

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2004-045-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC67478

PROJECT NAME: Power line to provide service to 3 Carbon Energy wells

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 4 S., R. 104 W.,
Sec. 12, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 13, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;
Sec. 14, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

APPLICANT: Moon Lake Electric Association

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Proposed Action: The proposed action is for the construction of a new 3-phase overhead power line to serve 3 Carbon Energy wells in the Evacuation Creek/Whiskey Springs area. The line will consist of single wood poles with cross-arms supporting aluminum conductors. The total length will be 5,500 feet with a width of 20 feet encompassing 2.53 acres more or less. The term of the right-of-way will be 30 years.

The existing power line, COC078067 was issued prior to the passage of FLPMA and will require a new right-of-way for this new construction. There is no other power source in the area.

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: No power line would be constructed.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD:

NEED FOR THE ACTION: Moon Lake Electric Association has applied for a right-of-way to provide power to Carbon Energy wells.

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 uses 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: The entire White River Resource Area has been designated as either attainment or unclassified for all pollutants, and most of the area has been designated prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) class II.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would result in short term, local impacts to air quality during construction, from fugitive dust being blown into the air.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Under the no action alternative, there would be no adverse affects on air quality.

Mitigation: The operator will utilize dust abatement measures to control fugitive dust as needed.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed powerline routes, provided they remain within 50 feet of the centerlines of the access roads to the wells have been inventoried at the Class III (100 % pedestrian) level (Montgomery 2001, Compliance Dated 12/12/2001 and Montgomery and Ball 2001, Compliance Dated 7/11/2001) with no cultural resources located within the road inventory corridor. However, disturbance outside of the current road right-of-way does involve the presence of a number of cultural resources.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: If mitigation measures spelled out below are followed there would be no new impacts to cultural resources as a result of this project.

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

Mitigation: Consultation with the Colorado SHPO resulted in a determination that avoidance of the cultural properties was acceptable mitigation. Therefore:

1. All powerline construction activity must remain within 50 feet of the centerline of the existing access roads to the wells in order to avoid impacts to cultural resources.
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: There are three vegetation types associated with the proposed project they are; greasewood bottom, big sagebrush bottoms, and pinyon/juniper. The greasewood bottoms with associated vegetation including; greasewood, basin big sagebrush, and cheatgrass are of concern to reclamation and noxious species. The soils are deep but highly alkaline and tend to crust which inhibits seedling emergence. This is a very difficult site to reclaim. The sagebrush and pinyon/juniper sites are typically not difficult to reclaim.

Noxious weeds of concern include; cheatgrass, and knapweed species. Cheatgrass is found throughout the area and is expected to invade any disturbance. The knapweed species are highly adapted to this area and have been found. All known outbreaks of knapweed have been treated. Knapweed remains a concern as outbreaks are almost always associated with vehicles.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The amount of disturbed ground will be relatively small. On these disturbed soils cheatgrass is expected to invade. Standard seed mix one is proposed for this site and offers the greatest opportunity for stabilization of the soils. Because of the soils reclamation is not assured. The seed mix contains non-native species. These species have been chosen as they offer the greatest opportunity for reclamation success, and the species included have not been shown to move off-site or to interbreed with the adjacent native plant communities.

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

Mitigation: Apply the following conditions of approval from the WRRRA, RMP of 1997, Appendix B

180. All disturbed sites shall be promptly reclaimed to the satisfaction of the Area Manger.

181. Reclamation should be implemented concurrent with construction and site operations to the fullest extent possible. Final reclamation actions shall be initiated within six months of the termination of operations unless otherwise approved in writing by the Authorized Officer.

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

Also, use Standard Seed Mix #1 for reclamation of the project area:

Seed Mix #	Species (Variety)	Lbs PLS/Acre	Range sites
1	Siberian wheatgrass (P27)	3	Alkaline Uplands, Badlands, Clayey 7"-9", Clayey Salt Desert, Cold Desert Breaks, Cold Desert Overflow, Gravelly 7"-9", Limey Cold Desert, Loamy 7"-9", Loamy Cold Desert, Loamy Salt Desert, Saline Lowland, Salt Desert Breaks, Salt Flats, Salt Meadow Sands 7"-9", Sandy 7"-9", Sandy Cold Desert, Sandy Salt Desert, Shale 7"-9", Shale/Sands Complex, Shallow Loamy, Shallow Sandy, Shallow Slopes, Silty Salt Desert, Silty Swale, Steep
	Russian wildrye (Bozoisky)	2	
	Crested wheatgrass (Hycrest)	3	

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: Powerline installation would involve an interface between a small upland sagebrush basin and low-density pinyon-juniper stand, and bottomland basin big sagebrush and greasewood. Migratory birds associated with these extensive shrubland and woodland communities are typical and widely represented in the Resource Area (e.g., blue-gray gnatcatcher, mountain bluebird, vesper sparrow, rock wren, western meadowlark) and nest almost exclusively from mid-May through early July. Those species identified as having higher conservation interest (i.e., Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Partners in Flight program) are limited to those in the table below:

	Habitat Association	
	Sagebrush	Pinyon-juniper
Migratory Birds with High Conservation Priority	Brewer's sparrow green-tailed towhee	gray flycatcher pinyon jay juniper titmouse black-throated gray warbler violet-green swallow

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Based on the proponent's application, the project would be completed by no later than the third week of May. Although early nesting attempts would be in progress at this time, the project would be largely complete before widespread nesting activity. Further, because these powerlines would closely parallel existing well access roads, it is likely that nesting density in those woodland and shrubland habitats directly impacted by installation activities is low relative to surrounding habitats. Considering the limited period of exposure, the cover types involved, and the tendency of birds to distance nest sites from active disturbance (particularly in open shrublands), there is little likelihood of disrupting nesting activity of woodland associates and only a low probability that the proposed project would disrupt individual nesting efforts in the sagebrush types.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Bird nesting would continue to be influenced by vehicle access and other activity associated with well and road maintenance. There is no accurate way of predicting the impacts of alternate power options on migratory bird nesting.

Mitigation: None

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

Affected Environment: There are no animals listed, proposed, or candidate to the Endangered Species Act, or BLM sensitive animals known to inhabit or derive important benefit from the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would have no conceivable influence on special status animals or associated habitats.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Regardless of alternative means of power, the no action alternative would likely have no conceivable influence on special status animals or associated habitats.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: The Public Land Health Standard for threatened & endangered species is not applicable to this action, since neither the proposed or no action alternative would have any influence on habitats occupied by or having potential to be inhabited by special status animals.

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

Affected Environment: No threatened or endangered plants are present in, or in the vicinity of, the proposed 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 hazardous or other solid wastes are proposed for use in this project.

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

Mitigation: None.

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

Affected Environment: Drainages are tributary to the White River in Utah. As required by the Clean Water Act, the state of Utah has designated the White River from the Colorado-Utah state line to its confluence with the Green River as fully supporting of all of its beneficial use classifications. This stream reaches beneficial use classifications are: Recreation and Aesthetics, 2B; and Aquatic Life Use Support, 3C. Four parameters have been listed on the Numeric Criteria for this reach. These are: dissolved oxygen, 5.5 mg/l; pH, 6.5-9.0; maximum Fecal Coliform, 2000/100mL; and maximum Total Coliform, 5000/100mL. For these parameters, a fully supporting rating indicated the criterion was not exceeded in more than 10% of the samples collected. While the highest level of water quality protection does not apply to these waters, they are protected for their existing uses and from further degradation as a result of non-point source (sediment) pollution. Efforts need to be made to keep sediment from leaving the site.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Minor surface disturbance would be expected from the placement of the poles. Since the powerline would follow existing roads, this disturbance would be minimal in terms of duration and amount of disturbance.

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

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: The water quality of the area currently meets the state water quality standards (upon which the Public Land Health Standard is based) and would continue to do so with the implementation of this project.

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

Affected Environment: There are no riparian or wetland communities potentially influence 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 riparian systems: This standard does not apply since there are no riparian systems affected by the proposed action.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, wilderness 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: Baseline soils data have been collected for Rio Blanco County by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and are published in an order III Soil Survey and is available for review from that office. The proposed powerlines are in the soil mapping units found in the table below. This table identifies soil characteristics for these soil types.

Soil Number	Soil Name	Slope	Range site	Salinity	RunOff	Erosion Potential	Bedrock
48	Kobar silty clay loam	3-8%	Deep Clay Loam	<2	Medium to rapid	Moderate	>60
74	Rentsac-Moyerson-Rock Outcrop complex	5-65%	PJ Woodlands/Clayey Slopes	<2	Medium	Moderate to very high	10-20
95	Uffens loam	0-5%	Alkaline Slopes	4-8	Slow	Moderate	>60

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Minor surface disturbance is expected where the poles will be placed into the ground. These impacts are not expected to be of great significance since the disturbance will be small.

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: Soils meet the criteria set forth for Public Land Health Standards for upland soils. This status is not expected to change with implementation of the proposed action.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: There are three vegetation types associated with the proposed project they are; greasewood bottom, big sagebrush bottoms, and pinyon/juniper. The greasewood bottoms are made up of the following species greasewood, basin big sagebrush, and cheatgrass. The big sagebrush bottoms are made up of the following species basin big sagebrush, western wheatgrass and cheatgrass. Pinyon/juniper woodland is made up of pinyon, juniper, and a very sparse understory of grasses and forbs.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The amount of disturbance associated with pole placement is insignificant and would not affect any of the plant communities,

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 greasewood bottoms do not meet the public health standards for plant communities relating to noxious weeds (cheatgrass), adequate ground cover and vegetation health. The sagebrush and pinyon/juniper communities meet the plant health standard. For the greasewood bottoms the proposed action is not responsible nor would it compliment the lack of meeting the standard. The proposed action would not affect the status of the sagebrush and pinyon/juniper communities.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

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

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: none

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: none

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): This standard does not apply since there is no aquatic wildlife affected by the proposed action.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: These lower elevation pinyon-juniper/Wyoming big sagebrush ranges are used exclusively by deer and elk during the winter (mid October through early May). BLM surveyed the project area for raptor nesting at the time the access and pads were originally constructed (date). There have been no systematic or thorough searches for nesting raptors in the project area, but year-round use by golden eagle and red-tailed hawk, and breeding season use by Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks is likely.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would involve powerline installation along existing roads at a time when big game occupation of winter ranges is complete or quickly dwindling. Powerline installation is not expected to have any substantive influence on woody or herbaceous forage resources along the right-of-way. It is highly unlikely that woodland raptors have since selected a nest site in close proximity to the current well site or access and there is no reasonable probability that powerline installation would have any influence on raptor nest activity. Potential electrocution hazards to birds that may be nesting or wintering in surrounding habitats would be effectively avoided by designing the powerline consistent with current industry standards for large raptor protection.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be impacts attributable to this proposed action, but there is no accurate way of predicting the impacts of alternate power options on resident wildlife.

Mitigation: All power poles will be designed to be consistent with most current industry standards to prevent raptor electrocution by providing adequate (i.e., 60") conductor separation (rather than perch deterrent devices) and grounding considerations.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): The project locale generally meets the land health standard for animal communities. The proposed action would not materially affect landscape function or

utility for wildlife (i.e. the Public Land Health Standard). Incorporation of raptor protection designs would avoid the potential for adversely influencing populations of raptor nesting or wintering in the project area.

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

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: The proposed action falls within the C7 Evacuation/Missouri Creeks Fire management polygon. This polygon is an area where wildland fire is desired, but there are significant constraints that must be considered for its use, primarily oil and gas infrastructure. The proposed action will add to the constraints within this polygon.

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 and pinyon/juniper (PJ).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: It is not anticipated that implementing the proposed action will change the way that the C7 fire management polygon is

managed due to the amount of oil and gas infrastructure currently present and relative close proximity to private land.

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 Pinyon/juniper that the project traverses is relatively sparse dry exposure woodland that does not have a significant fire history. However, under extreme environmental conditions it can be expected that some if not all the PJ stands under and adjacent to the proposed action could burn and threaten the powerline and associated 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 in and around the line.

Should a wildfire threaten the powerline it is unlikely that suppression forces would be able to safely and adequately defend the line which will ultimately lead to the loss of or significant damage 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.

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: The proposed action would be in an area mapped as the Mesa Verde formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM has classified as a Category I formation meaning it is known to produce scientifically important fossil resources. However, finer scale mapping indicates that major portions of the powerline routes will be placed in alluvial bottoms where fossils are not considered likely.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There is a small probability that drilling the holes for the power poles on the upper ends of the powerline to the west of Evacuation Creek, where the well locations are up on the ridges, could impact important fossil resources. However, it will be extremely difficult to adequately monitor the drilling operation due to the relatively limited diameter of the hole required to site the pole. Impacts to fossil that may be present would be difficult or nearly impossible identify.

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

Mitigation: 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.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: This project is in an area managed as Visual Resource Management Class (VRM) 3. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the 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: With the implementation of the Mitigation Measures listed on page fifteen, that deal with reclamation and reseedling, the objectives for VRM Class 3 will be met.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: See the Cultural Resources and Fire Management sections for discussions of cumulative impacts.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Caroline 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
		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	Hydrologist	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	Hydrologist	Soils
Bob Fowler	Forester/Rangeland Management Specialist	Vegetation
Scott Pavey	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Access and Transportation
Ken Holisinger	NRS	Fire Management
Bob Fowler	Forester/Rangeland Management Specialist	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Bob Fowler	Forester/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)

CO-110-2004-045-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. The proposed action is consistent with the White River ROD/RMP and, with mitigation would cause only minimal environmental impacts. The operator should be aware that there is potential that wildfire could cause serious damage to the proposed powerline structures and that it is unlikely that fire fighters could prevent the damage due to the unique hazards outlined in the Fire Management section of the environmental assessment.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

1. The operator will utilize dust abatement measures to control fugitive dust as needed.
2. All powerline construction activity must remain within 50 feet of the centerline of the existing access roads to the wells in order to avoid impacts to cultural resources.
3. 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.

4. 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.

5. All disturbed sites shall be promptly reclaimed to the satisfaction of the Area Manger.

6. Reclamation should be implemented concurrent with construction and site operations to the fullest extent possible. Final reclamation actions shall be initiated within six months of the termination of operations unless otherwise approved in writing by the Authorized Officer.

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

Also, use Standard Seed Mix #1 for reclamation of the project area:

Seed Mix #	Species (Variety)	Lbs PLS/ Acre	Range sites
1	Siberian wheatgrass (P27)	3	Alkaline Uplands, Badlands, Clayey 7"-9", Clayey Salt Desert, Cold Desert Breaks, Cold Desert Overflow, Gravelly 7"-9", Limey Cold Desert, Loamy 7"-9", Loamy Cold Desert, Loamy Salt Desert, Saline Lowland, Salt Desert Breaks, Salt Flats, Salt Meadow Sands 7"-9", Sandy 7"-9", Sandy Cold Desert, Sandy Salt Desert, Shale 7"-9", Shale/Sands Complex, Shallow Loamy, Shallow Sandy, Shallow Slopes, Silty Salt Desert, Silty Swale, Steep
	Russian wildrye (Bozoisky)	2	
	Crested wheatgrass (Hycrest)	3	

8. All power poles will be designed to be consistent with most current industry standards to prevent raptor electrocution by providing adequate (i.e., 60") conductor separation (rather than perch deterrent devices) and grounding considerations.

9. 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.

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

NAME OF PREPARER: *Penny Brown*

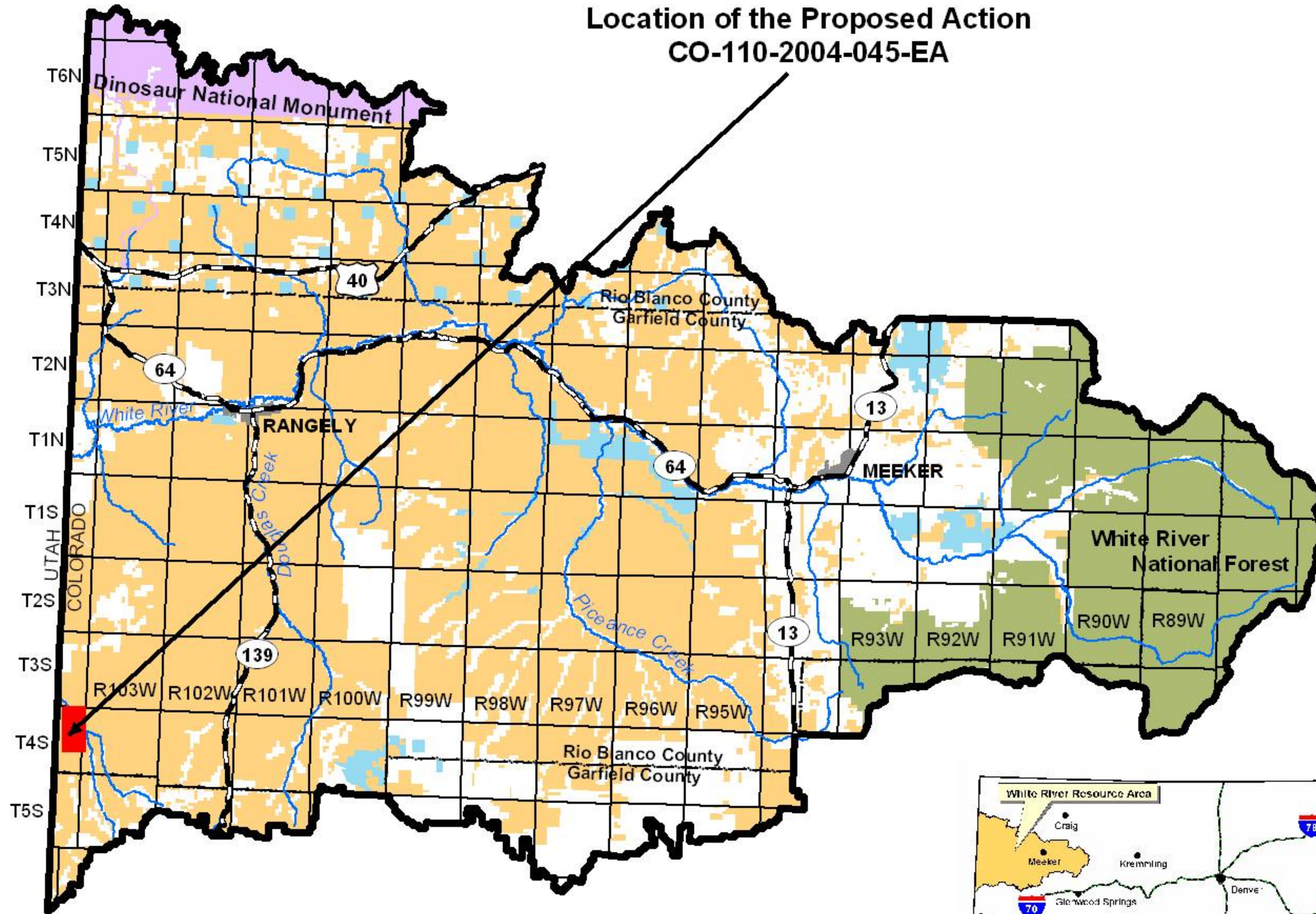
NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: *Scott Perry*

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: *Jacoby Acton*
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: *3/30/04*

ATTACHMENTS: Map of the Location of the Proposed Action

Location of the Proposed Action CO-110-2004-045-EA



UTAH
COLORADO

