

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

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**NUMBER:** CO-110-2004-086-EA

**CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER** (optional): COC67529

**PROJECT NAME:** Gilliam Draw Power Line

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado  
T. 1 N., R. 101 W.,  
Sec. 4, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Sec. 7, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Sec. 8, N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Sec. 9, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

**APPLICANT:** Moon Lake Electric Association, Inc.

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:**

***Background/Introduction:*** Moon Lake Electric Association, Inc. has applied for a power line right-of-way.

***Proposed Action:*** The proposed action is for the construction, operation, and termination of a 12.5 kV, overhead power line. The power line is needed to provide a back-up feed for electrical service to the Rangely oil field and other Moon Lake consumers in the Rangely area. The proposed power line will be on wood poles with cross arms supporting aluminum conductors. The power line will have raptor protection incorporated in the structure design. Construction will be confined within Moon Lake's rights-of-way and existing roads. Any open holes, which will be left open overnight, will be covered with planks to protect people and wildlife from injury. Surface disturbance is expected to be minimal and will be confined to the right-of-way. Rubber tired vehicles will be used for construction, along with one small track mounted tractor to pull wire. No blade work will be needed. The power line will have a 20 foot width, with a length of 11,300 feet encompassing 5.19 acres more or less. The term of the right-of-way will be 30 years. The right-of-way will be issued under the authority of Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

***No Action Alternative:*** The no action alternative would deny the application and the present situation would remain the same.

**NEED FOR THE ACTION:** The power line is needed in order to provide more power to the Rangely area and surrounding oil field.

**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 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.”

**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 air quality designations or non-attainment areas in the vicinity of the proposed action.

*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. However, airborne particulate matter should not exceed Colorado air quality standards on an hourly or daily basis.

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

*Mitigation:* None

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

*Affected Environment:* A proposed route for the power line was inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level in 1984 (Polk 1984, Compliance Date 12/10/1984) with no cultural resources identified along the inventoried corridor.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* Provided the proposed power line follows the proposed 1984 route as opposed to the 2004 route there will be no new impacts to 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 proposed power line route must conform exactly to the route inventoried in 1984 or a new inventory will be required.

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.

## INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

*Affected Environment:* The project site is mainly a hillside bunchgrass community that has relatively deep soils and responds well to reclamation.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* Disturbance of vegetation and soils would be minimal and as such no seeding would be required. There is the opportunity for construction equipment or support vehicles to transport in noxious weed seed. If infestations are promptly treated there would be no impacts to the adjacent plant communities.

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

*Mitigation:* From the White River ROD/RMP, Appendix D, COA 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.

## MIGRATORY BIRDS

*Affected Environment:* The project area is comprised predominantly of xeric, open stands of basin and Wyoming big sagebrush with sparse herbaceous understories. Paralleling the right-of-way's westernmost mile, a low caprock ridge supporting stunted juniper woodland lies 200 to 500 feet north of the powerline.

A limited number of migratory birds fulfill nesting functions in these xeric shrublands during the months of May, June, and July. Species associated with these shrubland communities are generally typical and widely represented in appropriate habitat within the Resource Area and region. The powerline route closely parallels existing roads and trails through relatively depauperate habitats that support low density populations of vesper and Brewer's sparrow, spotted towhee, blue-gray gnatcatcher and western meadowlark. Those bird populations identified as having higher conservation interest (i.e., Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Partners in Flight program) are listed in the following table. Sagebrush associates are typically well distributed in extensive suitable habitats. Gray vireo and Scott's oriole are peripheral in this Resource Area and their limited distribution does not involve the project area.

**Birds with High Conservation Priority by Habitat Association**

Sagebrush	Pinyon-juniper
Brewer's sparrow Sage sparrow	gray flycatcher, gray vireo, pinyon jay juniper titmouse, black-throated gray warbler, Scott's oriole

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* It is likely that project work would commence during the migratory bird nesting season. The proposed action is sufficiently removed from adjacent woodlands where project work would have no adverse influence on nest

attempts. Woodlands within 500' of the centerline were surveyed by a BLM biologist in April 2004 and no evidence of raptor nesting was found.

Powerpole installation and line stringing would likely have a temporarily disruptive effect on a total of up to 25 acres of xeric, lower elevation (5500') sagebrush habitat (i.e., up to 35 discrete sites). In undisturbed habitat, total nest density would likely approach 1 pair per hectare (about 10 nesting pair), but because birds tend to avoid suitable substrate adjacent to unimproved roads (e.g., up to 50% decline within 100 meters), the likelihood of resident birds selecting a nest site within 50 feet of an existing roadbed is low. Short term and transient construction activity (single episodes of up to 3-4 hours) would have little effective influence on birds nesting beyond 100 feet and it is unlikely that more than 2 or 3 nest attempts of more common breeding species (e.g., vesper sparrow, blue-gray gnatcatcher) would be affected.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There would be no potential for disrupting nest attempts of migratory birds in close proximity to individual powerpoles.

*Mitigation:* A standard procedure, all aerial powerlines will be constructed in conformance with the most current raptor protection guidelines.

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

*Affected Environment:* A small (about 2 acre) white-tailed prairie dog town is located about 0.25 mile north of the eastern terminus of the powerline on private land immediately adjacent to Highway 64. This remnant town is isolated from the nearest neighboring town by about 2 miles. This species of prairie dog has recently been petitioned for listing. Prairie dogs colonies constitute habitat for a number of special status species, including burrowing owl and recovery populations of black-footed ferret that have been reintroduced into larger prairie dog complexes 15 miles to the northeast and west.

The lower White River and its cottonwood gallery forests parallel the project about 1.5 miles to the north. These riverine galleries serve as the hub of seasonal bald eagle activity in the White River valley. The only lower valley nesting attempts have occurred downriver, well to the west near the Utah line. The Colorado Division of Wildlife has delineated 2 nocturnal winter roosts (occupied approximately December through March) in private cottonwood stands about 1.25 miles north of the eastern terminus of the project.

The lower White River is also designated critical habitat for the Colorado pike-minnow. Maintenance or enhancement of river channel function was identified as an important determinant in conserving the integrity of this fisheries.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* This industrialized highway corridor is somewhat congested with existing powerlines that have been largely conditioned to deter raptor perching. Any powerpoles associated with this project that extend beyond the mouth of Gillam Draw (i.e., that north of the 138 kV line) should be conditioned to deter all raptor use

(i.e., crossarms and pole top) such that the project does not attract increased bald eagle use and increase the risk of highway mortality or line strikes. The remaining powerpoles would be designed to prevent raptor electrocution (integral with proposed action).

Line construction would remain about 2500' from the nearest occupied prairie dog colony. Although it would be highly unlikely that a black-footed ferret would pioneer, much less occupy this town for any length of time, powerpole conditioning that deters raptor perching would essentially preclude increased incidence or risk of raptor predation on ferrets or their prey base. Because the powerline would closely parallel existing roads and trails, the action would have no effective influence on subsequent vehicle use or activity levels.

This project would have no conceivable influence on riverine function or water quality and would have no affect on Colorado pike minnow. As conditioned, the proposed action may affect, but would be unlikely to adversely affect bald eagle, black-footed ferret, and white-tailed prairie dog.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There would be no potential to alter current habitat conditions for special status species.

*Mitigation:* Any powerpoles associated with this project that extend beyond the mouth of Gillam Draw (i.e., that north of the 138 kV line) should be conditioned to deter all raptor use (i.e., crossarms and pole top) such that the project does not attract increased bald eagle use and increase the risk of highway mortality or line strikes.

*Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species:* Public lands associated with the project area have little potential utility for, and are generally not important in, sustaining local special status species populations. Installation of this powerline as conditioned would have no further influence on the utility or suitability of these habitats for bald eagle winter foraging use, the potential for prairie dog expansion, or the unlikely occupation of this site by black-footed ferret and, therefore, would not adversely influence the current or future status of the public 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 within the project area.

*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.

*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.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under this 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:* 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. The proposed action is in the Douglas Creek and Gillam Draw watersheds. Gillam Draw is identified in segment 13a, which are all tributaries to the White River from a point immediately above the confluence with Piceance Creek to a point immediately above the confluence with Douglas Creek. Douglas Creek is in segment 22, which is all tributaries the White River, from a point immediately above the confluence with Douglas Creek to the Colorado/Utah border.

Segment 13a is classified 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. Segment 22 has been classified as Aquatic Life Warm 1, Recreation 1a, Water Supply and Agriculture. The state 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.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* There is no reasonable likelihood that powerline installation would have an influence on the water quality condition of the White River.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* None

*Mitigation:* None

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

**CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:**

No ACEC’s, flood plains, wetland and riparian zones, prime and unique farmlands, Wilderness Study Areas 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 have been mapped in an order III soil survey by NRCS which is available for review at the field office. Refer to the table below for the type of soils affected by the proposed action.

Soil Number	Soil Name	Slope	Range site	Salinity	RunOff	Erosion Potential	Bedrock
7	Billings silty clay loam	0-5%	Alkaline Slopes	2-8	Rapid	Moderate to high	>60
55	Nihill channery sandy loam	5-50%	Salt-desert Breaks	<2	Medium	Moderate to very high	>60
90	Torrifluventsgullied		None		Rapid	Very high	>60
91	Torriorhents-Rock Outcrop complex	15-90%	Stoney Foothills		Rapid	Very high	10-20
93	Turley fine sandy loam	0-3%	Alkaline Slopes	2-4	Medium	Slight	>60
94	Turley fine sandy loam	3-8%	Alkaline Slopes	2-4	Medium	Slight to moderate	>60

These soils are deep, well drained on alluvial valley floors, fans, and low terraces. They are calcareous mixed alluvium derived dominantly from sandstone and shale. The native vegetation is mainly desert shrubs and grasses. Typically, the topsoil layer is a light brownish gray fine

sandy loam about 4 inches thick. Permeability of these soils is moderately slow. The majority of the soils encountered are in the Alkaline Slopes range site.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* The powerline construction would have minimal impacts to soil resources. Compaction may occur in the vicinity of the pole placement. This impact would be short-term.

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

*Mitigation:* None

*Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils:* The proposed action will not cause the upland soils to *not* meet the Land Health Standards.

### **VEGETATION** (includes a finding on Standard 3)

*Affected Environment:* The project area is primarily a hillside bunchgrass type of good composition and cover.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* There will be little damage to the plant community. Following completion of the project those disturbed areas would recover fully using the seed reservoir from the adjacent plant community.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There would be no impacts

*Mitigation:* None

*Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities* (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The plant community currently meets the standard for plant communities and following completion of the project is expected to continue meeting the standard.

### **WILDLIFE, AQUATIC** (includes a finding on Standard 3)

*Affected Environment:* The nearest aquatic habitats, those associated with the lower White River, are greater than 1 mile from the proposed powerline route.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* There is no reasonable likelihood that powerline installation would have an influence on the condition or function of distant aquatic habitat associated with the White River.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* The no-action alternative would have no affect on existing aquatic habitat conditions.

*Mitigation:* None.

*Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities* (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): BLM-administered portions of the White River and its 100-year floodplain (3+ miles downstream of the project area) are largely in proper functioning condition and meet the land health standard for animal communities and riparian habitat. Development of this powerline would have no conceivable influence on the condition or function of these riverine habitats and, therefore, would have no influence on continued maintenance of associated land health standards.

**WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL** (includes a finding on Standard 3)

*Affected Environment:* These arid rangelands are used exclusively during the later winter and earlier spring months by deer and elk, although prolonged winter use in these higher recreation use areas near Rangely (adjacent to existing roads) is generally low. Raptors, especially red-tailed (year round) and rough-legged hawk (winter) make sporadic foraging use of these sites. No other species highlighted for management inhabit the project area.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* Project construction would be completed prior to big game winter occupation. Powerline installation would have no measurable influence on the availability or utility of seasonal forage or cover resources in the project vicinity (i.e., shrubland or herbaceous ground cover as habitat components for all resident wildlife). Depending on the method selected by the utility in protecting raptors from electrocution, raptors may increase attendance on these sites in response to increased availability of powerpole perches, although with the nearby availability of natural woodland perches, the overall effect on raptor or prey populations is expected to be negligible.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There would be no change in existing habitat conditions.

*Mitigation:* Raptor electrocution protection is provided for in the proposed action.

*Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities* (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): The project site meets the land health standard for animal communities. Installation of the powerline as proposed, or failing to authorize the project proposal, would have no functional influence on attributes of community health.

**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
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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		X	
Rangeland Management		X	
Realty Authorizations		X	
Recreation		X	
Socio-Economics		X	
Visual Resources			X
Wild Horses	X		

## FIRE MANAGEMENT

*Affected Environment:* The proposed action falls within the B3 Salt Desert Shrub Fire management polygon. This polygon is an area where unplanned wildland fire is not desired because of current conditions. The proposed action will not change the way this polygon is currently managed.

Rio Blanco County through their Strategic Emergency/Disaster Management Program determined that electrical lines servicing mining, industrial, and oil and gas facilities had the most significant exposure to wildland fire hazard within the county. Therefore powerline protection is a high priority in their Strategic Wildland Fire Management Program (RBC 2003, Rio Blanco County, Colorado, Strategic Wildland Fire Hazard Management Program).

The route proposed for the powerline goes through Basin Big Sagebrush/greasewood in the Douglas Creek and Gillam Draw drainages and dry exposure, sparsely vegetated slopes.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* It is not anticipated that implementing the proposed action will change the way that the B3 fire management polygon is managed due to the amount of oil and gas infrastructure currently present and relative close proximity to the town of Rangely and private land.

Fire occurring in either the Douglas Creek or Gillam Draw drainages could threaten those sections of the powerline. Basin Big Sagebrush and greasewood are very volatile fuels that when burning under environmental conditions when a wildfire can be expected moves extremely quickly. These fuels have a very rapid rate of spread with flame lengths up to 100 feet and release very intense heat that will threaten the powerline and wooden pole structures. The proposed powerline would also create a significant safety hazard for firefighters. Fire and dense

smoke are conductors of electricity. Electrical current can be transmitted through flame lengths and dense smoke which is highly dangerous for firefighters who may have to suppress wildfire underneath or around the line.

Should a wildfire threaten the powerline the close proximity of the Rangely Volunteer Fire Department should result in a rapid response to an incident occurring near the powerline, which may limit the exposure of the powerline to damage by fire. However, the risk would remain for suppression forces working under or directly adjacent to the line.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There would be no wildfire threat to new industry infrastructure. There would also be no additional threat to firefighter safety when called upon to suppress a wildfire in the vicinity of the proposed action.

*Mitigation:* None

## **VISUAL RESOURCES**

*Affected Environment:* This power line is in an area managed as Visual Resource Management Area (VRM) Class 3. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* The visual affects from this project will result in a moderate change to the characteristic landscape. VRM Class 3 objectives will be met.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* None

*Mitigation:* None

**CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY:** This action is consistent with the scope of impacts addressed in the White River ROD/RMP. The cumulative impacts of this type of activity, was addressed in the White River ROD/RMP for each resource value that would be affected by the proposed action.

## **PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED:**

### REFERENCES CITED

Polk, Michael R.

- 1984 A Cultural Resources Survey of Two Moon Lake Electric Transmission Line Corridors Near Rangely, Colorado. Sagebrush Archaeological Consultants, Ogden, Utah.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Area of Responsibility</b>
Carol Hollowed	Hydrologist	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
Robert Fowler	Forester	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
Carol Hollowed	Hydrologist	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	ORP	Wilderness
Carol Hollowed	Hydrologist	Soils
Robert Fowler	Forester	Vegetation
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Terrestrial and Aquatic
Chris Ham	ORP	Access and Transportation
Ken Holsinger	NRS	Fire Management
Robert Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining engineer	Geology and Minerals
Robert Fowler	Forester	Rangeland Management
Penny Brown	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	ORP	Recreation
Chris Ham	ORP	Visual Resources
Valerie Dobrich	NRS	Wild Horses

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

## **CO-110-2004-086-EA**

**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 proposed action with the mitigation measures listed below.

### **MITIGATION MEASURES:**

1. The proposed power line route must conform exactly to the route inventoried in 1984 or a new inventory will be required.
  
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. The White River ROD/RMP, Appendix D, COA 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."
5. As a standard procedure, all aerial power lines will be constructed in conformance with the most current raptor protection guidelines.
6. Any power poles associated with this project that extend beyond the mouth of Gilliam Draw (i.e., that north of the 138 kV line) should be conditioned to deter all raptor use (i.e., crossarms and pole top) such that the project does not attract increased bald eagle use and increase the risk of highway mortality or line strikes.
7. The holder shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.

**COMPLIANCE/MONITORING:** Compliance will be conducted by the realty staff every five years.

**NAME OF PREPARER:** Penny Brown

**NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:** Caroline P. Hollowed 6/15/04

**SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:** Devin Phell  
Field Manager

**DATE SIGNED:** 6/15/04

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

# Location of Proposed Action CO-110-2004-086-EA

