

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RECORD

1. **NUMBER** CO-110-2004-002-EA
2. **CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER:** COC67265
3. **PROJECT NAME:** Access Road to Private Property
4. **LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado  
T. 1 N., R. 103 W.,  
Sec. 12, lot 4.
5. **APPLICANT:** Bob & Betty Cott
6. **NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION:** The applicant has asked for a right-of-way to access their private property from public land.

7. **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:**

**a. Proposed Action:** The proposed action is to acquire access and to construct a road to private property that currently has no legal access to it. This property is on the north side of the river and is bordered by Leavitt's property on the west and public land on the north and east side. The applicant plans to eventually build a house on the property, but needs to have access first. The right-of-way width will be 30 feet and 1,000 feet long encompassing 0.68 acres. The right-of-way terms will be for 30 years.

**b. No Action Alternative:** The applicant would not access their property from public land, and no road would be constructed on public land.

8. **PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:**

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

**b. Date Approved:** July 1, 1997

**c. Page/Decision:** Pages 2-49 thru 2-52 "To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values."

**d.** The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) The action conforms to the decisions/pages of the plan listed above.

**9. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER NEPA DOCUMENTS:** This environmental assessment is tiered to, and incorporates by reference the White River Resource Area Resource Management Plan (PRMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) approved May 29, 1996.

**10. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/MITIGATION MEASURES:**

**CRITICAL ELEMENTS**

An X in the “Not Affected” column in the table below indicates that the critical element has been analyzed and will not be affected by the proposed action or the no action alternative. Affected elements are addressed in the paragraphs following the table.

<b>Not Affected</b>	<b>Critical Element</b>	<b>Specialist Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
X	Air Quality	CHollowed	11/21/03
	Cultural Resources		
	Floodplains, Wetlands, Riparian Zones, and Alluvial Valleys		
X	Native American Concerns	Scott Pavey	11/25/03
X	Prime and Unique Farmlands	Scott Pavey	11/25/03
	Threatened and Endangered Animals		
X	Threatened and Endangered Plants	T. Meagley	11-25-03
X	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	M. O’Mara	11/12/03
	Water quality, Surface or Ground		
X	Wilderness Area, Wild and Scenic Rivers	Chris Ham	11/17/03
	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern		
X	Environmental Justice	Scott Pavey	11/25/03
	Invasive, Non-Native Species/Reclamation		
	Noxious Weeds		

**CULTURAL RESOURCES:**

**Affected Environment:** The proposed private access route has been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Brown 2003, Compliance Dated 11/24/2003). During inventory

two isolated finds were recorded. Due to the location of the action on the floodplain of the White River it is considered likely that the artifacts may be from a disturbed context.

**Impact of Proposed Action:** The proposed action will likely result in the destruction of the two isolated artifacts and their context. However, isolated finds are not considered particularly important from a scientific perspective and the impact the regional database is considered relatively minor.

**Impact of No Action Alternative:** There would be no new impacts to cultural resources under the No Action Alternative.

**Mitigative Measures:** The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

**Signature of specialist:** Michael Selle 11/24/2003

**FLOODPLAINS, WETLANDS, RIPARIAN ZONES, AND ALLUVIAL VALLEYS:** (This includes all information related to Public Land Health Standard 2.)

**Affected Environment:** The proposed road would be located on a valley terrace dominated by black greasewood with an annual understory. The proposed alignment generally follows an existing two-track trail on a long-abandoned greasewood terrace. The alignment would be 0.25 mile from the nearest bank of the White River and any vegetation community with riparian affinity and is well separated ( $\geq 1300$  feet) and effectively isolated from nearest riverine communities or channel features along the White River.

***Impact of Proposed Action:*** The project would have no direct or indirect influence on channel features or riparian resources.

***Impact of No Action Alternative:*** None.

***Mitigative Measures:*** None

***Signature of specialist:*** Ed Hollowed 11/20/03

**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED ANIMALS:** (This includes all information related to animals in Public Land Health Standard 4.)

***Affected Environment:*** The proposed action lies on an abandoned terrace of the lower White River. Riverine cottonwood stands serve as a winter activity hub of bald eagles along the White from October through April and have, in recent years, been used for nesting activity (February to July). Known nesting activity on the lower river has been confined to an area 6-7 miles downstream of the proposed action, while the nearest identified winter roost is 2 miles upstream. This reach of the White River, and its 100-year floodplain, are designated critical habitat for Colorado pike-minnow.

***Impact of Proposed Action:*** This action would have no affect on bald eagle, Colorado pike-minnow, or the condition or utility of habitats with which they are associated. Proposed access development is of a nature and sufficiently separated from riparian vegetation and channel features associated with the White River and its 100-year floodplain so as not to have any direct or indirect influence on their condition or function (e.g., 800' to nearest edge of 100-year floodplain, 1200' to nearest channel edge, 1550' to nearest cottonwood tree, 1900' to nearest stand (0.5 acre) of cottonwood), nor would this action modify the frequency or form of public use on BLM-administered portions of the river.

Publicly accessible roadbeds and/or trails have been established on this terrace and the additional traffic attributable to a single-family residence is not considered substantive. Since the number of bald eagles nesting along the White River has expanded to 8 or more since a single initial attempt in 1981, it appears that intermittent vehicle use associated with residential or agricultural access along the White River does not impair continued selection or use of cottonwoods for nesting or winter roost activity. This action would be separated from the nearest potential roost or nest substrate (0.5 acre cottonwood stand) by about 600 meters, considerably further than improved county roads that parallel the river 460' to the south and 680' to the north of the stand.

***Impact of No Action Alternative:*** There would be no change in the current condition or function of riparian habitat and channel features associated with the White River and it's 100-year floodplain. Special status species habitat and activities associated with the river would remain unchanged from their current state.

**Mitigative Measures:** None

**Signature of specialist:** Ed Hollowed 11/21/03

**WATER QUALITY, SURFACE OR GROUND:** (This includes all information related to Public Land Health Standard 5.)

**Affected Environment:** BLM conducted a review of the Colorado's 1989 Nonpoint Source Assessment Report (plus updates), the 305(b) report, the 303(d) list and the Unified Watershed Assessment to see if any water quality concerns have been identified. This access is in a Category 1, Priority 2, watershed (The Lower White) identified in the Unified Watershed Assessment report. The state has reasons to believe this watershed has water quality problems (sediment and salinity loads) that may impair the watershed. The State has classified this stream segment as Aquatic Life Warm 1, Recreation 1a, Water Supply and Agriculture. The state has further defined water quality parameters with table values. These standards reflect the ambient water quality and define maximum allowable concentrations for the various water quality parameters. The anti-degradation rule applies to this segment meaning no further water quality degradation is allowable that would interfere with or become harmful to the designated uses.

**Impact of Proposed Action:** Impacts to water quality from permitting and building the access route would be a possible increase in suspended sediment reaching the White River. Roads are a large contributor to suspended sediment discharge from water running off of roads. This impact would continue until successful best management practices (see mitigation below) have been implemented.

**Impact of No Action Alternative:** Impacts are not expected from the no-action alternative.

**Mitigative Measures:** Use the following Condition of Approval from Appendix B of the White River ROD/RMP to help control suspended sediment discharge and erosion that is associated with roads:

42. Maintenance should be performed to conserve existing surface material, retain the original crowned or out sloped self-draining cross section, prevent or remove rutting berms (except those designed for slope protection) and other irregularities that retard normal surface runoff. Avoid wasting loose ditch or surface material over the shoulder where it can cause stream sedimentation or weaken slump-prone areas. Avoid undercutting backslopes.

43. Promptly remove slide material when it is obstructing road surface and ditchline drainage. Save all soil or material useable for reclamation and stockpile for future reclamation needs. Use remaining slide material for needed road improvement or place in a stable waste area. Avoid sidecasting of slide material where it can damage, overload, saturate embankments, or flow into downslope drainage courses. Reestablish vegetation in areas where more than 50 percent of vegetation has been destroyed due to sidecasting.

**Signature of specialist:** CHollowed 11/21/03

## **AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN:**

***Affected Environment:*** This project is in close proximity (within 0.25 mile) to federal lands associated with the White River ACEC, which highlights management of the White River's riverine community for riparian and endangered species (i.e., bald eagle, Colorado pikeminnow) values. The selected access route follows a faint existing 2-track trail. This track intersects an existing unimproved road (originating from another residential right-of-way to the west) that provides public access to a small BLM-administered tract (i.e., 1.8 acres) on the White River floodplain.

***Impact of Proposed Action:*** Proposed access development is of a nature and sufficiently separated from those features defining the ACEC so as not to have any direct or indirect influence on their condition or function (e.g., 800' to nearest edge of 100-year floodplain, 1200' to nearest channel edge, 1550' to nearest cottonwood tree, 1900' to nearest stand (0.5 acre) of cottonwood), nor would this action modify the frequency or form of public access to BLM-administered portions of the river.

***Impact of No Action Alternative:*** There would be no change in the current situation and ACEC attributes would remain in their current state.

***Mitigative Measures:*** None

***Signature of specialist:*** Ed Hollowed 11/21/03

## **INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES/RECLAMATION: (This includes vegetation information related to Public Land Health Standard 3.)**

***Affected Environment:*** The proposed action is through a greasewood/sagebrush flat with the primary understory as cheatgrass. Soils are deep and relatively saline which when coupled with the annual rainfall (10 inches) makes this site difficult for reclamation.

***Impact of Proposed Action:*** The proposed road construction would disturb, and maintain as a disturbed site, the area of the access road. There are two scenarios for this access road, based on soils of this site which are not conducive for an all weather road. One scenario would be raising the level of the road with appropriate base material, which the application does not request. The second would be the migration of the road to avoid ruts and hazards, which over time would occupy the entire right-of-way. In either case reclamation would be required based on the following stipulations. Reclamation to the point of stabilizing the site, using the specified seed mix, would occur in approximately ten years. The seed mix contains non-native species, as these varieties are more adapted to the site conditions than native species. These species have not been shown to move into the adjacent vegetation communities, or to hybridize with adjacent plant species. Over time these non-native species would be replaced by species contained in the adjacent plant communities.

**Impact of No Action Alternative:** There would be no impacts.

**Mitigation Measures:** Apply the following conditions of approval from the White River ROD/RMP, Appendix B:

23. Surface roads if they will be subject to traffic during wet weather. The depth and gradation of surfacing will be determined by traffic type, frequency, weight, maintenance objectives, and the stability and strength of the road foundation and surface materials.

24. Provide vegetative or artificial stabilization of cut and fill slopes in the design process. Avoid establishment of vegetation where it inhibits drainage from the road surface or where it restricts safety or maintenance.

25. When roads are located in low-lying areas, ensure that the road surface is constructed above the adjacent ground surface.

26. Avoid sidecasting where it will adversely affect water quality or weaken stabilized slopes.

27. Provide for erosion-resistant surface drainage prior to fall rain or snow.

28. Improve flat gradients to a minimum of two percent or provide raised subgrade sections to avoid saturation of the road base.

182. The goal for rehabilitation of any disturbed area shall be the permanent restoration of original site conditions and productive capability.

185. Distribute topsoil evenly over the location and prepare a seedbed by disking or ripping. Drill seed on contour at a depth no greater than 1/2 inch. In areas that cannot be drilled, broadcast at double the seeding rate and harrow seed into the soil.

188. Seed species used in reseeding disturbed areas will be based on the seed mixes identified in table B1 and B2. These mixes are based on range sites as determined by soils. Standard seed mix one is recommended for this site.

**Signature of specialist:** Robert Fowler      11-16-03

**NOXIOUS WEEDS:** (This includes vegetation information related to Public Land Health Standard 3.)

***Affected Environment:*** No inventories for noxious weeds have been done on the project area. There are several noxious weeds of concern that have the ability to establish and spread in this area. They include; cheatgrass, halogeaton, and Russian, spotted and diffuse knapweeds. Cheatgrass and halogeaton are found throughout the area and easily establish on disturbed sites. Halogeaton and to a lesser extent cheatgrass are out competed by healthy native rangelands and properly reclaimed sites. The knapweeds have the ability to establish and spread through the native plant communities.

***Impact of Proposed Action:*** The proposed project will disturb soils creating habitat for noxious weed establishment. Noxious weeds would not become a problem if the mitigation measures are adhered to.

***Impact of No Action Alternative:*** There would be no impacts.

***Mitigation Measures:*** Apply the following conditions of approval from the White River ROD/RMP, Appendix B:

142. Application of pesticides and herbicides on public lands will conform to BLM Manual H-9011-1 and 9015.

143. To prevent the entry of hazardous substances into surface waters:

a. Chemical treatments within the riparian areas shall be applied by hand and shall be applied only to specific targets.

b. Leave a 25-foot buffer along surface waters when chemicals are being applied through ground application with power equipment.

c. For aerial application, leave at least a 50-foot buffer along live water and do not spray in the riparian area.

d. Always refer to chemical label instructions for additional guidance on use near water and required buffer zones.

179. Application of herbicides must be under field supervision of an EPA-certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides must be registered by the EPA and application proposals must be approved by the BLM.

***Signature of specialist:*** Robert Fowler      11-18-03

## NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

An X in the “Not Affected” column in the table below indicates that the non-critical element has been analyzed and will not be affected by the proposed action or the no action alternative. Affected elements are addressed in the paragraphs following the table.

Not Affected	Non-Critical Element	Specialist Signature	Date
	Access and Transportation		
X	Forest Management	Robert Fowler	11-18-03
X	Geology and Minerals	Paul Daggett	11/03/2003
X	Hydrology and Water Rights	CHollowed	11/21/03
X	Land Status/Realty Authorizations	Penny Brown	10/10/03
X	Noise	Penny Brown	10/10/03
	Paleontology		
	Rangeland Management		
X	Recreation	Chris Ham	11/17/03
	Soils		
	Visual Resources		
	Wildlife Aquatic		
	Wildlife Terrestrial		
X	Wild Horses	V. Dobrich	11-14-2003

### ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION:

**Affected Environment:** Motorized vehicles are restricted to existing roads and trails, year-round, in the vicinity of the proposed action. The proposed access route follows an existing two-track and two additional publicly accessible roadbeds and/or trails are established on this terrace. These existing roads/trails provide for public access to the White River.

**Impact of Proposed Action:** Although the road leads to private property, it may provide improved access for public access to the White River by connecting with the existing two-track roads/trails.

**Impact of No Action Alternative:** None.

**Mitigative Measures:** None.

**Signature of specialist:** Scott Pavey 11/20/03

## **PALEONTOLOGY:**

**Affected Environment:** The proposed action is located in the quaternary alluvium of the White River floodplain which is not considered to be a producer of scientifically important fossil resources.

**Impact of Proposed Action:** The proposed action is not expected to have any impacts to scientifically important fossil resources.

**Impact of No Action Alternative:** There would be no new impacts to fossil resources under the No Action Alternative

**Mitigative Measures:** If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage.

**Signature of specialist:** Michael Selle 11/24/2003

## **RANGELAND MANAGEMENT:**

**Affected Environment:** The proposed action is located within the Coal Oil Basin Allotment (06313). The BLM portion of this allotment may be authorized for sheep use for the period of December 16<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>. However, a large tract of private land within the allotment is utilized past April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Impact of Proposed Action:** No measurable impacts to rangeland management are anticipated under the proposed action. The Robinson Corrals (R.I. #4735) are located along the river bottom within approximately 1200 feet of the proposed access road; therefore this area receives concentrated livestock use during segments of the year.

**Impact of No Action Alternative:** None

**Mitigation Measures:** None

**Signature of specialist:** Jed Carling (11/12/03)

**SOILS:**

**Affected Environment:** The soils have been mapped by the NRCS in an order III soil survey. They are available for review in the White River Field Office. In the table below are the soil units found at the location of the proposed action with soil characteristics for each.

Proposed action	Soil Number	Soil Name	Slope	Range site	Salinity	RunOff	Erosion Potential	Bedrock
Route	94	Turley fine sandy loam	3-8%	Alkaline Slopes	2-4	Medium	Slight to moderate	>60
Route	46	Kinnear fine sandy loam	1-5%	Loamy Salt desert	<4	Medium	Slight	>60

The Turley fine sandy loam is a deep, well-drained soil on alluvial valley floors, fans, and low terraces. It formed in calcareous mixed alluvium derived dominantly from sandstone and shale. Areas are irregular in shape and are 20 to 500 acres in size. The native vegetation is mainly desert shrubs and grasses. Elevation is 5,000 to 5,800 feet. The average annual precipitation is 8 to 12 inches, the average annual air temperature is 45 to 50 degrees F, and the average frost-free period is 105 to 125 days.

Typically, the upper part of the surface layer is light brownish gray fine sandy loam about 4 inches thick. The next layer is light brownish gray loam about 10 inches thick. The upper 11 inches of the underlying material is light brownish gray loam, and the lower part to a depth of 60 inches or more is light brownish gray loam that has some salt crystals. In some areas the surface layer is sandy loam, loam, or very fine sandy loam. The soil is calcareous throughout.

This unit is well suited to urban development. It has few limitations. Population growth has resulted in increased construction of homes on this unit. This map unit is in capability subclass VIe, nonirrigated. It is in Alkaline Slopes range site.

**Impact of Proposed Action:** Impacts would be similar to any surface disturbing action. Generally, when salt crystals are present soil piping can become a problem. It is important to keep water off of the road surface with water spreaders and possibly check dams.

**Impact of No Action Alternative:** Impacts are not anticipated if the proposed action were not permitted.

**Mitigative Measures:** See Water Quality Section.

**Signature of specialist:** CHollowed 11/21/03

## **VISUAL RESOURCES:**

***Affected Environment:*** This access road will be in an area managed as Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class Four. Development is allowed in VRM Class Four and will be consistent with the existing surroundings.

***Impact of Proposed Action:*** None

***Impact of No Action Alternative:*** None

***Mitigative Measures:*** None required.

***Signature of specialist:*** Max McCoy 11-17-03

**WILDLIFE AQUATIC:** See discussion of riverine habitats in Threatened and Endangered Species and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern sections above.

## **WILDLIFE TERRESTRIAL:**

***Affected Environment:*** The White River valley and uplands south of the river are categorized as mule deer severe winter range. These riverine habitats are generally occupied by small numbers of deer throughout the year but, as the range classification implies, the range's most important function is served during the late winter and early spring months. However, these valley habitat inclusions (i.e., primarily greasewood terraces and cottonwood-tamarisk riparian) do not generally support concentrated use by deer during periods of heavy snow accumulations and severe cold. Heaviest use likely occurs in the fall and early spring when deer respond to the availability of irrigated haylands and emerging annual growth. This valley has become increasingly residential over the last 30 years and is bordered on either side by maintained county roads. A small number of pronghorn use these river terraces on an occasional basis from the adjoining Coal Oil Basin, but suitable habitat becomes increasingly confined between the cliffs and river west of the project site. The proposed access route follows an existing two-track and two additional publicly accessible roadbeds and/or trails are established on this terrace. It is likely that deer and pronghorn using these valley sites are acclimated to intermittent vehicle use associated with residential or agricultural access along the White River and do not react acutely to human activity.

***Impact of Proposed Action:*** The additional traffic attributable to a single-family residence and its influence on big game that may use emerging annuals during the early spring months on this terrace is not expected to be substantive. Furthermore, installing any form of use restriction on this road would not be appropriate to residential access. The actual loss of herbaceous forage attributable to the proposed road upgrade would be negligible.

***Impact of No Action Alternative:*** There would be no change in the current access or vehicle use conditions on this terrace. Big game seasonal use activities and forage availability associated with this river terrace would remain unchanged from their current state.

***Mitigative Measures:*** None

***Signature of specialist:*** Ed Hollowed 11/21/03

**CUMULATIVE IMPACTS:** This action is consistent with the scope of impacts addressed in the White River ROD/RMP. The cumulative impacts of these activities are addressed in the White River ROD/RMP for each resource value that would be affected by the proposed action.

***Signature of specialist:*** Penny Brown 10/10/03

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/DECISION RECORD**

**FONSI:** The environmental assessment, analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action, has been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a finding of no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

**DECISION AND RATIONALE:** It is my decision to authorize a right-of-way as described in the proposed action with the mitigation measures listed below.

### **MITIGATION MEASURES:**

1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Maintenance should be performed to conserve existing surface material, retain the original crowned or out sloped self-draining cross section, prevent or remove rutting berms (except those designed for slope protection) and other irregularities that retard normal surface runoff. Avoid wasting loose ditch or surface material over the shoulder where it can cause stream sedimentation or weaken slump-prone areas. Avoid undercutting backslopes.

3. Promptly remove slide material when it is obstructing road surface and ditchline drainage. Save all soil or material useable for reclamation and stockpile for future reclamation needs.

Use remaining slide material for needed road improvement or place in a stable waste area. Avoid sidecasting of slide material where it can damage, overload, saturate embankments, or flow into downslope drainage courses. Reestablish vegetation in areas where more than 50 percent of vegetation has been destroyed due to sidecasting.

4. Surface roads if they will be subject to traffic during wet weather. The depth and gradation of surfacing will be determined by traffic type, frequency, weight, maintenance objectives, and the stability and strength of the road foundation and surface materials.

5. Provide vegetative or artificial stabilization of cut and fill slopes in the design process. Avoid establishment of vegetation where it inhibits drainage from the road surface or where it restricts safety or maintenance.

6. When roads are located in low-lying areas, ensure that the road surface is constructed above the adjacent ground surface.

7. Avoid sidecasting where it will adversely affect water quality or weaken stabilized slopes.

8. Provide for erosion-resistant surface drainage prior to fall rain or snow.

9. Improve flat gradients to a minimum of two percent or provide raised subgrade sections to avoid saturation of the road base.

10. The goal for rehabilitation of any disturbed area shall be the permanent restoration of original site conditions and productive capability.

11. Distribute topsoil evenly over the location and prepare a seedbed by disking or ripping. Drill seed on contour at a depth no greater than 1/2 inch. In areas that cannot be drilled, broadcast at double the seeding rate and harrow seed into the soil.

12. Seed species used in reseeding disturbed areas will be based on the seed mixes identified in table B1 and B2. These mixes are based on range sites as determined by soils. Standard seed mix one is recommended for this site.

13. Application of pesticides and herbicides on public lands will conform to BLM Manual H-9011-1 and 9015.

14. To prevent the entry of hazardous substances into surface waters:

a. Chemical treatments within the riparian areas shall be applied by hand and shall be applied only to specific targets.

b. Leave a 25-foot buffer along surface waters when chemicals are being applied through ground application with power equipment.

c. For aerial application, leave at least a 50-foot buffer along live water and do not spray in the riparian area.

d. Always refer to chemical label instructions for additional guidance on use near water and required buffer zones.

15. Application of herbicides must be under field supervision of an EPA-certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides must be registered by the EPA and application proposals must be approved by the BLM.

16. If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage.

**REMARKS:** This action will be authorized under the authority of Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

**COMPLIANCE PLAN:** The BLM WRFO realty staff will conduct a compliance review, every five years.

**SIGNATURE OF PREPARER:** Penny Brown

**DATE SIGNED:** 11/25/03

**SIGNATURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:** SA [Signature]

**DATE SIGNED:** 11/25/03

**SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:** J. C. [Signature]

**DATE SIGNED:** 11/25/03

**ATTACHMENTS:** Map of the Location of the Proposed Action

# Location of Proposed Action CO-110-2004-002-EA

