

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2004-029-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC67457

PROJECT NAME: Greasewood Compressor Station

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 2 S., R. 96 W.,
Sec. 8, lot 6.

APPLICANT: Williams Production RMT Company

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Proposed Action: Williams plans to construct the Greasewood Compressor Station beginning on or about March 1, 2004, with operations commencing on or about May 1, 2004. The compressor station site will occupy approximately 1.66 acres. The compressor station will tie into Williams existing 16" natural gas pipeline (COC56213).

Equipment/buildings will consist of the following:

- 25'(H) x 40'(W) x 120'(L) building will house four 3516 TALE Caterpillar gas-fired compressor engines site rated at 1,144hp,
- 40' x 60' area containing two 300 bbl condensate tanks,
- 25' x 50' meter building, and
- 20' x 20' control room

Williams also plans to lay approximately 2,000 linear feet of 16" pipeline as another action, closely associate with this proposed action. However, detailed plans for this pipeline are not yet available. While the pipeline has been considered for potential cumulative impacts, the action itself was not analyzed in this document. When BLM receives a detailed plan for the pipeline, it will conduct and prepare appropriate NEPA analysis and documentation

This site will be accessed from RBC Road #3 and manned on a part-time basis. Electric power and telephone service will be required for this facility. Waste will be disposed of by over the road vacuum truck and hauled to an approved disposal location. The facility will operate 365 days/year, 24 hours/day for the life of the field (20 years or more).

No Action Alternative: Under the no action alternative, the application would be denied and a different location would have to be found for the compressor station.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD:

NEED FOR THE ACTION: Williams Production has applied for a facility to be known as the Greasewood Compressor Station. The compressor station is required to compress Williams-owned natural gas from approximately 750 psig to 1,200 psig in order to maintain delivery of natural gas volumes into pipelines owned by Colorado Interstate Gas and Kinder Morgan. Pressures on these pipelines will exceed Williams' capability to deliver into these pipelines without added compression. Each engine will drive natural gas compressors to accomplish the service detailed above.

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: Pages 2-49 thru 2-52

Decision Language: "To make public land 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."

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. 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 Proposed Action: The proposed action would result in short term, local impacts to air quality during and after construction, due to dust being blown into the air. After adequate vegetation is reestablished, blowing dust should return to pre-construction levels.

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

Mitigation: None.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The location of the proposed compressor station appears to be where two inventories overlap (Anderson and Henss 1979, Compliance Dated 7/23/1979, McDonald 1994, Compliance Dated 12/29/1994 {MAC}) with no cultural resources identified in the area. The area also appears to have been an area of extensive development since the discovery of gas in the area in the late 1930's or early 1940's.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action will not impact any known cultural resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new 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.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: The area of the proposed action has a wide variety of noxious weeds including houndstongue, yellow toadflax, black henbane, leafy spurge, mullein, bull thistle, Canada thistle, and Russian and spotted knapweed. The invasive alien cheatgrass is also found on disturbed, unvegetated sites throughout the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action will create a large disturbed area which, even if it is promptly and effectively revegetated will provide numerous sites for noxious weed and cheatgrass invasion and proliferation . Williams should therefore have a proposed treatment plan in place so that the problem can be dealt with immediately.

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

Mitigation: Due to the abundance and continuing reoccurrence of noxious weeds in this area, as part of the authorization for this plant, Williams should submit a vegetation management plan whereby they list the materials and methods for controlling/eradicating noxious weeds and cheatgrass that will inevitably occur. That is, they should submit a Pesticide Use Proposal as a condition for approval of this action unless they intend to control all weeds by hand. Promptly recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas with Standard Seed mix # 3. Eradicate all noxious and invasive species using materials and methods approved by the Authorized Officer.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: An array of migratory birds fulfills nesting functions throughout Magnolia's sagebrush and serviceberry dominated habitats from late May through early August. Species associated with these shrubland communities are typical and widely represented in the Resource Area and region. Those bird populations identified as having higher conservation interest (i.e., Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Partners in Flight program) include Brewer's

sparrow, green-tailed towhee, and Virginia's warbler. These birds are well distributed in extensive suitable habitats.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Project construction would occur between March 1 and early May. This project, as scheduled, would be completed prior to the earliest nesting activity of migratory birds associated with these habitats.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Project delays associated with the no action (e.g., alternate facility siting) alternative could involve the clearing and occupation of sagebrush/serviceberry habitats coincident with the breeding season.

Mitigation: None

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

Affected Environment: There are no listed, proposed, or candidate special status animals known to inhabit or derive important benefit from the project locale. Issues associated with the greater sage grouse, a species that has recently been petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act, is discussed in the terrestrial wildlife section below.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would have no conceivable impact on listed, proposed, or candidate species or associated habitats.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: The proposed action would have no effect on achieving the land health standard.

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

Affected Environment: There are no Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive plant species occurring in the proposed area or affected 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 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 there would be no effect on achieving the 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.

Impact of 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.

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

Mitigative Measures: 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 16, which includes all tributaries to Piceance Creek, including all wetlands, lakes and reservoirs from the source to the confluence with the White River. 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: Problems that could arise from the proposed action would be an increase in sediment transport. Annual runoff from this watershed is dynamic and dependent on some aspects we control, such as the amount of vegetation retained for watershed protection and vegetation density. Depleting the vegetation cover needed to protect watersheds from raindrop impact and runoff could cause short-term erosion problems and

increased sedimentation to Yellow Creek and on down to the White River until successful best management practices have been implemented and proven to be successful. The magnitude of these impacts is dependent on the amount of surface disturbance and climatic conditions during the time the soils are exposed to the elements.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Impacts from the no action alternative are not anticipated.

Mitigation: Efforts need to be made to keep sediment from leaving the site.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: The proposed action will not affect water quality and its ability to meet the Land Health Standard.

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

Affected Environment: There are no wetland or riparian communities that would be directly or indirectly influenced by this proposal.

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 riparian systems: The proposed action would not affect achievement of the land health standard.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No areas of critical environmental concern, wilderness, 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 soils in the proposed action are soil mapping unit #43, Irigul Parachute complex. 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.

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.

When 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.

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: Short-term impacts would be expected from any surface disturbing activity. Impacts from the proposed action would be loss of the protective vegetation cover, possible increase in sedimentation during storm events and soil compaction from equipment. These impacts could continue until successful re-vegetation has occurred.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: In the no-action alternative, neither the surface disturbance nor the impacts to soils resources would occur.

Mitigation: Re-establish vegetation as soon as allowable to control any erosion problems that occur. Best management practices will need to be implemented if salts leaching from soils become a problem on the surface.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: The proposed action will not affect the soil type's ability to meet the Land Health Standard.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Vegetation in the project area is dominated by mountain big sagebrush with scattered Utah serviceberry and an understory of a variety of grasses and forbs. Due to the virtually continuous earthen disturbance which occurs in this area, noxious weeds are prominent. The primary range site here is Loamy Slopes.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The primary impact of the action on vegetation will be an increase in noxious weeds and the invasive alien, cheatgrass. Without implementation of an aggressive noxious weed management plan as mitigation, there will be a long term negative impact on native plant communities in the project area.

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

Mitigation: See mitigation listed under Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): With the exception of areas infested with noxious weeds, upland plant communities in the project area currently meet the Standard. With noxious weed/invasive species and reclamation mitigation properly applied, 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 directly or indirectly involved with this proposal.

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 action would have no effect on meeting the land health standard.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The compressor station would be housed within an approximate 200' x 350' fenced facility yard (1.6 acres) that fronts on paved Rio Blanco County Road 76. The east half of the site incorporates a grass-dominated pipeline corridor; the west half (about 0.7 acre) would occupy about 0.7 acre on the extreme southeast corner of a 14-acre mature mountain

big sagebrush stand. This sagebrush stand is largely isolated from surrounding sagebrush habitats, being bounded on its west by facility access, to the south by RBC 76 and 3, to the east by facility access, a pipeline corridor, and powerline, and to the north by another powerline and an older pipeline corridor. This compressor facility would be nested among 3 existing compressor facilities to the west, north, and south.

The Magnolia area hosts a small, remnant population of greater sage grouse that are the target of population and habitat restoration efforts by the BLM and CDOW. The proposed compressor site is situated on the southwest corner of habitat presently occupied by grouse. Although two ridgelines extending to the south and west offer about 240 acres of potential habitat, vegetation succession and heavy development pressures have generally relegated grouse to the north and east of the Magnolia Camp over the past 15 years.

Big game occupy the serviceberry and sagebrush steppe in and around the Magnolia complex, primarily from May through November.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Although the compressor site would not physically obstruct access to grouse habitats available to the west and north, with the cumulative concentration of compressor facilities, roads and other forms of surface occupation (e.g., newly constructed pipeline right-of-ways, well pads) this site may, to a small degree, further inhibit free movement of birds across this juncture. Conversely, the placement of this facility in close proximity to a number of pre-existing facilities and heavily traveled access offers the advantage of limiting the effective expansion of development into suitable and occupied sage grouse habitats.

Siting for facility access was not provided in this proposal. Access should be designed so as not to expend the facility footprint (i.e., relegate to confines of the described facility, preferably off RBC 76 or secondarily off the CIG access on the eastern margin of the proposed yard).

Construction and operation of this facility would have no conceivable influence on the Magnolia lek, which lies nearly 2 miles to the east. The natural gas-driven compressors would be enclosed within a steel building and equipped with hospital grade mufflers which limit noise emissions to 80 decibels or less at 100 feet. From BLM's experience with similar compressor stations, these noise levels tend to attenuate to background levels within 0.5 mile. To further reduce noise levels emanating toward shrublands to the east and south, the proponent offered to design the compressor facility so that the cooling fans are oriented west toward the main industrial complex.

In order to encourage the success of any pioneering grouse in and around this facility, it is recommended that any structure associated with the compressor station that may serve as a perch (e.g., electric, telephone poles) be as low in stature as is safe and practical and conditioned to effectively deter use by large raptors (i.e., eagles, buteo hawks, great horned owls). The methods selected for implementing this objective, as well as scaled drawings detailing these methods, should be provided for approval by the BLM Authorized Officer and included in the official case file.

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.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Failure to site this facility at this location may reduce the potential for further constricting the sagebrush corridor that provides a semblance of habitat continuity through this industrial complex. However, alternate locations would likely have involved more extensive long-term removal of sagebrush habitats at locations more distant from existing forms of disturbance and providing more functional value to the sage grouse population on Magnolia.

Mitigation:

1. Any structure associated with the compressor station that may serve as a perch (e.g., electric, telephone poles) be as low in stature as is safe and practical and conditioned to effectively deter use by large raptors (i.e., eagles, buteo hawks, great horned owls). The methods selected for implementing this objective, as well as scaled drawings detailing these methods, should be provided for approval by the BLM Authorized Officer and included in the official case file.
2. Access should be designed so as not to expend the facility footprint (i.e., relegate to confines of the described facility, preferably off RBC 76 or secondarily off the CIG access on the eastern margin of the proposed yard).

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): The proposed facility location is comprised of sagebrush habitats that are fully functional for use by sagebrush associated species, but past and current land uses impair their utility for species requiring larger expanses of habitat (e.g., sage grouse). On a localized basis, the project area (1.6 acres) would not meet Standard 3, but at larger spatial scales, the proposed action would have no substantive influence on the health and productivity of surrounding rangelands as habitat for terrestrial wildlife, and thus no effect on achieving the land health standard.

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		X	
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire Management		X	
Forest Management	X		
Geology and Minerals	X		
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Law Enforcement		X	
Paleontology			
Rangeland Management		X	
Realty Authorizations		X	
Recreation			X
Socio-Economics		X	
Transportation			
Visual Resources			
Wild Horses	X		

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: The proposed compressor station location is in an area mapped as the Uinta Formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM has classified as a Category I formation meaning it is known to produce scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Should it become necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation, other than small core holes, there is the potential to impact or destroy scientifically important fossil resources.

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

Mitigation:

- 1) 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.
- 2) If at any time it becomes necessary to excavate trenches, large holes or pits into the underlying bedrock formation a paleontological monitor shall be present at all times during the excavation.

RECREATION

Affected Environment: The proposed action occurs within the White River Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). BLM custodially manages the ERMA to provide for unstructured recreation activities such as hunting, dispersed camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and off-highway vehicle use.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The public will lose approximately two acres of dispersed recreation potential while the compressor station is in operation. The public will most likely not recreate in the vicinity of these facilities and will be dispersed elsewhere. This area is already inundated with other industrial facilities of this type so the likelihood that recreationists will be impacted is low as most have dispersed from the area due to past actions.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No loss of dispersed recreation potential and no impact to hunting recreationists.

Mitigation: None.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: This compressor will be built in an area classified as visual resource management (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 in an area that already contains several 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: Cumulative impacts from oil and gas development were analyzed in the White River Resource Area Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) completed in June 1996. Current development, including the proposed action, has not exceeded the cumulative impacts from the foreseeable development analyzed in the PRMP/FEIS. For cumulative impacts specifically associated with this proposed action see the Wildlife Terrestrial and Visual Resources sections above.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Caroline	Hollowed	Air Quality
Tamara Meagley	NRS	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Tamara Meagley	NRS	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	Hazmat Collateral	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Caroline	Hollowed	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness
Caroline	Hollowed	Soils
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Vegetation
Scott Pavey	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Access and Transportation
Ken Holsinger	NRS	Fire Management
Robert Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Rangeland Management
Penny Brown	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation
Max McCoy	NRS	Visual Resources
Valerie Dobrich	NRS	Wild Horses

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 (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/RATIONALE: It is my decision to approve the construction of the compressor station as described in the proposed action with the mitigation measures listed below. This development, with mitigation, is consistent with the decisions in the White River ROD/RMP, and environmental impacts will be minimal.

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. 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. Due to the abundance and continuing reoccurrence of noxious weeds in this area, as part of the authorization for this plant, Williams should submit a vegetation management plan whereby they list the materials and methods for controlling/eradicating noxious weeds and cheatgrass that will inevitably occur. That is, they should submit a Pesticide Use Proposal as a condition for approval of this action unless they intend to control all weeds by hand. Promptly recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas with Standard Seed mix # 3. Eradicate all noxious and invasive species using materials and methods approved by the Authorized Officer.
4. The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.
5. Re-establishing vegetation as soon as allowable would be favorable to control any erosion problems that occur. Best management practices will need to be implemented if salts leaching from soils become a problem on the surface.
6. Any structure associated with the compressor station that may serve as a perch (e.g., electric, telephone poles) be as low in stature as is safe and practical and conditioned to effectively deter use by large raptors (i.e., eagles, buteo hawks, great horned owls). The methods selected for implementing this objective, as well as scaled drawings detailing these methods, should be provided for approval by the BLM Authorized Officer and included in the official case file.
7. Access should be designed so as not to expend the facility footprint (i.e., relegate to confines of the described facility, preferably off RBC 76 or secondarily off the CIG access on the eastern margin of the proposed yard).
8. 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.
9. If at any time it becomes necessary to excavate trenches, large holes or pits into the underlying bedrock formation, a paleontological monitor shall be present at all times during the excavation.
10. The new structures shall be painted a non-reflective earth tone color so as not to stand out visually.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Compliance will be conducted by the realty staff upon completion of construction and every five years thereafter.

NAME OF PREPARER: Penny Brown

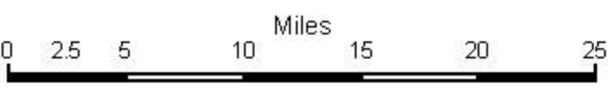
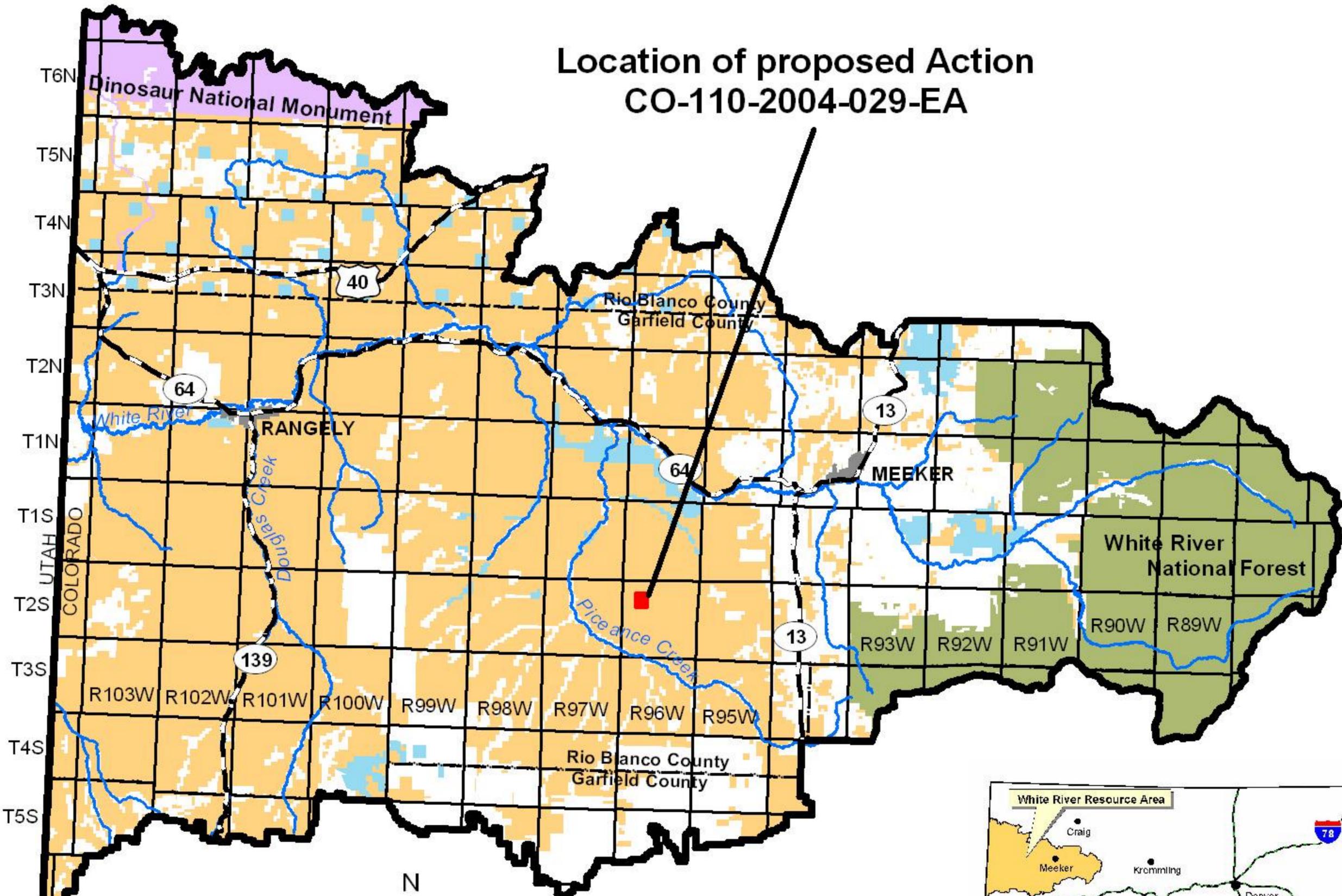
NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Scott P. [Signature]

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: [Signature]
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 2/25/04

ATTACHMENTS: Map of the Location of the Proposed Action

Location of proposed Action CO-110-2004-029-EA



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

