubs, cacti, or trees.	No, outside of breeding range.

Table 11. Birds of Conservation Concern, Bird Conservation Region 16

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status ^{1,2}	Nesting Habitat ³	Likely to nest in project area? ⁴
Black Rosy-Finch	<i>Leucosticte atrata</i>	BOCC	Placed in crack or hole in cliff, on small cliff ledge under overhanging rocks, or under rocks in talus slides. Nests above treeline.	No
Brewer's Sparrow	<i>Spizella breweri</i>	BLM S	Closely associated with sagebrush, the nest is placed in sagebrush	Yes, suitable nesting habitat.
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch	<i>Leucosticte australis</i>	BOCC	Nests placed under large rocks in rockslides and moraines; on rafters in old buildings; on walls of caves, abandoned mines, and railroad tunnels; and most frequently in holes, fissures, and ledges of cliffs. Nests above treeline.	No
Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	BLM S, ST	Eggs are laid in a long underground burrow; often in abandoned prairie dog holes.	Yes, potential nesting habitat.
Cassin's Finch	<i>Carpodacus cassinii</i>	BOCC	Breeds in open coniferous forests on mountains.	Yes, potential nesting habitat.
Chestnut-collared Longspur	<i>Calcarius ornatus</i>	BOCC	Breeds in short-grass plains and prairies.	No, outside of breeding range
Ferruginous Hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	BLM S, SSC	Nests placed in a tree or bush, or on a rocky hillside, in badlands, open country, and prairies.	Yes, potential nesting habitat and known nests within 1-mile of project.
Flammulated Owl	<i>Otus flammeolus</i>	BOCC	Breeds in open pine forest on mountains, especially ponderosa pine forest.	No
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	BGEPA	Nest on cliffs and steep escarpments in grassland, chapparal, shrubland, forest, and other vegetated areas.	Yes, suitable nesting habitat and known nests within 1-mile of project.
Grace's Warbler	<i>Setophaga graciae</i>	BOCC	Nests in trees, tends to use treetops of mature pine trees.	No
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	BOCC	Nests in open grasslands and prairies with patches of bare ground.	No, outside of breeding range
Gray Vireo	<i>Vireo vicinior</i>	BOCC	Nests in desert scrub, mixed juniper or pinyon pine and oak scrub associations, and chaparral, in hot, arid mountains and high plains scrubland.	Yes, suitable nesting habitat consists of juniper woodlands below 6300'

Table 11. Birds of Conservation Concern, Bird Conservation Region 16

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status ^{1,2}	Nesting Habitat ³	Likely to nest in project area? ⁴
Juniper Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus griseus</i>	BOCC	Nests in hole in tree, primarily juniper woodlands. Also uses nest boxes.	Yes, potential nesting habitat.
Lewis's Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	BOCC	Nests in open forests with brushy understories and snags.	No
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	BLM S , SSC	Nests are placed in scrapes on the ground in dry areas with low vegetation.	No
Mountain Plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	BLM S , SSC	Nest is placed in shallow depression on ground in arid plains, short-grass prairies, and fields.	No
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	BLM S , SSC	Nest on cliffs from about 25–1,300 feet high. Other sites include electricity transmission towers, quarries, silos, skyscrapers, churches, and bridges.	Yes, potential nesting habitat.
Pinyon Jay	<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>	BOCC	Nests are placed in trees in pinyon-juniper woodland, sagebrush, scrub oak, and chaparral communities, and sometimes in pine forests.	Yes, potential nesting habitat.
Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	BOCC	Nests are on overhanging, south-facing cliffs up to 500 feet high. They also nest in trees, on power lines, on buildings, in caves, or in stone quarries. They inhabit grasslands, shrub-steppe, deserts, and other open areas.	Yes, potential nesting habitat.
Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	SSC	Nests on barren to sparsely vegetated sand beaches, dry salt flats in lagoons, dredge spoils deposited on beach or dune habitat, levees and flats at salt-evaporation ponds, river bars, along alkaline or saline lakes, reservoirs, and ponds.	No
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	FE, SE	Breeds in moist, shrubby areas, often with standing or running water.	No
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (w. U.S. DPS)	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	FC, BLM S, SSC	Nest placed on branch of small tree or large shrub in open woodlands with clearings and dense scrubby vegetation, often along water.	No
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	BOCC	Breeds in damp, deciduous forests and riparian habitats	No

Table 11. Birds of Conservation Concern, Bird Conservation Region 16				
Common Name	Scientific Name	Status ^{1,2}	Nesting Habitat ³	Likely to nest in project area? ⁴
¹ FE = Federally Endangered FT = Federally Threatened FC = Federal Candidate SE = State Endangered ST = State Threatened SSC = State Special Concern (not a statutory category) BLM S = BLM Sensitive BOCC = USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern; Region 16 BGEPA = Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ² Federal, BLM and state listed species are discussed in additional detail in the Special Status Animal Species section. ³ Source: Cornell Lab of Ornithology, All About Birds website OR Audubon Watch List, Audubon website ⁴ Source: BLM Colorado Director's Sensitive Species List, http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/co/programs/botany.Par.8609.File.dat/BLM%20CO%20SD%20Sensitive%20Spec.%20List.pdf				

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: Vegetation clearing could occur in habitat for migratory birds; however, long-term habitat change is unlikely as the ROW has previously been disturbed and is currently maintained as shrub/scrub. Direct effects to nesting birds may occur if project activities occur where active nests are found during the nesting season (May 15 through July 15) within the ROW. Nesting birds within sight or sound could be indirectly disturbed by project related activities, which could disrupt normal feeding, breeding, and roosting activities. Nesting raptors may be disturbed by human activities within sight and sound of their nesting and roosting habitat, causing the adults to abandon nests and chicks, or move away from winter roosting areas. Vegetation clearing or earth disturbing activities will generally be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through July 15) and surveys for active raptor nests would be required before any activities occur within or in close proximity to suitable habitat. Maintenance activities would be subject to timing limitations during species-specific nesting seasons (see Table 9 in the Special Status Animal Species section).

Surface disturbance attributable to the proposed maintenance project in 2012 would involve little habitat outside the existing ROW. Additional vegetation clearing would total about 4.6 acres and include about 0.2 acre of early seral, open-canopied pinyon-juniper, 0.9 acre of barren slopes, 1.1 acres of greasewood, 0.3 acre of grassland, and 2.1 acres of saltbush/sagebrush shrubland. These acreages would be composed of dozens of very small parcels configured as narrow expansions of the existing corridor. It is improbable that any individual parcel is any more likely to support migratory bird nesting activity than the existing corridor. Specific to proposed 2012 project work, there would be no substantive influence on migratory bird nesting activity since authorizations for this physical year would occur after August 1.

Cumulative Effects: Current and future activities in the project area that could contribute to cumulative effects include livestock grazing, recreational activities, invasive weed treatments, range improvement projects, oil and gas development, power lines, and vegetation treatments.

O&M activities would not likely contribute to alteration and disturbance of vegetation and habitats utilized by migratory birds, as activities are occurring in previously disturbed ROW which is regularly maintained as shrub/scrub habitat.

Mitigation: Unless authorized by the WRFO, vegetation clearing or earth disturbing activities will be restricted to timeframes outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through July 15).

Surveys for active raptor nests, consistent with most current WRFO raptor survey protocols, would be required before any activities are authorized to occur within or in close proximity to suitable nest habitat (defined for 2012 project work in Appendix A). Maintenance activities would be subject to timing limitations applied during species-specific nesting seasons as developed in the most current WRFO Resource Management Plan (see also Table 9 in the Special Status Animal Species section).

A summary of activity restrictions for wildlife resources associated with 2012 maintenance proposals is included in Appendix A. Disturbed areas would be revegetated according to the reclamation and revegetation plans in the Proposed Action or as applied by BLM WRFO as Conditions of Approval.

AQUATIC WILDLIFE

Affected Environment: Several types of wetlands, rivers, creeks, and dry washes are present in the project area, as well Kenney Reservoir. The pipeline crosses under Kenney Reservoir at mileposts 41.05, 42.0 to 42.05, and 42.2 to 42.6. The project crosses Piceance Creek at milepost 10.7, Yellow Creek at milepost 22.6, White River (at Kenney Reservoir), and Douglas Creek at milepost 47.0. Project locations (pipeline maintenance and site access) specific to proposed 2012 maintenance activities do not involve any system that supports a higher order (i.e., vertebrate) aquatic community.

Within the project area, the BLM manages the following streams for warmwater and coldwater fish habitats: White River, Douglas Creek, Yellow Creek, and Piceance Creek. Popular game fish such as brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*), channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), and black bullhead (*Ameiurus melas*) commonly inhabit these river systems (www.coloradofishing.net/). Other commonly found species include mountain suckers (*Catostomus platyrhynchus*), mottled sculpin (*Cottus bairdii*), and speckled dace (*Rhinichthys osculus*). The Kenney Reservoir is stocked for fishing with black crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*), channel catfish, and rainbow trout.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: Potential effects of in-stream project related activities on aquatic species include potential displacement of individuals from the project area due to turbidity and sedimentation, and injury or direct mortality of individuals. Depending on the timing of project activities, in-stream activities or water withdrawals could adversely affect fish eggs and juvenile fish survival in the immediate area. Project related activities or vehicle travel through flowing waterbodies could further impact aquatic species habitat by increasing erosion along streambanks and turbidity levels within the waterbody, which could alter water

temperature and nutrients temporarily. If any water withdrawals were to occur for the project, fish could also become entrained on equipment used to withdraw water from surface waters.

Cumulative Effects: Current and future activities in the project area that could contribute to cumulative effects include livestock grazing, recreational activities, invasive weed treatments, range improvement projects, oil and gas development, and vegetation treatments. O&M activities would not likely contribute to increased turbidity and decreases in water quality of habitats utilized by aquatic species as activities are not occurring in waterbodies.

Mitigation: If water would be withdrawn from surface waters for project use, a screen would be placed on the equipment to minimize entrainment of aquatic organisms. BMPs would be used for work within and near surface waters to reduce sedimentation and turbidity in adjacent waterbodies. Project related vehicles will avoid crossing any waterbodies when there is flowing water. Extra workspaces, refueling, and storage areas will be placed more than 50 ft from wetlands and 100 ft from waterbodies. A summary of 2012 activity restrictions for wildlife resources is included in Appendix A. Disturbed areas would be revegetated according to the reclamation and revegetation plans in the Proposed Action and as specifically conditioned by WRFO.

Any Project related activities adjacent to waterbodies supporting the species listed in Table 12 should be avoided during the timeframes provided to avoid impacts to spawning, incubation, or fry activities.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Avoidance Period
Bluehead sucker	<i>Catostomus discobolus</i>	May 1 through July 15
Brook trout	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>	August 15 through May 1
Flannelmouth sucker	<i>Catostomus latipinnis</i>	April 1 through July 1
Mottled sculpin	<i>Cottus bairdi</i>	May 1 through July 31
Mountain sucker	<i>Catostomus platyrhynchus</i>	May 1 through August 31
Mountain whitefish	<i>Prosopium williamsoni</i>	October 1 through November 30
Rainbow trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	March 1 through June 15
Roundtail chub	<i>Gila robusta</i>	May 15 through July 15
Speckled dace	<i>Rhinichthys osculus</i>	May 1 through August 31

¹ CPW 2012.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard #3 for Plant and Animal Communities: Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat's potential. Plants and animals at both the community and population level are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations, and ecological processes. Indicators for Standard #3 include:

- Noxious weeds and undesirable species are minimal in the overall plant community.
- Native plant and animal communities are spatially distributed across the landscape with a density, composition, and frequency of species suitable to ensure reproductive capability and sustainability.

- Plants and animals are present in mixed age classes sufficient to sustain recruitment and mortality fluctuations.
- Landscapes exhibit connectivity of habitat or presence of corridors to prevent habitat fragmentation.
- Photosynthetic activity is evident throughout the growing season.
- Diversity and density of plant and animal species are in balance with habitat/landscape potential and exhibit resilience to human activities.
- Appropriate plant litter accumulates and is evenly distributed across the landscape.
- Landscapes composed of several plant communities that may be in a variety of successional stages and patterns.

By following the suggested mitigation techniques and reclamation procedures, the Proposed Action should not change this status.

TERRESTRIAL WILDLIFE

Affected Environment: The existing pipeline crosses primarily greasewood/sagebrush, sagebrush, and pinyon-juniper habitats, which have distinctive communities of animals associated with them. Approximately 36.8 miles of the project are within BLM owned land, and the remaining 11.5 miles are within private and CPW owned land. Sagebrush/grass mix is the predominant community type within the pipeline ROW, followed by sparse juniper/shrub/rock mix and dominated by grass species. Several types of wetlands, rivers, creeks, and dry washes are present in the project area, as well as one reservoir. The existing pipeline ROW is 50-ft wide centered on the pipeline centerline and is maintained as shrub/scrub.

A summary of biological resources within the 50-ft ROW is included in Appendix A.

The project is located within the CPW Game Management Units (GMUs) 21 and 22. Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) use habitats near the project area for winter and summer ranges (see Table 13).

Table 13. Big Game Winter and Summer Ranges that Overlap with the Piceance Lateral Project Area				
Range	Milepost Ranges			
	Begin-End	Begin-End	Begin-End	Begin-End
Elk				
Winter Range	0.00-48.30			
Winter Concentration Area	0.37-10.38	24.76-40.55		
Severe Winter Range	25.75-40.05			
Summer Range	29.34-36.54			
Summer Concentration Area	29.34-36.54			
Mule Deer				
Winter Range	0.00-48.30			
Winter Concentration Area	16.21-40.52	44.21-48.30		
Severe Winter Range	4.46-13.08	16.39-16.52	16.82-24.45	24.79-48.30
Summer Range	23.38-30.37			

Black bear (*Ursus americanus*) occur in higher elevations in the Douglas Creek and Piceance Creek drainages and the Upper White River in the eastern portion of the project area. The project area is also within the range for mountain lion (*Felis concolor*), whose distribution closely follows their prey, the mule deer. Other common animal species found in habitats typical of the project area include the coyote (*Canis latrans*), mountain cottontail (*Sylvilagus nuttallii*), white-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus townsendii*), big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), little brown myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*), side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), and sagebrush lizard (*Sceloporus graciosus*).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: Vegetation clearing would occur in habitat for terrestrial wildlife; however, direct loss of additional habitat would be minimal because the ROW has previously been disturbed and is currently maintained. Activities that occur within elk and mule deer critical winter ranges and concentration areas could temporarily disturb animals during critical time periods for survival if activities occur between January 1 through April 30. Habitats within the summer ranges and summer concentration areas are used by elk and mule deer for foraging; project related activities could temporarily disturb foraging individuals (J. Davidson, CPW personal communication). Large mammals such as black bear and mountain lion may travel through the project area to and from suitable habitat; however, they could temporarily avoid the project area due to human activities (i.e., project related, and major highway and towns in the vicinity). Due to increased vehicle traffic for project related activities, the potential for vehicle-animal collisions may increase.

This expansive pipeline corridor access system substantially elevates effective road density on big game severe winter ranges along the White River and, with subsequent unregulated vehicle use, aggravates adverse behavioral influences imposed on big game across thousands of acres (i.e., avoidance-induced disuse of adjacent forage and cover and increases in energetic demands). With no practical way to eliminate these road features or control their use, reducing their prominence and need for repetitive maintenance through effective reclamation is a potential means of reducing their incremental and cumulative influence on big game. Effective reclamation of soils denuded of vegetation by excavation or access maintenance would also reduce the risk of noxious and invasive weed proliferation that incrementally reduces the forage base available to big game, particularly in those important spring (late gestation) and fall (preparatory to winter) periods.

Cumulative Effects: Current and future activities in the project area that could contribute to cumulative effects include livestock grazing, recreational activities, invasive weed treatments, range improvement projects, oil and gas development, power lines, and vegetation treatments. O&M activities would not likely contribute to alteration and disturbance of vegetation and habitats utilized by terrestrial species, as activities are occurring in previously disturbed ROW which is regularly maintained as shrub/scrub habitat.

Mitigation: No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 through April 30 in mule deer severe winter range. A summary of 2012 activity restrictions for wildlife resources is included in Appendix A.

Vehicles will be parked in designated extra workspaces or in previously disturbed areas to minimize impacts to vegetation. Vehicle traffic will utilize existing access and public roads

when possible. All equipment will be removed from the project area upon completion of work. Disturbed areas would be revegetated according to the reclamation and revegetation plans in the Proposed Action.

As a means of rehabilitating unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along identified portion(s) of this access or ROW corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation protocol (consistent with applicant-proposed mitigation (i.e., Proposed Action/Design Features/Reclamation and Revegetation)).

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard #3 for Plant and Animal Communities: Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat's potential. Plants and animals at both the community and population level are productive, resilient, diverse, vigorous, and able to reproduce and sustain natural fluctuations, and ecological processes. Indicators for Standard #3 include:

- Noxious weeds and undesirable species are minimal in the overall plant community.
- Native plant and animal communities are spatially distributed across the landscape with a density, composition, and frequency of species suitable to ensure reproductive capability and sustainability.
- Plants and animals are present in mixed age classes sufficient to sustain recruitment and mortality fluctuations.
- Landscapes exhibit connectivity of habitat or presence of corridors to prevent habitat fragmentation.
- Photosynthetic activity is evident throughout the growing season.
- Diversity and density of plant and animal species are in balance with habitat/landscape potential and exhibit resilience to human activities.
- Appropriate plant litter accumulates and is evenly distributed across the landscape.
- Landscapes composed of several plant communities that may be in a variety of successional stages and patterns.

By following the suggested mitigation techniques and reclamation procedures, the Proposed Action should not change this status.

WILD HORSES

Affected Environment: The existing pipeline crosses primarily greasewood/sagebrush, sagebrush, and pinyon-juniper habitats. Approximately 36.8 miles of the project are within BLM owned land, and the remaining 11.5 miles are within private and CPW owned land. Sagebrush/grass mix is the predominant community type within the pipeline ROW, followed by sparse juniper/shrub/rock mix and dominated by grass species. Several types of wetlands, rivers, creeks, and dry washes are present in the project area, as well as one reservoir. The existing pipeline ROW is 50-ft wide centered on the pipeline centerline and is maintained as shrub/scrub.

The BLM manages, protects, and controls wild horses and burros under the authority of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act (as amended by Congress in 1976, 1978, 1996, and 2004). This law authorizes the BLM to remove excess wild horses and burros from the range to

sustain the health and productivity of the public lands; they do this by occasionally gathering individual horses and offer them to the public through an adoption program.

Vegetation and ground disturbing activities such as pipeline maintenance activities have the potential to affect wild horses, if present. The project crosses the North Piceance Herd Area (HA) between mileposts 20.7 to 45.8 and crosses the Piceance-East Douglas Creek Herd Management Area (HMA) between mileposts 11.8 to 20.7 and 45.8 to 46.9.

The BLM's appropriate management level (AML) for the HMA is 135 to 235 horses. The 2011 projected population of wild horses within the HMA was 382 (BLM 2011a). A wild horse gather took place in September 2011 where BLM removed 261 wild horses from the HMA. BLM estimated a population of 135 to 200 wild horses remained in the HMA after the gather operation. Seasonal movements of wild horses are affected by terrain and availability of food and water resources, as well as man-made fences (BLM 2011a).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: The project could affect the Piceance-East Douglas Creek herd; however, the activities are not expected to impact the population causing it to drop below the AML of 135 to 235 horses. Impacts to wild horses would be greatest if activities occurred during the foaling period within the HMA (approximately between March 1 and June 15). Potential direct impacts to wild horse foraging habitat may occur; however, project related activities will occur within previously disturbed and currently maintained ROW. Wild horses may avoid areas with human disturbance; however, observations of horses resting on or near well pads and using oil and gas development areas suggest that wild horses readily adjust to human activity (BLM 2011a). Additional impacts to wild horses could occur if activities were happening in an area where a planned BLM gather was taking place. Activities which require trenching would be considered a hazard to wild horses, in particular foals and young horses which tend to be more curious. Trench walls would be sloped for the safety of the workers for activities such as pipeline reconditioning and anomaly investigations, and would also allow wildlife, such as wild horses, a means to escape trenches.

Cumulative Effects: Current and future activities in the project area that could contribute to cumulative effects include livestock grazing, recreational activities, invasive weed treatments, range improvement projects, oil and gas development, power lines, and vegetation treatments. O&M activities would not likely contribute to alteration and disturbance of vegetation and habitats utilized by wild horses, as activities are occurring in previously disturbed ROW which is regularly maintained as shrub/scrub habitat.

Currently, the population of wild horses in the HMA increases at approximately 20 percent annually. Drought conditions, wildfires, grazing and high populations of wild horses may negatively affect habitat for wild horses; however, due to BLM's management efforts with regards to the wild horse populations and grazing authorizations, in general, the habitat remains in good condition.

Mitigation: If activities are going to occur on the HMA within the spring foaling period, the BLM will be contacted to confirm the 60 day restriction period, which is generally between March 1 and June 15. Activities would be planned outside of that window when required by the BLM. If activities are planned to occur in the HMA, the BLM will be contacted to confirm no

planned gathers are occurring at the same time in the work area. A summary of activity restrictions for wildlife resources is included in Appendix A. BMP's would be implemented to minimize impacts to vegetation (wild horse habitat) adjacent to the existing ROW. Open trenches will be checked daily for any wild horses that may have fallen into the trench and will be reported to the BLM. Disturbed areas would be re-vegetated according to the reclamation and re-vegetation plans in the Proposed Action.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The Proposed Action will take place along the existing 48-mile-long, 10-inch diameter Piceance Creek Lateral natural gas transmission pipeline located in Rio Blanco County, Colorado. The Piceance Creek Lateral Pipeline was originally installed in 1956.

During the late fall of 2011 and spring of 2012, a Class III cultural resources inventory, examining a 61m (200 ft) wide corridor centered on the existing pipeline centerline was conducted. In addition, an attempt was made to re-visit, re-record, and re-evaluate all previously recorded sites positioned within 100 meters (328 ft) of the existing pipeline centerline. Subsequently, segments of four existing roads that Northwest proposes to modify to facilitate project access and a single CP system also were inventoried. During survey, one new site and 11 isolated resources were identified. In addition, 20 previously recorded sites were re-examined, re-recorded, and re-evaluated. A total of 9 previously recorded sites plotted within 328 ft (100 meters) of the pipeline centerline could not be relocated and are assumed to no longer exist or were misplotted during the original recordation.

By definition, the newly recorded isolated resources are not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). In addition, one newly recorded site is not eligible for listing on the NRHP. Of the 20 previously recorded sites that were re-examined, re-located, and re-evaluated, five sites are eligible for listing on the NRHP. One site is a prehistoric rock art site consisting of a single rock art panel. The rock art panel is situated approximately 100 meters (328 ft) north of the boundary of the NRHP eligible Canyon Pintado National Historic District (5RB984). Two sites represent prehistoric open camps. One site also includes a possible wickiup structure. A site represents a contributing segment of an NRHP eligible wagon road. A site represents a prehistoric housepit site considered to have potential to contain significant buried material. The remaining 15 re-examined, re-located, and re-evaluated sites are not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: O&M activities along the existing Piceance Creek Lateral Pipeline have the potential to impact five eligible and 27 non-eligible cultural resource locations.

Cumulative Effects: None.

Mitigation: Any proposed operation and maintenance (O&M) activities along the Piceance Creek Lateral Pipeline may not proceed until a written Notice to Proceed (NTP) is issued. A NTP can be issued when:

- a. The cultural resources survey of the existing pipeline has been reviewed and approved by the White River Field Office;

- b. Site-specific avoidance and/or treatment plan(s), as required, have been reviewed and approved by the White River Field Office; and
- c. Consultation with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on cultural sites has been completed.

A summary of activity restrictions for cultural resources associated with 2012 maintenance proposals is included in Appendix A.

All employees of the holder and any subcontractors must be informed by the project holder before commencement of operations that any disturbance to, defacement of, or removal of archaeological, historical, or cultural material (including pot sherds and arrowheads) would be treated as law enforcement/administrative issues. The holder would be held accountable for the conduct of its employees and subcontractors in this regard.

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.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must immediately notify the AO by telephone and with written confirmation 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.

A monitor may be required during O&M activities to ensure that any avoidance measures established for this project are followed, and no inadvertent damage occurs to cultural properties. While a final monitoring plan would be developed in coordination with, and approved by the BLM, active monitoring during O&M activities that involve ground disturbance would be recommended for the following:

- a. Any O&M activities in the vicinity of site 5RB3082.
- b. Any O&M activities in the vicinity of site 5RB3692.
- c. Any O&M activities in the vicinity of site 5RB3693.
- d. Any O&M activities in the vicinity of site 5RB4565.01. In addition, the monitor would ensure that the historic wagon road is fenced where it meets the pipeline ROW and that there is no ingress into the wagon road route.
- e. Any O&M activities in the vicinity of site 5RB4748.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The Proposed Action is located in the Piceance Creek basin spanning the Uinta formation, Green River formation, Wasatch formation, and the Mesaverde group (Tweto, 1979). BLM has classified these formations and groups all as Class 4/5 under BLM's Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) system and as Condition 1 under BLM's General Procedural Guidance for Paleontological Resource Management. Class 4/5 units have a high to very high paleontological potential and sensitivity to adverse impacts. Condition 1 areas are known to contain vertebrate fossils and/or significant invertebrate or plant fossils (Murphey P.C and Daitch D., 2007).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: The Proposed Action would take place within areas with high to very high potential to impacting fossil resources if the action requires excavating underlying rock. As described in the *Soil Resources* section above, soils crossed by the Proposed Action have varying depth to bedrock measurements. Shallow soils increase the likelihood that the excavation of underlying rock may be required. The majority of the proposed O&M projects would occur within the previously disturbed and currently maintained ROW and trench line. For O&M projects that occur outside of the previous trench line the mitigation procedures mentioned below would be followed.

Cumulative Effects: Past activities along the pipeline ROW that could have adverse cumulative effects on the Proposed Action include any bedrock disturbance associated with the original construction of the Piceance Creek Lateral pipeline in 1956, including construction of associated roads and facilities. Current and future activities in the project area that could contribute to cumulative effects include oil and gas development, power lines, oil shale, and seismic activity. These activities could contribute to the alteration and disturbance of bedrock and paleontological resources.

Mitigation: Mitigation efforts would include following the applicable Conditions of Approval outlined in the White River Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan for protection of archaeological and paleontological sites and other mitigation as needed:

- The BLM shall provide the holder with a list of BLM-approved paleontologists. The holder shall hire a paleontologist from the approved list.
- Prior to the beginning of the Proposed Action all exposed outcrops of the Class 4/5 formations must be inventoried by an approved paleontologist and a report must be submitted to the BLM describing the findings and any suggested mitigation.
- If it becomes necessary to excavate underlying rock at any time during the Proposed Action an approved paleontologist would be present to monitor the excavations.
- If any fossils are discovered during project operations, the holder shall cease activity immediately and notify the authorized officer. The paleontologist would be given 48 hours to inspect the site and make a decision regarding disposition of the fossil.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: The Proposed Action is located within a pre-disturbed pipeline. The pipeline was originally disturbed approximately 50 years prior. This area currently supports regenerating young pinyon-juniper woodlands.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: Initial estimates indicate that up to 10 cords of pinyon-juniper woodlands may be removed under the Proposed Action. This estimate is based on professional ocular estimation; however, it is unknown exactly how many trees will need to be removed to access all the dig sites associated with the Proposed Action.

Cumulative Effects: The loss of this small amount of trees is not expected to have a cumulative effect on forest health, especially since this area has already been disturbed.

Mitigation: In accordance with the 1997 White River RMP/ROD, all trees removed in the process of construction shall be purchased from the BLM. Because it is unknown how many trees will need to be removed, Northwest will contact the BLM WRFO Ecologist with the number of trees/cords removed for post-removal billing.

Trees should first be used in reclamation efforts and then any excess material made available for firewood or other uses.

- a) Woody materials required for reclamation shall be removed in whole with limbs intact and shall be stockpiled along the margins of the authorized use area separate from the topsoil piles. Once the disturbance has been recontoured and reseeded, stockpiled woody material shall be scattered across the reclaimed area where the material originated. Redistribution of woody debris will not exceed 20 to 30 percent ground cover. Limbed material shall be scattered across reclaimed areas in a manner that avoids the development of a mulch layer that suppresses growth or reproduction of desirable vegetation. Woody material will be distributed in such a way to avoid large concentrations of heavy fuels and to effectively deter vehicle use.
- b) Trees that must be removed for construction and are not required for reclamation shall be cut down to a stump height of six inches or less prior to other heavy equipment operation. These trees shall be cut in four foot lengths (down to four inches diameter) and placed in manageable stacks immediately adjacent to a public road to facilitate removal for company use or removal by the public.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: Because portions of the proposed pipeline ROW would be located on BLM, they are subject to the BLM Visual Resource Management (VRM) system. BLM has developed a process to identify, set, and achieve objectives for maintaining scenic values and visual quality. The BLM defines visual resources as visible physical features of a landscape such as land, water, vegetation, animals, structures, and other features. Based on the visual value the BLM assigns to an area (Class I through Class V), the area's character should be maintained to that class level.

VRM class designations are determined by three factors. First, *Scenic Quality* is rated by landform, vegetation, water, color, influence of adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modification. Second, *Viewer Sensitivity Levels* are determined by the level of sensitivity users express toward the changes in a landscape. Finally, *Distance Zones* are based upon visual quality of a landscape and user reaction to the visibility of a landscape (a user reaction can be enhanced or diminished).

VRM Classes I through V and described below:

Class I: Natural ecological changes and very limited management activity are allowed. Any contrast created within the characteristic landscape must not attract attention. This classification is applied to wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, and other similar situations.

Class II: Changes in any of the basic elements caused by management activity should not be evident in the characteristic landscape. Contrasts are visible, but must not attract attention.

Class III: Changes to the basic elements caused by management activity may be evident, but should remain subordinate to existing landscape.

Class IV: Any contrast may attract attention and be a dominant feature of the landscape in terms of scale, and should therefore repeat the form, line, color, and texture of the characteristic landscape.

Class V: Natural characteristics of the landscape have been disturbed to a point where rehabilitation is needed to bring it up to one of the four other classifications. The classification also applies to areas where there is potential to increase the landscape's visual quality. For instance, it would be applied to areas where unacceptable cultural modification has lowered scenic quality. Class V is often used as an interim classification until objectives of another class can be reached.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: The Proposed Action would take place in VRM Class II, III and IV areas (BLM, 1997). Maintenance associated with anomaly dig 60240 would be publically observable from Colorado State Highway 139. Additionally, disturbance from anomaly dig 19450 through anomaly dig 56800 would parallel Colorado State Highway 64 ranging between 0.01 miles and greater than one mile in distance the highway and would also be noticeable to the public. Because pipeline maintenance activities (recoats and anomaly digs) would take place within an existing ROW corridor, the activities would only cause short-term visual impacts to the landscape. Within a few years after reclamation, vegetation establishment would reduce visual impacts. Long-term visual impacts are not anticipated as the ROW has previously been disturbed and is currently maintained as shrub/scrub and grassland within a larger shrubland and rangeland complex.

Cumulative Effects: The overall level of change to the characteristic landscape from the Proposed Action would be minor and thus consistent with classification objectives for VRM Class II, III and IV areas.

Mitigation: Using the appropriate seed mix for the area (Appendix B), NWP will promptly revegetate all soil and vegetation disturbance associated with the Proposed Action in order to maintain the integrity of VRM Class II, III and IV areas.

HAZARDOUS OR SOLID WASTES

Affected Environment: 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.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: The proposed activities will use regulated materials and will generate some solid and sanitary wastes. The potential for harm to the environment is presented by risks associated with spills of fuel, oil, and/or hazardous substances associated with operation of the pipeline. Accidents and mechanical breakdown of machinery are also possible. No extremely hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities are proposed for use during pipeline repairs. While commercial preparations of fuels and lubricants proposed for use may contain some hazardous constituents, they would be stored, used, and transported in a manner consistent with applicable laws, and the generation of hazardous wastes would not be anticipated. Solid wastes, such as trash, would be properly disposed of in a landfill.

Cumulative Effects: The Proposed Action would contribute some small amounts of hazardous materials to those already present as a result of oil and gas activities.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:

Direct and Indirect Effects: Within the general project area, past and continued oil and gas related activities would continue to result in the types of potential impacts described for the Proposed Action. Within these areas, denial of a TUP would have little impact on hazardous material use.

Cumulative Effects: Cumulative effects would be essentially identical to those for the Proposed Action.

Mitigation: Construction sites will be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials at those sites 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 junk equipment. The holder shall be prepared to provide documentation that all waste is properly disposed of at the appropriate regulated disposal facility.

A release of any chemical, oil, petroleum product, produced water, or sewage, etc., (regardless of quantity) must be reported by the holder to the BLM – WRFO Hazardous Materials Coordinator at (970) 878-3800.

If during implementation of the Proposed Action, any oil or other pollutant should be discharged from the pipeline system, or from containers or vehicles impacting federal lands, the control and total removal, disposal, and cleanup of such oil or other pollutant, wherever found, shall be the

responsibility of the holder, regardless of fault. Upon failure of the holder to control, clean up, or dispose of such discharge on or affecting federal lands or to repair all damages to federal lands, the AO may take such measures as deemed necessary to control and clean up the discharge and restore the area, at the full expense of the holder. Such action by the AO shall not relieve the holder of any liability or responsibility.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: The existing pipeline crosses primarily greasewood/sagebrush, sagebrush, and pinyon-juniper habitats. Approximately 36.8 miles of the project are within BLM owned land, and the remaining 11.5 miles are within private and CPW owned land. BLM land is further divided into the following 10 allotments: Cathedral Bluffs, Spring Creek, Lower Fletcher, Hammond, Boise Creek, Little Spring Creek, Greasewood, Yellow Creek, Square S, and Little Hills.

Sagebrush/grass mix is the predominant community type within the pipeline ROW, followed by sparse juniper/shrub/rock mix and dominated by grass species. Several types of wetlands, rivers, creeks, and dry washes are present in the project area, as well as one reservoir. The existing pipeline ROW is 50-ft wide centered on the pipeline centerline and is maintained as shrub/scrub. Lowland grassland areas along the pipeline ROW and in surrounding areas may have naturally been dominated by woody vegetation or shrublands; however, due to mitigation and revegetation along the pipeline ROW these areas are currently grasslands (BLM, 2007). Most of the grassland areas along the pipeline ROW are actively grazed by livestock and other wildlife such as big game.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: The Proposed Action would take place in areas that are actively used for grazing by both livestock and big game. Vegetation and ground disturbing activities such as pipeline maintenance activities have the potential to affect livestock and big game, if present, and it is feasible that O&M activities could impact animal distribution in the short-term potentially causing a loss of available forage and/or confusing or stressing animals due to impacts from noise, heavy equipment and vehicle operation, and dust. These activities could impact animal distribution in the short term; however, long-term habitat change is unlikely as the ROW has previously been disturbed and is currently maintained as shrub/scrub and grassland. Thus, there should be no long term loss of forage production.

Cumulative Effects: Current and future activities in the project area that could contribute to cumulative effects include livestock grazing, recreational activities, invasive weed treatments, range improvement projects, oil and gas development, power lines, and vegetation treatments. These activities would contribute to alteration and disturbance of vegetation and habitats utilized by livestock and big game. Most impacts from O&M activities would be short in duration and small in acreage, and impacts from O&M activities could be mitigated and could increase forage production through a combination of invasive weed mitigation and applying the targeted seed mixes for each vegetation community along the pipeline, both of which will continue through the life of the project.

Mitigation: Initial reclamation of the disturbed areas will begin as soon as possible after O&M activities are complete. Debris will be taken to an approved facility and original ground contours will be restored, unless site-specific conditions dictate otherwise. Permanent erosion control devices will be installed and the disturbed work area will be revegetated. All disturbed areas will be seeded within a reasonable timeframe following final grading, weather and soil conditions permitting.

Before seeding, a firm seed bed will be prepared using a disk, field cultivator, drag, rake, or similar implement. If soils are compacted or rutted, the soil structure will be rehabilitated so that productivity can be maintained. During seeding, seed will be uniformly applied and incorporated into the top layer of soil. Where seed is broadcast, the seed will be incorporated into the soil by raking or dragging. Where a hydroseeder is used, the seed bed will be scarified to allow the seeds to lodge and germinate. All seed will be applied at manufacturer's suggested rates based on the equipment dispersal type.

As stated in the Proposed Action, permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO *Surface Reclamation Protocol* (April 2011). Soils survey data from Natural Resource Conservation Service and associated range sites crossed by the project were utilized to identify the standard seed mixes that will be used for seeding by milepost (Appendix B). For optimal results, seeding should occur between September 1 and March 15. However, it may be necessary to conduct seeding outside of the prime seeding season. Mulch may be applied as necessary to prevent the seed from eroding before the seed begins to germinate.

FLOODPLAINS, HYDROLOGY, AND WATER RIGHTS

Affected Environment: The Proposed Action is located within the White River Basin across five tenth level watersheds; outlet Piceance Creek, Yellow Creek, Crooked/White River, Red Wash/White River, and outlet Douglas Creek. All of these watersheds feed into the White River. The Proposed Action encompasses eight segments of the White River (9, 12, 13a, 13b, 15, 16, 17, and 22). The area surrounding the Proposed Action generally drains into Piceance Creek on the eastern portion and the White River on the western portion. Piceance Creek is a tributary to the White River.

The Proposed Action is located primarily within the Piceance Creek structural basin. Within the Proposed Action surface waters drain into Piceance Creek, Douglas Creek, and Yellow Creek. All these creeks are tributary to the White River. Stream flows in this region typically peak in mid spring due to snowmelt and have periodic highs in the summer and fall due to heavy precipitation events.

The majority of precipitation in the region is lost to evapotranspiration. Any additional water recharges aquifers and replenishes streamflow. Within this region ground water recharge areas tend to be situated in the head of drainage basins along the Roan Plateau, Cathedral Bluffs, and other high country between Douglas Creek and Highway 13. The groundwater in this region moves slowly downward through the upper aquifer, mahogany confining unit, and into the lower aquifer of the Piceance Creek structural basin, where it then discharges into alluvial aquifers and springs (Taylor, 1987). A review of BLM spring data indicates that there are 36 springs located within half a mile of the Proposed Action. The springs are described in Table 14.

Table 14. BLM Springs Within 0.5 Mile of Proposed Action			
Name	Nearest MP	Distance to nearest MP (meters)	Water Right
Bucaneer Spring	0.23	578.74	85CW427
Night Spring	3.83	631.12	
Bucket	3.90	704.15	
Zen Spring	4.17	27.58	85CW449
Henry Spring	4.98	194.44	85CW448
Duke Spring	5.32	274.02	
Stinking Water Spring	10.96	240.05	85CW0342
Alkali Flat	11.11	515.19	85CW0342
Rocky Ridge #2	14.96	719.72	85CW402
Corcoran	15.15	425.58	
Skunkbush	17.25	249.94	
SE Barcus	17.72	391.88	
No name	18.19	528.57	
Blair Slope	19.30	55.68	
Blair Mountain	19.66	710.46	
North Blair	19.73	125.56	
Blair Bowl	19.74	571.02	
Monument Spring #2	29.47	642.99	
Gulch Spring #2	30.44	282.88	85CW368
Gulch Spring	30.54	428.28	85CW410
Bamboo Spring	30.87	310.03	
Blanco Spring	30.88	248.22	
Bench	30.89	204.95	
Mushroom #2	31.62	148.62	85CW341
Mushroom #1	31.62	202.39	85CW341
Boise Creek Salinity Dam #1	31.78	547.37	99CW0296
Boise Creek Salinity Dam #2	31.78	588.99	99CW0296
Alkali	32.26	430.34	85CW460
Alkali #2	32.30	760.69	85CW460
Ledge Spring	32.33	563.97	
Upper School Spring	32.81	770.00	99CW0293
School Spring	32.83	643.94	99CW0293
Hammond Spring	33.93	363.98	
Hammond Draw #2	35.35	694.85	85CW461
Flood Plain	35.38	49.54	85CW461
Gillam	44.73	578.42	85CW455

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: Proposed Action activities including grading, trenching, and backfilling activities associated with the O&M activities could affect surface runoff in disturbed areas. Increased surface runoff may increase the peaks of flood flows or produce gullying in

local areas. The proposed activities are distributed along the pipeline and are unlikely to result in a measurable change in surface hydrology.

Construction activities associated with the Proposed Action have the potential to alter natural ground and surface water patterns in floodplains where actions coincide with riparian or wetland habitat (see *Riparian and Wetland* section). These changes could then alter the existing recharge and discharge patterns which could impact spring productivity, stream channel morphology, and riparian areas. If any Proposed Action activities require open trenching of waterbodies, increased sedimentation and short term decreased channel stability could occur. Impacts are likely to be localized and be relatively short-term (two to three years) until stabilization and reclamation efforts are successful.

The nearest spring with a known water right (Zen Spring) is located approximately 91 ft (27.6 meters) from the Proposed Action. The spring is located down-gradient from the Proposed Action and could potentially be impacted by construction activities. If stabilization and reclamation activities are successful, impacts are unlikely.

Cumulative Effects: Past activities along the pipeline ROW that could have adverse cumulative effects on the Proposed Action include the overall disturbance associated with the original construction of the Piceance Creek Lateral pipeline in 1956. Current and future activities in the project area that could contribute to cumulative effects include range improvements (water development), oil and gas development, power lines, and vegetation treatments.

Mitigation: None identified.

REALTY AUTHORIZATIONS

Affected Environment: An existing ROW for the Piceance Creek Lateral buried natural gas pipeline is authorized to NWP by ROW grant COC011409. There are numerous existing ROWs in the area of the Proposed Action that include natural gas pipelines, roads, telephone cables, power lines, and a water line.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: The Proposed Action would occur on the existing Piceance Lateral natural gas pipeline ROW that was authorized in 1956. The Proposed Action would require TUP(s) authorizing the additional workspace needed to perform routine O&M activities (leak surveys, corrosion protection, recoats, and anomaly investigations), as well as the use of existing roads to access the pipeline ROW. Routine O&M activities would take place within the existing pipeline ROW and within the temporary extra workspaces. The 2012 O&M activities and temporary extra workspaces are listed in Appendix A. The TUP for the 2012 O&M temporary extra workspaces would contain approximately 4.49 total acres.

Cumulative Effects: As the number of ROW holders in the project area increases so would competition for suitable locations for facilities. Increased ROW densities would also lead to a higher probability of conflict between ROW users.

Mitigation: Construction activity should take place entirely within the areas authorized in the ROW grants and temporary use permits.

To avoid impacts to existing ROWs, the holder should coordinate with existing ROW holders.

RECREATION

Affected Environment: The Proposed Action occurs within the White River Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). BLM manages the ERMA to provide for unstructured recreation activities such as hunting, dispersed camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, and off-highway vehicle use. The Proposed Action falls primarily within a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM) area and some roaded natural (RN) areas. SPM areas offer some opportunity for isolation from man-made sights, sounds, and management controls in a predominantly unmodified environment. There should be opportunities to have a high degree of interaction with the natural environment, to have moderate challenge and risk and to use outdoor skills. The concentration of visitors is usually low, but evidence of users is often present. On-site managerial controls are subtle and facilities are provided for resource protection and the safety of users.

RN settings are characterized by a generally natural environment with evidence of rural residences and agricultural land uses. Resource manipulations are generally noticeable but harmonious with the natural environment. However substantial modifications may be encountered. RN areas provide about an equal opportunity for interaction with other visitors and to experience isolation from the sights and sounds caused by humans.

The primary recreation activities occurring in the project area are dispersed in nature and include hiking, pleasure driving, OHV riding, sightseeing and big game hunting. Big game hunting is the most widely participated in activity in the area and very popular during big game hunting seasons, generally mid-August through late December.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: If proposed maintenance activities overlap with the big game hunting season (August through December), they could disrupt the experience sought by visitors by causing game to disperse to other areas and changing the experience of hunting in the immediate vicinity. Any disruption to the normal big game movement patterns that negatively affects the hunting experience would be considered a significant major impact. Please see the terrestrial wildlife section of this document for further discussion.

Cumulative Effects: None.

Mitigation: None.

ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION

Affected Environment: Primary access leading to the western end of the Project between mileposts (MPs) 46 and 47 is from Colorado State Highway (SH) 64, east of the town of Rangely and 0.16 miles west of the junction with SH 139 (the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway). The project access road is south of SH 64 and roughly parallels SH 139 in a north/south orientation. There are two points of access toward the easternmost end of the project. The first access is off SH 64 approximately 0.65 miles west of the White River Bridge and approximately 2.7 miles west of the Rio Blanco Lake State Wildlife Area. This access is south of SH 64 via a project access road that heads south before veering west for less than a mile toward MP 15.3. The second is off County Road (CR) 5 near White River City. CR 5 heads south from SH 64 for roughly five miles before intersecting centerline near MP 10.6. Further along CR 5 is a project access road that leads to MP 10.3. Between the western and eastern access points to the Project, there are about 20 other access points heading south from SH 64.

The roads affected by the Proposed Action are SH 64 (a paved and maintained public highway) and CR 5 (a maintained public surface road). The other roads are non-public project access roads. Unless there is a life-threatening emergency, motorized vehicle traveling on BLM public lands and associated with the Proposed Action would be limited to only the existing and designated roads (BLM, 1997).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: Existing vehicle traffic levels are low in the area. In the short-term, the short-lived increase in vehicle volume associated with the Proposed Action would not result in substantial effects to local traffic patterns. Over the long-term life of the Proposed Action, an increase in traffic caused by the Proposed Action would be negligible.

Cumulative Effects: None.

Mitigation: All activities associated with the Proposed Action would be required to comply with applicable local, state, and federal transportation laws, statutes, regulations, standards, and plans. All non-county roads used to access pipeline facilities would be maintained in their current condition or better.

Further mitigation of impacts to access and transportation would be achieved through management practices including:

- Requiring contractors and employees to comply with all posted speed limits;
- Compliance with county and state weight restrictions and limitations;
- Controlling dust along unsurfaced access roads and minimizing the tracking of mud onto paved roads; and
- Restoration of unsurfaced roads to equal or better condition than existed before the life of the Project.

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Affected Environment: Portions of the White River ACEC are located within the Piceance Lateral's 50 ft ROW. The White River ACEC is designated for biologically diverse plant communities, bald eagle roosts, and Colorado River squawfish. The Piceance Lateral ROW crosses or comes in close proximity to portions of the White River ACEC in five locations: between milepost (MP) 42.6-42.8, 42.2-42.4, 41.1-41.2, 35.5-36, 23.65-23.75.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: There are no specific dig locations in the current Proposed Action that are within 100 meters of any ACEC. There are no indirect or direct impacts expected to occur associated with the Proposed Action. Future maintenance activities may impact ACECs but these are unknown and will be addressed in future analysis.

Cumulative Effects: There are no cumulative effects from this Proposed Action.

Mitigation: In the case that any ACEC may be affected by NWP work at the Piceance Lateral, any or all of the following mitigation may apply (CSU-2):

- Plant surveys may be required
- Access roads and/or TEWS areas may be required to move to avoid impacts to plant communities
- Timing limitations may apply

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TRIBES, INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR AGENCIES CONSULTED: State Historic Preservation Office and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Natural Resource Group, LLC, an environmental consulting firm, with the guidance, participation, and independent evaluation of the BLM prepared this document. The BLM, in accordance with 40 CFR 1506.5 (a) and (c), is in agreement with the findings of the analysis and approves and takes responsibility for the scope and content of this document.

BLM Oversight				
Name	Title	Area of Responsibility	Initial Review	Final Review
Bob Lange	Hydrologist	Air Quality; Surface and Ground Water Quality; Floodplains, Hydrology, and Water Rights; Soils	5/31/2012	7/9/2012
Amber Shanklin and Zoe Miller	Biological Technician (Plants) and Ecologist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern; Special Status Plant Species; Forest Management	5/28/2012	8/3/2012
Mike Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources; Native American Religious Concerns; Paleontological Resources	5/28/2012	8/3/2012
Tyrell Turner	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species; Vegetation; Rangeland Management; Prime and Unique Farmlands	6/5/2012	8/2/2012
Lisa Belmonte/Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds; Special Status Animal Species; Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife; Wetlands and Riparian Zones	6/5/2012	7/31/2012
Stacey Burke	Realty Specialist	Hazardous or Solid Wastes	5/24/2012	8/7/2012
Chad Schneckenburger	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness; Visual Resources; Access and Transportation; Recreation; Scenic Byways	5/21/2012	7/10/2012
Jim Michels	Fire Management Specialist	Fire Management	7/16/2012	7/16/2012
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals	5/7/2012	7/10/2012
Stacey Burke	Realty Specialist	Realty	5/24/2012	8/7/2012
Melissa Kindall	Range Technician	Wild Horse Management	6/5/2012	7/31/2012
Stacey Burke	Realty Specialist	Project Lead – Document Preparer	6/5/2012	8/7/2012

Natural Resource Group, LLC				
Name	Title	Area of Responsibility	Initial Review	Final Review
Andrea Thornton		Surface and Ground Water Quality; Floodplains, Hydrology, and Water Rights; Soils	4/26/2012	6/29/2012
Jeff Thommes		Areas of Critical Environmental Concern; Special Status Plant Species	4/26/2012	6/29/2012
Jeremy Pincoske		Cultural Resources; Native American Religious Concerns; Paleontological Resources	4/26/2012	6/29/2012
Andrew Grammer		Rangeland Management; Prime and Unique Farmlands	4/26/2012	6/29/2012
Danielle Levine		Wetlands and Riparian Zones; Vegetation; Invasive, Non-Native Species	4/26/2012	6/29/2012
Tracy Szela		Migratory Birds; Special Status Animal Species; Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife	4/26/2012	6/29/2012
Danielle Levine		Visual Resources; Access and Transportation; Recreation	4/26/2012	6/29/2012
Darren Kennedy		Wilderness; Scenic Byways	4/26/2012	6/29/2012
N/A		Forest Management	4/26/2012	6/29/2012
N/A		Geology and Minerals	4/26/2012	6/29/2012
Danielle Levine		Realty	4/26/2012	6/29/2012
Tracy Szela		Wild Horse Management	4/26/2012	6/29/2012
Andrew Grammer		Project Lead – Document Preparer	4/26/2012	6/29/2012
Jeff Thommes		NEPA Compliance; Environmental Justice; Social and Economic Conditions	4/26/2012	6/29/2012

ATTACHMENTS:

Figure 1 Map of the Project

Figure 2 Fragile Soils Map

Appendix A O&M Activities/Anomaly Digs/ Summary of Biological Resources within the 50-foot Right-of-Way/ Summary of Activity Restrictions for Biological Resources

Appendix B Soils and Associated Range Sites (Standard Seed Mixes Table)

Appendix C Weed Data

Figure 1

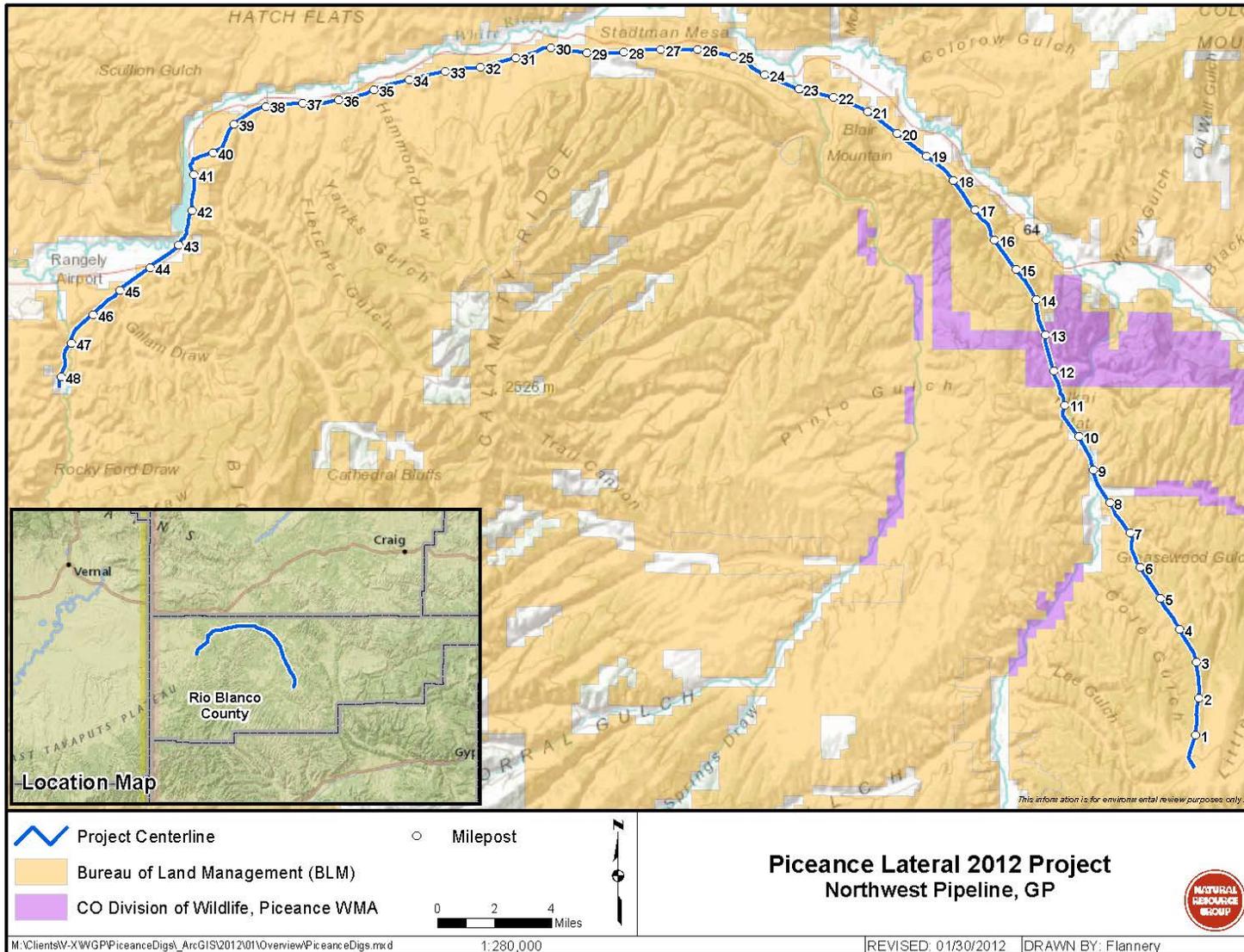
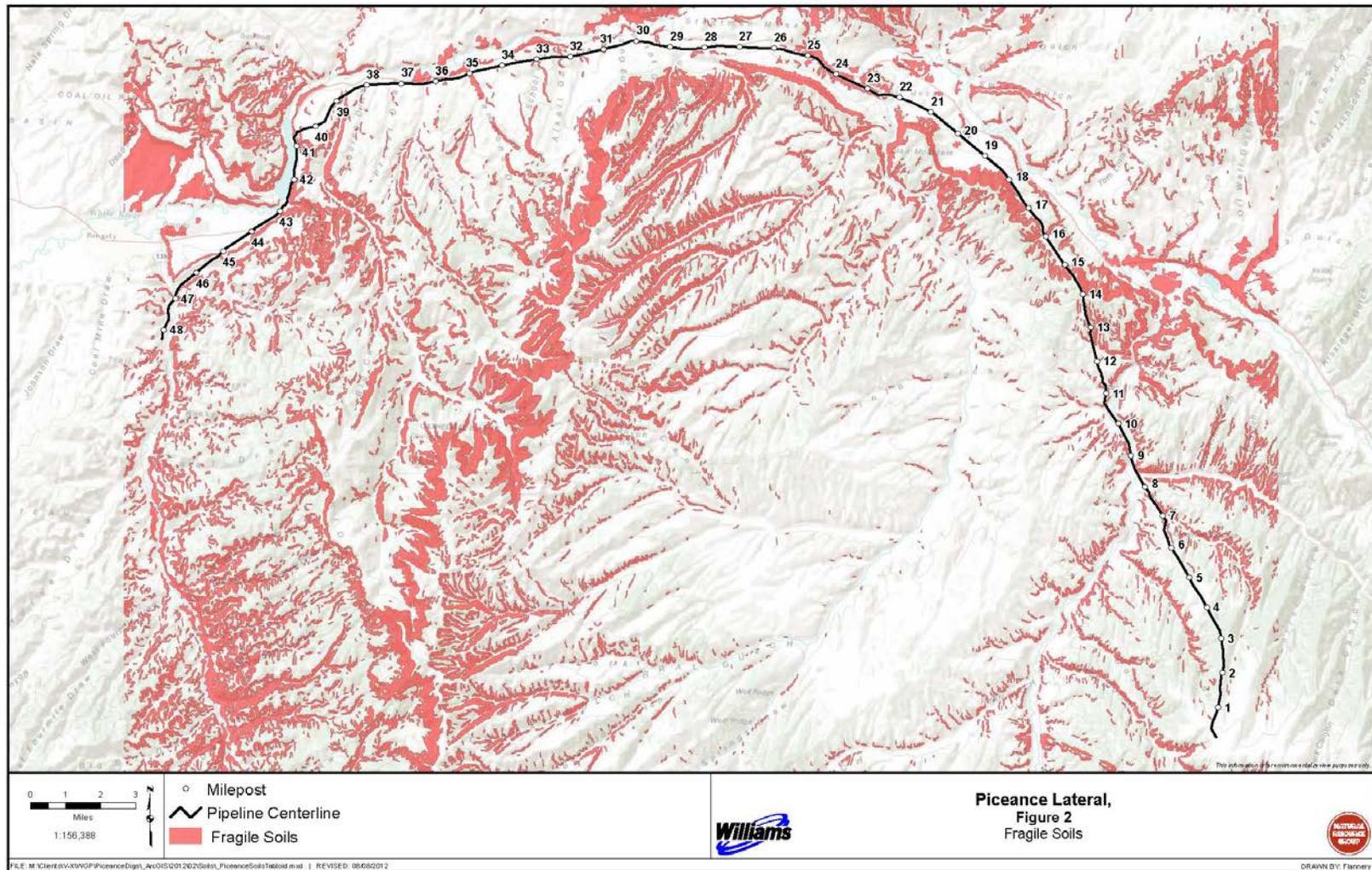


Figure 2



**Appendix A:
Northwest Pipeline 2012 O&M Projects^**

Cathodic Protection Number	Mile Post	Excavation Length (Feet)	Construction Outside of ROW	Latitude	Longitude	TWP	RANGE	SEC.	QRT/QTR	Impact outside of existing right-of-way (acres)	Resource Potential Present	Mitigation Measures
N/A	43.91	redrill	(10'X200')+(10X200')+(150'X150')	40.09439	-108.72731	2N	101W	33	LOT 15	0.61	*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat *Potential burrowing owl nest habitat *White-tailed prairie dog town.	*Site preparation and excavation associated with maintenance work shall not be conducted from March 15 to June 15 to avoid white-tailed prairie dog reproductive activities. *Prior to authorizing vegetation clearing, excavation, and maintenance activity between 15 March and 15 August, WRFO will require a burrowing owl nest survey to be performed within 200 meters of the project site. In the event owl nesting activity is documented within this buffer, timing limitations may applied from 15 March to 15 August or until young are fledged and disperse from the nest burrow.
Recoat Number	Mile Post	Excavation Length (Feet)	Construction Outside of ROW	Latitude	Longitude	TWP	RANGE	SEC.	QRT/QTR	Impact outside of existing right-of-way (acres)	Resource Potential Present	Mitigation Measures
N/A	1.87	80	20'X280" east side	39.92467	-108.19601	1S	96W	32	NWSW	0.13		**Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B. *As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol: all access associated with site.
N/A	2.97	130	20'X330' east side 20'X330' west side	39.94021	-108.19684	1S	96W	29	SWNW	0.30	*Migratory Bird/Raptor Nesting Habitat *Big game severe winter range	*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO. *Raptor nest surveys would be required in habitat potentially influenced by maintenance activity. Based on survey results, timing constraints (within 1 February to 15 August window) would be imposed in circumstances where maintenance activity would compromise nesting activity. *No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range. *As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 739427m E./4425224m N. to 739660m E./4424130m N.

N/A	23.1	84	20'X283' south side 20'X283' north side	40.1636	-108.40066	2N	98W	9	LOT 5,6	0.26	*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat *Big game severe winter range	*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO. *No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range. *As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 721788m E./4448955m N. to 721317m E./4449164m N.
N/A	25.27	30+30	20'X290' south side 20'X290' north side	40.17644	-108.4366	2N	98W	6	LOT 10	0.27	*Cultural Site *Migratory Bird/Raptor Nesting Habitat *Big game severe winter range	*Requires a Notice To Proceed (NTP) pending SHPO consultation *Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO. *Raptor nest surveys would be required in habitat potentially influenced by maintenance activity. Based on survey results, timing constraints (within 1 February to 15 August window) would be imposed in circumstances where maintenance activity would compromise nesting activity. *No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range. *As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 717776m E./4450574m N. to 718503m E./4450452m N.
N/A	30.48	30+30	20'X296' south side	40.17713	-108.53345	2N	99W	5	LOT 8	0.14	*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat *Big game severe winter range	*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO. *No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range. *As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 710114m E./4450366m N. to 709965m E./4450320m N.
Anomaly Dig Number	Mile Post	Excavation Length (Feet)	Construction Outside of ROW	Latitude	Longitude	TWP	RANGE	SEC.	QRT/QTR	Impact outside of existing right-of-way (acres)	Resource Potential Present	Mitigation Measures

950	0.66	15	15'X75' east side	39.90717	-108.19913	2S	96W	5	LOT 22	0.03	*Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat *Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat	*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B. *Surface use activities are prohibited in breeding habitats within 4 miles of active leks (Mar. 15 through Jul. 7). *Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO. *As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol: all access associated with site.
1910	1.43	6	None	39.91809	-108.19612	1S	96W	32	LOT 5	None	*Cultural Site *Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat	*Requires a Notice To Proceed (NTP) pending SHPO consultation *Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B. *Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO. *As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol: all access associated with site.
5310	4.17	75	20'X150' west side 20'X150 east side	39.95531	-108.20674	1S	96W	19	SWNE	0.14	*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat *Big game severe winter range	*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B. *Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO. *No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range. *As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 738398m E./4426861m N. to 738603m E./4426532m N.

7870	6.23	5	None	39.98021	-108.22732	1S	97W	12	LOT 7	None	<p>*Cultural Site (Access Road)</p> <p>*Migratory Bird/Raptor Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*Big game severe winter range</p>	<p>*Requires a Notice To Proceed (NTP) pending SHPO consultation</p> <p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO. *Raptor nest surveys would be required in habitat potentially influenced by maintenance activity. Based on survey results, timing constraints (within 1 February to 15 August window) would be imposed in circumstances where maintenance activity would compromise nesting activity.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 736728m E./4429308m N. to 736753m E./4429237m N.</p>
7910	6.26	6	None	39.98067	-108.22752	1S	97W	12	LOT 7	None	<p>*Cultural Site (Access Road)</p> <p>*Migratory Bird/Raptor Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*Big game severe winter range</p>	<p>*Requires a Notice To Proceed (NTP) pending SHPO consultation</p> <p>*Same as MP 6.23</p>
11070	8.72	10	25'X100' west side 25'X100' east side	40.0112	-108.24754	1N	97W	35	LOT 21, PVT	0.12	<p>*Dudley Bluffs Outstanding Biodiversity Significance Area</p> <p>*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*Great Basin Spadefoot Observation Buffer</p>	<p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*Weed management and control plan required to suppress weed proliferation in accordance with DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA. A PUP must be acquired and all herbicide buffers (found in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA) must be adhered. FWS must be consulted if herbicides are used within assigned buffers of special status plant species.</p>

13060	10.39	14	25'X250' west side 25'X250' east side	40.0326	-108.261	1N	97W	27	LOT 3	0.29	<p>*Dudley Bluffs Outstanding Biodiversity Significance Area</p> <p>*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*Great Basin Spadefoot Observation Buffer</p> <p>*Big game severe winter range</p>	<p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through July 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol: all access associated with site.</p> <p>*Weed management and control plan required to suppress weed proliferation in accordance with DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA. A PUP must be acquired and all herbicide buffers (found in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA) must be adhered. FWS must be consulted if herbicides are used within assigned buffers of special status plant species.</p>
13950	10.92	54	25'X200' east side	40.03922	-108.264	1N	97W	22	NWSE	0.14	<p>*Dudley Bluffs Outstanding Biodiversity Significance Area</p> <p>*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*Big game severe winter range</p>	<p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through July 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol: all access associated with site.</p> <p>*Weed management and control plan required to suppress weed proliferation in accordance with DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA. A PUP must be acquired and all herbicide buffers (found in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA) must be adhered. FWS must be consulted if herbicides are used within assigned buffers of special status plant species.</p>
14410	11.29	30	15'X80' east side	40.0442	-108.26474	1N	97W	22	NENW	0.03	<p>*Cultural Site</p> <p>*Migratory Bird/Raptor Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*Big game severe winter range</p>	<p>*Requires a Notice To Proceed (NTP) pending SHPO consultation</p> <p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p>

15240	11.96	20	25'X100' east side*	40.05302	-108.26907	1N	97W	15	NESW, NWNW	0.06	<p>*Migratory Bird/Raptor Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*Big game severe winter range</p> <p>*Piceance-East Douglas Creek Herd Management Area</p>	<p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*Raptor nest surveys would be required in habitat potentially influenced by maintenance activity. Based on survey results, timing constraints (within 1 February to 15 August window) would be imposed in circumstances where maintenance activity would compromise nesting activity.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 732888m E./4437361m N. to 732944m E./4437210m N.</p>
19450	15.32	7	None	40.09655	-108.29191	2N	97W	33	NWSW	None	<p>*Migratory Bird/Raptor Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*Big game severe winter range</p> <p>*Piceance-East Douglas Creek Herd Management Area</p>	<p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*Raptor nest surveys would be required in habitat potentially influenced by maintenance activity. Based on survey results, timing constraints (within 1 February to 15 August window) would be imposed in circumstances where maintenance activity would compromise nesting activity.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.</p>

19990	15.76	15	None	40.10165	-108.29676	2N	97W	32	SENE	None	<p>*Migratory Bird/Raptor Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*Piceance-East Douglas Creek Herd Management Area</p> <p>*Big game severe winter range</p>	<p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*Raptor nest surveys would be required in habitat potentially influenced by maintenance activity. Based on survey results, timing constraints (within 1 February to 15 August window) would be imposed in circumstances where maintenance activity would compromise nesting activity.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 730323m E./4442705m N. to 730421m E./4442536m N.</p>
20220	15.95	17	20'X100 east side*	40.10384	-108.29884	2N	97W	32	NWNE	0.05	<p>*Migratory Bird/Raptor Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*Piceance-East Douglas Creek Herd Management Area</p> <p>*Big game severe winter range</p>	same as Anomaly Dig Number 19450
20730	16.37	15	None	40.10924	-108.30161	2N	97W	29	SWSE	None	<p>*Migratory Bird/Raptor Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*Big game severe winter range</p>	<p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO. *Raptor nest surveys would be required in habitat potentially influenced by maintenance activity. Based on survey results, timing constraints (within 1 February to 15 August window) would be imposed in circumstances where maintenance activity would compromise nesting activity.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 729999m E./4443318m N. to 729982m E./4443376m N.</p>

21440	16.94	38	20'X60' east side* 15'X60' west side*	40.1154	-108.30856	2N	97W	29	SWNW	0.05	*Migratory Bird/Raptor Nesting Habitat *Piceance-East Douglas Creek Herd Management Area *Big game severe winter range	Same as Anomaly Dig Number 19450
22200	17.52	7	None	40.12208	-108.31494	2N	97W	19	SESE	None	*Dudley Bluffs Outstanding Biodiversity Significance Area *Migratory Bird/Raptor Nesting Habitat *Piceance-East Douglas Creek Herd Management Area *Big game severe winter range	*Notice To Proceed *Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B. Three to four additional forbs will be added to the mix to support pollinator communities for special status plant species. *Raptor nest surveys would be required in habitat potentially influenced by maintenance activity. Based on survey results, timing constraints (within 1 February to 15 August window) would be imposed in circumstances where maintenance activity would compromise nesting activity. *No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range. *Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO. *NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods. *Weed management and control plan required to suppress weed proliferation in accordance with DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA. A PUP must be acquired and all herbicide buffers (found in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA) must be adhered. FWS must be consulted if herbicides are used within assigned buffers of special status plant species.
23250	18.4	10	None	40.13187	-108.32497	2N	97W	19	NENW	None	*Dudley Bluffs Outstanding Biodiversity Significance Area *Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat *Piceance-East Douglas Creek Herd Management Area *Big game severe winter range	*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B. Three to four additional forbs will be added to the mix to support pollinator communities for special status plant species. *Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO. *NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods. *No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range. *Weed management and control plan required to suppress weed proliferation in accordance with DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA. A PUP must be acquired and all herbicide buffers (found in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA) must be adhered. FWS must be consulted if herbicides are used within assigned buffers of special status plant species
23330	18.46	12	None	40.13244	-108.32593	2N	97W	19	LOT 5	None	*Dudley Bluffs Outstanding Biodiversity Significance Area *Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat *Piceance-East Douglas	same as Anomaly Dig Number 23250

												Creek Herd Management Area *Big game severe winter range	
24960	19.68	75	25'X150' south side 15'X150' north side	40.14296	-108.34395	2N	98W	13	SENW	0.14		*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat *Piceance-East Douglas Creek Herd Management Area *Big game severe winter range	same as Anomaly Dig Number 23250
25240	19.86	6	25'X125' south side 15'X125' north side	40.1446	-108.34674	2N	98W	13	SWNW	0.11		*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat *Big game severe winter range *Piceance-East Douglas Creek Herd Management Area	*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B. *Any O&M activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO. *No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range. *NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods. *As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 726056m E./4447152m N. to 725881m E./4447270m N.
25420	20	10	None	40.14575	-108.34871	2N	98W	13	NWNW	None		*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat *Piceance-East Douglas Creek Herd Management Area *Big game severe winter range	same as Anomaly Dig Number 23250
26280	20.64	55	25'X100' south side	40.15145	-108.35849	2N	98W	11	SWSE	0.06		*Dudley Bluffs Outstanding Biodiversity Significance Area *Migratory Bird/Raptor Nesting Habitat *Big game severe winter range *Piceance-East Douglas Creek Herd Management Area	*Requires a Notice To Proceed (NTP) pending plant survey *Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B. Three to four additional forbs will be added to the mix to support pollinator communities for special status plant species. *Raptor nest surveys would be required in habitat potentially influenced by maintenance activity. Based on survey results, timing constraints (within 1 February to 15 August window) would be imposed in circumstances where maintenance activity would compromise nesting activity. *No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range. *Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO. *NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities

												take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods. *Weed management and control plan required to suppress weed proliferation in accordance with DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA. A PUP must be acquired and all herbicide buffers (found in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA) must be adhered. FWS must be consulted if herbicides are used within assigned buffers of special status plant species.
27060	21.24	10	None	40.15593	-108.36792	2N	98W	11	NWSW	None	*Migratory Bird /Raptor Nesting Habitat *Big game severe winter range *North Piceance Herd Area	*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B. *No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range. *Raptor nest surveys would be required in habitat potentially influenced by maintenance activity. Based on survey results, timing constraints (within 1 February to 15 August window) would be imposed in circumstances where maintenance activity would compromise nesting activity. *Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO. *NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.
27090	21.27	25	None	40.15609	-108.36836	2N	98W	10	NESE	None	*Migratory Bird /Raptor Nesting Habitat *Big game severe winter range *North Piceance Herd Area *TES Plant Habitat	*Requires a Notice To Proceed (NTP) pending plant survey *Same as Anomaly Dig Number 27060
27810	21.82	7	None	40.15911	-108.37799	2N	98W	10	SESW	None	*Cultural Site *Migratory Bird /Raptor Nesting Habitat *Big game severe winter range *North Piceance Herd Area	*Requires a Notice To Proceed (NTP) pending SHPO consultation *Same as Anomaly Dig Number 27060
29780	23.34	8	None	40.16502	-108.40505	2N	98W	4	LOT 31	None	*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat *North Piceance Herd Area *Big game severe winter range	*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B. *No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range. *Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO. *NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.

30040	23.47	14	25'X75' north side	40.16581	-108.40749	2N	98W	5	SESE	0.04	<p>*Cultural Site (Access Road)</p> <p>*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*North Piceance Herd Area</p> <p>*Big game severe winter range</p>	<p>*Requires a Notice To Proceed (NTP) pending SHPO consultation</p> <p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 720450m E./4449502m N. to 720770m E./4449382m N.</p>
31290	24.38	6	None	40.17155	-108.42267	2N	98W	5	LOT 16	None	<p>*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*North Piceance Herd Area</p>	<p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 720281m E./4449571m N. to 719462m E./4449984m N.</p>

31960	24.9	65	None	40.17566	-108.42988	2N	98W	6	LOT 9	None	*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat *North Piceance Herd Area *Big game severe winter range	*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B. *Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO. *NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods. *No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range. *As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 718504m E./4450451m N. to 718834m E./4450419m N. and from 718896m E./4450533m N. to 718666m E./4450423m N.
32150	25.05	40	15'X300' south side	40.17591	-108.43278	2N	98W	6	LOT 9	0.10	*Cultural Site *Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat *North Piceance Herd Area *Big game severe winter range	*Requires a Notice To Proceed (NTP) pending SHPO consultation *Same as Anomaly Dig Number 31960
32170	25.06	50		40.17595	-108.43309	2N	98W	6	LOT 9	0.10	*Cultural Site *Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat *North Piceance Herd Area *Big game severe winter range	*Requires a Notice To Proceed (NTP) pending SHPO consultation *Same as Anomaly Dig Number 31960
32200	25.09	6		40.176	-108.43351	2N	98W	6	LOT 9	0.10	*Cultural Site (Access Road) *Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat *North Piceance Herd Area *Big game severe winter range	*Requires a Notice To Proceed (NTP) pending SHPO consultation *Same as Anomaly Dig Number 31960

33600	26.09	6	25'X75' south side	40.17827	-108.45198	2N	99W	1	LOT 6	0.04	*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat *North Piceance Herd Area *Big game severe winter range	*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B. *Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO. *NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods. *No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range. *As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 716757m E./4450813m N. to 716841m E./4450651m N. and from 716780m E./4450645m N. to 717126m E./4450688m N.
34970	27.24	10	None	40.17842	-108.47277	2N	99W	2	LOT 7	None	*North Piceance Herd Area	*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B. *NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.
36970	28.77	43	15'X100' south side	40.17685	-108.50211	2N	99W	4	LOT 5	0.03	*Migratory Bird/Raptor Nesting Habitat *North Piceance Herd Area *Big game severe winter range	*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B. *No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range. *Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO. *Raptor nest surveys would be required in habitat potentially influenced by maintenance activity. Based on survey results, timing constraints (within 1 February to 15 August window) would be imposed in circumstances where maintenance activity would compromise nesting activity. *NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.
37380	29.07	8	25'X100' south side	40.17732	-108.50776	2N	99W	4	LOT 6	0.06	*Cultural Site *Migratory Bird/Raptor Nesting Habitat *North Piceance Herd Area *Big game severe winter range	*Requires a Notice To Proceed (NTP) pending SHPO consultation *Same as Anomaly Dig Number 36970

37960	29.52	7	None	40.17834	-108.51605	2N	99W	4	LOT 8	None	<p>*Migratory Bird/Raptor Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*North Piceance Herd Area</p> <p>*Big game severe winter range</p>	<p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*Raptor nest surveys would be required in habitat potentially influenced by maintenance activity. Based on survey results, timing constraints (within 1 February to 15 August window) would be imposed in circumstances where maintenance activity would compromise nesting activity.</p> <p>*NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 710861m E./4450566m N. to 711487m E./4450505m N.</p>
38620	30.06	6	None	40.17918	-108.52612	3N	99W	32	SWSE	None	<p>*Migratory Bird/Raptor Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*North Piceance Herd Area</p> <p>*Big game severe winter range</p>	<p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*Raptor nest surveys would be required in habitat potentially influenced by maintenance activity. Based on survey results, timing constraints (within 1 February to 15 August window) would be imposed in circumstances where maintenance activity would compromise nesting activity.</p> <p>*NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 710126m E./4450369m N. to 710845m E./4450569m N.</p>

39640	30.87	6	None	40.17567	-108.5403	2N	99W	6	LOT 18	None	<p>*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*Big game severe winter range</p> <p>*North Piceance Herd Area</p>	<p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 709432m E./4450154m N. to 709965m E./4450316m N.</p>
40480	31.56	38	15'X300' south side 15'X300' north side	40.17304	-108.55263	2N	99W	6	LOT 21	0.21	<p>*Cultural Survey (Access Road)</p> <p>*Boise Creek wetland reclamation</p> <p>*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*Big game severe winter range</p> <p>*North Piceance Herd Area</p>	<p>*Requires Notice To Proceed (NTP) if access road needs upgrades</p> <p>*The affected channel would be enclosed with a durable fence designed to prevent livestock access for a minimum of 3 years (minimum 4-strand Type-D barbed wire fence with braced corners constructed of 6" diameter treated wood posts). Upland areas within the fence will be subject to standard reclamation practices; disturbed channels would not be seeded, but allowed to revegetate with native sources of wetland plants. Maintenance of these structures would be the responsibility of the applicant until the channels have achieved their former character (as defined in FERC's Wetland and Waterbody Construction and Mitigation as committed to in NWP's POD).</p> <p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 708427m E./4449560m N. to 708441m E./4449846m N.</p>

41500	32.32	40	15'X190' south side 15'X190' north side	40.17112	-108.56637	2N	100W	1	NESW	0.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *School Gulch High Biodiversity Significance Area *Big game severe winter range *Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat *North Piceance Herd Area 	<p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p> <p>*NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.</p> <p>*Weed management and control plan required to suppress weed proliferation in accordance with DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA. A PUP must be acquired and all herbicide buffers (found in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA) must be adhered. FWS must be consulted if herbicides are used within assigned buffers of special status plant species.</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 707448m E./4449599m N. to 707197m E./4449586m N.</p>
41520	32.34	15	15'X190' south side 15'X190' north side	40.17111	-108.56669	2N	100W	1	NESW	0.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Cultural Survey (Access Road) *School Gulch High Biodiversity Significance Area *Big game severe winter range *Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat *North Piceance Herd Area *TES Plant Habitat for Debris Milkvetch, Narrowstem Gilia 	<p>*Requires Notice To Proceed (NTP) if access road needs upgrades</p> <p>*Same as Anomaly Dig Number 41500</p>

42330	32.93	15	None	40.17002	-108.57718	2N	100W	2	NESE	None	<p>*Requires Notice To Proceed (NTP) if access road needs upgrades</p> <p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p> <p>*NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 706517m E./444942m N. to 706308m E./4449442m N.</p>
42490	33.03	32	15'X150' south side 15'X150' north side	40.16972	-108.57921	2N	100W	2	NESE	0.10	<p>*Big game severe winter range</p> <p>*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*North Piceance Herd Area</p> <p>*TES Plant Habitat for Debris Milkvetch, Narrowstem Gilia</p> <p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through July 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p> <p>*NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.</p>
43150	33.56	25	None	40.1682	-108.58878	2N	100W	2	NESW	None	<p>*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*North Piceance Herd Area</p> <p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through July 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.</p> <p>*Weed management and control plan required to suppress weed proliferation in accordance with DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA. A PUP must be acquired and all herbicide buffers (found in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA) must be adhered. FWS must be consulted if herbicides are used within assigned buffers of special status plant species.</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 705849m E./4449344m N. to 705326m E./4449210m N.</p>

43930	34.16	6	None	40.16616	-108.59974	2N	100W	3	LOT 39	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Big game severe winter range *Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat *North Piceance Herd Area 	<p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through July 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p> <p>*NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 704213m E./4448905m N. to 704401m E./4448958m N.</p>
44010	34.23	30	15'X150' north side	40.16594	-108.60088	2N	100W	3	LOT 39	0.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat *TES Plant Habitat for Debris Milkvetch, Narrowstem Gilia *North Piceance Herd Area *Big game severe winter range 	<p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through July 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p> <p>*NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 704213m E./4448905m N. to 704401m E./4448958m N.</p> <p>*Weed management and control plan required to suppress weed proliferation in accordance with DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA. A PUP must be acquired and all herbicide buffers (found in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA) must be adhered. FWS must be consulted if herbicides are used within assigned buffers of special status plant species.</p>

44900	34.96	20	None	40.16309	-108.61399	2N	100W	9	LOT 1	None	<p>*Big game severe winter range</p> <p>*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*North Piceance Herd Area</p>	<p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through July 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : all access associated with site.</p>
45790	35.63	10	None	40.16003	-108.62581	2N	100W	9	SENW	None	<p>*Big game severe winter range</p> <p>*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*North Piceance Herd Area</p>	Same as Anomaly Dig Number 44900
48260	37.58	39	15'X250' south side	40.15696	-108.66193	2N	100W	7	NESW	0.09	<p>*Big game severe winter range</p> <p>*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*North Piceance Herd Area</p>	<p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through July 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p> <p>*NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 699057m E./4447787m N. to 699207m E./4447805m N.</p>
48280	37.6	27	15'X250' south side	40.15694	-108.66224	2N	100W	7	NESW	0.09	<p>*Big game severe winter range</p> <p>*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*North Piceance Herd Area</p>	Same as Anomaly Dig Number 48260

49170	38.32	10	None	40.15479	-108.67544	2N	101W	12	NWSE	None	<p>*Cultural Survey (Access Road)</p> <p>*Big game severe winter range</p> <p>*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*North Piceance Herd Area</p>	<p>*Requires Notice To Proceed (NTP) if access road needs upgrades</p> <p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through July 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p> <p>*NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 697884m E./4447460m N. to 697985m E./4447526m N.</p>
50950	39.72	10	None	40.1403	-108.69191	2N	101W	14	NESE	None	<p>*Cultural Survey (Access Road)</p> <p>*Big game severe winter range</p> <p>*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat</p> <p>*North Piceance Herd Area</p>	<p>*Requires Notice To Proceed (NTP) if access road needs upgrades</p> <p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through July 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO.</p> <p>*No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 – April 30 in mule deer severe winter range.</p> <p>*NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.</p>
52550	40.98	6	None	40.13025	-108.70639	2N	101W	23	LOT 3	None	<p>*North Piceance Herd Area</p>	<p>*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B.</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : (UTM NAD 83/Zone 12) from 695395m E./4444816m N. to 695417m E./4444735m N.</p> <p>*NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods.</p>
53220	41.48	8	None	40.1232	-108.70603	2N	101W	23	SWSW	None	<p>*Cultural Site</p>	<p>*Requires a Notice To Proceed (NTP) pending SHPO consultation</p> <p>*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol: all access associated with site.</p>

53350	41.59	15	None	40.12172	-108.70642	2N	101W	23	SWSW	None		*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol: all access associated with site.
53570	41.76	24	15'X150' east side 15'X150' west side	40.11931	-108.70689	2N	101W	26	NWNW	0.10	*Cultural Site	*Requires a Notice To Proceed (NTP) pending SHPO consultation
53660	41.83	8	None	40.11834	-108.70686	2N	101W	26	NWNW	None	None	None
56800	44.2	12	15'X150' south side 15'X150' north side	40.092	-108.7315	1N	101W	4	NWNE	0.10	*Migratory Bird Nesting Habitat *North Piceance Herd Area	*Permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011) using site (milepost) specific seed mixes identified in Appendix B. *Any vegetation clearing activities will be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through Jul. 15) unless authorized by BLM WRFO. *NWP will communicate with BLM to ensure O&M activities take place outside BLM authorized horse gather periods and foaling periods. *As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol : all access associated with site.
60240	47	6	25'X150' east side	40.06455	-108.76839	1N	101W	7	SWSE	0.09		*As a means of stabilizing unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along the following identified portion(s) of this access or right-of-way corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol: all access associated with site.

^Cardno Entrix 2012.
^Cardno Entrix 2012a.
^Entrix 2010 (Anamoly Dig Numbers: 950, 7870, 7910, 11070, 13060, 13950)

Appendix B
Seed Mixes by Mile Post

MP In	MP Out	Map Symbol ^a	Soil Name ^b	Range Site Name ^c	Seed Mix ^d
0.00	0.17	43	Irigul-Parachute complex, 5 to 30 percent slopes	Mountain Loam	6
0.17	0.50	104	Yamac loam, 2 to 15 percent slopes	Rolling Loam	2
0.50	0.52	43	Irigul-Parachute complex, 5 to 30 percent slopes	Mountain Loam	6
0.52	0.64	15	Castner channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
0.64	0.70	59	Parachute-Rhone loams, 5 to 30 percent slopes	Mountain Loam	6
0.70	0.82	15	Castner channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
0.82	0.91	73	Rentsac channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
0.91	0.97	15	Castner channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
0.97	1.01	43	Irigul-Parachute complex, 5 to 30 percent slopes	Mountain Loam	6
1.01	3.14	15	Castner channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
3.14	4.01	70	Redcreek-Rentsac complex, 5 to 30 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
4.01	4.36	73	Rentsac channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
4.36	4.57	70	Redcreek-Rentsac complex, 5 to 30 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
4.57	4.68	73	Rentsac channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
4.68	4.75	104	Yamac loam, 2 to 15 percent slopes	Rolling Loam	2
4.75	5.00	73	Rentsac channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
5.00	5.22	70	Redcreek-Rentsac complex, 5 to 30 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
5.22	5.40	73	Rentsac channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
5.40	5.55	70	Redcreek-Rentsac complex, 5 to 30 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
5.55	5.62	104	Yamac loam, 2 to 15 percent slopes	Rolling Loam	2
5.62	6.14	70	Redcreek-Rentsac complex, 5 to 30 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
6.14	6.21	75	Rentsac-Piceance complex, 2 to 30 percent slopes	Rolling Loam	2
6.21	6.41	70	Redcreek-Rentsac complex, 5 to 30 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
6.41	6.97	73	Rentsac channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
6.97	7.54	36	Glendive fine sandy loam	Foothill Swale	5
7.54	7.55	91	Torriorthents-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 90 percent slopes	Stony Foothills	3

MP In	MP Out	Map Symbol ^a	Soil Name ^b	Range Site Name ^c	Seed Mix ^d
7.55	7.66	36	Glendive fine sandy loam	Foothill Swale	5
7.66	7.84	91	Torriorthents-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 90 percent slopes	Stony Foothills	3
7.84	8.26	73	Rentsac channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
8.26	8.33	91	Torriorthents-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 90 percent slopes	Stony Foothills	3
8.33	9.53	40	Hagga loam	Swale Meadow	5
9.53	9.59	26	Cowdrey-Tampico loams, 15 to 50 percent slopes	Brushy loam	6
9.59	9.65	40	Hagga loam	Swale Meadow	5
9.65	9.87	26	Cowdrey-Tampico loams, 15 to 50 percent slopes	Brushy loam	6
9.87	10.42	36	Glendive fine sandy loam	Foothill Swale	5
10.42	10.44	40	Hagga loam	Swale Meadow	5
10.44	10.64	6	Barcus channery loamy sand, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Foothill Swale	5
10.64	10.83	40	Hagga loam	Swale Meadow	5
10.83	11.07	73	Rentsac channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
11.07	11.13	36	Glendive fine sandy loam	Foothill Swale	5
11.13	11.29	91	Torriorthents-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 90 percent slopes	Stony Foothills	3
11.29	12.22	73	Rentsac channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
12.22	12.23	36	Glendive fine sandy loam	Foothill Swale	5
12.23	12.41	73	Rentsac channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
12.41	12.63	36	Glendive fine sandy loam	Foothill Swale	5
12.63	12.68	73	Rentsac channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
12.68	12.82	36	Glendive fine sandy loam	Foothill Swale	5
12.82	12.95	73	Rentsac channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
12.95	13.00	36	Glendive fine sandy loam	Foothill Swale	5
13.00	15.11	73	Rentsac channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
15.11	15.19	53	Moyerson stony clay loam, 15 to 65 percent slopes	Clayey Slopes	1
15.19	15.33	1	Abor clay loam, 5 to 30 percent slopes	Clayey Foothills	1
15.33	15.43	53	Moyerson stony clay loam, 15 to 65 percent slopes	Clayey Slopes	1
15.43	15.70	1	Abor clay loam, 5 to 30 percent slopes	Clayey Foothills	1
15.70	15.77	53	Moyerson stony clay loam, 15 to 65 percent slopes	Clayey Slopes	1

MP In	MP Out	Map Symbol ^a	Soil Name ^b	Range Site Name ^c	Seed Mix ^d
15.77	15.91	1	Abor clay loam, 5 to 30 percent slopes	Clayey Foothills	1
15.91	16.08	10	Blazon, moist-Rentsac complex, 8 to 65 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
16.08	16.10	91	Torriorthents-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 90 percent slopes	Stony Foothills	3
16.10	16.15	10	Blazon, moist-Rentsac complex, 8 to 65 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
16.15	16.88	31	Dollard silty clay loam, 15 to 40 percent slopes	Clayey Foothills	1
16.88	16.96	10	Blazon, moist-Rentsac complex, 8 to 65 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
16.96	16.99	31	Dollard silty clay loam, 15 to 40 percent slopes	Clayey Foothills	1
16.99	17.01	10	Blazon, moist-Rentsac complex, 8 to 65 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
17.01	18.54	31	Dollard silty clay loam, 15 to 40 percent slopes	Clayey Foothills	1
18.54	18.64	104	Yamac loam, 2 to 15 percent slopes	Rolling Loam	2
18.64	18.89	53	Moyerson stony clay loam, 15 to 65 percent slopes	Clayey Slopes	1
18.89	19.24	104	Yamac loam, 2 to 15 percent slopes	Rolling Loam	2
19.24	20.09	11	Borollic Calciorthids-Guben complex, 6 to 50 percent slopes	Stony Foothills	3
20.09	20.15	33	Forelle loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Rolling Loam	2
20.15	21.16	11	Borollic Calciorthids-Guben complex, 6 to 50 percent slopes	Stony Foothills	3
21.16	21.22	61	Patent loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Rolling Loam	2
21.22	22.50	74	Rentsac-Moyerson-Rock outcrop complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Clayey Slopes	1
22.50	22.57	5	Badland	-	1
22.57	22.63	90	Torrifluvents, gullied	-	1
22.63	22.95	95	Uffens loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Alkaline Slopes	1
22.95	22.99	10	Blazon, moist-Rentsac complex, 8 to 65 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
22.99	24.84	95	Uffens loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Alkaline Slopes	1
24.84	25.40	74	Rentsac-Moyerson-Rock outcrop complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Clayey Slopes	1
25.40	26.09	1	Abor clay loam, 5 to 30 percent slopes	Clayey Foothills	1
26.09	26.30	33	Forelle loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Rolling Loam	2
26.30	28.27	1	Abor clay loam, 5 to 30 percent slopes	Clayey Foothills	1
28.27	28.42	74	Rentsac-Moyerson-Rock outcrop complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Clayey Slopes	1
28.42	28.52	34	Forelle loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	Rolling Loam	2
MP	MP	Map	Soil Name ^b	Range Site	Seed Mix ^d

In	Out	Symbol ^a		Name ^c	
28.52	28.58	90	Torrifluents, gullied	-	1
28.58	28.87	73	Rentsac channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
28.87	28.93	66	Potts-Begay fine sandy loams, 2 to 7 percent slopes	Sandy Saltdesert	8
28.93	29.14	73	Rentsac channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
29.14	29.19	66	Potts-Begay fine sandy loams, 2 to 7 percent slopes	Sandy Saltdesert	8
29.19	29.66	73	Rentsac channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
29.66	30.00	66	Potts-Begay fine sandy loams, 2 to 7 percent slopes	Sandy Saltdesert	8
30.00	30.04	73	Rentsac channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
30.04	30.12	21	Cliffdown-Cliffdown variant complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
30.12	30.30	73	Rentsac channery loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	PJ Woodland	3
30.30	30.55	21	Cliffdown-Cliffdown variant complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
30.55	30.91	64	Piceance fine sandy loam, 5 to 15 percent slopes	Rolling Loam	2
30.91	30.99	21	Cliffdown-Cliffdown variant complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
30.99	31.32	66	Potts-Begay fine sandy loams, 2 to 7 percent slopes	Sandy Saltdesert	8
31.32	31.36	21	Cliffdown-Cliffdown variant complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
31.36	31.44	66	Potts-Begay fine sandy loams, 2 to 7 percent slopes	Sandy Saltdesert	8
31.44	31.62	21	Cliffdown-Cliffdown variant complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
31.62	31.67	90	Torrifluents, gullied	-	1
31.67	31.74	74	Rentsac-Moyerson-Rock outcrop complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Clayey Slopes	1
31.74	31.78	55	Nihill channery sandy loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
31.78	32.10	74	Rentsac-Moyerson-Rock outcrop complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Clayey Slopes	1
32.10	32.21	46	Kinnear fine sandy loam, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Loamy Saltdesert	8
32.21	32.51	91	Torriorthents-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 90 percent slopes	Stony Foothills	3
32.51	32.65	21	Cliffdown-Cliffdown variant complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
32.65	33.09	91	Torriorthents-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 90 percent slopes	Stony Foothills	3
33.09	33.37	64	Piceance fine sandy loam, 5 to 15 percent slopes	Rolling Loam	2
33.37	33.60	74	Rentsac-Moyerson-Rock outcrop complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Clayey Slopes	1
33.60	33.96	66	Potts-Begay fine sandy loams, 2 to 7 percent slopes	Sandy Saltdesert	8
33.96	34.00	21	Cliffdown-Cliffdown variant complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
MP	MP	Map	Soil Name ^b	Range Site	Seed Mix ^d

In	Out	Symbol ^a		Name ^c	
34.00	34.04	66	Potts-Begay fine sandy loams, 2 to 7 percent slopes	Sandy Saltdesert	8
34.04	34.06	21	Cliffdown-Cliffdown variant complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
34.06	34.10	66	Potts-Begay fine sandy loams, 2 to 7 percent slopes	Sandy Saltdesert	8
34.10	34.29	21	Cliffdown-Cliffdown variant complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
34.29	34.34	66	Potts-Begay fine sandy loams, 2 to 7 percent slopes	Sandy Saltdesert	8
34.34	34.40	21	Cliffdown-Cliffdown variant complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
34.40	34.55	46	Kinnear fine sandy loam, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Loamy Saltdesert	8
34.55	34.64	66	Potts-Begay fine sandy loams, 2 to 7 percent slopes	Sandy Saltdesert	8
34.64	34.68	21	Cliffdown-Cliffdown variant complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
34.68	34.81	46	Kinnear fine sandy loam, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Loamy Saltdesert	8
34.81	34.94	21	Cliffdown-Cliffdown variant complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
34.94	35.02	95	Uffens loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes	Alkaline Slopes	1
35.02	35.60	21	Cliffdown-Cliffdown variant complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
35.60	35.70	91	Torriorthents-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 90 percent slopes	Stony Foothills	3
35.70	35.93	46	Kinnear fine sandy loam, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Loamy Saltdesert	8
35.93	36.24	21	Cliffdown-Cliffdown variant complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
36.24	36.32	90	Torrifluents, gullied	-	1
36.32	36.91	21	Cliffdown-Cliffdown variant complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
36.91	37.00	46	Kinnear fine sandy loam, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Loamy Saltdesert	8
37.00	37.64	21	Cliffdown-Cliffdown variant complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
37.64	38.02	46	Kinnear fine sandy loam, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Loamy Saltdesert	8
38.02	38.08	91	Torriorthents-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 90 percent slopes	Stony Foothills	3
38.08	38.12	90	Torrifluents, gullied	-	1
38.12	38.43	21	Cliffdown-Cliffdown variant complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
38.43	38.50	90	Torrifluents, gullied	-	1
38.50	38.61	21	Cliffdown-Cliffdown variant complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
38.61	38.66	91	Torriorthents-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 90 percent slopes	Stony Foothills	3
38.66	38.77	90	Torrifluents, gullied	-	1
38.77	38.86	55	Nihill channery sandy loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
MP	MP	Map	Soil Name ^b	Range Site	Seed Mix ^d

In	Out	Symbol ^a		Name ^c	
38.86	39.09	46	Kinnear fine sandy loam, 1 to 5 percent slopes	Loamy Saltdesert	8
39.09	39.38	55	Nihill channery sandy loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
39.38	40.43	74	Rentsac-Moyerson-Rock outcrop complex, 5 to 65 percent slopes	Clayey Slopes	1
40.43	40.51	78	Rock outcrop	N/A	N/A
40.51	40.56	55	Nihill channery sandy loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
40.56	40.63	78	Rock outcrop	N/A	N/A
40.63	41.97	55	Nihill channery sandy loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
41.97	42.02	129	Water	N/A	N/A
42.02	42.13	55	Nihill channery sandy loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
42.13	42.58	129	Water	N/A	N/A
42.58	42.59	55	Nihill channery sandy loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
42.59	42.60	131	Dam	N/A	N/A
42.60	42.68	93	Turley fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Alkaline Slopes	1
42.68	42.84	55	Nihill channery sandy loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
42.84	42.90	93	Turley fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Alkaline Slopes	1
42.90	43.06	25	Colorow sandy loam	Sandy Saltdesert	8
43.06	43.37	55	Nihill channery sandy loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
43.37	43.63	93	Turley fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Alkaline Slopes	1
43.63	44.72	94	Turley fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Alkaline Slopes	1
44.72	45.01	93	Turley fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Alkaline Slopes	1
45.01	45.17	5	Badland	-	1
45.17	45.58	91	Torriorthents-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 90 percent slopes	Stony Foothills	3
45.58	45.83	78	Rock outcrop	N/A	N/A
45.83	45.84	94	Turley fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	Alkaline Slopes	1
45.84	45.86	78	Rock outcrop	N/A	N/A
45.86	46.79	55	Nihill channery sandy loam, 5 to 50 percent slopes	Saltdesert Breaks	8
46.79	46.87	53	Moyerson stony clay loam, 15 to 65 percent slopes	Clayey Slopes	1
46.87	47.00	90	Torrifluvents, gullied	-	1
47.00	47.08	93	Turley fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Alkaline Slopes	1
MP	MP	Map	Soil Name ^b	Range Site	Seed Mix ^d

In	Out	Symbol ^a		Name ^c	
47.08	47.27	91	Torriorthents-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 90 percent slopes	Stony Foothills	3
47.27	47.32	53	Moyerson stony clay loam, 15 to 65 percent slopes	Clayey Slopes	1
47.32	47.53	93	Turley fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Alkaline Slopes	1
47.53	47.59	53	Moyerson stony clay loam, 15 to 65 percent slopes	Clayey Slopes	1
47.59	47.71	93	Turley fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Alkaline Slopes	1
47.71	48.14	53	Moyerson stony clay loam, 15 to 65 percent slopes	Clayey Slopes	1
48.14	48.22	93	Turley fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	Alkaline Slopes	1
48.22	48.28	53	Moyerson stony clay loam, 15 to 65 percent slopes	Clayey Slopes	1
^a USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey map symbol ^b USDA NRCS soil complex name ^c Range Site name as identified in the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011), Table 2 ^d Reference number for Standard Seed Mixes as identified in the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocol (April 2011), Table 3					

**Appendix C:
Northwest Pipeline 2012 O&M Projects^**

Cathodic Protection Number	Mile Post	Excavation Length (Feet)	Construction Outside of ROW	Latitude	Longitude	TWP	RANGE	SEC	QRT/QTR	Impact outside of existing right-of-way (acres)	Resource Potential Present	Mitigation Measures
N/A	43.91	redrill	(10'X200')+(10X200')+(150'X150')	40.09439	-108.72731	2N	101W	33	LOT 15	0.61	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass, halogeton)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
Recoat Number	Mile Post	Excavation Length (Feet)	Construction Outside of ROW	Latitude	Longitude	TWP	RANGE	SEC	QRT/QTR	Impact outside of existing right-of-way (acres)	Resource Potential Present	Mitigation Measures
N/A	1.87	80	20'X280" east side	39.92467	-108.19601	1S	96W	32	NWSW	0.13	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass, common mullein)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
N/A	2.97	130	20'X330' east side 20'X330' west side	39.94021	-108.19684	1S	96W	29	SWNW	0.30	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
N/A	23.1	84	20'X283' south side 20'X283' north side	40.1636	-108.40066	2N	98W	9	LOT 5,6	0.26	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
N/A	25.27	30+30	20'X290' south side 20'X290' north side	40.17644	-108.4366	2N	98W	6	LOT 10	0.27	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
N/A	30.48	30+30	20'X296' south side	40.17713	-108.53345	2N	99W	5	LOT 8	0.14	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass, salt cedar)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
Anomaly Dig Number	Mile Post	Excavation Length (Feet)	Construction Outside of ROW	Latitude	Longitude	TWP	RANGE	SEC	QRT/QTR	Impact outside of existing right-of-way (acres)	Resource Potential Present	Mitigation Measures
950	0.66	15	15'X75' east side	39.90717	-108.19913	2S	96W	5	LOT 22	0.03	*Noxious Weeds (bull thistle, cheatgrass, common mullein)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
1910	1.43	6	None	39.91809	-108.19612	1S	96W	32	LOT 5	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass, common mullein, field bindweed)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
5310	4.17	75	20'X150' west side 20'X150' east side	39.95531	-108.20674	1S	96W	19	SWNE	0.14	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
7870	6.23	5	None	39.98021	-108.22732	1S	97W	12	LOT 7	0.00	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
7910	6.26	6	None	39.98067	-108.22752	1S	97W	12	LOT 7	0.00	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
11070	8.72	10	25'X100' west side 25'X100' east side	40.0112	-108.24754	1N	97W	35	LOT 21, PVT	0.12	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.

13060	10.39	14	25'X250' west side 25'X250' east side	40.0326	-108.261	1N	97W	27	LOT 3	0.29	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
13950	10.92	54	25'X200' east side	40.03922	-108.264	1N	97W	22	NWSE	0.14	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass, common mullein)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
14410	11.29	30	15'X80' east side	40.0442	-108.26474	1N	97W	22	NENW	0.03	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass, common mullein)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
15240	11.96	20	25'X100' east side*	40.05302	-108.26907	1N	97W	15	NESW	0.06	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass, common mullein)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
19450	15.32	7	None	40.09655	-108.29191	2N	97W	33	NWSW	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass, common burdock)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
19990	15.76	15	None	40.10165	-108.29676	2N	97W	32	SENE	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass, common burdock, common mullein, houndstongue)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
20220	15.95	17	20'X100 east side*	40.10384	-108.29884	2N	97W	32	NWNE	0.05	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
20730	16.37	15	None	40.10924	-108.30161	2N	97W	29	SWSE	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
21440	16.94	38	20'X60' east side* 15'X60' west side*	40.1154	-108.30856	2N	97W	29	SWNW		*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
22200	17.52	7	None	40.12208	-108.31494	2N	97W	19	SESE	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
23250	18.4	10	None	40.13187	-108.32497	2N	97W	19	NENW	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
23330	18.46	12	None	40.13244	-108.32593	2N	97W	19	LOT 5	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
24960	19.68	75	25'X150' south side 15'X150' north side	40.14296	-108.34395	2N	98W	13	SENE	0.14	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass, common burdock)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
25240	19.86	6	25'X125' south side 15'X125' north side	40.1446	-108.34674	2N	98W	13	SWNW	0.11	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
25420	20	10	None	40.14575	-108.34871	2N	98W	13	NWNW	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
26280	20.64	55	25'X100' south side	40.15145	-108.35849	2N	98W	11	SWSE	0.06	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
27060	21.24	10	None	40.15593	-108.36792	2N	98W	11	NWSW	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
27090	21.27	25	None	40.15609	-108.36836	2N	98W	10	NESE	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.

27810	21.82	7	None	40.15911	-108.37799	2N	98W	10	SENW	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
29780	23.34	8	None	40.16502	-108.40505	2N	98W	4	LOT 31	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass, halogeton)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
30040	23.47	14	25'X75' north side	40.16581	-108.40749	2N	98W	5	SESE	0.04	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
31290	24.38	6	None	40.17155	-108.42267	2N	98W	5	LOT 16	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
31960	24.9	65	None	40.17566	-108.42988	2N	98W	6	LOT 9	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
32150	25.05	40	15'X300' south side	40.17591	-108.43278	2N	98W	6	LOT 9	0.10	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
32170	25.06	50		40.17595	-108.43309	2N	98W	6	LOT 9	0.10	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
32200	25.09	6		40.176	-108.43351	2N	98W	6	LOT 9	0.10	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
33600	26.09	6	25'X75' south side	40.17827	-108.45198	2N	99W	1	LOT 6	0.04	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
34970	27.24	10	None	40.17842	-108.47277	2N	99W	2	LOT 7	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
36970	28.77	43	15'X100' south side	40.17685	-108.50211	2N	99W	4	LOT 5	0.03	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
37380	29.07	8	25'X100' south side	40.17732	-108.50776	2N	99W	4	LOT 6	0.06	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
37960	29.52	7	None	40.17834	-108.51605	2N	99W	4	LOT 8	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
38620	30.06	6	None	40.17918	-108.52612	3N	99W	32	SWSE	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
39640	30.87	6	None	40.17567	-108.5403	2N	99W	6	LOT 18	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
40480	31.56	38	15'X300' south side 15'X300' north side	40.17304	-108.55263	2N	99W	6	LOT 21	0.21	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
41500	32.32	40	15'X190' south side 15'X190' north side	40.17112	-108.56637	2N	100W	1	NESW	0.13	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
41520	32.34	15	15'X190' south side 15'X190' north side	40.17111	-108.56669	2N	100W	1	NESW	0.13	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.

42330	32.93	15	None	40.17002	-108.57718	2N	100W	2	NESE	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass, salt cedar)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
42490	33.03	32	15'X150' south side 15'X150' north side	40.16972	-108.57921	2N	100W	2	NESE	0.10	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass, salt cedar)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
43150	33.56	25	None	40.1682	-108.58878	2N	100W	2	NESW	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass, Russian olive)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
43930	34.16	6	None	40.16616	-108.59974	2N	100W	3	LOT 39	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass, Russian olive)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
44010	34.23	30	15'X150' north side	40.16594	-108.60088	2N	100W	3	LOT 39	0.05	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass, Russian olive)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
44900	34.96	20	None	40.16309	-108.61399	2N	100W	9	LOT 1	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass, halogeton)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
45790	35.63	10	None	40.16003	-108.62581	2N	100W	9	SENW	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
48260	37.58	39	15'X250' south side	40.15696	-108.66193	2N	100W	7	NESW	0.09	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass, halogeton)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
48280	37.6	27	15'X250' south side	40.15694	-108.66224	2N	100W	7	NESW	0.09	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass, halogeton)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
49170	38.32	10	None	40.15479	-108.67544	2N	101W	12	NWSE	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
50950	39.72	10	None	40.1403	-108.69191	2N	101W	14	NESE	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
52550	40.98	6	None	40.13025	-108.70639	2N	101W	23	LOT 3	None	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass, halogeton Russian olive, salt cedar)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
53220	41.48	8	None	40.1232	-108.70603	2N	101W	23	SWSW	None	None	None
53350	41.59	15	None	40.12172	-108.70642	2N	101W	23	SWSW	None	None	None
53570	41.76	24	15'X150' east side 15'X150' west side	40.11931	-108.70689	2N	101W	26	NWNW	None	None	None
53660	41.83	8	None	40.11834	-108.70686	2N	101W	26	NWNW	None	None	None
56800	44.2	12	15'X150' south side 15'X150' north side	40.092	-108.7315	1N	101W	4	NWNE	0.10	*Noxious Weeds (cheatgrass, halogeton)	*Comply with FERC's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan and the BMPs in NWP's POD pertaining to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds.
60240	47	6	25'X150' east side	40.06455	-108.76839	1N	101W	7	SWSE	None	None	None

^Cardno Entrix 2012.

^Cardno Entrix 2012a.

^Entrix 2010 (Anamoly Dig Numbers: 950, 7870, 7910, 11070, 13060, 13950)

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

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
DOI-BLM-CO-110-2012-0048-EA**

BACKGROUND

Northwest Pipeline GP (NWP) performs several routine tasks within and near the pipeline ROW to assess and mitigate risks that may pose a threat to the safety and reliability of its pipelines. NWP periodically performs operation and maintenance (O&M) activities along the lateral to ensure a safe and reliable pipeline transmission system. O&M activities include but are not limited to internal and external pipeline inspections, leak surveys, recoats, and repairs if needed in order to maintain compliance with U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Office of Pipeline, Hazardous Materials and Safety Administration (PHMSA) regulations and Williams Gas Pipeline Policies & Procedures. A comprehensive analysis of the entire pipeline's ROW will help facilitate evaluations on future O&M projects. O&M projects currently scheduled for 2012 include five segments requiring reconditioning (recoats), a redrill of an existing CP station, and 62 anomaly digs locations that were identified using smart pigs. A temporary use permit will be issued for the temporary extra workspaces needed for the 2012 O&M projects.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon a review of the EA and the supporting documents, I have determined that the Proposed Action is not a major federal action and will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity, as defined at 40 CFR 1508.27 and do not exceed those effects as described in the White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (1997). Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. This finding is based on the context and intensity of the project as described below.

Context

The project is a site-specific action directly involving BLM administered public lands that do not in and of itself have international, national, regional, or state-wide importance. Implementation of the Proposed Action would allow NWP to perform maintenance on the existing 48-mile, 10-inch Piceance Creek Lateral high-pressure buried natural gas pipeline that was installed in 1956.

Intensity

The following discussion is organized around the 10 Significance Criteria described at 40 CFR 1508.27. The following have been considered in evaluating intensity for this Proposed Action:

1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.

Beneficial and adverse effects of the Proposed Action were described in the EA. Mitigating measures to reduce potential short-term impacts to soils, distribution of invasive non-native, species, migratory birds, special status plant species, riparian zone and wetlands, archaeology, and paleontology were incorporated. None of the environmental effects discussed in the EA are considered significant.

2. The degree to which the Proposed Action affects public health or safety.

There would be no impact to public health and safety.

3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.

No wilderness areas, prime or unique farmlands, parklands, or wild and scenic rivers occur in the project area. A Class III Cultural Resource inventory identified cultural resources in the proposed areas of disturbance. None of these elements would be significantly impacted because mitigation measures would reduce any potential effects.

4. Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.

The decision for issuing rights-of-way and temporary use permits is not unique. Right-of-way decisions have been made in this area by this field office for many years. No comments or concerns have been received regarding possible effects on the quality of the human environment during the public comment period.

5. Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk.

The project is not unique or unusual in this area. The BLM has been making decisions on similar actions for many years. No highly uncertain or unknown risks to the human environment were identified during analysis of the Proposed Action.

6. Degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.

The Proposed Action was considered in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions. The Proposed Action neither establishes a precedent for future BLM actions with significant effects nor represents a decision in principle about a future consideration. Similar proposals have been evaluated and approved, so the decision would not set a precedent for future actions.

7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.

The Proposed Action was considered in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions. No cumulative impacts related to other actions that would have a significant adverse impact were identified or are anticipated.

8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed on the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

Inventories have been completed for historic and cultural resources in the area and potential impacts to districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or potential loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources have been identified. Mitigation developed through consultation with SHPO has been provided to protect any cultural resources and potential adverse effects have been mitigated. If any previously unknown cultural resources are located during construction of the pipelines, construction would stop and the BLM would be notified.

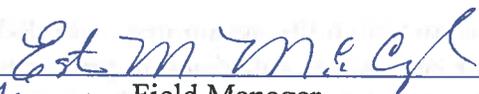
9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973.

All known threatened, endangered, candidate, or sensitive species were considered in the EA. Mitigation is provided to reduce impacts to special status animal and plant species. Portions of the White River ACEC are located within the Piceance Creek Lateral's 50 ft ROW. There are no specific 2012 O&M activities proposed within 100 meters of the ACEC. Future O&M activities would be addressed in future analysis.

10. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

Neither the Proposed Action nor impacts associated with it violate any laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. NWP agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, county, and local laws and regulations as they relate to the public health and safety, environmental protection, construction, operation, and maintenance. NWP will have an inspector on-site during construction and reclamation to ensure federal and state regulations and requirements are adhered to.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:


ACTING Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 8/17/12

**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: Piceance Creek Lateral Maintenance Projects

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-2012-0048-EA

DECISION

It is my decision to approve the Proposed Action in DOI-BLM-CO-2012-0048-EA, as modified with the mitigation measures listed below. The applicant has committed to specific design features that are considered part of the Proposed Action. This decision specifically authorizes the construction, operation, and maintenance of temporary extra workspaces for 2012 operation & maintenance (O&M) projects associated with the existing Piceance Creek Lateral natural gas pipeline (see Exhibit A). This decision provides the plan for future management of O&M activities associated with the Piceance Creek Lateral natural gas pipeline but is not the final review or approval for actions associated with any future O&M activities. The Authorized Officer will review and consider each component of future O&M projects on a site-specific basis.

Mitigation Measures

Design Features (Applicant Committed Mitigation)

1. Initial reclamation of the disturbed areas will begin as soon as possible after O&M activities are complete. Debris will be taken to an approved facility and original ground contours will be restored, unless site-specific conditions dictate otherwise. Permanent erosion control devices will be installed and the disturbed work area will be revegetated. All disturbed areas will be seeded within a reasonable timeframe following final grading, weather and soil conditions permitting.
2. Before seeding, a firm seed bed will be prepared using a disk, field cultivator, drag, rake, or similar implement. If soils are compacted or rutted, the soil structure will be rehabilitated so that productivity can be maintained. During seeding, seed will be uniformly applied and incorporated into the top layer of soil. Where seed is broadcast, the seed will be incorporated into the soil by raking or dragging. Where a hydroseeder is used, the seed bed will be scarified to allow the seeds to lodge and germinate. All seed will be applied at manufacturer's suggested rates based on the equipment dispersal type.
3. As stated in the Proposed Action, permanent seeding will be performed in accordance with the WRFO *Surface Reclamation Protocol* (April 2011) and the holder will adhere to mitigation

techniques explained in NWP's POD (2012). Soil survey data from Natural Resource Conservation Service and associated range sites crossed by the project were utilized to identify the standard seed mixes that will be used for seeding by milepost (Appendix B). For optimal results, seeding should occur between September 1 and March 15. It may be necessary to conduct seeding outside of the prime seeding season. Mulch may be applied as necessary to prevent the seed from eroding before the seed begins to germinate.

BLM Required Mitigation

4. All surface disturbing activities in areas of fragile soils would only be allowed after the submitted reclamation plan is approved by the Area Manager. This plan explains how soil productivity would be restored in these areas, and how surface runoff would be treated to avoid accelerated erosion including rilling, gullying, piping, and mass wasting.

5. All disturbed areas affected by O&M projects shall be reclaimed as quickly as possible and as exact to their original condition as possible.

- When preparing the site, all suitable topsoil shall be stripped from the surface for the location and stockpiled for reclamation.
- All activity shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches or when construction equipment is unable to stay within the ROW and approved access roads unless otherwise approved by the Authorization Officer.
- All culverts used to improve temporary access to worksites shall be removed after work is completed and disturbance shall be reclaimed according to the POD and mitigation described in the vegetation section. Culverts installed on access roads to long-term maintenance facilities shall be designed to pass the 10-year storm without erosion and the 25-year storm without failure.
- Disturbed areas shall be restored as nearly as possible to its original contour, restoring the surface hydrology before seeding and topsoil spreading efforts begin.
- Slopes within the disturbed area shall be stabilized by non-vegetative practices designed to hold the soil in place and minimize erosion. Vegetative cover shall be reestablished to increase infiltration and provide additional protection from erosion.
- When erosion is anticipated, sediment barriers shall be constructed to slow runoff, allow deposition of sediment, and prevent it from leaving the site.
- Fill materials shall be pushed into cut areas and up over backslopes. Leave no depressions that would trap water or form ponds.

6. All maintenance actions that include surface disturbance on fragile soils are subject to the requirements of CSU-1. The holder shall provide a detailed reclamation plan that will include, at a minimum, the following information for maintenance actions that require surface disturbance:

- a. Photos of area to be disturbed, taken from permanent photo points.
- b. Pre-disturbance or current terrain and contour.
- c. Establishment of monitoring sites to assess successful reclamation should include the collection of the following soils information; soil type, texture, erosion potential, average topsoil depth and characteristics (i.e., physical and chemical properties), and average depth to bedrock by soil type.

- d. Pre-disturbance ground cover, including surface rock and vegetation composition (by species). Data must be gathered using quantitative methods to measure the six Core Terrestrial Indicators and Methods in BLM Technical Note 440. Approved methods are found in Monitoring Manual for Grassland, Shrubland, and Savanna Ecosystems, Volume I and II: Quick Start. Other data collection methods such as those described in BLM Technical Reference 1730-1 or 1734-4 may be used if pre-approved by the BLM (Appendix B).
- e. Pre-disturbance survey identifying and quantifying noxious and/or invasive weeds within the area of direct and indirect use (project disturbance and a 200 foot buffer), including all access roads, pipelines, or other associated surface disturbance.
- f. NRCS range site(s) or associated reference site(s) (identified and mapped). Reference sites can be used when the holder and the BLM agree that the site does not reflect the range site. The reference site must be approved by the BLM. The holder must provide statistically valid quantitative reference site measurements of vegetation cover, vegetation composition, woody plant density, and percent bare ground. Pre-disturbance vegetation data must be gathered using quantitative methods as explained above.

7. Natural slopes greater than 35 percent (as identified on 10-meter Digital Elevation Model data) and saline soils will be avoided. When these areas cannot be avoided, a detailed engineering/reclamation plan will be submitted as described for CSU-1 and according to pre-disturbance data collection efforts described above.

8. All disturbed areas shall be reclaimed as quickly as exact to their original condition as possible.

- Blasting or vibrating within 1/8 –mile of federally-owned or controlled springs and flowing water wells shall not be allowed.
- Water bars shall be constructed on all of the rights-of-way, and across the full width of the disturbed area per the Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan or as directed by the Authorized Officer.
- To help manage livestock use, restore all fences disturbed by the Proposed Action with adequate H-braces and to conditions as good as or better than prior to the project disturbance.

9. Any leaks or spills from the pipeline or construction and maintenance activities with the potential to impact surface or groundwater quality will be immediately reported to the Authorized Officer along with plans for containment, clean-up and restoration of impacted waters and/or soils in conformance with CDPHE and/or BLM requirements and standards.

10. Springs, wells used as water supplies, floodplains, and perennial surface water features will be avoided within 500 feet of the feature, when possible. Any maintenance action that cannot avoid these areas will be clearly identified in maintenance actions proposed and will require a detailed engineering/reclamation plan as described for CSU-1 for fragile soils.

11. In areas where avoiding direct disturbance of wetland or riparian features are not considered possible, the holder will notify the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) of any potentially

jurisdictional areas and/or any wetland or riparian areas that would be affected by the Proposed Action. Copies of all correspondence with COE, including wetland/riparian mapping, will be submitted to BLM WRFO. The holder will comply with all COE conditions on any applicable Nationwide Permits issued as a result of the Proposed Action. The holder will also remain subject to Conditions of Approval that are developed by BLM WRFO through project-specific NEPA analysis for purposes of wetland/riparian avoidance, mitigation, or reclamation.

12. For the limited number of wetland and riparian features that would be affected by the Proposed Action, the holder will meet the criteria set forth in the Public Land Health Standard for Riparian Systems (BLM, 1997a). The holder will also adhere to FERC’s *Wetland and Waterbody Construction and Mitigation* Procedures and the appropriate BMPs in the Proposed Action’s POD (NWP, 2012). By following the suggested mitigation techniques and reclamation procedures throughout the small amount of affected habitat, it is probable that these areas would return to wetland vegetation, thereby continuing to meet the standard for the life of the project.

13. Specific to the 2012 project proposals, a durable (minimum functional equivalent of Type-D four-strand barbed-wire with braced six-inch diameter wooden fence corners) fence, that will prevent access by livestock for a minimum of three years, will be erected to enclose each of the two affected channels on BLM surface (locations described in table below). The excavated channels must be reestablished at their original base levels. Upland areas within the enclosure will be subject to standard reclamation practices; disturbed portions of the wetted channels will be allowed to revegetate with native sources of wetland plants. Maintenance of these structures will remain the responsibility of the applicant until the sites are successfully restored (FERC objective VI.D.4). Consistent with reclamation objectives established in FERC’s 2003 “Wetland and Waterbody Construction and Mitigation Procedures” (i.e., VI.C.4. and VI.D.3-4) and as committed to in NWP’s POD, reclamation will be considered successful when appropriate herbaceous cover (obligate riparian forms) reach at least 80% of the type, density, and distribution of vegetation in adjacent wetland areas.

System Name	Site	Channel Crossing UTM’s (NAD 83 Zone 12)	Legal Subdivision
Boise Creek channel	Anomaly Dig 40480	708260m E./4449795m N	T2N R99W sec 6: Lot 21 (~SWNW)
Spring Gulch channel	Recoat MP 30.48	710012m E./4450336m N	T2N R99W sec 5: Lot 8 (~NWNW)

14. To minimize the opportunity for establishment and spread of noxious or invasive weeds associated with maintenance activities, disturbed area reclamation will begin as soon as possible after O&M activities are complete utilizing the seed mixes recommended in the WRFO *Surface Reclamation Protocol* (April 2011). O&M activities will comply with FERC’s *Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan* and the BMPs in NWP’s POD that pertain to preventing the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious weeds (2012). Successful re-vegetation should be achieved within five years.

15. The holder shall monitor the project area for the presence or invasion of invasive non-native species for the life of the project. Noxious weed species found to establish and/ or spread within

or from the project area as a result of the Proposed Action shall be treated using materials and methods approved by the authorized officer (Appendix C).

16. Any activities within 0.5 mile of active bald eagle winter roost and concentration areas would be avoided from November 15 through April 15, unless approved by the BLM.

17. Vegetation clearing activities will generally be conducted outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through July 15), unless BLM specifically authorizes work in situations that have little effective utility for nesting (e.g., roadsides).

Surveys for active raptor nests, consistent with most current WRFO raptor survey protocols, would be required before any activities are authorized to occur within or in close proximity to suitable nest habitat during the nesting season (defined for 2012 project work in Appendix A).

18. Maintenance activities would be subject to timing limitations applied during species-specific nesting seasons as developed in the most current WRFO Resource Management Plan (see Table 9 below).

Raptor Species	No activities buffer	Dates
American peregrine falcon and northern goshawk (and other BLM Sensitive species)	½ mile	February 15 through August 15, or until fledgling and dispersal of young
Bald and golden eagles	½ mile	December 15 through July 15, or until fledgling and dispersal of young
Burrowing owls	1/8 mile	March 1 through August 15, or until fledgling and dispersal of young
Ferruginous hawks	1 mile	February 1 through August 15, or until fledgling and dispersal of young
Non-listed raptor species	¼ mile	February 15 through August 15, or until fledgling and dispersal of young
¹ BLM 2012, BLM RMP 1997, CDOW 2012.		

19. Surface occupancy is restricted on federal lands within 0.6 mile of known occupied sage-grouse leks; surface use activities are prohibited in winter concentration areas (December 16 through March 15) and in breeding habitats within four miles of active leks (April 15 through July 15). Project activities will occur outside of sensitive periods in sage-grouse winter concentration areas, and lek and breeding habitats. Vegetation clearing should be minimized within 0.6 mile of an active lek. If these habitats are occupied, seasonal/spatial restrictions would be implemented unless otherwise allowed by the BLM.

20. Activities in white-tailed prairie dog towns will not be authorized during their reproduction period, from April 15 through July 15. The project will minimize ground disturbing activities in prairie dog towns, as possible, which will minimize potential impacts to black-footed ferrets and their habitats. If a ferret is identified near the project, the FWS would be alerted immediately, and project activities would cease in the immediate area until BLM confers with the FWS.

21. The Piceance Lateral Project does not anticipate withdrawing any surface water for project related activities; therefore, downstream depletion effects to listed aquatic species are not

expected. If future activities require depletions from the upper Colorado River system, the holder will pursue relevant authorizations and, in coordination with the BLM, initiate formal consultation with the FWS. Conservation measures, including payment to the Recovery Implementation Plan for water depletions (consistent with protocols established in the most current version of BLM's Fluid Mineral Programmatic Biological Assessment), and BMP's for work within and near surface waters would be implemented to reduce sedimentation and turbidity increases in waterbodies adjacent to project activities. If water would be withdrawn from surface waters for project use, a screen would be placed on the equipment to minimize the potential for entrainment of aquatic organisms. If any in-stream project related activities were to occur, activities would be avoided during the following time periods for: mountain sucker, May 1 through August 31; bluehead sucker, May 1 through July 15; flannelmouth sucker, April 1 through July 1; roundtail chub, May 15 through July 15.

22. Extra workspaces, refueling, and storage areas will be placed more than 50 feet from wetlands and 100 feet from waterbodies, when practical. Disturbance to riparian vegetation will be minimized to reduce impacts on aquatic species, such as fish, amphibians, and otters.

23. Disturbed areas would be revegetated according to the reclamation and revegetation plans in the Proposed Action and as specifically conditioned by WRFO. All equipment will be removed from the project area upon completion of work.

24. Disturbed areas would be revegetated according to the reclamation and revegetation plans in the Proposed Action and the WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocols, dated April 2011. WRFO Surface Reclamation Protocols for special status plant species habitat may require reclamation efforts to "include additional conditions to prevent topsoil from mixing into or percolating through large diameter spoils". A complete weed monitoring, management, and control plan (in accordance with DOI-BLM-CO-110-2010-0005-EA) is required for the life of the project. Mitigation for listed plant species would also include measures outlined in the invasive, non-native species section of this EA. BLM must be consulted prior to implementing weed control as only specific herbicides can be used to avoid negative impacts to special status plant species. Additionally, three to four additional forbs species will be added to seed mixes within 600 meters of occupied federally listed plants. Fugitive dust control measures (utilizing water with no added chemicals, solvents, or oils) will be implemented within 600 meters of potential habitat for federally listed plant species, and 100 meters of potential habitat for BLM sensitive species. If any special status plant species are found within 100 meters of project related activities, a third party monitor would be required on site during construction activities. If any individual BLM sensitive plant species will be impacted by project activities, additional mitigation measures such as seed collection and grow-out, may be required by the BLM. Fencing or other deterrents may be required if special status plants species are found within 100 meters of project areas.

25. If a BA is required for impacts to federally listed plant species, conservation measures would be required and developed in coordination with the holder, BLM, and FWS. The holder will adhere to any conservation measures as outlined in the BA. Any new mitigation measures brought forth in the Biological Opinion (BO) must also be adhered to.

26. A BA is required for anomaly dig 22200 since the Dudley Bluffs twinpod was found within 200 meters. There will be a **notice to proceed** for this location until the BA is finalized and BLM has received concurrence from the FWS.

27. Unless authorized by the WRFO, vegetation clearing or earth disturbing activities will be restricted to timeframes outside of the migratory bird nesting period (May 15 through July 15).

28. Surveys for active raptor nests, consistent with most current WRFO raptor survey protocols, would be required before any activities are authorized to occur within or in close proximity to suitable nest habitat (defined for 2012 project work in Appendix A). Maintenance activities would be subject to timing limitations applied during species-specific nesting seasons as developed in the most current WRFO Resource Management Plan (see Table 9).

29. A summary of activity restrictions for wildlife resources associated with 2012 maintenance proposals is included in Appendix A. Disturbed areas would be revegetated according to the reclamation and revegetation plans in the Proposed Action or as applied by BLM WRFO as Conditions of Approval.

30. If water would be withdrawn from surface waters for project use, a screen will be placed on the equipment to minimize entrainment of aquatic organisms. BMPs would be used for work within and near surface waters to reduce sedimentation and turbidity in adjacent waterbodies. Project related vehicles will avoid crossing any waterbodies when there is flowing water. Extra workspaces, refueling, and storage areas will be placed more than 50 ft from wetlands and 100 ft from waterbodies. A summary of 2012 activity restrictions for wildlife resources is included in Appendix A. Disturbed areas would be revegetated according to the reclamation and revegetation plans in the Proposed Action and as specifically conditioned by WRFO.

31. Any Project related activities adjacent to waterbodies supporting the species listed in Table 12 shall be avoided during the timeframes provided to avoid impacts to spawning, incubation, or fry activities.

Table 12. In-stream Activity Restrictions for Fisheries ¹		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Avoidance Period
Bluehead sucker	<i>Catostomus discobolus</i>	May 1 through July 15
Brook trout	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>	August 15 through May 1
Flannelmouth sucker	<i>Catostomus latipinnis</i>	April 1 through July 1
Mottled sculpin	<i>Cottus bairdi</i>	May 1 through July 31
Mountain sucker	<i>Catostomus platyrhynchus</i>	May 1 through August 31
Mountain whitefish	<i>Prosopium williamsoni</i>	October 1 through November 30
Rainbow trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	March 1 through June 15
Roundtail chub	<i>Gila robusta</i>	May 15 through July 15
Speckled dace	<i>Rhinichthys osculus</i>	May 1 through August 31

¹ CPW 2012.

32. No project-related activities will be allowed from January 1 through April 30 in mule deer severe winter range. A summary of 2012 activity restrictions for wildlife resources is included in Appendix A.

33. Vehicles will be parked in designated extra workspaces or in previously disturbed areas to minimize impacts to vegetation. Vehicle traffic will utilize existing access and public roads when possible. All equipment will be removed from the project area upon completion of work. Disturbed areas would be revegetated according to the reclamation and revegetation plans in the Proposed Action.

34. As a means of rehabilitating unmaintained vehicle tracks and suppressing weed proliferation, soils exposed from blading or earthwork along identified portion(s) of this access or ROW corridor will be reclaimed in accordance with the most current WRFO Surface Reclamation protocol (consistent with applicant-proposed mitigation (i.e., Proposed Action/Design Features/Reclamation and Revegetation)).

35. If activities are going to occur on the HMA within the spring foaling period, the BLM will be contacted to confirm the 60 day restriction period, which is generally between March 1 and June 15. Activities would be planned outside of that window when required by the BLM. If activities are planned to occur in the HMA, the BLM will be contacted to confirm no planned gathers are occurring at the same time in the work area. A summary of activity restrictions for wildlife resources is included in Appendix A. BMP's would be implemented to minimize impacts to vegetation (wild horse habitat) adjacent to the existing ROW. Open trenches will be checked daily for any wild horses that may have fallen into the trench and will be reported to the BLM. Disturbed areas would be re-vegetated according to the reclamation and re-vegetation plans in the Proposed Action.

36. Any proposed operation and maintenance (O&M) activities along the Piceance Creek Lateral Pipeline may not proceed until a written Notice to Proceed (NTP) is issued. A NTP can be issued when:

- The cultural resources survey of the existing pipeline has been reviewed and approved by the White River Field Office;
- Site-specific avoidance and/or treatment plan(s), as required, have been reviewed and approved by the White River Field Office; and
- Consultation with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on cultural sites has been completed.

37. A summary of activity restrictions for cultural resources associated with 2012 maintenance proposals is included in Appendix A.

38. All employees of the holder and any subcontractors must be informed by the project holder before commencement of operations that any disturbance to, defacement of, or removal of archaeological, historical, or cultural material (including pot sherds and arrowheads) would be treated as law enforcement/administrative issues. The holder would be held accountable for the conduct of its employees and subcontractors in this regard.

39. 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.

40. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must immediately notify the AO by telephone and with written confirmation 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.

41. A monitor may be required during O&M activities to ensure that any avoidance measures established for this project are followed, and no inadvertent damage occurs to cultural properties. While a final monitoring plan would be developed in coordination with, and approved by the BLM, active monitoring during O&M activities that involve ground disturbance would be required for the following:

- Any O&M activities in the vicinity of site 5RB3082.
- Any O&M activities in the vicinity of site 5RB3692.
- Any O&M activities in the vicinity of site 5RB3693.
- Any O&M activities in the vicinity of site 5RB4565.01. In addition, the monitor would ensure that the historic wagon road is fenced where it meets the pipeline ROW and that there is no ingress into the wagon road route.
- Any O&M activities in the vicinity of site 5RB4748.

42. The BLM shall provide the holder with a list of BLM-approved paleontologists. The holder shall hire a paleontologist from the approved list.

43. Prior to the beginning of the Proposed Action all exposed outcrops of the Class 4/5 formations must be inventoried by an approved paleontologist and a report must be submitted to the BLM describing the findings and any suggested mitigation.

44. If it becomes necessary to excavate underlying rock at any time during the Proposed Action an approved paleontologist would be present to monitor the excavations.

45. If any fossils are discovered during project operations, the holder shall cease activity immediately and notify the authorized officer. The paleontologist would be given 48 hours to inspect the site and make a decision regarding disposition of the fossil.

46. All trees removed in the process of construction shall be purchased from the BLM. Because it is unknown how many trees will need to be removed, the holder will contact the BLM WRFO Ecologist with the number of trees/cords removed for post-removal billing.

47. Trees should first be used in reclamation efforts and then any excess material made available for firewood or other uses.

- Woody materials required for reclamation shall be removed in whole with limbs intact and shall be stockpiled along the margins of the authorized use area separate from the topsoil piles. Once the disturbance has been recontoured and reseeded, stockpiled woody material shall be scattered across the reclaimed area where the material originated. Redistribution of woody debris will not exceed 20 to 30 percent ground cover. Limbed material shall be scattered across reclaimed areas in a manner that avoids the development of a mulch layer that suppresses growth or reproduction of desirable vegetation. Woody material will be distributed in such a way to avoid large concentrations of heavy fuels and to effectively deter vehicle use.
- Trees that must be removed for construction and are not required for reclamation shall be cut down to a stump height of six inches or less prior to other heavy equipment operation. These trees shall be cut in four foot lengths (down to four inches diameter) and placed in manageable stacks immediately adjacent to a public road to facilitate removal for company use or removal by the public.

48. Using the appropriate seed mix for the area (Appendix B), the holder will promptly revegetate all soil and vegetation disturbance.

49. Construction sites will be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials at those sites shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site.

50. "Waste" means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and junk equipment. The holder shall be prepared to provide documentation that all waste is properly disposed of at the appropriate regulated disposal facility.

51. A release of any chemical, oil, petroleum product, produced water, or sewage, etc., (regardless of quantity) must be reported by the holder to the BLM – WRFO Hazardous Materials Coordinator at (970) 878-3800.

52. If during implementation of the Proposed Action, any oil or other pollutant should be discharged from the pipeline system, or from containers or vehicles impacting federal lands, the control and total removal, disposal, and cleanup of such oil or other pollutant, wherever found, shall be the responsibility of the holder, regardless of fault. Upon failure of the holder to control, clean up, or dispose of such discharge on or affecting federal lands or to repair all damages to federal lands, the AO may take such measures as deemed necessary to control and clean up the discharge and restore the area, at the full expense of the holder. Such action by the AO shall not relieve the holder of any liability or responsibility.

53. Construction activity shall take place entirely within the areas authorized in the ROW grants and temporary use permits.

54. To avoid impacts to existing ROWs, the holder shall coordinate with existing ROW holders.

55. All activities associated with the Proposed Action would be required to comply with applicable local, state, and federal transportation laws, statutes, regulations, standards, and plans. All non-county roads used to access pipeline facilities would be maintained in their current condition or better. The holder will also:

- Require contractors and employees to comply with all posted speed limits;
- Comply with county and state weight restrictions and limitations;
- Control dust along unsurfaced access roads and minimize the tracking of mud onto paved roads; and
- Restore unsurfaced roads to equal or better condition than existed before the life of the project.

56. In the case that any ACEC may be affected by the holder's work on the Piceance Lateral pipeline, any or all of the following may apply:

- Plant surveys may be required;
- Access roads and/or TEWS areas may be required to move to avoid impacts to plant communities;
- Timing limitations may apply.

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.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Proposed Action was analyzed in DOI-BLM-CO-2012-0048-EA and it was found to have no significant impacts, thus an EIS is not required.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Scoping was the primary mechanism used by the BLM to initially identify issues. Internal scoping was initiated when the project was presented to the White River Field Office (WRFO) interdisciplinary team on 2/7/2012. External scoping was conducted by posting this project on the WRFO's on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register on 2/7/2012 with no comments or inquiries received as of 8/7/2012.

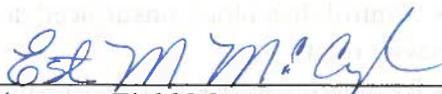
RATIONALE

Analysis of the Proposed Action has concluded that there are no significant negative impacts and that it meets Colorado Standards for Public Land Health. The Proposed Action and associated reduction in truck traffic has been recognized as a beneficial impact for wildlife, wild horses, air quality, cultural resources, and rangeland resources.

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:


ACTING Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

8/17/12