

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

DETERMINATION OF NEPA ADEQUACY (DNA)

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2012-0131-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC-47675X, COD-051529

PROJECT NAME: Stoffer A2 Pipeline Re-Route

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T2N R103W Sec 23 NENW, 6th PM

APPLICANT: Chevron USA, Inc

ISSUES AND CONCERNS: None indentified.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

In January 2012, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) granted approval for pipeline replacements of CO₂ and water injection lines for the Stoffer A2 well with Chevron's plans to re-inject the well. At that time, the pipelines had no new surface disturbance. However, due to technical reasons, Chevron has to re-route the pipeline replacement (see Figure 1).

Chevron is planning to re-inject into the previously shut-in water and CO₂ injection well CR Stoffer A2 (T2N R103W SWSE Section 26). The existing injection lines will be replaced with 3-inch externally coated carbon steel pipe for CO₂ injection service and series 2,500 3-inch fiberglass pipe for water injection service. The proposed replacement pipeline sections are 1,500 feet for the CO₂ line and 1,478 feet for the water injection line. The two lines will be laid in the same trench at a depth of four to five feet. The total estimated pipeline corridor is 1.38 acres, of which 0.78 acres is on BLM (approximately 840 linear feet of pipeline on BLM).

Design Features:

Reclamation of the pipeline corridor will be to BLM standards and specifications. A standard plan for pipeline corridor reclamation and a copy of the Chevron Rangely Weber Sand Unit (RWSU) storm water best management practices is on file with the BLM. The existing buried injection line will be flushed with fresh water, capped at both ends and abandoned in place. The fluid removed will be disposed of in a legal and environmentally friendly manner.

Decision to be Made: The BLM will decide whether or not to approve the installation of the proposed re-routed pipelines, and if so, under what terms and conditions.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

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

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: 2-5

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

REVIEW OF EXISTING NEPA DOCUMENTS:

List by name and date all existing NEPA documents that cover the Proposed Action.

Name of Document: White River Resource Area Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS).

Date Approved: June 1996

Name of Document: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-151-EA

Date Approved: 11/22/2011

NEPA ADEQUACY CRITERIA:

1. Is the new Proposed Action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

The anticipated impacts that would result from re-routing the pipelines are similar to the anticipated impacts that were addressed and mitigated in the existing NEPA document (DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-151-EA). The existing NEPA document analyzed pipeline replacement and removal as well as well pad facility construction. Furthermore, the proposed pipeline replacements are in the analysis area that was reviewed in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-151-EA.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document appropriate with respect to the new Proposed Action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Two alternatives (Proposed Action and No Action Alternative) were analyzed in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-151-EA. No reasons were identified to analyze additional alternatives and these alternatives are considered to be adequate and valid for the Proposed Action.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new Proposed Action?

Review by BLM White River Field Office (WRFO) specialists in document DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-151-EA did not indicate recent endangered species listings and no updates/changes have been made to BLM's sensitive species list that would be affected by the Proposed Action.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new Proposed Action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

It is assumed that all direct, indirect, and cumulative effects associated with the Proposed Action are similar in scope, intensity, duration and spatial extent as the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that were addressed in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-151-EA. All anticipated direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts associated with the Proposed Action were reviewed and mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-151-EA. There is 1.4 acres of disturbance in this DNA which is 0.1 percent of the existing NEPA document. The cumulative percentage of disturbance from the other DNAs tiered to the existing NEPA document is 4.1 percent of what was analyzed in the EA.

5. Is the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA documents adequate for the current Proposed Action?

The public involvement with this project was done by posting it on a list of pending NEPA documents on the BLM WRFO's White River NEPA Register on August 28, 2012. As of December 3, 2012 no comments or inquiries have been received.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on August 28, 2012. A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Paleontology	11/1/2012
Michael Wolfe	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	10/22/2012
Laura Dixon	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	9/18/2012
Amber Shanklin	Biological Technician – Plants	Special Status Plant Species	8/28/2012

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: There are no known cultural resources for any of the proposed pipeline projects. The project area has been inventoried at the Class III level (Conner 2012) and no cultural resources were identified within the proposed project area.

Native American Religious Concerns: No Native American Religious Concerns are known in the area, and none have been noted by the Northern Ute Tribal authorities. Should recommended inventories or future consultations with Tribal authorities reveal the existence of such sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken.

Paleontological Resources: The proposed pipeline is located in an area generally mapped as the Mancos Shale (Tweto 1979) with the BLM, WRFO has classified as a Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 3 formation, meaning that while it might be known for producing scientifically noteworthy fossils in other areas it is not known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossils in the area (c.f. Armstrong and Wolny 1989).

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: The project area is broadly encompassed by white-tailed prairie dog colonies. White-tailed prairie dogs, a BLM sensitive species, and their burrow systems are important components of burrowing owl habitat, as well as potential habitat for reintroduced populations of the federally endangered black-footed ferret. Under the auspices of a non-essential, experimental population rule, black-footed ferrets have been released in Coyote Basin (8 miles southwest) and Wolf Creek (13 miles northeast) of Rangely Oil Field since 1999 and 2001, respectively. The rule applies to any ferrets that may occupy or eventually be released in northwest Colorado and northeast Utah. Although there is no direct continuity between Coyote Basin or Wolf Creek and the project site (i.e., lesser physical barriers and habitats unoccupied by prairie dog), there is potential for ferrets to colonize and successfully breed in the Rangely Oil Field. There have been no verified sightings of ferrets, nor any known reproduction occurring in the project area.

Burrowing owls, a BLM sensitive species, are relatively uncommon in this resource area. These birds return to occupy a maintained burrow system in early April and begin nesting soon after. Most birds have left the area by September. The nearest known burrowing owl nest (active in 2009) is roughly 2.5 miles from the project area.

Brewer's sparrow, a BLM sensitive species, is relatively common and widely distributed throughout the oil field where appropriate habitat exists (i.e., sagebrush communities). This

species typically returns in late-April and May and begins nesting the latter part of May. Young are fledged by mid to late July. Beginning in 2010, BLM wildlife staff established a bird route which traverses portions of the project area. Surveys are conducted through visual, but predominately aural observations. Noise associated with construction activities would make it extremely difficult for surveyors to detect the presence of bird species in the immediate vicinity. In addition, construction activities would likely deter birds from nesting in suitable adjacent habitats which would bias data collected for the 2013 breeding season.

All other wildlife issues were adequately analyzed and addressed in the original EA (DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-0151-EA) and there are no additional wildlife related issues associated with the Proposed Action. Mitigation listed below has been carried forward from the original EA.

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

MITIGATION:

The following applicable mitigation from DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-0151-EA has been carried forward:

1. The operator shall employ dust suppression techniques (i.e., freshwater use) whenever there is a visible dust trail behind service vehicles. Any technique other than the use of freshwater as a dust suppressant on BLM lands will require prior written approval from BLM.
2. Chevron will use the Master Surface Plan submitted with the Proposed Action for achieving interim and final reclamation on existing wells when any new disturbance or infrastructure is planned.
3. If salt is observed on the surface of soils during or after reclamation activities Chevron will notify the Natural Resource Specialist and a plan will be developed with approval of the BLM, that may include the administration of soil amendments, the reapplication of soil preparation, seeding, and stabilization measures to achieve successful reclamation.
4. If surface sources are used for freshwater, water hauling trucks must use backflow preventers to avoid contamination of surface waters.
5. The WRFO recommends for these pipeline replacements to use Seed Mix #8 below. The operator will submit proposed seed mixes to BLM via Sundry Notice for review and approval prior to applying the seed.

SEED MIX #8 FROM THE RECLAMATION PROTOCOL			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Variety	Lbs. PLS/Acre
Galleta Grass	<i>Pleuraphis jamesii</i>	Viva florets	3
Indian Ricegrass	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	Rimrock	3
Bottlebrush squirreltail	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	Toe Jam Creek	2.5
Western wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	Rosana	4
Scarlet Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>		0.25
Annual sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>		2.5
Mat saltbush	<i>Atriplex confertifolia</i>		2

6. There will be no earthwork or activities allowed from April 15 – July 15 (prairie dog reproductive period) in those instances involving occupied prairie dog habitat. Occupation will be determined through surveys conducted by BLM wildlife staff.
7. Burrowing owl surveys will be required prior to construction initiation if work is planned to take place during the breeding season (April 15 – August 15). Should an active nest be located, no earthwork or activities will be allowed from April 15 – August 15 (or until young have fledged) within ½ mile of any occupied burrowing owl nest location. There will be no surface occupancy allowed within ¼ mile of known nest locations.
8. There will be no earthwork or vegetation removal allowed from May 15 – July 15 in those instances involving new construction (i.e., new well pads or new cross-country pipelines). All sundries will be analyzed on a case-by-case basis. At that time it will be determined by BLM wildlife staff if it is necessary to impose the above timing limitation based on the degree of impact the action presents to migratory birds.
9. 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 Authorized Officer (AO). Chevron 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. Chevron, 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.
10. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), Chevron must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred

objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), Chevron must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.

11. Chevron is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the projects that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts. If archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, Chevron must immediately contact the appropriate BLM representative.
12. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, Chevron or any of their agents must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Within 10 working days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.
13. The permittee/applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the allotment/project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the permittee/applicant must immediately contact the appropriate BLM representative. The AO may require occasional spot checking of trenching operations to inspect for possible presence of fossil resources.
14. All lessees and/or operators and right-of-way holders shall comply with all federal, state and/or local laws, rules, and regulations, including but not limited to onshore orders and notices to lessees, addressing the emission of and/or the handling, use, and release of any substance that poses a risk of harm to human health or the environment.
15. Construction sites and all facilities shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. "Waste" means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment.
16. As a reasonable and prudent lessee/operator in the oil and gas industry, acting in good faith, all lessees/operators and right-of-way holders will report all emissions or releases that may pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, regardless of a

substance's status as exempt or nonexempt and regardless of fault, to the BLM WRFO (970) 878-3800.

17. As a reasonable and prudent lessees/operator and/or right-of-way holder in the oil and gas industry, acting in good faith, all lessees/operators and right-of-way holders will provide for the immediate clean-up and testing of air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils contaminated by the emission or release of any substance that may pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, regardless of that substance's status as exempt or non-exempt. Where the lessee/operator or right-of-way holder fails, refuses or neglects to provide for the immediate clean-up and testing of air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils contaminated by the emission or release of any quantity of a substance that poses a risk of harm to human health or the environment, the BLM WRFO may take measures to clean-up and test air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils at the lessee/operator's expense. Such action will not relieve the lessee/operator of any liability or responsibility.
18. With the acceptance of this authorization, the commencement of operations under this authorization, or within thirty calendar days from the issuance of this authorization, whichever occurs first, and during the life of the pipeline, the right-of-way holder and the lessee/operator, and through the right-of-way holder and lessee/operator, its agents, employees, subcontractors, successors and assigns, stipulate and agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the United States Government, its agencies, and employees from all liability associated with the emission or release of substances that pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment.
19. Any livestock control facilities and/or rangeland improvements impacted during this operation will be replaced or repaired to their prior condition.
20. To avoid impacts to existing realty rights-of-way, Chevron would need to coordinate with right-of-way holders prior to any construction activity.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by the BLM White River Field Office staff during and after construction. Specific mitigation developed in this document will be followed. The operator will be notified of compliance related issues in writing, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), will be provided 30 days to resolve such issues.

NAME OF PREPARER: Ryan Snyder

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Heather Sauls

CONCLUSION

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: 
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 12/04/2012

ATTACHMENTS:

Figure 1: Map of the proposed pipeline re-route.

Note: The signed Conclusion in this DNA Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

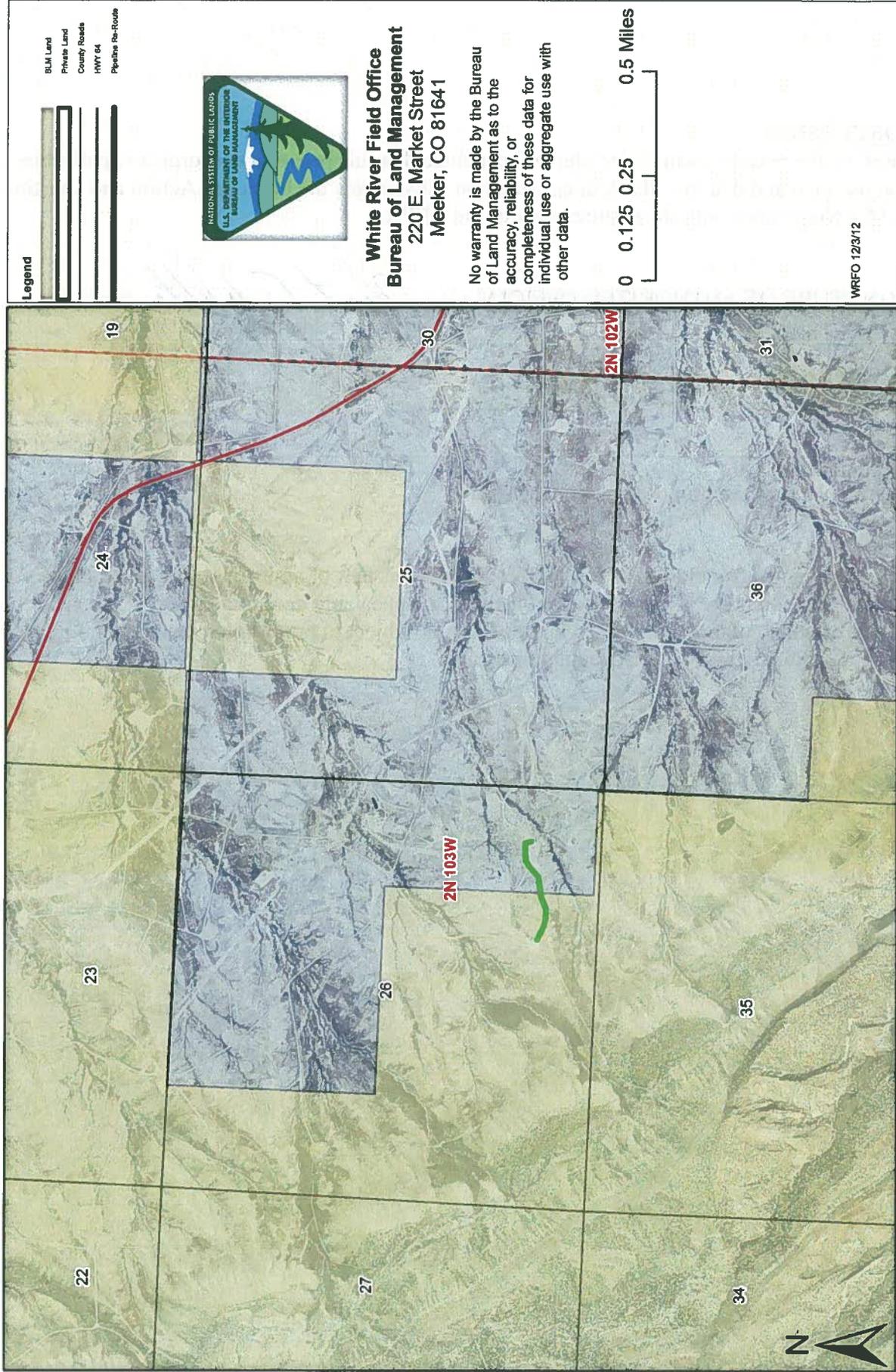


Figure 1: Stoffer A-2 injection pipelines re-route.

**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: Stoffer A2 Pipeline Re-Route

DETERMINATION OF NEPA ADEQUACY NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2012-0131-DNA

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2012-0131-DNA, authorizing the construction, operation, and maintenance of CO₂ and water injection pipelines for the Stoffer A2 well.

Mitigation Measures

1. The operator shall employ dust suppression techniques (i.e., freshwater use) whenever there is a visible dust trail behind service vehicles. Any technique other than the use of freshwater as a dust suppressant on BLM lands will require prior written approval from BLM.
2. Chevron will use the Master Surface Plan submitted with the Proposed Action for achieving interim and final reclamation on existing wells when any new disturbance or infrastructure is planned.
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Western wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	Rosana	4
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10. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), Chevron must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), Chevron must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
11. Chevron is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the projects that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts. If archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, Chevron must immediately contact the appropriate BLM

representative.

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13. The permittee/applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the allotment/project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the permittee/applicant must immediately contact the appropriate BLM representative. The AO may require occasional spot checking of trenching operations to inspect for possible presence of fossil resources.
14. All lessees and/or operators and right-of-way holders shall comply with all federal, state and/or local laws, rules, and regulations, including but not limited to onshore orders and notices to lessees, addressing the emission of and/or the handling, use, and release of any substance that poses a risk of harm to human health or the environment.
15. Construction sites and all facilities shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. "Waste" means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment.
16. As a reasonable and prudent lessee/operator in the oil and gas industry, acting in good faith, all lessees/operators and right-of-way holders will report all emissions or releases that may pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, regardless of a substance's status as exempt or nonexempt and regardless of fault, to the BLM WRFO (970) 878-3800.
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provide for the immediate clean-up and testing of air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils contaminated by the emission or release of any quantity of a substance that poses a risk of harm to human health or the environment, the BLM WRFO may take measures to clean-up and test air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils at the lessee/operator's expense. Such action will not relieve the lessee/operator of any liability or responsibility.

18. With the acceptance of this authorization, the commencement of operations under this authorization, or within thirty calendar days from the issuance of this authorization, whichever occurs first, and during the life of the pipeline, the right-of-way holder and the lessee/operator, and through the right-of-way holder and lessee/operator, its agents, employees, subcontractors, successors and assigns, stipulate and agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the United States Government, its agencies, and employees from all liability associated with the emission or release of substances that pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment.
19. Any livestock control facilities and/or rangeland improvements impacted during this operation will be replaced or repaired to their prior condition.
20. To avoid impacts to existing realty rights-of-way, Chevron would need to coordinate with right-of-way holders prior to any construction activity.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS & CONFORMANCE WITH THE LAND USE PLAN

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

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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 August 28, 2012. External scoping was conducted by posting this project on the WRFO's on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register on August 28, 2012. No comments or inquiries were received regarding this project from the public.

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 geographic extent and temporal scale that was used to address perceived and anticipated impacts associated with this project included the cumulative analysis of impacts to soil, air, wildlife, vegetation, cultural and paleontological resources that occur or that are expected to occur within the project area. This approach has resulted in a comprehensive review of perceived and anticipated impacts associated with oil and gas operations that will most likely occur in the project area in the next five years and beyond. The replacement of the three inch lines for re-injecting CO₂ and water into the Stoffer A2 well has previously been approved; however, due to technical reasons these lines need to use an alternate route.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

State Director Review

Under regulations addressed in 43 CFR 3165.3(b), any adversely affected party that contests a decision of the Authorized Officer may request an administrative review, before the State Director, either with or without oral presentation. Such request, including all supporting documentation, shall be filed in writing with the BLM Colorado State Office at 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215 within 20 business days of the date such decision was received or considered to have been received. Upon request and showing of good cause, an extension may be granted by the State Director. Such review shall include all factors or circumstances relevant to the particular case.

Appeal

Any party who is adversely affected by the decision of the State Director after State Director review, under 43 CFR 3165.3(b), of a decision may appeal that decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals pursuant to the regulations set out in 43 CRF Part 4.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

12/04/12

