

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2004-128-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional):

PROJECT NAME: Eagle Point Shelter 5RB4662

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T 2S R97W Sec 5, E1/2 SESE

APPLICANT: BLM, WESTERN WYOMING COLLEGE, EXXONMOBIL

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction: Between August 21 and September 5, 2003, Archaeologist F.R.Hauck monitored the construction of the ExxonMobil pipeline for the Little Hills Pipeline Corridor beginning at the initiation point and proceeding north through the mouth of Ryan Canyon to the American Soda Plant's road crossing. Both the Ryan Gulch and American Soda Plant canyon crossings were constructed by surface blading and trenching. No cultural resources were identified. Eagle Rock Shelter was buried under a talus slope and was not identifiable. The Shelter's outer periphery and slope was exposed by dozer blading during the construction of the pipeline right-of-way across that talus slope for about 100 meters. The site's depth of cultural occupation begins with a hearth and descends about five vertical meters through numerous occupational floors suggesting multiple short and long term prehistoric occupations. The dryness of the site indicates the presence of a wide range of organic materials still intact. Preliminary evaluations of material and artifacts suggest possible occupations spanning 11,000 years. In April 2004 ExxonMobil, BLM and Western Wyoming College entered into an agreement in which Western Wyoming College Archaeology Professor Dudley Gardner agreed to conduct research over a five year period utilizing the Western Wyoming Field School to be funded by ExxonMobil. The Eagle Point Field School will begin initial excavations, research and recovery the last week of July 2004.

Proposed Action: The project area is E1/2 SE¹/₄ SE ¹/₄ of Section 5 Township 2 South Range 97 West. The site is located in Rio Blanco County, Colorado on lands administered by the White River Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

The ***Eagle Point Shelter*** is located above and west of Piceance Creek. The site sits in a north south trending rock shelter extending approximately 100 meters facing east. The canyon wall

that the site sits in is part of a larger canyon/mesa system that is evident on the west side of the Piceance Creek. The site sits on the western side of a south to north trending cliff and canyon system that rises 300ft above. The sediments are derived from three major sources: alluvial, aeolian, and colluvial. The sediments that have covered the top of the shelter are colluvium. Overlaying the main colluvial deposit is a mix of colluvium and aeolian deposits.

Field schools will be conducted at the Eagle Point Shelter from two to six weeks in length beginning July 24, 2004 until October 2009. The excavation plan is designed to determine the occupational sequence, the nature and function of the site and the nature of environmental change during the sites occupation. The excavation and testing is intended to determine the 1) age; 2) range and extent of cultural deposits; 3) type of floral materials used and processed; 4) nature of spatial use inside the shelter; and 5) the rate and nature of environmental change in the area. The excavations will involve 5 to 12 students and 3 to 5 professionals each year. In 2004 stabilization work will be initiated between July 24 and October 31. *We intend to excavate just enough area to obtain our research goals while leaving intact as much of the cultural deposits as possible.*

Excavation Size and Placement The size of the excavation units well is predicated on existing ethnoarchaeological studies and the results of regional archaeological studies. It is estimated that a total of 50 to 100 m² of hand excavated units should be sufficient to determine the range of artifact type and depth of the cultural deposits at 5RB4662.

Recordation and Collection Procedures The excavation will be established on the same grid system used during the initial testing of the sites. In this grid system, an arbitrary point was established at a highly visible point near the edge of the sites. This point was arbitrarily assigned the horizontal designation of 100 North/100 East and a vertical designation of 100.00 m. All horizontal proveniences will be expressed as meters south and east from the datum, with excavation units labeled by their southwest corners. Vertical proveniences will be expressed metrically in relation to the arbitrary 100 m point, whether they are above or below that point. By establishing the horizontal and vertical datum in this way, all proveniences will be expressed in whole numbers from one quadrate of the grid and thus eliminate potential errors in recording relationships to the datum.

The basic excavation unit will be a 1 x 1 m square, with collection units being 1 x 1 m quadrates. Vertical control in excavation will be imposed by natural stratigraphy, where clearly defined, and otherwise, by arbitrary 10 cm levels in the absence of traceable natural strata. Excavation of each unit will be accomplished with the use of trowels, and excavated matrix will be sieved through double screens 1/8 to 1/16 inch mesh.

To facilitate the visualization of the relationships of features and in situ cultural remains, an occupation surface will be exposed simultaneously over the entire excavation. The exposed surface will be photographed and a plan map drawn. Mapping will be accomplished using portable 1 x 1 m grid frames which are subdivided by string into 10 x 10 cm grids. By moving the frames over the entire occupation surface, plan maps may be produced rapidly, accurately, and efficiently. In addition, the frames may be used in conjunction with photographs, taken in 1 m increments, to produce a composite photograph of the entire occupation surface, if necessary.

By exposing and documenting occupation surfaces over large areas in excavations, a visually explicit representation of the distribution of cultural remains is produced.

The position of large materials can provide clues about natural and cultural processes that may have affected the sites. Different processes can orient materials randomly or orient the materials into identifiable patterns. In order to quantify patterning of the cultural and natural remains, altitude and inclination information will be collected on all items that were 5 cm or larger in at least one dimension to determine changes in landscape over time. Items that are angular to sub-angular and generally tabular in shape will be recorded. Those non-cultural items that are rounded will not be recorded. When fire-cracked cobbles are encountered they will be mapped to the nearest cm on the grid map. In cases where large quantities of objects are present, a sample will be drawn to expedite the process. A Brunton compass will be used to measure the dip and direction of the items. In the laboratory, maps indicating the altitude and inclination of each class of mapped item will be compiled.

Artifacts All cultural material recovered from each 1 x 1 unit will be bagged separately to avoid mistakes and mix-ups in the field. Each bag will be labeled with an artifacts individual provenience (if known). This will be important when activity areas and the function of such areas are investigated. Collected materials will also be segregated as to stratigraphic unit and/or occupation surface. All recovered material will be identified with field specimen or ancillary specimen numbers. Care will be taken to record artifacts in an in situ circumstance, when possible. The in situ specimens will have exact horizontal and vertical location recorded individually, and their relationship to other material noted. For the most part, however, artifacts will be recovered from the screen. To maintain stratigraphic relationships, artifacts will be bagged by level. Tools, pottery, ground stone, and debitage will be sorted and bagged separately. Each in situ artifact, each tool, and each bag of debitage will be assigned a field specimen number and recorded on the Archaeological Field Specimen Record. An excavation record will be completed for each level of each 1 x 1 m unit. In addition, each specimen bag (whether for field specimens or ancillary study specimens) will exhibit standardized locational data. Culturally modified rock other than chipped stone artifacts and ground stone, i.e., thermally altered rock, will be exposed, mapped, and photographed in situ, but not collected. The thermally altered rock will be quantified and weighed per each quadrant of the excavation unit or per feature.

Features As features are encountered in excavation, they will first be completely exposed horizontally, and then a plan map will be drawn indicating size and the location of any rocks or artifacts. Photographs will be taken prior to excavation as well as when the feature is empty. Cross sectioning along the long axis will be done so that half of the feature fill will be removed initially, extracting flotation samples and screening the remainder of the fill through 1/16 inch wire mesh to recover any cultural material. This will be followed by a stratigraphic profile map of the remaining portion of the fill in an effort to determine if any internal stratification is present in the feature fill. Fill from the feature will be collected for later analyses, e.g., pollen and flotation, before the remainder of the feature is removed. If the fill appears to be stratified, each distinct stratum will be sampled from the profiled wall.

Slab or rock-lined hearths will be treated in much the same manner. Features will be excavated so that half of the feature will be in 10cm arbitrary levels unless the natural stratigraphy is present. They will also be plan mapped and profiles will be drawn, both with the rocks or slabs in place and with the rock removed. One or more slabs or rocks will be collected and wrapped in foil for later analysis, e.g., pollen and fiber. The material types of stones present will be noted as well. Pollen samples will be taken both above and below any slabs.

House features, should they be encountered, will be dealt with in a similar manner, but on a larger scale. A complete horizontal exposure of the top of the feature will be documented before excavation of the fill. The fill will be removed using the regular grid system with units excavated in quadrates and by natural levels, segregating the interior fill from that external to the feature. If portable cultural materials are present, these will be exposed and left in situ until the entire feature has been excavated. Special sampling from house features will take the form of systematically located pollen samples collected from just above roof level to the floor in the center of each 1 x 1 m quadrate of the excavation units located over the feature. This may allow for interpretation of differential use of the interior house space. Flotation samples will be collected from interior pit features fine screen sampling will be conducted in the same way as is described below for the excavations.

Ancillary Study Samples A number of special samples will be collected systematically from the excavations, as well as from all cultural features, in order to expand the database from which to derive interpretations of subsistence and environment. Each of these samples will be assigned individual ancillary numbers and recorded on the Ancillary Study Specimen Record.

Faunal Remains Faunal material will be collected from each unit. The bagging and sorting methods and locational data recordation will be the same as described above for lithic artifacts. Again, there will be an attempt to record faunal remains in situ. This in situ recording will be done in an attempt to discern butchering areas and butchering units, and to determine whether intensive reduction of certain parts of the animal is indicated; e.g., for bone grease production.

Macrofloral Remains The recovery of macrofloral material (e.g., seeds, twigs, charcoal, etc.) will be accomplished primarily through flotation of the matrix from features and structure fill. A minimum of two liters of fill will be collected from features (hearths, pits) for flotation purposes. The size of the flotation sample will be determined by the size of the feature from which it is taken *Microfloral*

Remains Pollen samples will be collected in order to document the presence of various microfloral species to aid in paleoenvironmental reconstruction and to help in the identification of subsistence practices and activity areas. A series of samples (minimum of 100 ml in volume), segregated by stratigraphic level, will be extracted from columns in the excavations. These pollen samples will be located adjacent to the sediment samples and extracted in units equivalent to the sediment samples (i.e., paired samples). Pollen samples will also be collected from cultural features to help determine which plants may have been used at the sites. Modern pollen rain will be sampled from the present ground surface as a comparative control to the prehistoric pollen record.

Sediment Samples Sediment samples will be collected from the excavations, utilizing both natural and cultural levels as necessary, to aid in stratigraphic correlation and interpretation. Approximately 100 ml will be collected per sample; each stratum will be sampled vertically in increments ***no greater*** than 5 cm. Ultimately, these samples will be used to interpret depositional history and paleoenvironmental conditions. Pollen samples will be taken adjacent to and consistent with the sediment samples to maintain correlation between the two types of samples. In doing so, both sets of data may be integrated reliably to produce a fine-grained reconstruction of the paleoenvironmental history of the sites locale.

Fine Screen Samples The sites will be sampled for the smaller range of cultural remains through the use of 1/8 inch mesh for screening. If practical, all excavated sediment will be screened through 1/8 inch, or smaller, mesh. This approach is especially appropriate to the fill from house features. Other types of hearth and pit features will be sampled because all feature fill not collected for other samples will be fine-screened using 1/16 inch mesh.

Charcoal Samples Charcoal samples will be taken whenever possible, primarily from firepits or other discrete loci, for radiometric dating. These samples will initially be handled with tweezers or clean trowels, then placed in a folded envelope of aluminum foil, sealed, and placed in a paper sack. The paper sack will contain the proper locational data.

Post-excavation Procedures Subsequent to the completion of the excavations, the White River Field Office BLM Archaeologist will be verbally notified before backfilling of excavated areas is begun. Backfilling will be for the purpose of restoring the original contour of the ground surface of the sites in order to preserve what remains and to render the sites safe for the public, livestock, and wildlife. All units scheduled for reopening the following year will be lined with black plastic sheet to ensure no mixing of old and new deposits occurs.

Travel to the site will cross ground owned by Exxon Mobile and leased by C.W. Brennan. C.W. Brennan has agreed to permit travel across his leased ground to the site. Two to three vehicles will be used to haul equipment and students to the site. Equipment will include shovels, screens, trowels, laser measuring instruments, and other equipment needed to conduct a full scale archaeological excavation.

No Action Alternative: The no action alternative would deny this proposal and hence the collection of data that is critical to our understanding of occupations and utilization of resources in transitional zones.

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

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: 2-89, 90

Decision Language: “Under all alternatives, excavation permits would be issued to qualified applicants for scientific or educational purposes....Excavation permits for the protection of archaeological data from cultural resources would also be issued to qualified applicants.”

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

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Affected Environment: The project location falls on the periphery of the Ryan Gulch ACEC. The ACEC encompasses the lower valley of Ryan Gulch and a portion of west valley slope of Piceance Creek across the valley from the Dudley Bluffs ACEC. The ACEC contains an outcropping of the Thirteen Mile Creek Tongue of the Green River Formation.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: A pedestrian survey was conducted of the project area and no T & E or sensitive status plants were found. Therefore, there would be no impact and the environmental quality will be maintained. There will be no undue degradation to the values that make the ACEC unique.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The size of the excavation units well is predicated on existing ethnoarchaeological studies and the results of regional archaeological studies. It is estimated that a total of 50 to 100 m² of hand excavated units should be sufficient to determine the range of artifact type and depth of the cultural deposits at 5RB4662

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The protection of archaeological data from cultural resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: The excavation plan is designed to determine the occupational sequence, the nature and function of the site and the nature of environmental change during the sites occupation. The excavation and testing is intended to determine the 1) age; 2) range and extent

of cultural deposits; 3) type of floral materials used and processed; 4) nature of spatial use inside the shelter; and 5) the rate and nature of environmental change in the area. The excavations will involve 5 to 12 students and 3 to 5 professionals each year. In 2004 stabilization work will be initiated between July 24 and October 31. *We intend to excavate just enough area to obtain our research goals while leaving intact as much of the cultural deposits as possible.*

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: There are no known noxious or invasive species on site.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There will be no impact.

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

Mitigation: None

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: The project site lies on the interface of private irrigated pasture and steep slopes comprised primarily of talus and rock outcrop. A narrow margin of rank basin big sagebrush and greasewood lines the access road. The shrubs and rock outcrops support very little migratory bird breeding activity and these species represent very common, widely distributed species (e.g., rock wren, cliff swallow, Say's phoebe, American robin, blue-gray gnatcatcher). Although a narrow margin of coyote willow and phragmites lines Piceance Creek's banks, these sites are heavily use by cattle in spring and offers only inferior nest habitat for more generalized species (e.g., Brewer's blackbird, song sparrow). There are no species associated with this area that have been identified as having higher conservation interest (i.e., Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Partners in Flight program).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The field school would be conducted no earlier than mid-July—beyond the normal late date for fledging of migratory birds associated with this project. The project would have no substantive influence on the breeding activities of migratory birds.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no potential to disturb migratory bird breeding activities.

Mitigation: None.

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

Affected Environment: There are no threatened and endangered species that inhabit or derive important benefit from the project area. Aquatic habitats adjacent to the project site may be inhabited at times by several species considered sensitive by BLM. The deeper pools and runs found in lower Piceance Creek can support relatively large numbers of young flannelmouth sucker and an occasional mountain sucker from core habitats in the White River. Patchily distributed, northern leopard frogs are common in spring along the Piceance Creek channel, off-channel wetlands, and irrigation waste water areas.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Field school activities would be confined to the use of hand tools on the toe slopes. There would be no direct influence of stream-side vegetation that would influence amphibian habitat or the stability of the Piceance Creek channel. Excavation may cause a certain amount of sediment movement from the site, but there is no reasonable likelihood that this activity would generate sufficient quantity of sediments directly entering the channel to measurably influence water quality parameters of Piceance Creek's fisheries.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no activities that could contribute to sediment entering Piceance Creek.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: Except for several diminutive and widely separated inclusions totaling less than 1000', Piceance Creek for at least 10 miles up and downstream of the project site is privately owned. This creek is seasonally influenced by heavy irrigation demands and spring livestock uses that generally detracts from the proper functioning of the channel and its bank/floodplain features. Although these BLM-administered channel segments do not generally meet the standards for riparian and aquatic systems, no matter what their condition, they cannot be expected to function independently of the larger system. This project proposal would have no influence on the condition or function of the Piceance Creek channel or its associated sensitive species habitat and would be incapable of altering the status of standard 2 (riparian) or 4 (special status species).

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 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 the Piceance Creek watershed and identified in segment 15 by the Colorado Department of Health and 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. This reach's designated beneficial uses are: Warm Aquatic Life 2, Recreation 1b, and Agriculture. For this reach, minimum standards for four parameters have been listed. These parameters are: dissolved oxygen = 5.0 mg/l, pH = 6.5 - 9.0 and Fecal Coliform = 2000/100ml and 630/100 ml E. coli. In addition standards for inorganic and metals have also been listed and can be found in the table of stream classifications and water quality standards.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Impacts to water quality from the proposed action would be similar to other surface disturbing activities; at a much lesser degree. These impacts would be removal of the protective vegetative cover, exposing soils to the climatic elements. Since the group will be using hand tools, and be there for a relatively short period of time, these impacts would be minimal.

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

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: The proposed action will have no effect on the watershed's ability to meet these water quality standards.

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

See discussion in Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animal Species section above.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, or wild and scenic rivers exist within the area affected by the proposed action. Impacts to air quality are not anticipated from 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 soil mapping unit #40, Hagga Loam, which is a deep, poorly drained soil, on flood plains and alluvial valley floors. Typically, the surface layer is light brownish gray loam 5 inches thick. Below this to a depth of 60 inches or more is stratified silty clay loam to loamy fine sand. Permeability of this Hagga soil is moderately slow. Available water capacity is high. Effective rooting depth is 60 inches or more for water-tolerant plants, but it is limited to depths between 10 and 20 inches for non-water-tolerant plants. Runoff is slow, and the hazard water erosion is slight. A seasonal high water table is at a depth of 12 to 24 inches in spring and early in summer. This soil is subject to brief periods of flooding in spring and summer. This map unit is in Swale Meadow 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 salt and sedimentation during storm events and soil compaction from equipment. These impacts are expected to minimal with the use of hand tools and foot traffic.

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 have no effect on the soils' ability to meet the land health standard.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: There is no appreciable vegetation on this site, a rock outcrop.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There will be no significant impact on vegetation

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

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The proposed action will have no impact on the ability of vegetation to meet the Standard.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

See discussion in Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animal Species section above.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The irrigated meadows along Piceance Creek are associated with mule deer severe winter range. These pastures, as a source of succulent herbaceous forage, are used by heavy concentration of deer during the spring months (March and April). Outside this period, the project area's steep slopes and rock outcrops sustain no notable big game use. A prominent rock outcrop above the field school site supports 4 alternate golden eagle nest sites that have been occupied more or less continuously since at least 1979 (the latest nest activity was in 2003).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The field school would have no potential affect on big game distribution or use as it would be conducted outside the period when big game occupy the area and would not involve the loss of forage resources.

Field school activities would directly subtend 2 of the 4 eagle nest sites. Excavation activities would not physically modify the character of habitat surrounding the nest site, but activity would occur within 100' of these sites and would disrupt and likely fail any ongoing nest efforts. Although the field school would commence no earlier than mid-July when young eagles are normally fledged from these sites, there may be time when late or renesting activities could delay nesting. Field school activities would be subject to current nest status (determined by mid-May of each year) and, if found active, the application of RMP-approved Timing Limitation stipulations (below).

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no potential to influence wildlife populations or habitats.

Mitigation: TL-4 (WR-23) Raptor Nesting. No activities would be allowed within 1/4 mile of identified nests from February 1 through August 15, or until fledgling and dispersal of young. It is recommended that an exception be granted by the Area Manager if the nest is unattended or remains unoccupied by May 15 of the project year.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): BLM-administered upland components meet the land health standard for animal communities. As mitigated (raptor nest stipulation), field school activities would have no detrimental affect on these lands in continuing to meet the standard.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

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	

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED:

Gardner, Dudley 2004. Personal communication between Dudley Gardner, Ph.D., Western Wyoming Community College, Rock Springs WY and Gabrielle Elliott, Archeologist, Bureau of Land Management.

Gardner, Dudley et al, Eagle Point Shelter (5RB4662) Archaeological Data Recovery and Treatment Plan, 2004.

Hauck, Richard, Ph.D. Archaeological Data Recovery Program for Eagle Point Shelter
(5RB4662) in The Piceance Basin of Rio Blanco County, 2003

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Carol Hollowed	Hydrologist	Air Quality
Carol Hollowed	Hydrologist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Tamara Meagley	NRS	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Gabrielle Elliott	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
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
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	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
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	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)**

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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 proposed action with the mitigation measures listed below.

MITIGATION MEASURES: 1) The excavation plan is designed to determine the occupational sequence, the nature and function of the site and the nature of environmental change during the sites occupation. The excavation and testing is intended to determine the A) age; B) range and extent of cultural deposits; C) type of floral materials used and processed; D) nature of spatial use inside the shelter; and E) the rate and nature of environmental change in the area. The excavations will involve 5 to 12 students and 3 to 5 professionals each year. In 2004 stabilization work will be initiated between July 24 and October 31.

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

3) TL-4 (WR-23) Raptor Nesting. No activities would be allowed within 1/4 mile of identified nests from February 1 through August 15, or until fledgling and dispersal of young. It is recommended that an exception be granted by the Area Manager if the nest is unattended or remains unoccupied by May 15 of the project year.

NAME OF PREPARER: *Greene* 7/6/2004

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: *Caroline P. Hollowed* 7/6/04

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL *Thent T. Walter*
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: *7/06/04*

ATTACHMENTS: Location map of the proposed action.

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Location of Proposed Action CO-110-2004-128-EA

