

**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-N05-2014-0036-DNA

**PROJECT NAME:** Native Material Planting – Olive Garden and Big Trujillo sites

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** T2N R102W Sec 36  
T1N R102W Sec 7  
T1N R103W Sec 12

**APPLICANT:** BLM / Tamarisk Coalition

**ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** None

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:** This Proposed Action is a continuation of the Lower White River Riparian Restoration project near Rangely. The Tamarisk Coalition (TC) has proposed to hire a contractor to use equipment to plant native materials at the Olive Garden and Big Trujillo project sites (see Maps 1 and 2). Planting native woody species will expedite the recovery of these sites and compete with noxious weeds. Materials may be planted at both sites but the current focus will be at the Olive Garden site.

A Kubota excavator with a stinger attachment, which is a 9 foot long by three inch diameter solid steel rod, will be used for planting. The excavator has a reach of 22 feet so numerous holes can be placed with minimal surface disturbance. Cottonwoods (50), wax currant (20), golden currant (20), silver leaf buffaloberry (20) and possibly other plants including three-leaf sumac, baccharis, box elder, or woods rose will be planted as soon as the soil thaws enough to allow planting (late March/early April). Shrub species of plant materials will come from the Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Center in Meeker and the cottonwood trees will come from a grower in Mack, Colorado. Plants will be grouped to help stabilize areas that are aggrading and placed where they are more likely to establish successfully. This proposed planting was addressed as a mitigation measure in CO-110-05-197-EA to help stabilize soils and reduce erosion. The BLM will cost share in this project by assisting with the planting and by placing wire cages around trees and shrubs as needed to protect them. Wire cages will be maintained by the BLM annually or as needed into the future as part of this on-going project.

**Resource Specific Design Features:**

1. The applicant 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 applicant 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 applicant, 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 holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with 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), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

**Decision to be Made:** The BLM White River Field Office (WRFO) will decide whether or not to authorize the planting of these native plant materials and, if so, under what 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:** 2-14, Riparian Areas

**Decision Language** “Achieve an advanced ecological condition on all high and medium priority riparian habitats except where resource management objectives, including proper functioning condition require an earlier successional state.”

**Decision Number/Page:** 2-13, Noxious and Problem Weeds

**Decision Language:** “Manage noxious weeds so that they cause no further negative environmental, aesthetic or economic impact.”

## 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 and Date Approved:

- CO-110-2005-197-EA Stump Treatment of Tamarisk and Russian olive in Scenery, Tschuddi and Blacks Gulches and on the White River near Rangely (September 9, 2005)
- CO-110-2006-108-EA Area Wide Tamarisk and Russian Olive Treatment (August 8, 2006)
- CO-110-2009-0121-DNA Lower White River Riparian Restoration (September 15, 2009)
- CO-110-2013-DNA Riparian Improvement Big Trujillo Site (December 23, 2013)
- CO-110-2010-0005-EA: White River Field Office Integrated Weed Management Plan (March 19, 2010)

List by name and date any other documentation relevant to the Proposed Action (e. g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

Name of Document: Vegetation Treatments on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Report including the list of Herbicides Approved for Use on BLM Administered Lands and Adjuvants Approved for use on BLM Administered Lands.

Date Approved: June 2007

## 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?

*Yes, planting of native woody vegetation was addressed in CO-110-05-197-EA as a mitigation measure to help control/reduce erosion. The proposed treatment area is the same as previously analyzed for this on-going riparian restoration project. Planting the proposed native plant materials would expedite the return of native vegetation to restore*

*and stabilize associated areas and is consistent with the analysis for the overall restoration project.*

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?

*The Proposed Action is consistent with the current 1997 WRFO Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP) at page 2-14 with the goal of advancing ecological condition in high and medium priority riparian areas. Two alternatives (Proposed Action and No Action Alternative) were analyzed in CO-110-05-197-EA. No reasons were identified to analyze additional alternatives and these alternatives are considered to be adequate and valid for this 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?

*There are no federal listings of special status animals since the original NEPA that would need to be addressed specific to this action. The White River beardtongue and Graham's beardtongue plant species are currently proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act. However, their habitat is such that this action would have no effect on them and the previous analysis remains valid and adequate.*

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?

*The opportunity to benefit native riparian vegetation as proposed is a direct benefit to both the short and long term maintenance of ecosystem function and integrity. Efforts to restore native riparian habitats and control exotic vegetation along the White River is small in scale but directly, indirectly and cumulatively any such action provides improved opportunity for the redevelopment of native riparian vegetation and natural successional processes that would promote progression of affected sites and surrounding area of influence toward higher ecological function. The No Action Alternative would not allow for this opportunity to facilitate redevelopment of native riparian vegetation in affected project areas.*

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

*The public involvement and interagency review associated with CO-110-05-197-EA and CO-110-06-108-EA are adequate to address this Proposed Action. Additionally this project has received funding from Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Tamarisk Coalition, both of which have reviewed the applicable aspects of the projects.*

**INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:**

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on 1/7/2014. 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.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Date</b>
Michael Wolfe	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	1/15/2014
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	1/22/2014
Heather Woodruff	Rangeland Management Specialist, Acting Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	1/8/2014

**REMARKS:**

*Cultural Resources:* The entire project area was inventoried at the Class III (intensive) level (Bowen 2009). One Isolated Find (5RB6438), a historic well casing, was documented. The Isolated Find, by definition, is evaluated as not eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, no “historic properties” 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 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.

*Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species:* There are no wildlife-related issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action. The White River between Rio Blanco Lake and the Utah state line is designated critical habitat for the endangered Colorado pikeminnow. The project area is located within occupied habitat (the White River below Taylor Draw Dam to the Utah State line) of this species. This reach is generally occupied by adult and larger sub-adult Colorado pikeminnow and is used as post-spawning and over-winter habitat. There are no reproductive or rearing habitats associated with the White River in Colorado.

The White River corridor serves as an activity hub for nesting and wintering populations of BLM-sensitive bald eagles. There are a number of identified nest and winter roost sites associated with the lower White River’s mature cottonwood galleries, but no special use features, i. e., identified winter roosts, are located within a minimum 4.5 river miles of the White River treatment site. No evidence of new or recent nest building activity was found at the project site during a late January 2014 site inspection and there is no reasonable likelihood of eagles using this cottonwood stand for nesting in 2014. The White River project area likely receives regular opportunistic foraging use by eagles from November through April.

Enhancing native floodplain vegetation and suppressing invasive plants/noxious weeds would promote the proper functioning condition of channel and floodplain features as one of the

identified primary constituent elements of designated critical habitat for pikeminnow. Restoration efforts along the White River, although small in scale, would complement recovery goals for Colorado pikeminnow and improve habitat for bald eagle by promoting the redevelopment of native riparian vegetation and natural successional processes that would eventually provide mature cottonwood habitat for perch or nest use by bald eagle.

***Threatened and Endangered Plant Species:*** There are no plant species listed, proposed, or candidate to the Endangered Species Act, nor plants considered sensitive by the BLM, that are known to inhabit ephemeral washes, upland ponds, or seeps that could potentially be influenced by the Proposed Action. The threatened species Ute lady's tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) is known to occur in sub-irrigated alluvial soils along streams and in open meadows in flood plains. Although it is unknown whether the threatened orchid is found along the White River in Colorado, the 2005 range-wide status review does list the river as containing potential habitat.

The riverbanks in the two areas are inhabited either by dense riparian graminoids, sedges, and rushes or are shaded by bank-shadowing infestations of Russian olive and/or tamarisk. The woody vegetation tends to be 1-2 meters from the shoreline along this portion of the river if it is not dominating the bank. Both woody and herbaceous plant communities in this area were found to be unsuitable for the orchid, which prefers mid-seral and somewhat open, light-penetrating surrounding vegetation and substrate (alluvial deposits) which are at least a decade old and have advanced into a diverse plant community with good drainage.

Vegetation and plant communities found more than a few meters from the shoreline in the Big Trujillo/Olive Garden areas are not irrigated and contain dry upland species such as rabbitbrush, prickly pear cactus, and cheatgrass, as the river channel is deeply incised from the floodplain in most areas.

Therefore, no effect to *Spiranthes diluvialis* potential habitat is expected from the Proposed Action. Planting native materials would eventually be expected to produce additional native riparian plant communities that would benefit all riparian corridor plant species and their habitats.

#### **REFERENCES:**

Bowen, Kristin

2009 A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory For The Big Trujillo Riparian Restoration (WRFO #09-10-07; RB. LM. R1191). Manuscript on file at WRFO, Meeker, Colorado.

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

NAME OF PREPARER: Mary Taylor

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:

*Thant T. Walter*

Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

*02/03/14*

ATTACHMENTS:

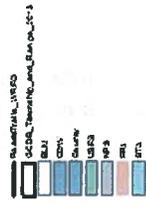
Map 1: Aerial Map Olive Garden Site  
Map 2: Aerial Map Big Trujillo Site

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.

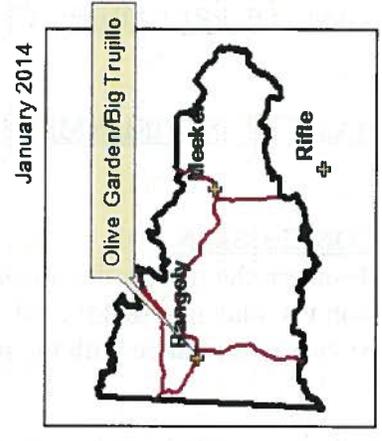
**Map 1:** Aerial Map Olive Garden Site – potential planting sites delineated



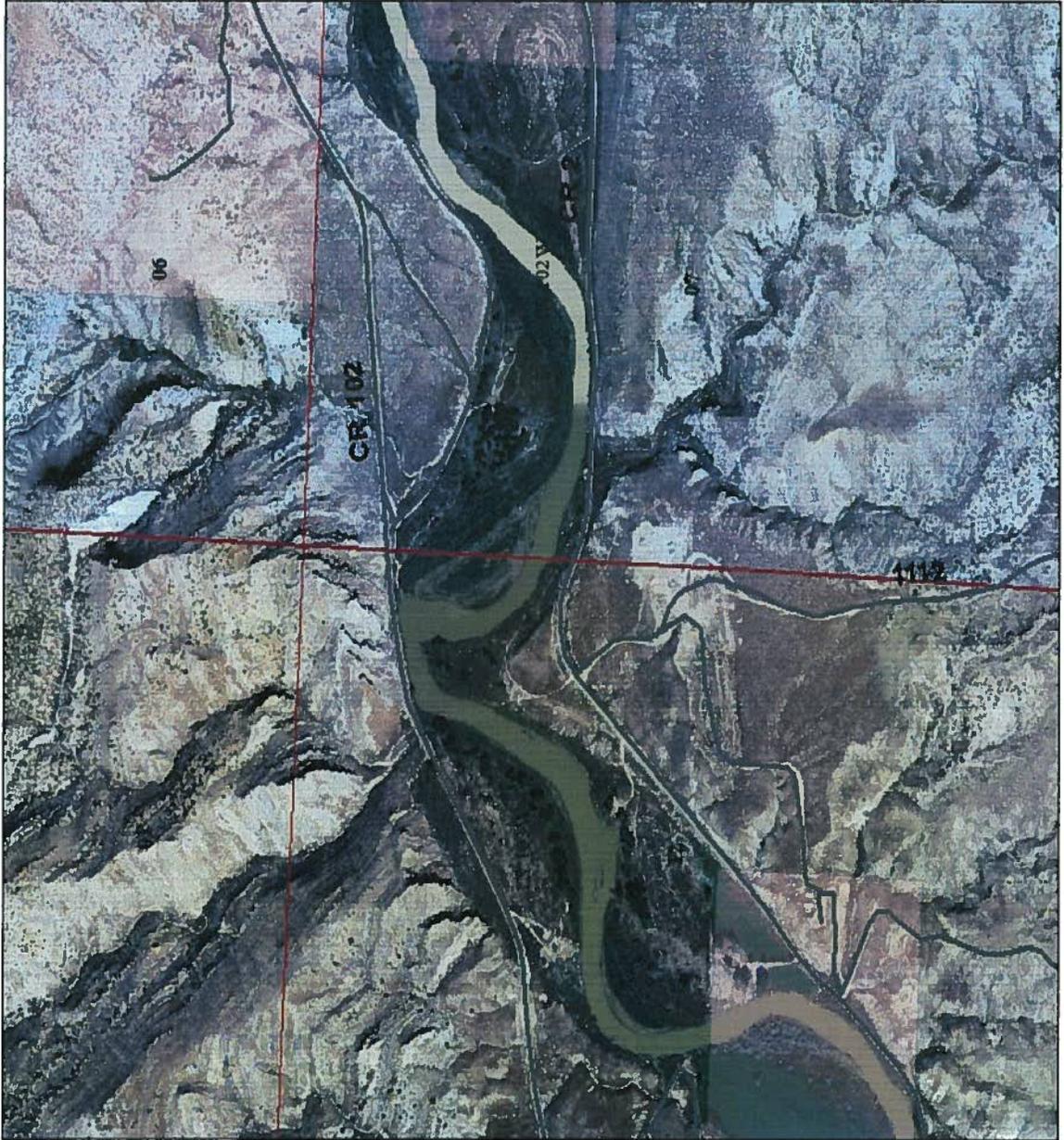
**Olive Garden Proposed Planting Sites**



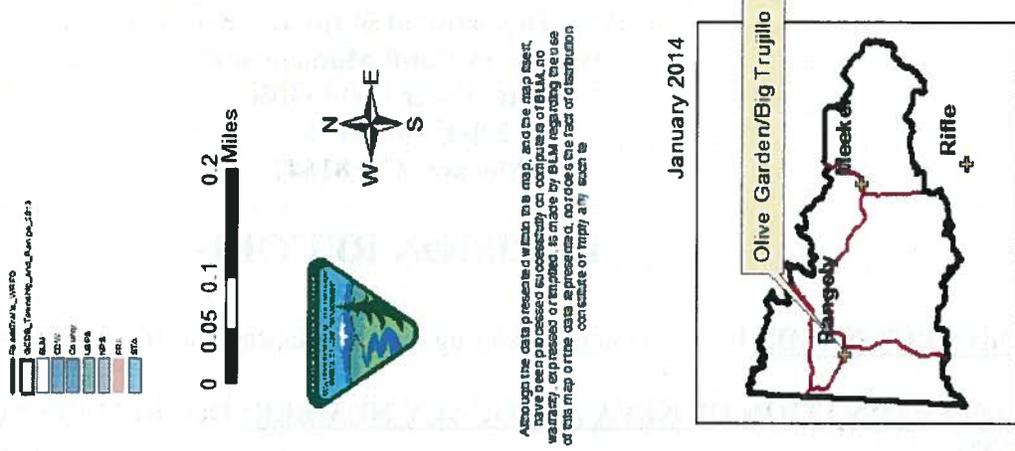
Although the data presented within this map, and the maps that have been prepared subsequently on contracts of BLM, no warranty, expressed or implied, is made by BLM regarding the use of the map or the data represented, nor does the fact of distribution constitute or imply any such warranty.



Map 2: Aerial Map Big Trujillo Site – no planting areas delineated



**Big Trujillo Proposed Planting Sites**



Although the data presented within this map, and the map sheet, have been processed electronically on computers of BLM, no warranty, expressed or implied, is made by BLM regarding the use of this map or the data presented, nor does the fact of distribution constitute or imply any such

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**DECISION RECORD**

**PROJECT NAME:** Native Material Planting – Olive Garden and Big Trujillo sites

**DETERMINATION OF NEPA ADEQUACY NUMBER:** DOI-BLM-CO-N05- 2014-0036-DNA

**DECISION**

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0036-DNA, authorizing the planting of native plant materials at the Olive Garden and Big Trujillo riparian restoration sites as part of the on-going Lower White River Restoration Project. Materials will be planted using a Kubota excavator with a stinger attachment. Plant materials will be provided by the Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Center and Stan Young of Mack, Colorado. Planting native woody species will expedite the recovery of these sites and compete with noxious weeds.

**Design Features/Mitigation Measures:**

1. The applicant 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 applicant 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 applicant, 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 holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with 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), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

**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 White River Field Office National Environmental Policy Act Register on January 17, 2014 and a copy of the completed Documentation of NEPA Adequacy will be posted on the WRFO website.

**RATIONALE**

Analysis of the Proposed Action has concluded that there are no significant negative impacts and the proposal meets Colorado Standards for Public Land Health. The extent and scale of this project is limited but will result in positive effects to the overall project area. Allowing actions to further combat noxious and invasive species and provide benefit to native vegetation in this riparian setting is consistent with the White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP) decision to “Achieve an advanced ecological condition on all high and medium priority riparian habitats except where resource management objectives, including proper functioning condition require an earlier successional state.”

**ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES**

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 Street, 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:**

02/03/14

