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-110-2013-0058-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC34120

PROJECT NAME: Renewal of Lasso Access Road ROW

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 3 S., R. 100 W.,
sec. 5, S½SW¼ and NE¼SW¼;
sec. 6, S½SE¼;
sec. 8, NW¼NW¼.

APPLICANT: Lasso Oil & Gas LLC

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Lasso Oil & Gas LLC (Lasso) has submitted an application for renewal of right-of-way (ROW) COC34120 (see Exhibit A). Right-of-way COC34120 was issued to Southland Royalty on October 28, 1981. The access road ROW is 7,920 ft long, 30 ft wide, and contains approximately 5.45 acres. The access road serves the Shamrock Federal #1-5 well.

No additional disturbance is authorized by this action, and all applicable terms and conditions of the original ROW grant shall be carried forward and remain in full force and effect. The grant for renewal of the right-of-way would be issued for a term of 30 years.

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

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

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Page 2-49

Decision Language: "To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values."

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, E9: "*Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.*"

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 either the bureau of office.		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 3/19/2013. 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 Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	3/20/2013
Laura Dixon	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	3/26/2013
Baili Foster	Biological Technician – plants	Special Status Plant Species	3/25/2013

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: There is no valid inventory data for the road itself. There are no known sites in the immediate vicinity of the proposed road renewal segment.

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

Paleontological Resources: The road is located in an area generally mapped as the undifferentiated Upper Mesa Verde formation (Tweto 1979,) which the BLM WRFO has classified as a Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 5 formation. The Upper Mesa Verde is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossils such as multi-tuburculates, mammals, dinosaurs, and occasionally, well preserved plants (c.f., Armstrong and Wolny 1989).

Special Status Wildlife Species: There are no special status wildlife species that are known to inhabit or derive important use for the project area. Therefore, there are no wildlife-related issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

Special Status Plant Species: There are no special status plant species within 600 meters of the project area therefore, there are no concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

REFERENCES CITED:

Armstrong, Harley J., and David G. Wolny
1989 Paleontological Resources of Northwest Colorado: A Regional Analysis. Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, Colorado.

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

MITIGATION:

1. All applicable terms and conditions of original right-of-way grant COC34120 are carried forward and remain in full force and effect.

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

3. At least 90 days prior to termination of the right-of-way, the holder shall contact the Authorized Officer to arrange a joint inspection of the right-of-way. The inspection will result in the development of an acceptable termination and rehabilitation plan submitted by the holder. This plan shall include, but is not limited to, removal of facilities, drainage structures, and surface material; recontouring; topsoiling; or seeding. The Authorized Officer must approve the plan in writing prior to the holder's commencement of any termination activities.

4. Any proposal involving additional surface disturbance outside of the authorized right-of-way requires an application to the BLM for analysis and authorization. New stipulations for construction would be applied to projects subject to the regulations and policies existing at the time of authorization.

5. The holder shall monitor all disturbed and reclaimed areas through final abandonment for the presence of invasive, non-native, and/or noxious plant species. The applicant will be responsible for eradication of noxious weeds that occur on site using materials and methods approved in advance by the Authorized Officer.

6. The holder shall notify the authorized officer at least 60 days prior to non-emergency activities that would cause surface disturbance in the right-of-way. A "Notice to Proceed" shall be required prior to any non-emergency activities that would cause surface disturbance on the right-of-way. Any request for a "Notice to Proceed" must be made to the authorized officer, who will review the Proposed Action for consistency with resource management concerns such as wildlife, big game winter range, paleontology, special status species, and cultural resource protection. The authorized officer may require the completion of special status species surveys or other resource surveys by a third party contractor at the expense of the holder. Additional measures may be required to protect special status species or other resources.

7. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.

8. 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.

9. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the holder must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.

10. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25 lbs./day, up to 250 lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.

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

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

NAME OF PREPARER: Stacey Burke

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Heather Sauls

COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E9. 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.

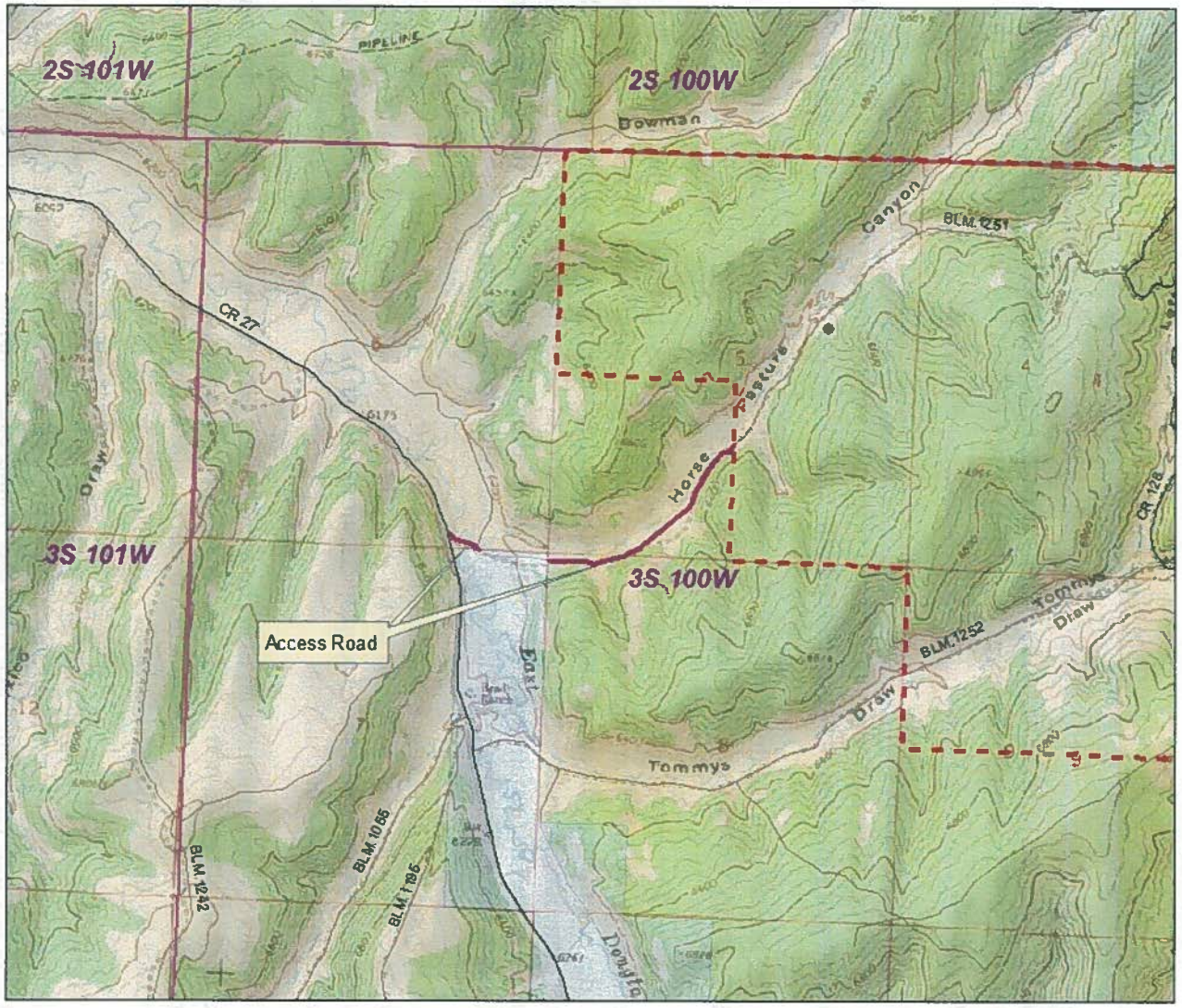
SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: Est M McCafl
Acting Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 5/2/13

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A: Map of Proposed Action

Renewal of Access Road ROW COC34120
T3S, R100W

Exhibit A



Shamrock Federal1-5 well
Oil & Gas Lease COC14179
COC34120
State
County
BLM
USFS
NPS
Other
PLSS_Townships_GCDB2008

0 410 820 1,640 2,460 3,280
Feet

N

Sources
BLM, USGS, CPW, etc.

Disclaimer
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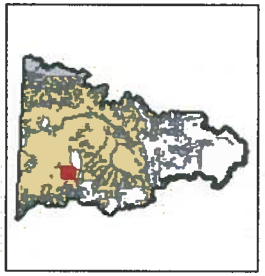
March 2013



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DECISION RECORD

PROJECT NAME: Renewal of Lasso Access Road ROW

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0058-CX

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0058-CX, authorizing the renewal of right-of-way COC34120 for continued use of the existing access road.

Mitigation Measures

1. All applicable terms and conditions of original right-of-way grant COC34120 are carried forward and remain in full force and effect.

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

3. At least 90 days prior to termination of the right-of-way, the holder shall contact the Authorized Officer to arrange a joint inspection of the right-of-way. The inspection will result in the development of an acceptable termination and rehabilitation plan submitted by the holder. This plan shall include, but is not limited to, removal of facilities, drainage structures, and surface material; recontouring; topsoiling; or seeding. The Authorized Officer must approve the plan in writing prior to the holder's commencement of any termination activities.

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review the Proposed Action for consistency with resource management concerns such as wildlife, big game winter range, paleontology, special status species, and cultural resource protection. The authorized officer may require the completion of special status species surveys or other resource surveys by a third party contractor at the expense of the holder. Additional measures may be required to protect special status species or other resources.

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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 3/21/2013 and a copy of the completed Categorical Exclusion will be posted on the WRFO website.

RATIONALE
The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E9. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

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

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: Est M McG
Acting Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 5/2/13