

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

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0075-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC-47675X

PROJECT NAME: Chevron Annual Boom Training

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T1N R102W NENW Section 7

APPLICANT: Chevron USA, INC

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

Chevron conducts annual boom training in July or August. This training occurs at Big Trujillo on White River (Figure 1). Boom training is a drill scenario of an oil leak into the White River, using a well within the field to simulate the spill. This is approximately a two day training. The first day is typically boom equipment and fundamentals e.g. review of drill equipment, knot ties, anchor setting and boom assembly. The second day the drill for boom deployment across the White River, anchored on both sides.

The boom, a floating barrier, will be deployed using a small boat. The boom will be anchored on both sides of the White River. Some sawdust will be used in the river. The anchor locations are T-posts that will be installed on either side of the river, and then removed when the annual training is finished. There will be four anchor locations with three T-posts at each station. This totals to 12 T-posts. Some minor vegetation clearing may need to occur in order to install the temporary T-posts. The minor vegetation clearing would not exceed more than 20 ft² total. At the location there will be several vehicles, a boat and a trailer, and the boom trailer.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM 1601.08) the following plan:

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

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Page 2-5

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

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, Number (J-8). “Installation of minor devices to protect human life (e.g., grates across mines).”

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

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
a) Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.		X
b) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.		X
h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X
k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
l) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on April 23, 2013. 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 Wolfe	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	4/24/2013
Laura Dixon	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	5/9/2013
Baili Foster	Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	5/29/2013
Aaron Grimes	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation	4/30/2013

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The area has been inventoried at the Class III level and no historic properties are present (Bowen 2009; Collins 2009). Therefore there will be no effect to historic properties.

Native American Religious Concerns: No Native American religious concerns are known in the area, and the Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation has expressed the desire to not be consulted with on small projects such as proposed in this undertaking.

Special Status Wildlife Species: The only special status wildlife species that has potential to be affected by the Proposed Action are bald eagles. The White River corridor is the hub for seasonal bald eagle use of the White River valley. While there are no known nests or trees large enough for a nest in immediate vicinity of the project area, there are trees that provide available eagle roosting locations. However, activities associated with the Proposed Action are scheduled to occur outside of the bald eagle winter roosting period from November 15 through April 15. There are no additional wildlife issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

Special Status Plant Species: The Proposed Action is located in potential habitat for the federally threatened plant species Ute lady's tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialus*). *Spiranthes diluvialus* occurs along riparian edges, gravel bars, old oxbows, high flow channels, and moist to wet meadows along perennial streams. It typically occurs in stable wetland and seepy areas associated with old landscape features within historical floodplains of major rivers. It also is found in wetland and seepy areas near freshwater lakes or springs (USFWS).

Recreation: This training planned at the Big Trujillo River Access site. This site receives a low volume of public use for river floating access, fishing, and picnicking. In order to accommodate potential public use of this site during the proposed training, it is recommended that a portion of the Big Trujillo River Access site, including parking and access to the river, be available to the public during this training. There is potential for recreationalist floating the river from upstream of the training to come in contact with the boom when it is place across the full river channel. This may present a safety issue or impact the recreational experience. To facilitate safer passage around the boom when in place across the river channel it is recommended that a sign be placed along the river in an area visible to those floating the river approximately 100 yards upstream of the training when the boom is in place warning those floating the river. This sign should be legible from approximately 20 yards and read "Warning full river obstruction 100 yards ahead. Portage river left around obstruction."

MITIGATION:

1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
2. 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 operator 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 operator, 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.
3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the operator/ must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the operator must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
4. To maintain public access to this site, do not fully occupy all public river access and parking at the Big Trujillo River Access site during the training.
5. To improve visitor safety during the training, place a sign that is legible from 20 yards along the river in an area visible to those floating the river approximately 100 yards upriver from the boom stating "Warning full river obstruction 100 yards ahead. Portage river left around obstruction." Remove sign once the boom is removed from the river.

6. During any disturbance or occupancy within areas suitable for *Spiranthes diluvialis*, a knowledgeable ecologist/botanist familiar with *Spiranthes diluvialis* must be onsite to ensure that the species is not being disturbed during any training activities. Upon completion of special status plant species (SSPS) surveys, a monitor may no longer be required if the area is deemed unsuitable for *Spiranthes diluvialis*. If SSPS are found within the project area, further consultation with the BLM and USFWS and/or the relocation of the project may be required.

REFERENCES:

Bowen, Kristin

2009 A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for the Big Trujillo Riparian Restoration (BLM Report # 09-10-07; RB.LM.R1191). BLM White River Field Office.

Collins, Gary

2009 Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Big Trujillo Camp Area in Rio Blanco County, Colorado (BLM Report # 09-10-08; RB.LM.NR2135). BLM White River Field Office

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

COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, J8. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

Kent E. Walke

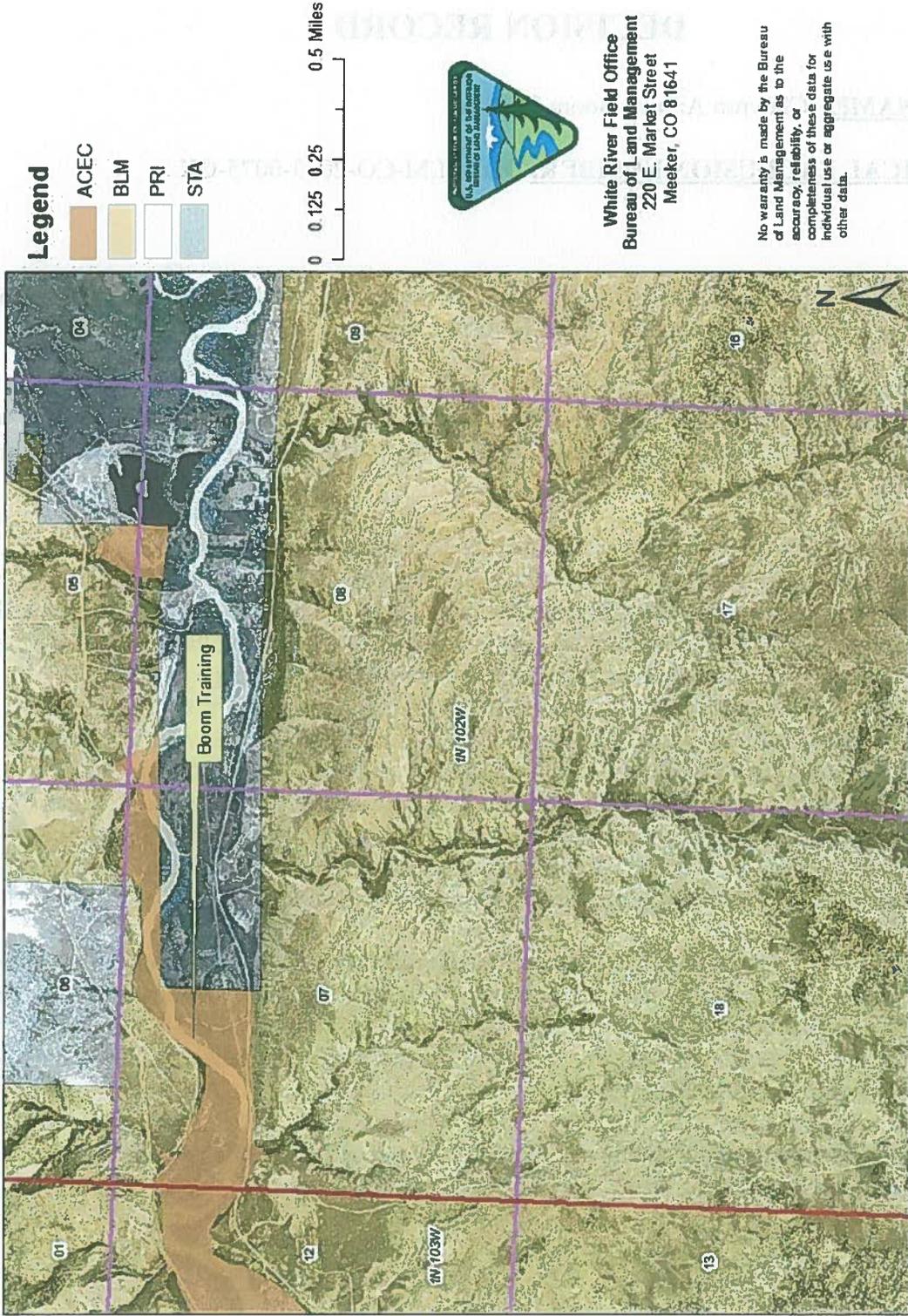
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

06/07/13

ATTACHMENTS:

Figure 1: Map of Location



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DECISION RECORD

PROJECT NAME: Chevron Annual Boom Training

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-2013-0075-CX

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-2013-0075-CX, authorizing implementation of the annual BOOM training.

Mitigation Measures

1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
2. 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 operator 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 operator, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
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4. To maintain public access to this site, do not fully occupy all public river access and parking at the Big Trujillo River Access site during the training.

5. To improve visitor safety during the training, place a sign that is legible from 20 yards along the river in an area visible to those floating the river approximately 100 yards upriver from the boom stating "Warning full river obstruction 100 yards ahead. Portage river left around obstruction." Remove sign once the boom is removed from the river.
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COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS & CONFORMANCE WITH THE LAND USE PLAN

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

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The BLM informed the public about this project by listing it on the online WRFO NEPA Register on April 23, 2013 and a copy of the completed Categorical Exclusion will be posted on the WRFO website. As of May 31, 2013 no comments or inquiries have been received.

RATIONALE

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, J8. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply. The implementation of the annual boom training will allow for Chevron Rangely Weber Sand Unit employees to train on steps and procedures that may be needed upon an environmental release that could reach the White River.

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:

Theresa J. Walker

Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

06/07/13