
United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Final: November 1, 2010

Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-WY-D090-2010-0162-EA

Beartown Cellular Facility and Power Line Project

Location: Southeast of Evanston, North of Highway 150 and Beartown, and Northwest of Sulphur Creek Reservoir, Uinta County, Wyoming

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ACRONYMS

| | |
|-------|--|
| AMSL | Above Mean Sea Level |
| APE | Area of Potential Effect |
| ARD | Agricultural/Resource Development |
| AUM | Animal Unit Month |
| BLM | Bureau of Land Management |
| BMP | Best Management Practice |
| CEQ | Council on Environmental Quality |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| EA | Environmental Assessment |
| EPM | Environmental Protection Measure |
| KOP | Key Observation Point |
| FLPMA | Federal Land Policy and Management Act |
| NEPA | National Environment Policy Act |
| NHPA | National Historic Preservation Act |
| NHT | National Historic Trail |
| NORA | Notice of Realty Action |
| NRHP | National Register of Historic Places |
| POD | Plan of Development |
| RMP | Resource Management Plan |
| RMPPA | Resource Management Plan Project Area |
| ROW | Right-of-Way |
| SHPO | State Historic Preservation Office |
| UPRR | Union Pacific Railroad |

1.0 INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE AND NEED

1.1 Introduction

Union Telephone Company (Union) submitted a SF 299 Application and Plan of Development (POD) to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Kemmerer Field Office proposing to construct a cellular tower and associated appurtenances, and install an underground power line (the Project), approximately 9 miles southeast of Evanston, Wyoming, in Uinta County. The proposed cellular facility would be placed on an unnamed ridge southwest of Knight Ridge in Section 28 of Township 14 North Range 119 West (T14N R119W; **Figure 1**). The power line would tie into an existing Rocky Mountain Power transformer box adjacent to the county reservoir road (Sulphur Creek Reservoir) less than a mile away. Access would be on existing roadways. The total acreage disturbed by the Project would be about two acres. The proposed activities would occur on lands administered by the BLM, Kemmerer Field Office and on private lands. Construction activities are planned for the winter of 2010, as soon as required approvals are obtained, or in the spring of 2011.

The purpose of this document is to assess the impacts to the human environment from the implementation of the Project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This document was prepared in compliance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), (40 CFR Sec. 1500-1508) and the NEPA Handbook, H-1790-1. This EA complies with the CEQ regulations for implementation of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508) and BLM's NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1).

1.2 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the federal action is to respond to the SF 299 Application from Union to grant a right-of-way (ROW) authorization to access and install a cellular facility and power line. The multiple-use mission of the BLM includes authorizing and managing activities such as mineral development, energy production, utility development, recreation, and grazing, while conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands. The BLM's objective is to meet public needs for use authorizations such as ROWs, permits, leases, and easements, while avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts to other resource values. The proposal to construct a cellular facility would be in accordance with this objective.

Uinta County is located in rural southwestern Wyoming with an estimated population of 20,617 residents in 2008 (U.S. Census Bureau 2009). This represents a population increase of 4.9 percent from the 2000 census. With 2,081.7 square miles, this equates to 9.9 persons per square mile. The main communities in the county include Evanston, Lyman, Mountain View, and Bear River. Currently, the cellular service in the Project Area is spotty to non-existent. There is an increasing need for reliable communications in these rural areas as population increases occur in the surrounding communities.

The Proposed Action is needed to provide increased cellular capacity and coverage in an area that lacks sufficient communication service. The area along State Highway 150 and the Millis/Beartown area have experienced considerable growth and need for reliable cellular communications. Union is a licensed provider in the Uinta County area. Currently there is not enough capacity or terrain coverage to provide the necessary communication services in the area. The installation of the Beartown Communication Facility would improve the cellular communication for those travelers that frequent the area.

The Beartown cellular facility would provide cellular telephone coverage to the Sulphur Creek Reservoir area to the south, Evanston/Millis area to the north, and toward the Hilliard area to the southeast. The Project would also provide local residents, recreational users, and local law enforcement improved emergency communications capabilities. The Project would increase cellular coverage and improve cellular telecommunications capacity, helping to meet the public need for reliable communications on a daily basis as well as during emergency situations.

The Beartown cellular facility would primarily be located on federal land administered by the BLM Kemmerer Field Office.

1.3 Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plan

The Project would occur primarily on public lands located and administered by the BLM, Kemmerer Field Office. The Proposed Action is subject to the following Resource Management Plan (RMP):

Name of Plan: Record of Decision and Approved Kemmerer RMP
Date: May 2010

The Kemmerer RMP states that rights-of-way will be issued incorporating surface reclamation stipulations and, further, that authorizations in the Lands Program will be conditioned to avoid undue adverse impacts to other important resource values and sensitive areas. Decision 6010 in the Kemmerer RMP (BLM 2010) states that communications sites will be considered by type in the following designated areas: Aspen Mountain, Big Hill, Boulder Ridge, Butcher Knife, Carter Creek, Church Buttes, Cokeville Ridge, Dempsey Ridge, Fontenelle, Fossil Ridge, Granger, Hickey Mountain, Kemmerer Site, Leroy, Medicine Butte, Pine Knoll, Quealy Peak, Road Hollow, Robertson, Sage Junction, Thomas Fork, Twin Butte/Nugget, and Waterfall, Other communication site areas could be developed on a site by site basis.

The Kemmerer RMP has been reviewed and it has been determined that the Proposed Action conforms to the land use plan terms and conditions as required by 43 CFR 1610.5.

Uinta County adopted a Comprehensive Plan in 2002-2003, which establishes guidelines for industrial, commercial, and residential developments. The surrounding lands are zoned as ARD, Agricultural/Resource Development (Uinta County 2007). This zoning allows for residential, community, and other developments.

1.4 Scoping, Public Involvement, and Issues

Although it was decided that public scoping would not be necessary for the Project, issues and concerns were raised during an initial Project field meeting held on September 16, 2009. BLM representatives Kelly Lamborn, Lynn Harrel, and Pauline Schuette; Union representatives Rex Headd, Patty Brockman, and Justin Haws; and Jenni Prince Mahoney of JBR Environmental Consultants, Inc. (JBR) participated in the meeting. The issues raised included:

- Visual resources
- Cultural resources
- Wildlife (mule deer)
- Native American Religious Concerns

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Introduction

This EA analyzes the Proposed Action and the No Action alternative. No other facility sites are under consideration because the proposed site best meets the criteria outlined below. The Proposed Action includes a cellular facility, a buried power line, and use of an existing access road (**Figure 2**). The proposed cellular facility would consist of an antenna tower, associated generator and generator building, one equipment building, and an above-ground propane tank. The facility would be constructed to provide for adequate expansion for additional antennas and microwaves on the tower as the cellular demand increases. Power to the facility would be provided by installing a buried power line from an existing above-ground power line located near Highway 150 to the southwest. The Project Area (i.e. the cellular facility site and power line route) is accessed off Highway 150 using the improved dirt road known as Altamont Road, and a non-maintained dirt access road up to the ridge top. Access to the Beartown site, utilizing the existing Altamont Road and the non-maintained dirt road, would be part of the ROW issued by the BLM.

Access across private lands would be via the existing Altamont Road, maintained by Union Pacific Railroad and Uinta County. All necessary authorizations or right-of-way grants would be obtained from private land owners, Rocky Mountain Power, Uinta County, and the Federal Communication Commission.

The following criteria were used to evaluate potential facility sites:

- Proximity to areas lacking adequate service – the cell traffic area coverage (i.e., highways, towns and cities, recreation areas); the site must reach areas lacking adequate service.
- Terrain coverage - Propagation surveys conducted to quantify the area covered by the communication path in order to estimate how many calls a cell tower might receive and profitability; in rural areas the coverage needs to be maximized.
- Accessibility – access must be available or potentially available and/or construction of access to the site must not be cost prohibitive.
- Availability of power source – location of available power and distance from the potential site in terms of cost to bury the power line from source to site.

The following sections further describe the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative.

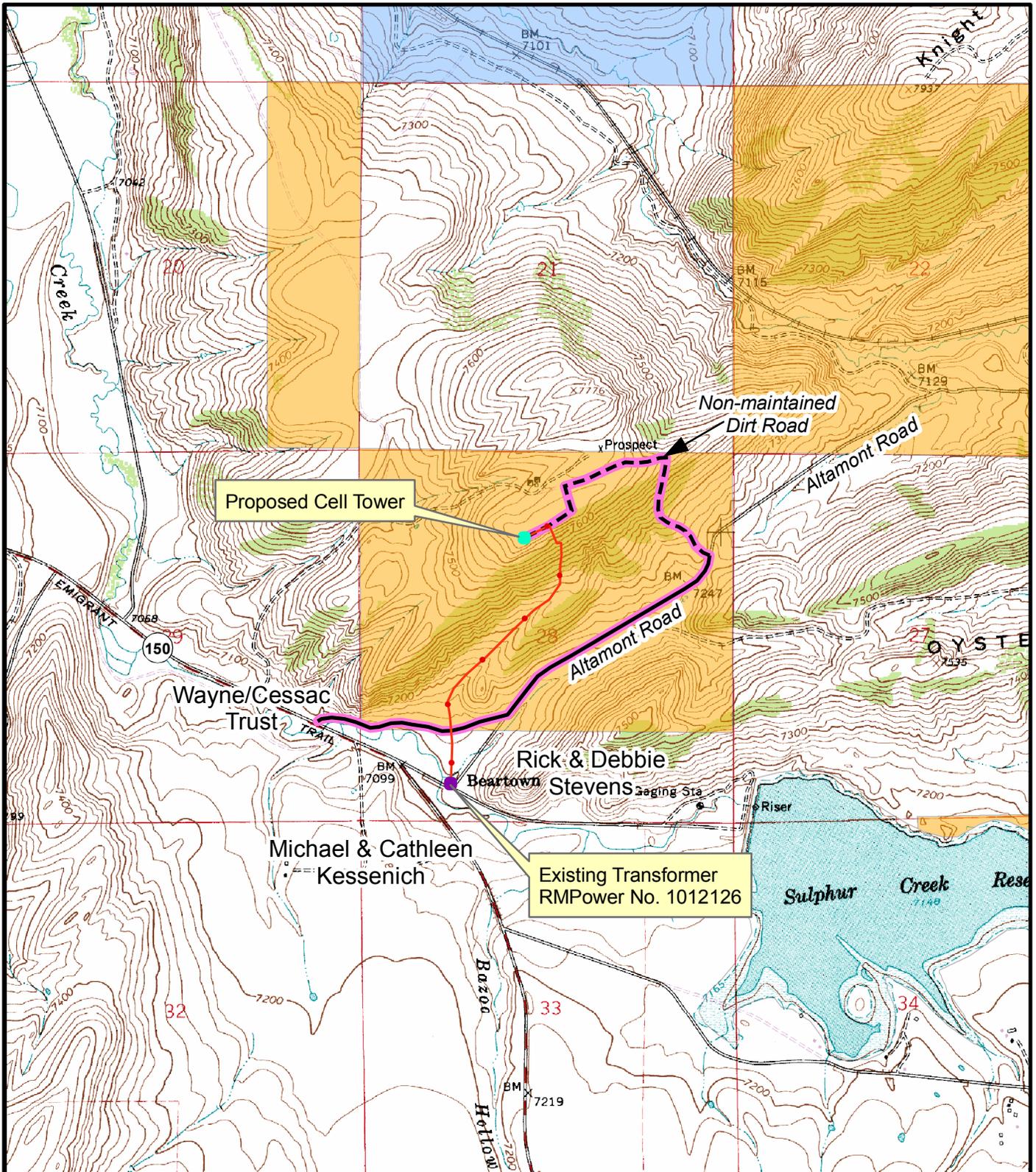
2.2 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would be located in the Section 28 T14N R119W. ROWs would be needed for each component of the project (**Table 2-1**).

TABLE 2-1 PROJECT RIGHTS-OF-WAY

| Component | Dimensions | BLM | | Private | | Total ROW Acreage |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------|-------|---------|-------|-------------------|
| | | Area | Acres | Area | Acres | |
| Cellular Facility Pad | 50' x 50' | 50' x 50' | 0.06 | - | - | 0.06 |
| Power line | 5,026' x 16' | 4,291 | 1.58 | 735 | 0.27 | 1.85 |
| Access Road | 11,762' x 25' | 9,968 | 5.72 | 1,794 | 1.03 | 6.75 |
| Total Acres | | | 7.36 | | 1.30 | 8.66 |

drawings\Beartown\Fig2 Project Components and Land Status.mxd



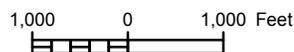
Base from 1:100,000-scale metric Topographic Map, Evanston, Wyoming

Legend

- Proposed Cell Tower
- Existing Transformer
- Proposed Power Line
- - - Proposed Access

Land Ownership

- BLM
- State
- Private



UNION TELEPHONE COMPANY
 Beartown Cellular Facility and Power Line Project
 Sections 28 & 29, T14N, R119W - Uinta County Wyoming

**FIGURE 2
 PROJECT COMPONENTS AND LAND STATUS**



DESIGN BY JM

DRAWN BY CP

SCALE 1:24,000

DATE DRAWN 09/27/10

DATE DRAWN -

Approximately 2 acres of new surface disturbance would result from implementation of the Project: 1.85 acres from power line installation and 0.06 acre from the cellular facility construction (50 by 50-foot parcel). The majority of this disturbance would be temporary. Permanent disturbance would be 0.06 acre for the cellular facility site. There would be no new temporary or permanent disturbance due to access; the roads would not require blading or widening beyond normal maintenance or use.

Cellular Facility

The cellular facility would require a 50 by 50 foot parcel (0.06 acre) (**Photo 1**). Once fully constructed, the cellular facility would include an 45-foot high self-supporting antenna tower, an 8 by 16 by 10 foot high pre-fabricated fiberglass equipment building, an 8 by 12 by 10 foot high pre-fabricated generator building, and a 500 gallon above-ground propane tank (**Figure 3**). The tower would be a non-reflective, lattice type steel structure and would be constructed on-site by Union personnel. Concrete foundations for the two buildings and tower would be constructed. The tower foundation would measure 13 feet square by 5 feet deep. Two foundation trenches, approximately 2 by 8 feet, would be created to form concrete beams to support the fiberglass equipment building and the generator building. These buildings would be located within 30 feet of the tower. The tower, appropriate antennas, and associated structures, when mounted and bolted to their foundations, are designed to resist wind loads in excess of 100 miles per hour.

The tower would be installed using a small to medium-sized crane to place the tower onto the foundation. Coaxial cables would be installed from the tower to the building in an underground conduit. A 1-foot diameter pipe would be used for the conduit. A box would be placed at the base of the tower to allow entrance of the cables into the conduit and to allow connection of the coaxial cable to the ground system. This ground system is designed to protect the electronic devices from lightning.

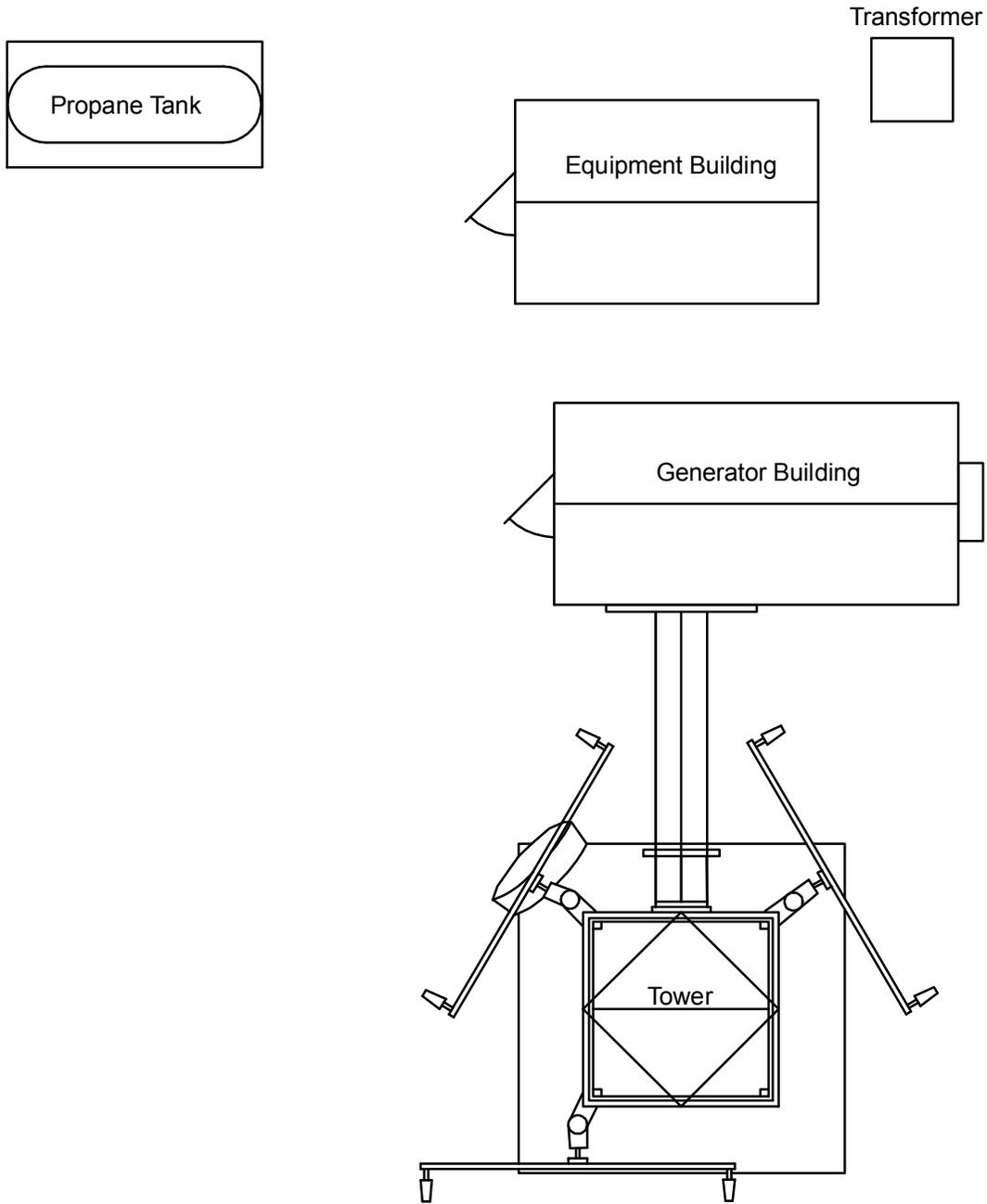
All construction work would take place inside the 50 by 50 foot parcel. All hauling of construction materials, including concrete, would be done utilizing existing roads; no additional road building or clearing would be necessary. A 2½-ton truck would be used to transport the prefabricated buildings and materials to the site.

Excess spoil from the excavation of the building and tower foundations would be hauled away from the site to a designated landfill area.

The interior of the equipment building would have lighting; however, there would be no security lighting of the facilities.

The Federal Aviation Administration standards (AC70/7460-1K Obstruction Marking and Lighting) were reviewed regarding the need to light or register the proposed tower. Lighting of the tower is not required since the proposed structure would be less than 200 feet in height above ground level and would not be within 5 miles of an airport.

drawings\Beartown\Fig3 Proposed Cellular Facility Constuction Layout.mxd



UNION TELEPHONE COMPANY
Beartown Cellular Facility and Power Line Project
Sections 28 & 29, T14N, R119W - Uinta County Wyoming

FIGURE 3
PROPOSED CELLULAR FACILITY
CONSTRUCTION LAYOUT

| | | |
|--|----------------|--------------|
|  | DATE DRAWN | 09/27/10 |
| | DATE DRAWN | - |
| DESIGN BY JM | DRAWN BY CP | SCALE NTS |



Photo 1 Proposed Cellular Facility Site on Top of Ridge

Power Line

The power line would tie into Rocky Mountain Power’s transformer box located adjacent to the Sulphur Creek Reservoir road in the SW¼ of Section 28 T14N R119W. The power line would extend northeast along the ridgeline for about 800 feet to an old two-track road (**Photo 2**) and then follow it down to the bottom of the ridge tying into a maintained, gravel-surfaced road (**Figure 2**). There would be one small diversion cross-country in the vicinity of the historic Beartown site. The power line would extend for 5,026 feet. The power line would provide a minimum of 7,200 volts of service to the cellular facility. The power line would be buried to improve the reliability of the power source and remove visual distraction.

The power line would be trenched and installed simultaneously; a single-line cable would be buried at an average depth of 30 to 36 inches by a static cable plow pulled by a D-4 Caterpillar tractor. The cable plowing operation would open a 2-inch slot in the ground to the depth of the cable. This slot would collapse around the cable after the plow has passed. A D-4 Caterpillar tractor would follow to spread and compact the loose material over the plow area. The Caterpillar vehicles are track driven. Because the cable trench itself would not remove the topsoil, it is generally not necessary to reseed the plow trench unless there is track spinning. Normally all trenches would be closed on a daily basis. Trenches not closed at the end of the day would be clearly marked as hazardous areas. Construction would cease if it is determined that the soils are too wet to support

construction vehicles. The potential surface disturbance for burying the power line would be approximately 1.85 acres (5,026 feet in length by 16 feet wide).

Vegetation would not be cleared along the power line route. Vehicles and equipment needed for power line installation would drive over low vegetation. No trees would be removed.



Photo 2 Power Line Route in Old Two-track Road

Access

Access to the cellular facility would be from Highway 150 to the existing Altamont Road (an improved dirt road) to an existing non-maintained dirt road along the ridge. The Altamont Road is maintained jointly by the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and Uinta County, as UPRR uses this road to access their Cumberland Gap railroad spur. The segment of Altamont Road to be utilized, located in Sections 28 and 29 T14N R119W, is bladed and extends for approximately 6,962 feet (1.3 miles) from Highway 150 to the non-maintained dirt road (**Table 2-2**). No modifications or improvements to Altamont Road are anticipated. The non-maintained road traverses about 4,800 feet up the ridge to the proposed cellular facility site (**Photo 3**). Road improvements would occur on the non-maintained dirt road, as there are areas of severe wash-out and erosion. The road would be bladed/filled where necessary in order for construction and concrete trucks to access the top of the ridge. Subsequent to construction of the cellular facility, three water bars would be installed along the road in areas prone to erosion. Occasional maintenance would occur on this road as determined by Union in consultation with the BLM.

The construction vehicles would use the same access as the maintenance vehicles.

TABLE 2-2 ACCESS ROADS

| Road | Length in Feet | Improvements? | Periodic Maintenance to be Conducted by |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------|---|
| Altamont Road | 6,962 | No | Union Pacific Railroad |
| Non-maintained Dirt Road | 4,800 | Blading, Water bars | Union Telephone |
| Total | 11,762 | | |



Photo 3 Existing Access Road to Ridge Top

General Construction

All construction materials would be hauled to the Project Area by truck. Existing roads would be used for access to the Project Area. Equipment and vehicles required for the Project include: crane, D-4 tractor and cable plow, D-7 tractor if needed, 2½ ton flatbed, and pickup trucks. All waste material associated with construction would be removed from the site and disposed of in an approved manner. No toxic or other hazardous materials would be used in construction. The need to clear land by blading is not anticipated.

Upon completion of construction, surfaces would be regraded with local material to the extent possible to match the original ground contours. The amount of grading would be minimal; however some is expected due to the excavation for the tower foundation. If needed for the project, erosion control in the form of silt fences would be monitored and periodically maintained.

One short segment of the non-maintained dirt road, where it splits off and then reenters the main route on the east, is highly eroded. This segment would be ripped and seeded (**Photo 4**).



Photo 4 Road Segment on the Right to be Ripped and Seeded

Schedule

Prior to the start of any construction, the BLM would be notified 5 days in advance. All necessary authorizations and permits would be secured prior to construction. Completion of the Proposed Action would take approximately 3 to 4 weeks: 1 week to form and pour the concrete foundations and footings, 1 week to cure the concrete, and up to 2 weeks for installation of the tower, buildings, and equipment. The power line would be installed while the foundations cure. A total of five to eight construction personnel would be needed to implement the Proposed Action. No worker camps would be necessary. Construction personnel would travel to the site daily from the Evanston and Mountain View areas. Construction is proposed for winter of 2010, as soon as required approvals are obtained, or the spring of 2011.

Operation and Maintenance

With the exception of possible emergency repairs, once installed, the cellular facility would typically be visited an average of once per month for maintenance. Maintenance access would be via Altamont Road to the non-maintained dirt road. In the event that normal 4-wheel drive trucks could not access the facility due to snow, Union would utilize either Snowcats or snowmobiles to transport personnel to the site.

Termination and Restoration

It is anticipated that the cellular facility would be required for the foreseeable future. In the event that it is no longer needed, the facility would be dismantled, the concrete broken up, and all materials removed from the site. The ground would be graded, seeded, and restored to its pre-existing condition.

2.3 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented. Existing cellular capacity would not meet the needs of the area; cellular communication services to the surrounding area would be unimproved. The number of local and visiting cellular users would continue to be limited by the existing cellular sites, thus, cellular service and emergency communications capability would not be enhanced. Current resource trends in the area would continue.

2.4 Environmental Protection Measures

The BLM would inspect the Project during and after construction, and when reclamation has commenced to ensure compliance with Best Management Practices, Environmental Protection Measures (EPMs), and other requirements.

Implementation of the Proposed Action would comply with all applicable federal and state laws. The following applicant-committed EPMs would apply to the Project.

Soils

Altamont Road from Highway 150 to the ridge access road is currently maintained by UPRR. The access road from Altamont Road up the ridge is not currently maintained. Union would maintain the road as directed by the BLM.

No construction activities would take place during or immediately following rain events when the soil is too wet to adequately support construction equipment. Should construction equipment create surface ruts in excess of 4 inches deep, construction in the area would be delayed until soil conditions improve. If necessary, disturbed sites would be re-graded to restore the site to approximately the original contour following construction. Silt fences and/or straw bales would be used to minimize erosion if needed.

Vegetation

Upon completion of construction activities, the disturbed areas of less than two acres would be cleaned, restored, and seeded in order to promote restoration of natural ground cover. Soil would be re-graded as needed and seed would be broadcast over the disturbed areas. A site-specific seed mixture would be provided by BLM. In addition, to minimize the potential for the spread of noxious weeds, all equipment to be used during construction activities would be washed prior to entering the Project Area.

Cultural Resources

All construction and subsequent maintenance activities would be restricted to the areas cleared for cultural resources. Although not anticipated, if during the construction activities cultural resources were uncovered, the BLM would be notified and work in the area would halt until documentation and evaluation by a BLM approved archaeologist was conducted. Adverse effects to eligible properties would be avoided or mitigation measures implemented prior to resuming construction within the area of the discovery.

Wildlife

If construction and maintenance activities are to occur between November 15 and April 30 when the area provides crucial winter habitat for mule deer, then an exception would be requested from BLM for these activities.

If project construction is to occur during raptor nesting timeframes (Feb 1st - July 31st) or during migratory bird nesting timeframes, BLM would be consulted for input regarding measures necessary to minimize impacts to any nesting raptors and migratory birds. Such measures could include surveys, informal coordination with DWR and USFWS, and a site-specific analysis by BLM. Project construction is expected to take place prior to the start of nesting season for raptors and migratory birds.

Visual

Facility buildings and the propane tank would be sited and oriented away from the edge of the ridge in order to not be visible from Highway 150 (**Figure 3**). Further, the buildings would be painted Covert Green (Standard Environmental Colors Chart CC-001, June 2008) in order to best blend into the environment. Although not proposed, if fencing were required, chain-link fencing of a non-reflective material would be used.

2.5 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated

No other locations within the area of cellular communication need met the siting criteria as described in **Section 2.1**. Therefore no other cellular facility sites were considered.

One additional power line route located slightly west of the Proposed Action route was considered. This area has environmental concerns regarding impacts to cultural resources/historic properties and was therefore dropped from consideration.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This chapter describes the general setting, identifies the affected resources, critical elements, and uses of concern in the vicinity of the Proposed Action, and describes the affected environment of the Proposed Action.

3.1 General Ecological Setting

The Project Area is located on Oyster Shell Ridge in southwestern Wyoming within the Middle Rocky Mountain physiographic province. Topography in the region is characterized by complex mountains with intermontane basins and plains. The immediate area includes the northward flowing Bear River and its tributaries, including Sulphur Creek which runs north-south to the west of the Project Area. The Project Area is bounded on the south by Hilliard Flat, an upland plain. To the southeast is the Sulphur Creek Reservoir, created by a dam across Sulphur Creek. Vegetation in the general area consists predominantly of big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) with Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*) on the ridge slopes. Elevation at the base of the ridge is approximately 7,120 feet above mean sea level (amsl). Elevation is about 7,660 feet amsl at the proposed cellular facility site on top of the ridge.

3.2 Supplemental Authorities and Resources of Concern

To comply with the NEPA, the BLM is required to address specific elements of the environment that are subject to requirements specified in statute or regulation or by executive order (BLM 1988c, CEQ 1997, BLM 2008). **Table 3-1** outlines the elements that must be addressed in all environmental analyses, as well as other resources deemed appropriate for evaluation by the BLM, and denotes if the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative affects those elements.

TABLE 3-1 SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES

| Supplemental Authorities ¹ | Not Present ² | Present/ Not Affected ² | Present/ May Be Affected ³ | Rationale |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Air Quality | | X | | Temporary dust in air during construction would not have measurable impact. |
| Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) | X | | | The Project Area is not within or near an ACEC. |
| Cultural Resources | | | X | Implementation of the Project may impact any cultural resources that occur within and adjacent to the Project Area. See Sections 3.3 and 4.2.1 . |
| Environmental Justice | X | | | Low-income, minority, or tribal populations are not present in the Project Area. The proposal should have a positive effect upon local populations by improving cell service. |
| Farmlands (Prime or Unique) | X | | | There are no known designated prime or unique farmlands in the Project Area. |
| Floodplains | X | | | Not present in Project Area. |
| Native American Concerns | | | X | Consultation with appropriate Tribes is being conducted. See Sections 3.4 and 4.2.2 . |

| Supplemental Authorities ¹ | Not Present ² | Present/ Not Affected ² | Present/ May Be Affected ³ | Rationale |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Noxious Weeds/Invasive, Non-native species | X | | | There are three invasive, non-native plant species in Uinta County, none of which were observed in the Project Area. The following EPM is in place for the Project to minimize the potential for noxious weed establishment: all equipment to be used during construction activities would be washed prior to entering the Project Area. |
| Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Plant Species | X | | | There are no known threatened, endangered, or candidate plant species present. There are no wetlands in the Project Area, so no habitat for the Ute Ladies tresses, see Appendix A. |
| Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Animal Species | X | | | No known threatened, endangered, or candidate animal species occur within the Project Area (see Wildlife Clearance Document, Appendix A). |
| Special Status Species, Wildlife | X | | | No known special status wildlife species occur within the Project Area (see Wildlife Clearance Document, Appendix A). |
| Special Status Species, Plants | X | | | There are no known special status plant species in the Project Area (see Wildlife Clearance Document, Appendix A). |
| Migratory Birds | | X | | Use of BMPs, immediate burying of cable, and nesting avoidance as proposed would have no measurable impact to migratory birds. |
| Wastes (hazardous or solid) | | X | | No chemicals subject to the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Title III would be used. Trash receptacles would be available on-site for the full duration of the Project. All wastes would be disposed off-site at a licensed facility. |
| Water Quality (drinking/ground) | X | | | Project disturbance would not occur near any live water. BMPs would prevent impacts to water quality. |
| Riparian/ Wetlands | X | | | No riparian or wetlands are in the Project Area. |
| Wild and Scenic Rivers | X | | | No Wild and Scenic river segments are located in the Project Area. |
| Wilderness | X | | | No Designated Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, or natural areas are located in the Project Area. |
| Human Health and Safety | | X | | Safety codes and regulations would be strictly adhered to during the construction of the cellular facilities. |
| Woodlands / Forests | | X | | Project Area includes juniper woodlands on the slopes of the ridge. However, no trees would be removed by Project construction. |

¹ See H-1790-1 (BLM 2008) Appendix 1 Supplemental Authorities to be Considered.

² Supplemental Authorities determined to be Not Present or Present/Not Affected need not be carried forward for analysis or discussed further in the document based on the rationale provided.

³ Supplemental Authorities determined to be Present/May Be Affected must be carried forward for analysis in the document.

TABLE 3-2 OTHER RESOURCES

| Other Resources | Not Present ⁴ | Present/ Not Affected | Present/ May Be Affected | Rationale |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines | | X | | Reclaimed surfaces with established vegetation would adhere to the Standards for Rangeland Health. |
| Grazing Management | | X | | The Project Area is located within the Myers Allotment; the Project would temporarily affect 1.91 acres of forage for the burial of the power line and installation of the cellular facility. As the allotment includes 19,096 acres total and 4,137 acres of public land, this represents a negligible amount of the allotment acreage (less than 1 percent). This resource is not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required. |
| Vegetation | | X | | Shrub communities in the Project Area are comprised of either Wyoming big sagebrush (<i>Artemisia tridentata</i> ssp. <i>wyomingensis</i>) or Mountain big sagebrush (<i>Artemisia tridentata</i> ssp. <i>vaseyana</i>), and contain a well-established grass and forb component. With EPMs in place for restoration, the impact to vegetation would be minimal, The long term loss of 0.06 acre vegetation at the facility site in a generally undisturbed shrubland setting, is a very slight impact to the overall vegetation community and does not require detailed analysis. |
| Fish and Wildlife | | | X | Use of BMPs during construction as proposed would result in no measurable impact to wildlife. See Sections 3.5 and 4.2.3 . |
| Soils | | X | | Project area soils consist of silty-clay colluvium along the lower slopes of Oyster Shell Ridge, with colluvium, regolith, and exposed bedrock on the upper slopes. The ridge crest includes residuum, regolith, and exposed bedrock. Impacts to soil would be minimal; long term impacts would include 0.06 acres of disturbance, soils are not impacted to a degree that detailed analysis is required. |
| Recreation | | X | | There are no BLM special recreation management areas in or adjacent to the Project Area. Recreational use of the Project Area is dispersed and would not be impacted by the short-duration Project construction period. The Sulphur Creek Reservoir, owned by the Sulphur Creek Reservoir Company and the City of Evanston, is located south of the Project Area (Photo 4). Cellular service would improve in this area. Recreation is not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required. |

| Other Resources | Not Present ⁴ | Present/ Not Affected | Present/ May Be Affected | Rationale |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Visual Resources | | | X | The Project may potentially impact visual resources. See Section 3.6 And 4.2.4 |
| Geology/Mineral Resources/Energy Production | | X | | Project is located within the Middle Rocky Mountains physiographic province and the Wyoming Overthrust Belt. The Project would not interfere with future access or development of mineral resources. |
| Paleontology | X | | | There are no known fossil deposits in the Project Area. Geologic deposits in the project area include Hilliard shale and the Frontier formation; potential for the Project to encounter fossils is low. |
| Lands/Access | | X | | The proposed Project would not change land status or access. The Project Area is currently undeveloped. Current land uses include grazing and dispersed recreation. Access to the area exists and includes the Altamont Road and a non-maintained dirt road that accesses the ridge top. The BLM lands in the Project Area have been identified in the RMP as potential lands for disposal (BLM 2010; Decision 6006), as well as being within an identified potential fiber optic low voltage corridor (BLM 2010; Decision 6008). |
| Fuels/Fire Management | | X | | The Project Area is within the Evanston Bridger Valley Fire Management Unit. BMPs would include fire procedures (Section 2.4). There would be no impacts to fuels or fire management. |
| Socio-economics | | X | | The positive effects of increased capacity and reliability for communications service are discussed in Section 1.2 . No negative effects to socio-economics have been noted. |
| Wild Horses and Burros | X | | | There are no wild horses or burros in the Project Area. |

⁴ Other Resources determined to be Not Present or Present/Not Affected need not be carried forward for analysis or discussed further in the document based on the rationale provided.

As identified in **Tables 3-1** and **3-2**, the resources and uses that are present and have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Action are presented in the following subsections.

The analysis/environmental consequences of the Proposed Action on each resource of concern are presented in Chapter 4.

3.3 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are defined as any definite location of past human activity identifiable through field survey, historical documentation, and/or oral evidence. Cultural resources include archaeological or architectural sites, structures, or places, and places of traditional cultural or religious importance to specified groups whether or not represented by physical remains.

Traditional resources can include archeological resources, structures, topographic features, habitats, plants, wildlife, and minerals that Native Americans or other groups consider essential for the preservation of traditional culture.

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1969, as amended, and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 60 and 800) require that federal agencies take into account the effects of their undertakings on cultural resources that are listed or eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); eligible or listed resources are labeled “historic properties.” Section 106 of the NHPA requires consultations among federal agencies, including the state SHPO, culturally affiliated American Indian Tribes, and other affected parties, including private land owners, to develop and evaluate alternatives or modifications to proposed undertakings, in order to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties. Federal regulations at 36 CFR 800.5 and 800.6 detail the process by which the consulting parties determine whether undertakings will adversely affect historic properties and how the agencies consult to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the adverse effects in order to meet Section 106 requirements.

The Project Area is within the Overthrust Belt cultural subregion (BLM 2008a). Segments of the California – Mormon Pioneer – Pony Express Trail, a National Historic Trail (NHT), are present in close proximity to the general project area. The area along the Trail is designated as a Class II NHT physical property which requires a 500 foot protection buffer (BLM 2010).

A cultural resource inventory of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) was conducted (Johnson 2010). The APE included the majority of the ridge encompassing the Project Area, the access road route, and the power line route. One newly recorded and two previously documented cultural resource sites were encountered in the APE; the sites include the historic Bear River City, a 20th Century mine site, and one prehistoric site. The mine site and the prehistoric site are recommended not eligible for the NRHP and the Bear River City site is recommended eligible for the NRHP. In addition, a previously undocumented segment of the California – Mormon Pioneer – Pony Express NHT was noted near the Altamont Road. This trail segment is recommended as not contributing to the NRHP eligibility of the overall trail.

Further, an integrity of settings (viewshed surrounding site) analysis was conducted on seven previously recorded historic sites in the area, including the Bear River Crossing/Myers Ranch, the Hilliard townsite, historic graves, a historic Mormon Pioneer Trail monument, the General Johnston bridge, the original 1868 UPRR railroad grade, and the Brigham Young Oil Seep.

Consultation with trail interest groups was initiated with a letter on March 24, 2010. The groups consulted include: National Park Service National Trails System Office, Oregon-California Trails Association (National), Oregon-California Trails Association (Local), Alliance for Historic Wyoming, Friends of the Trails, Mormon Trails Association, National Pony Express Association, Pony Express Association, Wyoming Pony Express Association, and Uinta County Historical Society.

3.4 Native American Concerns

The lands managed by the Kemmerer Field Office fall within the judicially established Native American land areas of the Shoshone Tribe. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the planning area was used by Eastern Shoshone, Shoshone-Bannock, and Ute tribes in the vicinity of Fort Bridger. Ute bands occupied territory directly south of the planning area (BLM 2008a). The Kemmerer Field Office currently consults with the following tribes regarding Native American issues and concerns:

- Northern Arapaho
- Eastern Shoshone
- Shoshone-Bannock
- Northern Ute

The BLM also may consult with other Native American groups and tribes, as appropriate.

The BLM sent a Native American Consultation letter on March 26, 2010 describing the Project and requesting consultation to the Eastern Shoshone, Northern Arapaho, Northern Ute, and Shoshone-Bannock tribes. No letters were received in response. Tribal consultation was initiated due to a potential tribally sensitive resource near the project area.

3.5 Wildlife

Big game

The Project Area provides habitat for big game, including mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), moose (*Alces alces* ssp. *shirasi*), and pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra Americana*; BLM 2009). There is no Rocky Mountain elk (*Cervus elaphus*) habitat. Big game habitats that occur in the Project Area are listed below.

TABLE 3-3 BIG GAME HABITATS WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA (BLM 2009)

| Big game species | Crucial winter range ¹ | Winter range | Year-long range |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Mule deer | YES | YES | YES |
| Elk | -- | -- | -- |
| Moose | -- | YES | YES |
| Pronghorn antelope | -- | -- | YES |

¹Big Game Crucial Winter Range restrictions = November 15 - April 30

Mule deer are primarily browsers; big sagebrush is the key browse species year round in the Kemmerer RMPPA, but may be supplemented by limited quantities of mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus kunth*), rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), and serviceberry (*Amelanchier* sp.). Winter range and transitional ranges are considered limiting factors for mule deer in the region (BLM 2008). These are usually sagebrush habitats in lower elevations with south-southwest facing slopes or on mesa tops where the snow is blown clear, such as the Project Area.

Moose occupy a narrow range of habitats in the Kemmerer RMPPA (BLM 2008). In the winter, moose browse willow, cottonwood, and aspen habitats. Winter populations of moose are larger than summer populations in the Kemmerer RMPPA. Moose generally summer in the Bridger-Teton and Wasatch National Forests and migrate to the lower elevations (e.g., stream bottoms) in the planning area in the winter to escape extreme snow depths. The condition and trend of riparian habitats used for winter range is considered a limiting factor to all moose herds in the Kemmerer RMPPA (BLM 2008).

Pronghorn are associated with low, rolling terrain supporting open grassland and sagebrush communities. Herds cover large areas during the year. Water availability often determines pronghorn distribution, and livestock water sources or reservoirs are often used (NDGFD 2006). Population sustainability of pronghorn depends, in part, on habitat quality, quantity, and availability on public lands (BLM 2008).

Raptors and Migratory Birds

Raptors are considered good indicators of habitat quality and are monitored as such. The Project Area is atop a ridge that provides potential temporary roosting sites for raptors. At this time raptor nests are not known to be present within the project area or buffer zones.

Sagebrush vegetation provides habitat for other neotropical migratory birds in the Project Area, such as songbirds (e.g., Brewer's sparrow, sage sparrow, sage thrasher; BLM 2008).

3.6 Visual Resources

The Project Area is classified as Class III for Visual Resource Management (BLM 2010). Class III guidelines direct management activities to those that partially retain the character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape must be moderate.

The Key Observation Point (KOP) for the proposed Beartown cellular facility is on the east side of Highway 150 approximately 10 miles south of Evanston, Wyoming (**Photo 5**). Manmade features visible at the KOP include a roadside interpretive kiosk, private man-made residential structures, and livestock fencing. The landscape surrounding the proposed Beartown cell tower site is open and panoramic with low, rocky, sparsely vegetated hills. Vegetation (juniper and sage) is in clumps and the clumps are horizontally aligned along strata; grasses are short vertical in foreground. The rocky, rolling hillside creates a slightly broken horizontal line in the distance. There are currently no other visible developments on the proposed cellular facility site.



Photo 5 View from Kiosk Area along Highway 150 toward Proposed Cellular Facility

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

4.1 Introduction

Potential impacts are described in terms of duration (short-term or long-term) and intensity. The thresholds of change for the intensity of a potential impact are defined as follows:

Negligible – The impact is at the lowest level of detection.

Minor – The impact is slight, but detectable.

Moderate – The impact is readily apparent.

Major – The impact is a severe or adverse impact or benefit.

4.2 Direct and Indirect Effects

4.2.1 Cultural Resources

Proposed Action: No adverse effects to NRHP-eligible cultural resource sites would occur under the Proposed Action. Although a segment of the power line would go through the Bear River City townsite, this portion of the site does not contribute to the property's eligibility, as there are no intact remains of the townsite in this area. Potential impacts to the Bear River City townsite could occur if vehicles accessing the power line inadvertently drive through intact portions of the site causing compaction, potential rutting, and direct impacts to features; however, strict adherence by construction vehicles to the area cleared for power line construction (**Section 2.4** Environmental Protection Measures) would prevent potential inadvertent impacts.

The proposed project disturbance would not be within 500 feet of the California – Mormon Pioneer – Pony Express Trail. Consultation with the trail interest groups did not identify any concerns for the Proposed Action (**Table 4-1**).

TABLE 4-1 TRAIL INTEREST GROUPS CONSULTATION

| Trail Interest Group | Response |
|---|--|
| National Park Service National Trails System Office | No concerns |
| Oregon-California Trails Association (National) | No concerns |
| Oregon-California Trails Association (Local) | Mark and interpret trails in area; encourage further inventory of Beartown (i.e., Bear River City) |
| Alliance for Historic Wyoming | No response |
| Friends of the Trails | No response |
| Mormon Trails Association | No response |
| National Pony Express Association | No response |
| Pony Express Association | No response |
| Wyoming Pony Express Association | No response |
| Uinta County Historical Society | No response |

The general project area has undergone considerable development, including residential structures and the Sulphur Creek Reservoir, which has significantly altered the viewshed. None of the historic sites within the Project Area viewshed retain integrity of setting as a result of previous development

(Johnson 2010). Although the Proposed Action would add another visual element to the viewshed, the integrity of setting does not contribute to these sites' eligibility for the NRHP.

Placement of a cellular tower in this prominent and new location would likely attract casual visitation, increasing the potential for indirect impacts to sites in the area. However, the installation of water bars along the road after construction, used for erosion control, would limit vehicle access to the Project Area on the ridge top.

Indirect impacts to Bear River City located at the base of the ridge could occur as a result of recreational use of the power line route and subsequent unauthorized collection or vandalism. However, prompt reclamation (including seeding) of the power line trench after construction would minimize the visibility of the power line route so as not to attract the attention of visitors to the area. Indirect impacts would be negligible and long-term.

Previous impacts to cultural resources in the area have resulted from road development, residential/ranch development, reservoir development, recreational use, wildlife and possibly livestock grazing, and erosion. These trends would likely continue.

No Action Alternative: No impacts would occur to any cultural, historical, or prehistoric resources as a result of this Project under the No Action Alternative. Previous impacts to cultural resources in the area have resulted from road development, residential/ranch development, reservoir development, recreational use, wildlife and possibly livestock grazing, and erosion. These trends would likely continue.

4.2.2 Native American Concerns

Proposed Action: Consultation letters were sent to the tribes on March 26, 2010. A Native American consultation field meeting was conducted on September 16, 2010. No concerns were identified over the final project design.

No Action Alternative: If the No Action Alternative were selected, there would be no impacts to Native American Concerns as a result of this Project.

4.2.3 Wildlife

Proposed Action: Direct impacts to some wildlife species would result from the surface disturbance of about 2 acres, of which 1.85 acres would be temporary. The loss of habitat would temporarily eliminate forage and thermal cover for big game; however forage and cover are readily available on the surrounding slopes, so this effect would be negligible. The noise and human presence from construction activities could temporarily displace wildlife during the 3-4 week construction period; however habitat is readily available in surrounding areas so this temporary effect would be minor. If construction activities were proposed to occur during the November 15 to April 30 Crucial Winter Range restriction for mule deer, an exception request would be required. Over the life of the Project, effects to wildlife associated with the construction activities are expected to be negligible.

There may be temporary avoidance by raptors of any nearby raptor roost sites while construction activities take place on the ridge. There would be no direct impacts to any nesting raptors in the project area or buffer areas for raptors (see **Section 2.4** Environmental Protection Measures). There would be no direct effects to raptors; indirect effects such as roost site avoidance would be temporary and minor.

Other migratory birds would not be impacted by the Project activities since construction would likely take place outside the nesting season and Environmental Protection Measures would be followed. **No Action Alternative:** Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impacts to wildlife. The current trend for big game and migratory birds would continue at the proposed cellular facility area and power line alignment.

4.2.4 Visual Resources

Proposed Action: Under the Proposed Action, impacts to visual resources would be minor and long-term. The proposed Beartown cell tower would be constructed on top of a low ridge. Existing roads would be used to access the proposed site. Power for the facility would be buried along an existing two-track and would not result in any additional long-term visible ground disturbance; no juniper trees would be removed. Buildings associated with the tower would be painted covert green to blend with the surroundings and would be constructed beyond the crest of the ridge; the buildings would not be visible from the KOP or by travelers on Highway 150. Thus the only visual intrusion would be the tower itself.

The tower would extend above the skyline, and would be a non-reflective gray color. The tower would be visible on the ridgeline to an observer at the KOP. Highway 150 traveling south from Evanston past the KOP turns sharply right, just past the KOP. The tower would only be briefly visible, if at all, while traveling north to south. The tower would be visible for quite a distance traveling south to north on Highway 150. Some angular rock formations and vegetation help to break up the horizon, but the verticle lattice tower structure would contrast moderately with the surrounding landscape and vegetation. The tower would be light gray in color and would blend with the background sky reducing the visual effect. The tower would be visible at the KOP and would be an addition to the landscape, but would not attract attention because it would be viewed at a distance from the KOP and the color would generally blend with the sky. There is enough variety in the texture, shape, and color in the landscape to make it visually interesting and able to absorb the cell tower structure such that it would not attract attention, and would comply with Class III management criteria. Current development trends on private land in the area would continue and would add man-made elements to the viewshed.

No Action Alternative: No new visual elements would occur as a result of the Project under the No Action Alternative. Current development trends on private land in the area would continue and would add man-made elements to the viewshed.

No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, additional cellular capacity and terrain coverage would not be provided. The surrounding communities and recreational users would not benefit from improved daily or emergency communications.

4.3 Cumulative Impacts

This section analyzes the potential cumulative impacts that would result from the Proposed Action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts could only occur for those resources that are 1) affected by the Proposed Action and 2) affected by other actions whose impacts occur within the same area and timeframe. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.7).

The resources analyzed above in **Section 4.2** that have the potential to be adversely impacted by the Proposed Action include Wildlife, Visual resources, Cultural Resources, and Native American Concerns. Direct and indirect impacts would be minor to negligible for all of these resources. However, they are carried forward for the cumulative effects analysis. The general cumulative effects study area (CESA) for this Project was defined as a 5-mile wide buffer centered on the Proposed Action. The CESA encompasses approximately 50,265 acres. The CESA includes lands administered by the BLM, State, Uinta County, and private land owners.

4.3.1 Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

Within the CESA, few developments have occurred. Past and present impacts within the CESA include historic trail development, road development (Highway 150; county roads 75, 159, 161, 166, 173; misc. residential roads), railroad development (UPRR and abandoned 1868 Union Pacific railroad), reservoir construction, historic townsite development (Beartown), residential development (Millis, Beartown area, Hilliard), utilities (powerlines, etc.), a gravel pit, livestock grazing, and recreational use.

The BLM recently issued a Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan (BLM 2010) for the Kemmerer Field Office RMP (BLM 2008) which includes the potential for the Project Area lands to be included in BLM land disposal (i.e. sale), wind energy development, and to be within a low voltage fiber optic corridor. However, no projects associated with these management objectives have been proposed. A review of the Wyoming BLM NEPA register indicates that there are no other proposed projects under NEPA review in the CESA. Reasonably foreseeable future actions include the co-location of antennas on the Proposed Action cellular facility tower.

Current livestock grazing and recreation activities would continue to occur in the reasonably foreseeable future within the CESA. Grazing on public lands would be subject to multiple use management strategies, terms and conditions of permits, and fire closures by BLM. Recreation use in the area will likely increase, especially at Sulphur Creek Reservoir. Recreation on public lands would be subject to multiple use management strategies by the BLM. Residential development would likely also continue to occur within the CESA.

4.3.2 Cumulative Effects

The CESA is generally undeveloped and rural. The proposed cellular facility would be the only development on top of the ridge. An existing dirt road accesses the top of the ridge and is visible from Highway 150. Implementation of the Proposed Action would contribute a minor amount of additional disturbance to the ridge with no impacts to sensitive natural resources. The majority of the disturbance and activity associated with this Project would be short-term, approximately 3 to 4 weeks, and temporary.

Cultural Resources

Past development/disturbances have contributed to the cumulative effects, both direct and indirect, on prehistoric and historic cultural resources in the CESA. The Proposed Action and any proposed, reasonably foreseeable developments would be completed under the oversight of Section 106 of NHPA if there were a federal nexus and thus project impacts would be individually addressed. The effects of adding the Proposed Action to existing cultural resource impacts would be negligible, as there would be no adverse effects to cultural resource sites.

Native American Concerns

The continued modification of the landscape from past, present, and future developments that impact culturally and/or geographically important places can have a cumulative impact on Native Americans. Adding the Proposed Action to existing projects/disturbances would add to cumulative effects.

Wildlife

In terms of cumulative effects to wildlife, the addition of 0.06 acres of long term and 1.85 acres of short term disturbance in the CESA when added to the amount of past, present, and future disturbances in the CESA, would be a negligible incremental impact.

Visual

The visual impacts of the Proposed Action would mainly be the addition of a new form on the skyline (cell tower). The cumulative effect to visual resources from the Proposed Action in addition to adjacent visual intrusions (such as the reservoir, roads, residential development) would be largely mitigated through proper facility siting and appropriate facility coloration, resulting in a minor cumulative impact.

5.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

5.1 Introduction

This Environmental Assessment was prepared by JBR Environmental Consultants, Inc. under the direction of the Kemmerer Field Office, BLM, in Kemmerer, Wyoming. Assistance was provided by BLM resource specialists; consultation with other local, state, and federal agency resource personnel; review of company and agency files; field reconnaissance; and review of supporting documentation.

5.2 Persons, Groups, and Agencies Consulted

Persons and Groups

Consultation letters to trail groups were sent out on March 24, 2010 to the following groups:

National Park Service National Trails System Office
Oregon-California Trails Association (National)
Oregon-California Trails Association (Local)
Alliance for Historic Wyoming
Friends of the Trails
Mormon Trails Association
National Pony Express Association
Pony Express Association
Wyoming Pony Express Association
Uinta County Historical Society

Native American Tribes

A consultation letter was sent on March 26, 2010 to:

Northern Arapaho
Northern Ute
Eastern Shoshone
Shoshone-Bannock

On-site Native American consultation was conducted on September 16, 2010. The following Tribal representatives participated.

Northern Ute – Betsy Chapoose, Clifford Duncan

State Agencies

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office

5.3 List of Preparers

The following individuals either provided consultation and coordination during the preparation or were responsible for the preparation of this document.

JBR Environmental Consultants, Inc.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Jenni Prince Mahoney | Project Manager, Document Preparation Cultural Resources, Native American Consultation, Recreation, Land Use, Range Resources, Socioeconomics |
| Laura Arneson | Wildlife, Vegetation, Noxious Weeds |
| Schelle Davis | Visual Resources |
| Linda Matthews | Quality Assurance |

5.4 List of Reviewers

The following individuals either provided consultation and coordination during the preparation or were responsible for reviewing this document.

Kemmerer Field Office, BLM, Kemmerer, Wyoming

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Kelly Lamborn | Project Management/Realty Specialist |
| Carl Bezanson | Range Resources |
| Lynn Harrell | Archaeologist |
| Wally Mierzejewski | Visual Resources |
| Pauline Schuette | Wildlife Biologist |

5.5 Public Notice and Availability

BLM will post the EA to the Wyoming BLM webpage for public review. A Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record will be issued prior to issuance of the ROW.

The Wyoming BLM NEPA webpage address is:

<http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/search/index.php>

6.0 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A
Wildlife Clearance Documents

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WILDLIFE CLEARANCE

To: Wildlife Biologist **(PS)**
From: Land Law Examiner
Subject: Request for Clearance for Wildlife Habitat

COA: Big Game Nov 15- Apr 30

Company Name and/or Project Name: Union Telephone
Location: T. 14 N., R. 119 W., section 28
Description of the Proposed Action: A Communication Site and Access road
Dimensions on Public Land: site 60' x 60' - Road 25' x 10,100'
Total Dimensions: Site 60' x 60' - Road 25' x 10,100'

Jean Cattelan November 19, 2008

Response: Data Review and Determination of Impact on Wildlife Habitat and Threatened or Endangered Species
To: Initiating Officer

This memo will become an appendix to the Environmental Documentation for this project. This proposal and relative data have been analyzed as to the impact of the proposed action.

| WILDLIFE / RESOURCE CONCERN | HABITAT | DESIGNATED OR POTENTIAL HABITAT | COA /TAC/ STIPULATION APPLIES | COA/TAC/ STIPULATION TIMING RESTRICTION |
|---|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Non-Sensitive Raptors <i>Sensitive raptor species are not covered here. The following species are in the bottom table: burrowing owl, northern goshawk, ferruginous hawk, peregrine falcon, bald eagle</i> | Varies by species and location: ¼-mile buffer outside the Moxa and ½ -mile buffer inside the Moxa. Time periods can be adjusted based on identified species: February 1 - July 15: golden eagle, barn owl, red-tailed hawk, great-horned owl March 1 - July 31: short-eared, long-eared, and screech owl April 1 - July 31: osprey, merlin, sharp-shinned hawk, kestrel, prairie falcon, northern harrier, Swainson's hawk, Cooper's hawk | Yes (No) | Yes (No) | c Unknown Species: February 1 – July 31 c Known Species: ----- Timing Restriction: ----- |
| Big Game Crucial Winter Range | <i>ant = yl</i> <i>moose = wyl</i> Designated by WGFD <i>deer = wyl + cruwyl</i> <i>elk = out</i> | (Yes) No | (Yes) No | November 15 - April 30 |
| Elk Calving Areas | Designated by WGFD | Yes (No) | Yes (No) | May 1 - June 30 |

Consultation with Wyoming Game and Fish Department (IS) **(IS NOT)** recommended.
Consultation may be needed due to unusual or excessive negative effects on winter range, riparian areas, or fisheries.

| ENDANGERED, THREATENED, CANDIDATE, OR PROPOSED SPECIES | HABITAT DESCRIPTION | PROJECT EFFECT CALL | NEW CONSULTATION REQUIRED | JUSTIFICATION FOR EFFECTS DETERMINATION |
|---|--|---------------------|---|---|
| Black-footed ferret (Endangered) | Large prairie dog complexes (White-tailed prairie dog towns are defined as a group of burrows that exceeds 8 per acre. A complex consists of two or more towns less than 4.34 miles from each other) | NE | Yes (No) (Moxa has FWS programmatic date: 11/24/2004) | X (No habitat present) or action is within a block cleared area c Within prairie dog town; not block-cleared; survey required |
| Colorado/Green River fishes: bonytail, Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, razorback sucker. (Endangered) | Colorado/Green River drainage <i>Bear River Drainage.</i> <i>No water is to be used.</i> | NE | Yes (No) (Moxa water depletions consulted with FWS during EIS date: 8/6/1991) | X Action will not use water from Colorado River drainage c Action uses water but falls under the Moxa Arch consultation agreement c Action is not in the Moxa and will cause a Colorado River depletion; new consultation required |
| Canada Lynx (Threatened) | Forested areas; Lynx Analysis Units (LAUs) | NE | Yes (No) | X No forest in or near project area; not lynx habitat. c Habitat present, within a LAU |
| Ute Ladies-tresses (Threatened) | Elevation 4000-7000 feet; riparian edges, gravel bars, old oxbows, high flow channels, moist to wet meadows along perennial streams | NE | Yes (No) | X No habitat present c Habitat present; survey required |
| Gray Wolf (Experimental) | Very adaptable species when hunting, but usually dens away from human disturbance | WNC | Yes (No) | X The project will not negatively impact individual wolves or a denning site c The project will negatively impact |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-----|---|---|
| Blowout penstemon (Endangered) | Sand dunes or blowouts | NE | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | individual wolves or a denning site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No habitat present C Habitat present: survey required |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Candidate) | Woody riparian areas with willow and cottonwood | WNC | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No habitat present C Habitat present: survey required |

**Project effect determinations for T&E species are: no effect (NE); may affect (MA); not likely to adversely affect (NLAA); likely to adversely affect (LAA). Project effect determinations for candidate species are: will not contribute to the need to list (WNC); will contribute to the need to list (WC).

**Initiation of additional FORMAL (INFORMAL) consultation with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (IS) (IS NOT) necessary.

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| BLM Consultation Letter Sent | FWS Consultation Letter Reply | Wildlife Biologist Signature |
| Date: | Date: | |

| BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES | HABITAT | POTENTIAL HABITAT | COA /TLS/ STIPULATION APPLIES | COA /TLS/ STIPULATION |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| RAPTORS | | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | |
| Burrowing Owl | Grasslands, basin-prairie shrub, prairie dog towns | Yes No | Yes No | April 1 – September 15 |
| Ferruginous hawk | Basin-prairie shrub, grassland, rock outcrops | Yes No | Yes No | February 1 – July 31 1-mile buffer |
| Northern goshawk | Conifer and deciduous forests | Yes No | Yes No | April 1 - August 31 ¾ mile buffer |
| Peregrine falcon | Tall cliffs | Yes No | Yes No | February 1 – August 15 |
| Bald Eagle | Nest in areas with open water and tall trees. There are no known nests on BLM, and only a handful known on adjacent land. Two winter roosts are documented in the KFO: Morgan Canyon and Woodruff Narrows. | Yes No | Yes No | C No nest or roost within 1 mile. C Nest within 1 mile: February 1 – August 15 C Other restrictions apply C Roost within 1 mile: NSO and avoidance November 1 – April 1 |
| SAGE GROUSE | | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | |
| Lek | NSO within ¼ mile; No activity 8pm to 8am within ¼ mile | Yes No | Yes No | March 1 – May 15 |
| Nesting/Brood Rearing | Within 2 miles of an occupied lek or in suitable habitat outside of 2 miles | Yes No | Yes No | March 15 – July 15 |
| Winter | Designated or known concentration areas | Yes No | Yes No | Nov 15 – July 15 |
| Long-eared myotis | Conifer and deciduous forests, caves and mines | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Avoid habitat where possible, or minimize disturbance |
| Sage Obligate Birds | | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Avoid habitat where possible, or minimize disturbance |
| Sage thrasher | Basin-prairie shrub, mountain foothill shrub | Yes No | Yes No | <i>Two tracks will be used to extent possible. Need to avoid with disturbance some habitat, to avoid construction concerns.</i> |
| Loggerhead shrike | Basin-prairie shrub, mountain foothill shrub | Yes No | Yes No | |
| Brewer's sparrow | Basin-prairie shrub | Yes No | Yes No | |
| Sage sparrow | Basin-prairie shrub, mountain foothill shrub | Yes No | Yes No | |
| White-tailed prairie dog | Basin-prairie shrub, grasslands | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Avoid burrows where possible |
| Mountain Plover | Prairie dog towns, vegetation sparse or absent, level terrain, dry | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | April 10 – July 10 |
| Pygmy rabbit | Basin-prairie and riparian shrub, high desert sand dunes | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Avoid burrows where possible. |
| Idaho pocket gopher | Shallow stony soils in open sagebrush, sagebrush grassland, and mountain meadow habitats | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Avoid habitat where possible, or minimize disturbance |
| Grizzly Bear | Select rugged mountains and remote forests that are undisturbed by humans | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Avoid habitat where possible, or minimize disturbance |

| BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES | HABITAT | POTENTIAL HABITAT | COA /TLS/ STIPULATION APPLIES | COA /TLS/ STIPULATION |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| WETLAND BIRDS White-faced ibis Trumpeter Swan Long-billed curlew | Marshes, wet meadows Lakes, ponds, rivers Grasslands, plains, foothills, wet meadows | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Yes No Yes No Yes No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Yes No Yes No Yes No | Avoid habitat where possible, or minimize disturbance |
| FISH Roundtail chub Leatherside chub Bluehead Sucker Flannelmouth Sucker CO River cutthroat trout Bonneville cutthroat trout Fine-spotted Snake River cutthroat trout | Colorado River drainage; large rivers Bear, Snake, Green drainages; clear cool streams Bear, Snake, and Green drainages Colorado River drainage; large rivers Colorado River drainage; clear mountain streams Bear River drainage; clear mountain streams Snake River drainage; clear fast water | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No | Avoid habitat where possible, or minimize disturbance. |
| AMPHIBIANS Northern leopard frog Great Basin spadefoot Boreal toad Spotted frog | Beaver ponds, permanent water in plains, foothills Spring seeps, permanent and temporary waters Pond margins, wet meadows, riparian areas Ponds, sloughs, small streams | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No | Avoid habitat where possible, or minimize disturbance. |
| PLANTS Trelease's Milkvetch Entire-leaved peppergrass Large fruited bladderpod Prostrate bladderpod Beaver rim phlox Tufted twinpod Dorn's twinpod | Elevation 6500-8200 feet; Sparsely vegetated sagebrush communities on shale or limestone outcrops and barren clay slopes Elevation 6200-6770 feet; sparsely vegetated and seasonally wet clay flats, greasewood communities on clay hummocks, and moist alkaline meadows Elevation 7200-7700 feet; Gypsum-clay hills and benches, clay flats, and barren hills Elevation 7200-7700 feet; Cushion plant or sparse sage grassland communities on slopes and rims of whitish to reddish or gray limey clays and soft sandstones with a surface layer of fine gravel Elevation 6000-7400 feet; Sparsely vegetated slopes on sandstone, siltstone, or limestone Elevation 6500-7000 feet; Sparsely vegetated shale slopes and ridges Elevation 6500-7200 feet; Dry, calcareous-shaley soils on slopes and ridges with mountain mahogany and rabbitbrush | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No | Avoid habitat where possible, or minimize disturbance. |

Comments: Cell tower site is OK. Existing gravel/dirt road will be used, and blading of two track will be done. Very steep with erosion issues. Widening of road to avoid erosion should not be authorized. Erosion should be controlled.

Photos attached: Yes No

Date of field inspection or onsite: September 16, 2009 with K. Lamborn, L. Harrell, + Union

Review of EA by biologist is complete: Yes | No

Pauline Schuette 9-16-09
 Wildlife Biologist (Date)

SURVEY STATUS

BLACK-FOOTED FERRET Survey Required yes no

If active prairie dog burrows are located in the ground-disturbance area, and they meet the FWS definition of potential black footed ferret habitat, a survey will be required. For small projects (defined as wellpads, or ROW's less than 3 miles), if the onsite team can easily move the project to prevent damaging active burrows, then no survey is required. Large projects will always require a survey if prairie dog activity is in the area.

| Survey Complete | Survey Expiration | Wildlife Biologist Signature |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Date: | Date: | Date: |

PYGMY RABBIT Survey Required yes no

If potentially active pygmy rabbit burrows are located in the ground-disturbance area, a survey is required. For small projects (defined as wellpads, or ROW's less than 3 miles), if the onsite team can easily move the disturbance at least 150 ft. away from active burrows, then no survey is required. Large projects will always require a survey if pygmy rabbit activity is in the area.

| 1 st Survey Complete | Wildlife Biologist Signature | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Date: | | Date: |

Additional surveys required yes no

If active burrows are confirmed to be in the ground-disturbance area, the survey may provide options for moving the project. Subsequently the biologist or manager may work with the company to decide if moving the project is feasible. If the project cannot be moved at least 150 feet away from active burrows, two more surveys will be required. The post project surveys will be conducted the first and second years after construction. Since not much is known about pygmy rabbits, the second and third surveys act as mitigation to help determine the pre and post project impacts on pygmy rabbit populations.

| 2 nd Survey | Wildlife Biologist Signature | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Date: | | Date: |

| 3rd Survey | Wildlife Biologist Signature | |
|------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Date: | | Date: |

ONSITE CHECKLIST

APPLICANT:

PROJECT NAME:

DATE OF ONSITE: 9-16-09

BIOLOGIST: Schuette

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

K Lamborn
L. Harrell
union

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

SAGE GROUSE NESTING OR BROOD REARING HABITAT

- YES/NO Within 3 miles of an occupied lek
- YES/NO Habitat present; sage brush has 15-30% cover, average height of 11-32 Inches, herbaceous sub-canopy >15%
- YES/NO Sage grouse sign present
- YES/NO Apply Stipulation (March 15-July 15)

SAGE GROUSE WINTER HABITAT

- YES/NO Tall sage brush that can remain 9-14 inches and 10-30% canopy cover above the snow
- YES/NO Within mowing treatment in Moxa
- YES/NO Winter pellets present
- YES/NO Apply Stipulation (November 15-March 14)

CWR

RAPTOR NESTING HABITAT

- YES/NO Is there a historical or known nest within 1 mile (FH), 1/2 mile (Moxa), or 1/4 mile (not Moxa)?
- YES/NO Is habitat present within 1 mile (rock outcroppings, bluffs, trees, etc)?
- YES/NO Apply Stipulation (February 1-July 31)

Roads
Routes will go off
two track to avoid
cultural concern.

PRAIRIE DOG TOWN / BURROWING OWL HABITAT / BLACK-FOOTED FERRET

- YES/NO Is an active prairie dog town present?
- YES/NO Are inactive burrows present?
- YES/NO Can the project be moved to avoid burrows?
- YES/NO Has this area been block-cleared for black-footed ferret?
- YES/NO Black-footed ferret survey required
- YES/NO Burrowing Owl stipulation applies (April 1-September 15)

PWLN: moved upper part
so it follows two track to
the top - no trees will be
removed. Better route.

PYGMY RABBIT HABITAT

- YES/NO Is taller sage brush present, and sandy deep soils?
- YES/NO Active burrows present
- YES/NO Sign present
- YES/NO Pygmy rabbits present
- YES/NO Can the project be moved to avoid habitat?
- YES/NO Survey required

No issue with tower
location.

MOUNTAIN PLOVER HABITAT

- YES/NO Level dry terrain (less than 5% slope), prairie dog town, bare ground, usually 40 acres or more, prickly pears, saltbush, vegetation less than 4 inches
- YES/NO Apply stipulation (April 10-July 10)

SENSITIVE PLANT HABITAT

- YES/NO Potential habitat present (use clearance form for habitat descriptions)

RIPARIAN AREAS

- YES/NO Perennial stream present
- YES/NO Spring/seep with riparian vegetation present

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Application Date: Nov. 18, 2008
 Case No. WYW-171221
 Project Name: Beartown Comm
 Site PWLN
 Allotment: Myers

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 WILDLIFE CLEARANCE

To: Wildlife Biologist **PS**
 From: Land Law Examiner

COA: Big Game NOV 15 - APR 30

Subject: Request for Clearance for Wildlife Habitat

Company Name and/or Project Name: Union Telephone
 Location: T. 14 N., R. 119 W., section 28
 Description of the Proposed Action: A 7200 kV buried pwlN from Beartown Comm site
 Dimensions on Public Land: 16' x 4,439'
 Total Dimensions: 16' x 4,439'

Jean Cattelan November 19, 2008

Response: Data Review and Determination of Impact on Wildlife Habitat and Threatened or Endangered Species
 To: Initiating Officer

This memo will become an appendix to the Environmental Documentation for this project. This proposal and relative data have been analyzed as to the impact of the proposed action.

| WILDLIFE / RESOURCE CONCERN | HABITAT | DESIGNATED OR POTENTIAL HABITAT | COA /TAC/ STIPULATION APPLIES | COA/TAC/ STIPULATION TIMING RESTRICTION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Non-Sensitive Raptors <i>Sensitive raptor species are not covered here. The following species are in the bottom table: burrowing owl, northern goshawk, ferruginous hawk, peregrine falcon, bald eagle</i> | Varies by species and location: ¼-mile buffer outside the Moxa and ½ -mile buffer inside the Moxa. Time periods can be adjusted based on identified species: February 1 - July 15: golden eagle, barn owl, red-tailed hawk, great-horned owl March 1 - July 31: short-eared, long-eared, and screech owl April 1 - July 31: osprey, merlin, sharp-shinned hawk, kestrel, prairie falcon, northern harrier, Swainson's hawk, Cooper's hawk | Yes <input type="radio"/> No | Yes <input type="radio"/> No | c Unknown Species: February 1 - July 31 c Known Species: ----- Timing Restriction: ----- |
| Big Game Crucial Winter Range | Designated by WGFD <i>ant = YL elk = out mule deer = CWYL moose = WYL</i> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No | November 15 - April 30 |
| Elk Calving Areas | Designated by WGFD | Yes <input type="radio"/> No | Yes <input type="radio"/> No | May 1 - June 30 |

Consultation with Wyoming Game and Fish Department (IS) **(IS NOT)** recommended.
 Consultation may be needed due to unusual or excessive negative effects on winter range, riparian areas, or fisheries.

| ENDANGERED, THREATENED, CANDIDATE, OR PROPOSED SPECIES | HABITAT DESCRIPTION | PROJECT EFFECT CALL | NEW CONSULTATION REQUIRED | JUSTIFICATION FOR EFFECTS DETERMINATION |
|---|--|---------------------|--|--|
| Black-footed ferret (Endangered) | Large prairie dog complexes (White-tailed prairie dog towns are defined as a group of burrows that exceeds 8 per acre. A complex consists of two or more towns less than 4.34 miles from each other) | NE | Yes <input type="radio"/> No (Moxa has FWS programmatic date: 11/24/2004) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No habitat present or action is within a block cleared area c Within prairie dog town; not block-cleared; survey required |
| Colorado/Green River fishes: bonytail, Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, razorback sucker. (Endangered) | Colorado/Green River drainage <i>Lower Sulphur Creek - Bear R.</i> | NE | Yes <input type="radio"/> No (Moxa water depletions consulted with FWS during EIS date: 8/6/1991) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action will not use water from Colorado River drainage c Action uses water but falls under the Moxa Arch consultation agreement c Action is not in the Moxa and will cause a Colorado River depletion; new consultation required |
| Canada Lynx (Threatened) | Forested areas; Lynx Analysis Units (LAUs) | NE | Yes <input type="radio"/> No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No forest in or near project area; not lynx habitat. c Habitat present, within a LAU |
| Ute Ladies-tresses (Threatened) | Elevation 4000-7000 feet; riparian edges, gravel bars, old oxbows, high flow channels, moist to wet meadows along perennial streams | NE | Yes <input type="radio"/> No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No habitat present c Habitat present; survey required |
| Gray Wolf (Experimental) | Very adaptable species when hunting, but usually dens away from human disturbance | WNC | Yes <input type="radio"/> No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The project will not negatively impact individual wolves or a denning site c The project will negatively impact |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-----|---|--|
| Blowout penstemon (Endangered) | Sand dunes or blowouts | NE | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | individual wolves or a denning site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No habitat present <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat present: survey required |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Candidate) | Woody riparian areas with willow and cottonwood | WNC | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No habitat present <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat present: survey required |

**Project effect determinations for T&E species are: no effect (NE); may affect (MA); not likely to adversely affect (NLAA); likely to adversely affect (LAA). Project effect determinations for candidate species are: will not contribute to the need to list (WNC); will contribute to the need to list (WC).

**Initiation of additional (FORMAL) (INFORMAL) consultation with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (IS) (IS NOT) necessary.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| BLM Consultation Letter Sent | FWS Consultation Letter Reply | Wildlife Biologist Signature |
| Date: | Date: | |

| BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES | HABITAT | POTENTIAL HABITAT | COA /TLS/ STIPULATION APPLIES | COA /TLS/ STIPULATION |
|----------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| RAPTORS | | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | |
| Burrowing Owl | Grasslands, basin-prairie shrub, prairie dog towns | Yes No | Yes No | April 1 – September 15 |
| Ferruginous hawk | Basin-prairie shrub, grassland, rock outcrops | Yes No | Yes No | February 1 – July 31 1-mile buffer |
| Northern goshawk | Conifer and deciduous forests | Yes No | Yes No | April 1 - August 31 ¼ mile buffer |
| Peregrine falcon | Tall cliffs | Yes No | Yes No | February 1 – August 15 |
| Bald Eagle | Nest in areas with open water and tall trees. There are no known nests on BLM, and only a handful known on adjacent land. Two winter roosts are documented in the KFO: Morgan Canyon and Woodruff Narrows. | Yes No | Yes No | <input type="checkbox"/> No nest or roost within 1 mile. <input type="checkbox"/> Nest within 1 mile: February 1 – August 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Other restrictions apply <input type="checkbox"/> Roost within 1 mile: NSO and avoidance November 1 – April 1 |
| SAGE GROUSE | | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | |
| Lek | NSO within ¼ mile; No activity 8pm to 8am within ¼ mile | Yes No | Yes No | March 1 – May 15 |
| Nesting/Brood Rearing | Within 2 miles of an occupied lek or in suitable habitat outside of 2 miles | Yes No | Yes No | March 15 – July 15 |
| Winter | Designated or known concentration areas | Yes No | Yes No | Nov 15 – July 15 |
| Long-eared myotis | Conifer and deciduous forests, caves and mines | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Avoid habitat where possible, or minimize disturbance |
| Sage Obligate Birds | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No | |
| Sage thrasher | Basin-prairie shrub, mountain foothill shrub | Yes No | Yes No | Avoid habitat where possible, or minimize disturbance see comments |
| Loggerhead shrike | Basin-prairie shrub, mountain foothill shrub | Yes No | Yes No | |
| Brewer's sparrow | Basin-prairie shrub | Yes No | Yes No | |
| Sage sparrow | Basin-prairie shrub, mountain foothill shrub | Yes No | Yes No | |
| White-tailed prairie dog | Basin-prairie shrub, grasslands | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Avoid burrows where possible |
| Mountain Plover | Prairie dog towns, vegetation sparse or absent, level terrain, dry | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | April 10 – July 10 |
| Pygmy rabbit | Basin-prairie and riparian shrub, high desert sand dunes | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Avoid burrows where possible. |
| Idaho pocket gopher | Shallow stony soils in open sagebrush, sagebrush grassland, and mountain meadow habitats | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Avoid habitat where possible, or minimize disturbance |
| Grizzly Bear | Select rugged mountains and remote forests that are undisturbed by humans | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Avoid habitat where possible, or minimize disturbance |

| BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES | HABITAT | POTENTIAL HABITAT | COA /TLS/ STIPULATION APPLIES | COA /TLS/ STIPULATION |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| WETLAND BIRDS White-faced ibis Trumpeter Swan Long-billed curlew | Marshes, wet meadows Lakes, ponds, rivers Grasslands, plains, foothills, wet meadows | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Yes No Yes No Yes No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Yes No Yes No Yes No | Avoid habitat where possible, or minimize disturbance |
| FISH Roundtail chub Leatherside chub Bluehead Sucker Flannelmouth Sucker CO River cutthroat trout Bonneville cutthroat trout Fine-spotted Snake River cutthroat trout | Colorado River drainage; large rivers Bear, Snake, Green drainages; clear cool streams Bear, Snake, and Green drainages Colorado River drainage; large rivers Colorado River drainage; clear mountain streams Bear River drainage; clear mountain streams Snake River drainage; clear fast water | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No | Avoid habitat where possible, or minimize disturbance. |
| AMPHIBIANS Northern leopard frog Great Basin spadefoot Boreal toad Spotted frog | Beaver ponds, permanent water in plains, foothills Spring seeps, permanent and temporary waters Pond margins, wet meadows, riparian areas Ponds, sloughs, small streams | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Yes No Yes No Yes No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Yes No Yes No Yes No | Avoid habitat where possible, or minimize disturbance. |
| PLANTS Trelease's Milkvetch Entire-leaved peppergrass Large fruited bladderpod Prostrate bladderpod Beaver rim phlox Tufted twinpod Dorn's twinpod | Elevation 6500-8200 feet; Sparsely vegetated sagebrush communities on shale or limestone outcrops and barren clay slopes Elevation 6200-6770 feet; sparsely vegetated and seasonally wet clay flats, greasewood communities on clay hummocks, and moist alkaline meadows Elevation 7200-7700 feet; Gypsum-clay hills and benches, clay flats, and barren hills Elevation 7200-7700 feet; Cushion plant or sparse sage grassland communities on slopes and rims of whitish to reddish or gray limy clays and soft sandstones with a surface layer of fine gravel Elevation 6000-7400 feet; Sparsely vegetated slopes on sandstone, siltstone, or limestone Elevation 6500-7000 feet; Sparsely vegetated shale slopes and ridges Elevation 6500-7200 feet; Dry, calcareous-shaley soils on slopes and ridges with mountain mahogany and rabbitbrush | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No | Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No | Avoid habitat where possible, or minimize disturbance. |

Comments: Re-routed at mainroad / junction w/ private. Cultural concern = we moved route off existing two track to avoid site, but this part will disturb sage brush. Upper route was moved to existing two track. The top part will still go across sagebrush but on very steep rocky slope. No trees / bushes will be removed.

Photos attached: Yes No

Date of field inspection or onsite: Sept 16, 2009 - K. Lamborn, L. Harrell, + Union

Review of EA by biologist is complete: Yes No

Pauline Schuetto 9-16-09
Wildlife Biologist (Date)

SURVEY STATUS

BLACK-FOOTED FERRET Survey Required

yes

no

If active prairie dog burrows are located in the ground-disturbance area, and they meet the FWS definition of potential black footed ferret habitat, a survey will be required. For small projects (defined as wellpads, or ROW's less than 3 miles), if the onsite team can easily move the project to prevent damaging active burrows, then no survey is required. Large projects will always require a survey if prairie dog activity is in the area.

| Survey Complete | Survey Expiration | Wildlife Biologist Signature |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Date: | Date: | Date: |

PYGMY RABBIT Survey Required

yes

no

If potentially active pygmy rabbit burrows are located in the ground-disturbance area, a survey is required. For small projects (defined as wellpads, or ROW's less than 3 miles), if the onsite team can easily move the disturbance at least 150 ft. away from active burrows, then no survey is required. Large projects will always require a survey if pygmy rabbit activity is in the area.

| 1 st Survey Complete | Wildlife Biologist Signature | Date: |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Date: | | Date: |

Additional surveys required

yes

no

If active burrows are confirmed to be in the ground-disturbance area, the survey may provide options for moving the project. Subsequently the biologist or manager may work with the company to decide if moving the project is feasible. If the project cannot be moved at least 150 feet away from active burrows, two more surveys will be required. The post project surveys will be conducted the first and second years after construction. Since not much is known about pygmy rabbits, the second and third surveys act as mitigation to help determine the pre and post project impacts on pygmy rabbit populations.

| 2 nd Survey | Wildlife Biologist Signature | Date: |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Date: | | Date: |

| 3rd Survey | Wildlife Biologist Signature | Date: |
|------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Date: | | Date: |