

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
73544 Hwy 64
Meeker, CO 81641

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2004-017-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional):

PROJECT NAME: Piceance Creek Unit Temporary Quarters

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 2 S., R. 96 W.,
Sec. 9, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

APPLICANT: ExxonMobil Oil Corporation

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction: ExxonMobil is the holder of oil and gas lease COD035680, dated December 27, 1939. This lease carries with it the right of the holder to “construct and maintain...all works, buildings, plants...or other structures necessary to the full enjoyment thereof....” Residency on an oil and gas lease has been recognized as a use reasonably incident to oil and gas recovery operations (see for example, Holbrook v. Continental Oil Company, 278 P.2d 798 (Wyoming 1955)). The Piceance Creek Unit was originally approved in 1931, and operates in the same manner as an individual lease.

ExxonMobil has applied to place a temporary housing facility for the Piceance Creek Unit at the location of their office site.

Proposed Action: The proposed action is for the temporary (six months) placement of a house trailer on public lands within the Piceance Creek Unit, along County Road #3, at the head of Collins Gulch (area known as Magnolia). The trailer would be set up within a fenced area, behind the existing office/garage facilities. This site has previously been cleared of vegetation, and would only require a small amount of leveling. The trailer dimensions are 16' X 80', containing 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a living room and a combination kitchen/dining room. The trailer will be equipped with front and rear steps and an enclosed front porch. An above ground holding tank will be used for waste collection to be pumped out periodically and water will be hauled for domestic use. This installation would be temporary, pending a review of potential

sites on privately owned land, and a review of the actual use during the six-month trial period requested.

The maximum planned occupancy would be three people, with only field personnel (no family members) occupying the trailer. Occupants would normally be ExxonMobil employees, but selected contract personnel would be allowed to use the trailer in unique circumstances (i.e., required to be available quickly in event of emergency and spare bedroom available). Firearms, drugs and alcohol will be strictly forbidden per company policy.

No Action Alternative: Under the no action alternative, no house trailer would be placed on public land.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD: ExxonMobil owns private land along Piceance Creek. Use of this property was proposed to them by the BLM. However, Rio Blanco County, which has zoning authority on the private land, suggested that the trailer be temporarily placed next to the companies office (the above proposed action). An alternative site on private land could then be reviewed in the spring.

NEED FOR THE ACTION: The purpose for the temporary housing is a safety issue. The personnel would be working on the same “lease” (Piceance Creek Unit) on which the trailer would be located. The personnel will be involved in hydraulic fracturing (“completion”) operations. These people work exceptionally long hours and may have only a very limited amount of time to sleep during fracturing operations. In some situations they are unable to drive to remote housing and return in time to be present for the next completion. They are also subject to being summoned to the well at unusual hours and on very limited notice. They are on call at all times and may be required to respond to emergency situations involving potential safety or environmental issues. Having the personnel near the wells will avoid hundreds of miles of hazardous driving conditions (icy roads, sharp turns, limited visibility, wildlife hazards, fatigued drivers, etc.) and allow the crew to respond quickly in an emergency (increased public safety and reduced fire risk). The proposed location will also reduce traffic on the county road, which will reduce the risk of accidents involving other parties. The proposed central location would reduce potential road damage and congestion by negating the need to move the trailer to each well pad.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

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

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Page 2-5

Decision Language: “Make federal oil and gas resources available for leasing and development in a manner that provides reasonable protection for other resource values.”

**AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES /
MITIGATION MEASURES:**

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: There are no special designation air sheds or non-attainment areas nearby that would be affected by the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: During periods of low precipitation, air quality in the area of the proposed action is often diminished by dust caused by human disturbance.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No increase in dust will occur.

Mitigation: The applicant will spread water on road surfaces to control fugitive dust.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The location of the proposed trailer pad is within an area that has been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Luoma 1981, Compliance Dated 2/17/1981). No significant archaeological resources were identified on the surface north of the existing office facilities shown on the Greasewood Gulch quad map. However it was noted that there was a potential for buried remains in the area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: If excavations occur in the area there is the potential for buried cultural remains which would be adversely impacted by said excavations. Buried remains, should they be present could be potentially impacted by surface traffic that could compress, and crush subsurface features and artifacts.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to cultural resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation:

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

3. If for any reason it becomes necessary to excavate into the soil for leveling the pad for the trailer, enclosed porch, potable water tank, or waste water tank an archaeological monitor shall be present during all construction.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: Noxious weeds known to occur in the area of the proposed action are yellow toadflax, spotted knapweed, houndstongue, black henbane, mullein, bull thistle and Canada thistle. The invasive alien cheatgrass (*bromus tectorum*) also occurs on unvegetated disturbed sites.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The earthen disturbance caused by the proposed action, though minor will create safe sites for the establishment of noxious weeds and invasive species.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: The operator will promptly revegetate all disturbed areas with the prescribed Mobil seed mix, and eradicate all noxious and invasive species on site using materials and methods approved by the Authorized Officer.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: The habitats surrounding the Magnolia complex support a typical assemblage of migratory birds that are associated with higher elevation sagebrush-serviceberry steppe, including Brewer's and vesper sparrow, green-tailed and spotted towhee, and blue-gray gnatcatcher.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The installation of a man-camp on Magnolia would be expected to have little influence on nesting efforts of local migratory birds. Activity in and around a trailer site would be expected to dissuade nest site selection in suitable sagebrush habitats within 100' or so of the trailer. However, because the trailer would remain within the fenced and cleared office complex and would be emplaced prior to the breeding season, disturbance to suitable nesting habitats and disruption or abandonment of established nest efforts is unlikely. It is impossible to predict how employee's off-duty and/or recreational activity in surrounding rangelands would influence breeding attempts from mid-May through mid-July, but such activity would be expectedly dispersed and transient and have no marked influence on overall nest success or annual recruitment of any species.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Existing site conditions would remain unchanged. Incremental influences imposed on migratory birds and their nest habitat and the frequency and duration of recreational activity on surrounding rangelands would likely remain static.

Mitigation: None, but see Terrestrial Wildlife section

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE ANIMAL SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: See Terrestrial Wildlife section for discussion pertaining to greater sage grouse (currently petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act). There are no other special status animals associated with the project vicinity.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: See Terrestrial Wildlife section for discussion pertaining to greater sage grouse.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Existing site conditions would remain unchanged. Incremental influences imposed on greater sage grouse and their sagebrush steppe habitats would remain static.

Mitigation: See Terrestrial Wildlife section for mitigation pertaining to greater sage grouse.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: With the application of and adherence to terms and conditions as indicated in this document, this temporary six-month man-camp would not jeopardize the viability of greater sage grouse populations on Magnolia. Thus there would be no affect on meeting the Public Land Health Standard. The project, individually and in the context of overall gas development on Magnolia, would have no significant consequence on sage grouse habitat condition, utility, or function, nor have any discernible affect on animal abundance or distribution at any landscape scale. The efficacy of this mitigation would be contingent solely on Exxon personnel since there is no effective way for BLM to enforce or monitor mitigation as presented below. Expanding the man-camp either by the number of employees housed or the duration of the authorization (beyond a 6-month period) would increase the probability of transgressions adverse to this remnant population of sage grouse (e.g., disruption of reproductive activities on the lek, disruption of nesting attempts, poaching).

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: The site has been previously disturbed and doesn't support any factors required by Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive plant species to exist.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: None

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: There is no reasonable likelihood that the proposed action or no action alternative would have an influence on the condition or function of Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive plant species. Thus the proposed action would have no affect on meeting the Public Land Health Standard.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored or disposed of at this site.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: No listed or extremely hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities are proposed for use in this project. While commercial preparations of fuels and lubricants proposed for use may contain some hazardous constituents, they would be stored, used and transported in a manner consistent with applicable laws, and the generation of hazardous wastes would not be anticipated. Small quantities of other solid wastes; such as, paper products, packaging products and scrap material may be generated.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under the no action alternative.

Mitigation: The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: the proposed action is in segment number 16, all tributaries to Piceance Creek, including all wetlands, lakes and reservoirs from the source to the confluence with the White River except for specific listings in segments 17-20. (Segments 16a and 16b were combined and renamed segment 16.)

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 was done to see if any water quality concerns have been identified. All actions are within the White River watershed.

The State has classified this segment as a "Use Protected" reach. Its designated beneficial uses are: Warm Aquatic Life 2, Recreation 2, and Agriculture. The antidegradation review requirements in the Antidegradation Rule, are not applicable to waters designated use-protected. For those waters, only the protection specified in each reach will apply. For this reach, minimum standards for three parameters have been listed. These parameters are: dissolved oxygen = 5.0 mg/l, pH = 6.5 - 9.0, Fecal Coliform = 2000/100 ml, and 630/100 ml E. coli.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Additional impacts are not anticipated from the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: This area meets the standards set by the state.

WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: There are no wetlands or riparian communities potentially involved with this action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: None

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None appropriate

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: There is no reasonable likelihood that the proposed action or no action alternative would have an influence on the condition or function of riparian or wetland habitats or this Public Land Health Standard.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No Wilderness Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, or Wild and Scenic Rivers exist within the area affected by the proposed action. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The proposed action is in mapping unit number 43; Irigul-Parachute complex, on 5 to 30 percent slopes.

This map unit is on ridges and mountainsides. Areas are irregular in shape and are 20 to 250 acres in size. The native vegetation is mainly grasses and shrubs. Elevation is 7,600 to 8,500 feet. The average annual precipitation is 18 to 22 inches, the average annual air temperature is 37 to 39 degrees F, and the average frost-free period is 45 to 75 days.

This unit is 60 percent Irigul channery loam and 30 percent Parachute loam. The Irigul soil is mainly in convex areas, and the Parachute soil is in slightly concave areas. The components of this unit are so intricately intermingled that it was not practical to map them separately at the scale used.

Included in this unit are small areas of Castner channery loam, Rhone loam, and Veatch channery loam. Also included are small areas of Starman and Vandamore soils and Rock outcrop.

The Irigul soil is shallow and well drained. It formed in residuum derived from sandstone and hard shale. Typically, the surface layer is grayish brown channery loam 5 inches thick. The underlying material is brown extremely channery loam 7 inches thick. Hard sandstone is at a depth of 12 inches. Depth to hard sandstone or shale is 10 to 20 inches.

Permeability of the Irigul soil is moderate. Available water capacity is very low. Effective rooting depth is 10 to 20 inches. Runoff is medium to rapid, and the hazard of water erosion is very high.

The Parachute soil is moderately deep and well drained. It formed in residuum derived dominantly from sandstone. Typically, the surface layer is grayish brown loam 4 inches thick. The upper 20 inches of the subsoil is grayish brown loam channery loam, and the lower 8 inches is pale brown extremely channery sandy loam 6 inches thick. Sandstone is at a depth of 38 inches. Depth to sandstone or shale ranges from 20 to 40 inches.

Permeability of the Parachute soil is moderate. Available water capacity is low. Effective rooting depth is 20 to 40 inches. Runoff is medium, and the hazard of water erosion is moderate to very high.

The potential plant community on the Irigul soil is mainly beardless wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, serviceberry, big sagebrush. Smaller amounts of prairie junegrass, and bitterbrush commonly are also present in the potential plant community. The production of forage is limited by restricted rooting depth and a short growing season. The average annual production of air-dry vegetation is about 900 pounds per acre.

The potential plant community on the Parachute soil is mainly Idaho fescue, Letterman needlegrass, Columbia needlegrass, and big sagebrush. Smaller amounts of serviceberry and low rabbitbrush commonly are also present in the potential plant community. The production of forage is limited by a short growing season and low available water capacity. The average annual production of air-dry vegetation is about 1,500 pounds per acre.

If this unit is seeded, the main limitations are slope, shallow rooting depth, and a short growing season. The plants selected for seeding should meet the seasonal requirements of livestock or wildlife, or both. For successful seeding, prepare a seedbed and drill in the seed.

This map unit is in capability subclass VIIe, nonirrigated. The Irigul soil is in Loamy Slopes range site, and the Parachute soil is in Mountain Loam range site.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Since this area has been previously disturbed and would require a minimal amount of leveling to accommodate the temporary trailers; long-term impacts are not expected. Short-term impacts would be similar to

any surface disturbing activity such as erosion during storm events from the removal of the protective vegetative cover and soil compaction.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None expected.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: The soils within the project area meet the criteria established in the Land Health Assessment.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Vegetation in the area of the proposed project is dominated by mountain big sagebrush, Utah serviceberry with an understory of native grasses and forbs.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action will create minor, though not significant impact to the existing vegetation.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: Recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas with the prescribed Mobil seed mix.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): Plant communities in the project area will continue to meet the Standard.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: There are no aquatic habitats potentially influenced by the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: None

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The proposed and no-action alternative would have no conceivable influence on the suitability of aquatic habitat or the demographics and distribution of aquatic organisms in the White River Resource Area. This standard does not apply to any areas affected by the proposed action.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The Magnolia complex is encompassed by sagebrush habitats that are occupied year-long by a remnant and dwindling population of greater sage grouse (i.e., species recently petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act). Sagebrush habitats contiguous with the north and east exposures of the proposed trailer site are suitable for sage grouse nesting, brooding, and wintering functions. An active sage grouse lek is located approximately 0.75 mile east of proposed trailer location; a currently unoccupied historic lek is also mapped about 1200' north of this site.

Big game use in the vicinity of Magnolia camp is primarily associated with winter range occupation. Although deer and elk can be found on Magnolia throughout the year, use is greatest from September through January at these elevations. The proximity of this facility to the intersection of 2 major county roads and the existing industrial complex limits the overall influence on big game (i.e., direct and indirect habitat loss) to minor proportions. Much of the pinyon-juniper woodland dominated slopes to the south and west of Magnolia Camp are classified by Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) as mule deer severe winter range. These lower elevation winter ranges are generally occupied from October through May. Severe winter range is defined as those that support 90% of the Unit's deer population in the worst two winters of ten.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Since the basis for employee housing on federal lands is authorized within the terms of the oil and gas lease, it reasonably follows that activities associated with the man-camp should remain consistent with mitigation designed to reduce wildlife impacts attributable to lease development. Wildlife issues on Magnolia have centered on minimizing disruption of sage grouse reproductive functions (i.e., leking, nesting, brooding) and reducing indirect impacts attributable to vehicle use and human activity that displaces (forces movement and disuse of available resources) or alarms (elevated energy demands) wintering deer (e.g., see discussions in previous Environmental Documents CO-WRFO-01-133-EA, CO-WRFO-01-135-EA, and CO-WRFO-03-104-EA available at the White River Field Office). Although residential occupation of these lands in and of itself poses no threat to wildlife resources, simply by proximity and availability, it is inevitable that recreational and other off-duty excursions by employees living in these remote wildland situations adds considerably to local levels of wildlife disturbance. Applying the mitigation listed below would help reduce or avoid indirect impacts to the more important big game and sage grouse functions. The proponent's commitment to disallow firearms on the site would help reduce poaching-related impacts, which have been a recurrent problem in these situations.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Existing site conditions and activities would remain unchanged. There would be no potential for incremental influences on sage grouse and big game attributable to residential occupancy on Magnolia.

Mitigation:

-No dogs allowed to run off-lead or shooting of firearms on Magnolia’s sagebrush habitats between March 15 and August 15 and /or big game severe winter ranges (i.e., woodlands south and west of Magnolia camp) from December 1 through April 30.

-No foot or vehicle-based activities permitted within 0.25 mile of the sage grouse lek that may disrupt sage grouse leking activities (for these purposes, the lek area is defined as T2S R96W section 9 NE1/4 and section 10 NW1/4). Off-duty or recreational vehicle use through the lek area on RBC 3 should be confined to the period between 10AM and 3PM daily from 15 March through 15 May.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): With the application of terms and conditions as indicated in this document, this project would not jeopardize the viability of any animal population. The project, individually and in the context of overall gas development on Magnolia, would have no significant consequence on terrestrial habitat condition, utility, or function, nor have any discernible affect on animal abundance or distribution at any landscape scale. See also Finding in “Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animal Species” section above.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, those brought forward for analysis will be formatted as shown above.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Access and Transportation		X	
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire Management	X		
Forest Management	X		
Geology and Minerals	X		
Hydrology/Water Rights		X	
Law Enforcement		X	
Paleontology			
Rangeland Management		X	
Realty Authorizations		X	
Recreation		X	
Socio-Economics		X	
Transportation		X	
Visual Resources		X	
Wild Horses	X		

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: The proposed trailer site is located in an area mapped as the Uinta Formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM has classified as a Category I formation, meaning it is a known producer of scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action has the potential to impact important fossil resources if for any reason it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation to prepare a pad for the trailer, the enclosed porch, or either of the holding tanks for potable water or waste water.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to fossil resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: If, for any reason it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock for any reason a paleontological monitor shall be required during all phases of excavation. The applicant also has the option to implement a more acceptable mitigation measure and haul in fill to level the pad for the trailer, porch, potable water and waste water facilities avoiding the need to excavate into the underlying bedrock.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: This trailer house will be built in an area classified as VRM Class 3. VRM Class 3 management allows for development as long as the development does not dominate the new landscape.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The structure will be next to existing structures of similar design and construction such that this new building will comply with the guidelines for VRM Class 3 with mitigation as listed below.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No impacts.

Mitigation: The new structure shall be painted a non reflective earth tone color so as not to stand out visually.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: Given the scope of the proposed use (additional activities related to up to three additional employees on a temporary basis), the nature of the area in general, and the characteristics of the proposed site (i.e. previously disturbed, within a fenced-in area behind existing structures receiving daily use by current employees), quantifiable cumulative impacts from this facility, in addition to past and foreseeable future developments, would be minimal.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: This proposal has been discussed with Rio Blanco County. The County Planning Commission voted against issuance of a special use permit for a

permanent facility. However, the County Commissioners were not opposed to the proposal on a six month, temporary basis.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Carol Hollowed	Hydrologist	Air Quality
Tamara Meagley	Natural Resource Specialist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Tamara Meagley	Natural Resource Specialist	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources Paleontological Resources
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Wildlife
Marty O'Mara	Petroleum Engineer	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Carol Hollowed	Hydrologist	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness
Carol Hollowed	Hydrologist	Soils
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Vegetation
Ken Holsinger	Fire Ecologist	Fire Management
Bob Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Rangeland Management
Vern Rholl	Supervisory NRS	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation
Scott Pavey	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Access and Transportation
Max McCoy	NRS	Visual Resources

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures 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/RATIONALE: It is my decision to approve the temporary placement of a trailer on public land for a period of six months as described in the proposed action, with mitigation measures listed below. This action will greatly reduce the safety risk to ExxonMobil personnel and environmental consequences will be minimal.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

1. The applicant will spread water on road surfaces to control fugitive dust.
2. 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.

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

4. If for any reason it becomes necessary to excavate into the soil for leveling the pad for the trailer, enclosed porch, potable water tank, or waste water tank an archaeological monitor shall be present during all construction.

5. The operator will promptly revegetate all disturbed areas with the prescribed Mobil seed mix, and eradicate all noxious and invasive species on site using materials and methods approved by the Authorized Officer.

6. The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.

7. Recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas with the prescribed Mobil seed mix.

8. No dogs allowed to run off-lead or shooting of firearms on Magnolia's sagebrush habitats between March 15 and August 15 and /or big game severe winter ranges (i.e., woodlands south and west of Magnolia camp) from December 1 through April 30.

9. No foot or vehicle-based activities permitted within 0.25 mile of the sage grouse lek that may disrupt sage grouse leking activities (for these purposes, the lek area is defined as T2S R96W section 9 NE1/4 and section 10 NW1/4). Off-duty or recreational vehicle use through the lek area on RBC 3 should be confined to the period between 10AM and 3PM daily from 15 March through 15 May.

10. If, for any reason it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock for any reason a paleontological monitor shall be required during all phases of excavation. The applicant also has the option to implement a more acceptable mitigation measure and haul in fill to level the pad for the trailer, porch, potable water and waste water facilities avoiding the need to excavate into the underlying bedrock.

11. The new structure shall be painted a non reflective earth tone color so as not to stand out visually.

NAME OF PREPARER:

Vernon Phell

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:

Scott Perry

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

Kent E. Walter

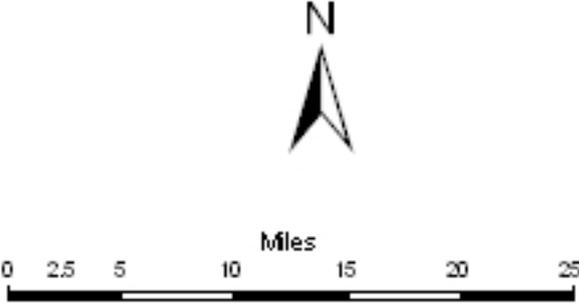
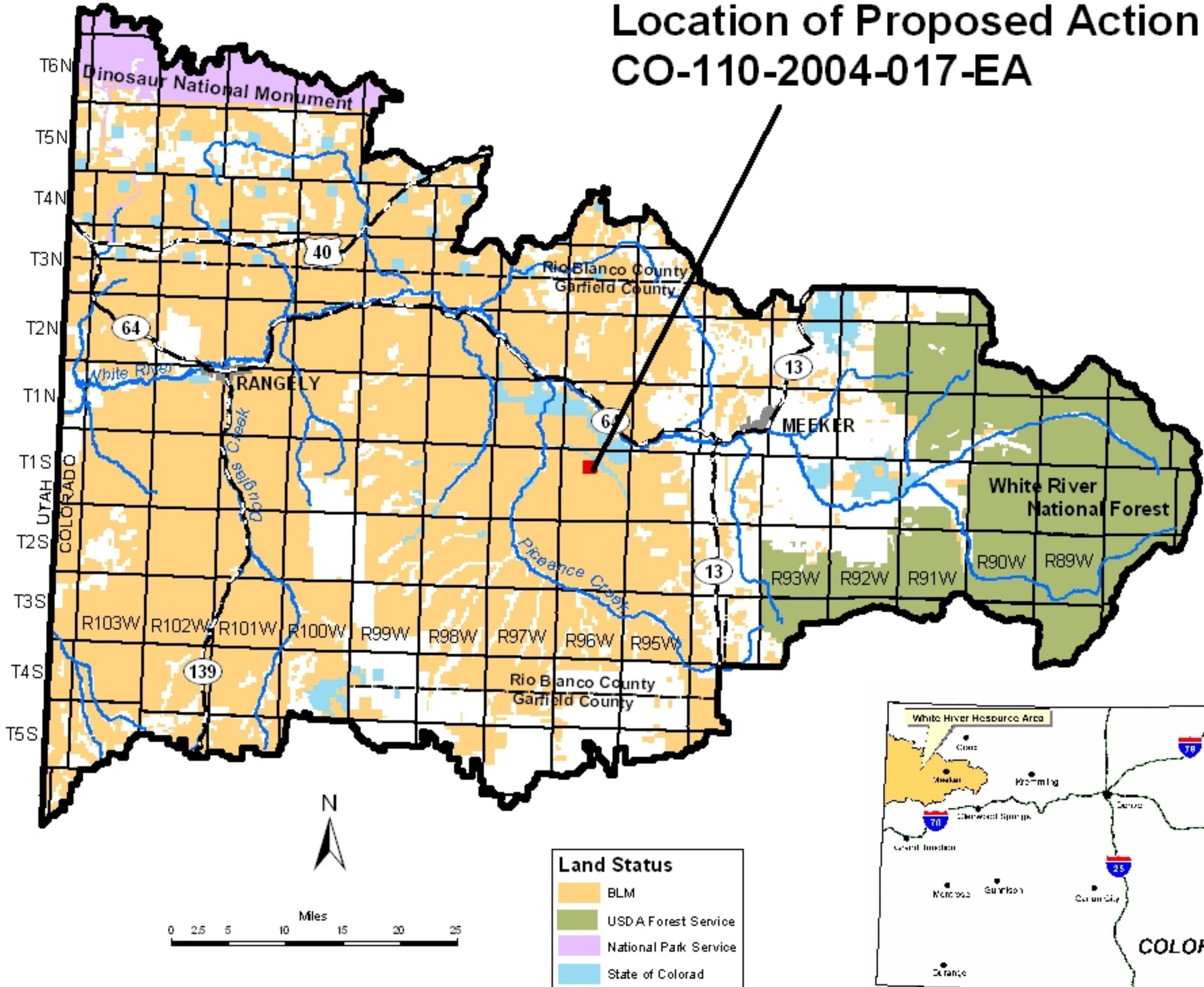
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

01/08/04

ATTACHMENTS: Map of the Location of the Proposed Action

Location of Proposed Action CO-110-2004-017-EA



Land Status	
	BLM
	USDA Forest Service
	National Park Service
	State of Colorado

