

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-110-2013-0101-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC36370

PROJECT NAME: Beartooth Pipeline ROW Renewal

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 2 S., R. 102 W.,
sec. 9, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

APPLICANT: Beartooth Oil & Gas Company

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Beartooth Oil & Gas Company (Beartooth) has applied for renewal of right-of-way (ROW) COC36370, which was authorized on May 18, 1983. The pipeline is 4,971 ft long, 50 ft wide, and contains approximately 5.7 acres. The pipeline serves the Federal #9-6 and #9-15 wells.

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.

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 resources 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 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 8/6/2013. 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 | 8/6/2013 |
| Laura Dixon | Wildlife Biologist | Special Status Wildlife Species | 8/15/2013 |
| Heather Woodruff | Range Management Specialist/Ecologist | Special Status Plant Species | 8/9/2013 |

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The original pipeline route was inventoried at the Class III (100 percent pedestrian) level in 1983 (Martin 1983, compliance dated 5/6/1983) with no cultural resource identified at the time. Renewal of the ROW without permitting any new construction or disturbance will have no impacts to any known cultural resources.

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 pipeline is located in an area generally mapped as the Upper Mesa Verde formation (Tweto 1979), which the BLM has classified as a Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 5 formation meaning it is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources (c.f., Armstrong and Wolny 1989). Unless it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying sedimentary rock to maintain the pipeline, it is not likely that renewing the ROW will impact fossil resources.

Special Status Wildlife Species: There are no special status wildlife species known to inhabit or derive important use from the project area. Since there is no additional disturbance associated with the Proposed Action, there are no other wildlife concerns.

Special Status Plant Species: There are parts of the project area that are located in potential habitat for BLM sensitive plant species. The project area is largely un-surveyed and little is known about what sensitive species actually exist in that area. Since no disturbance is occurring at this time, there are no special status plant species concerns associated with the Proposed

Action. However, if maintenance is required in the future and disturbance will be occurring, special status plant surveys will be required prior to any disturbance.

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.

Martin, Curtis W.

1983 Cultural Resources Inventory Report on the Proposed Natomis Pipeline Connecting Gas Wells, Federal 9-15, 9-6, and 8-7 in Rio Blanco County, Colorado for Beartooth Oil & Gas Company. Grand River institute, Grand Junction, Colorado. (83-11-04: SHPO

Tweto, Ogden

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

MITIGATION:

1. All applicable terms, conditions, and stipulations contained in the original ROW grant (COC36370) shall be carried forward and remain in full force and effect. No new construction is authorized.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Any proposal involving additional surface disturbance outside of the existing right-of-way disturbance 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. The holder is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project 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. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the holder must immediately contact the appropriate BLM representative.

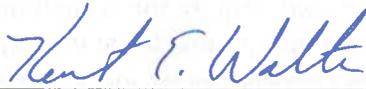
COMPLIANCE PLAN: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by the BLM White River Field Office staff during and after construction. Specific mitigation developed in this document will be followed. The operator will be notified of compliance related issues in writing, and depending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

NAME OF PREPARER: 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: 
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 09/10/2013

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A - Map of Proposed Action

Renewal of pipeline ROW COC36370 T2S, R102W, sec. 9

Exhibit A

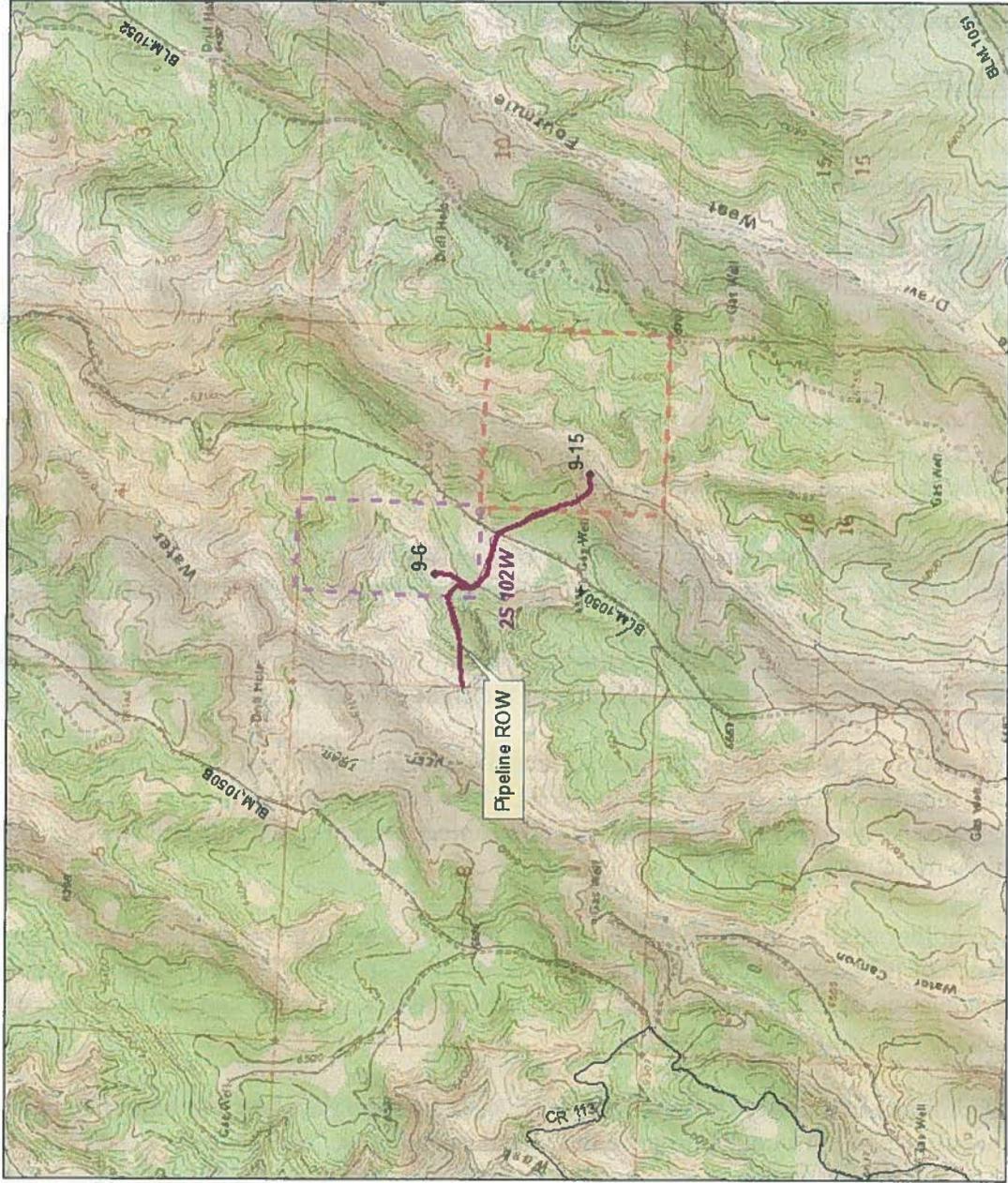
COC36370
 O&G Lease COC31326
 O&G Lease COC31327
 BOUNDARY WEBS
 State
 County
 BLM
 USFS
 NPS
 Other
 PLSS_Townships_GCO82008
 Bureau of Land Management
 National Park Service
 Private
 State
 US Forest Service

0 410 820 1640 2460 3280
 Feet

SOURCE:
 BLM, USFS, CNRS, etc.
 DATE: 08/13/13

Although this map was prepared with the best available information, the BLM does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information shown on this map. The BLM is not responsible for any errors or omissions, or for any consequences arising from the use of the information shown on this map.

August 2013



**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: Beartooth Pipeline ROW Renewal

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0101-CX

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0101-CX, authorizing renewal of right-of-way COC36370 for continued use of the existing natural gas pipeline.

Mitigation Measures

1. All applicable terms, conditions, and stipulations contained in the original ROW grant (COC36370) shall be carried forward and remain in full force and effect. No new construction is authorized.
2. 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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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 8/6/2013 and a copy of the completed Categorical Exclusion will be posted on the WRFO website.

RATIONALE

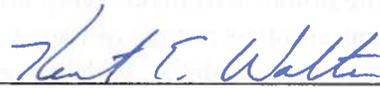
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has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

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

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

09/10/2013