

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

*Temporary Work Area for Colorado Interstate Gas Company's 155A
Pipeline's 3 Anomaly Dig Sites*
DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0048-CX

Identifying Information

Project Title: Temporary Work Area for Colorado Interstate Gas Company's 155A Pipeline's 3 Anomaly Dig Sites

Legal Description: Sixth Principal Meridian,
T. 1S., R. 96W., sec. 32, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.
T. 1S., R. 97W., sec. 2, LOT 5,
Rio Blanco County, Colorado.

Applicant: Colorado Interstate Gas Company, LLC

Casefile: COC77138

Conformance with the Land Use Plan

The Proposed Action is subject to and is in conformance (43 CFR 1610.5) with the following land use plan:

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

Date Approved: July 1997

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." (page 2-49)

Proposed Action

Project Components and General Schedule

Colorado Interstate Gas Company (CIG) has submitted an application to inspect and repair a pipeline within an existing right-of-way (ROW) for the 155A Uinta Lateral pipeline (COC52705). This work would require the excavation of approximately 100 feet of pipe in three different locations. CIG is requesting temporary extra work space in these three locations to allow for the activities associated with this proposed work. The majority of the work would be within the 50-foot ROW, but CIG is requesting a 25-foot by 200-foot area (0.11 acres) outside the existing ROW, at each of the three dig sites in order to accommodate the equipment to be used, for a total of 0.33 acres on BLM lands. All disturbed areas would be restored as close as practical to the condition that existed prior to work being performed. The project would be scheduled to occur between June 1st and September 30th.

BLM Required Conditions of Approval to Mitigate Impacts to Cultural and Paleontological Resources

1. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
2. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The applicant will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The applicant, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the applicant must notify the AO, by telephone and 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), the operator must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
4. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate or other scientifically-important fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.
5. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the applicant or any of his agents must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect

the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator’s instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator’s instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.

6. If it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying sedimentary rock to expose the sections of the pipeline that need repair a paleontological monitor will be required. The paleontological monitor will be present before the excavations begin and remain until the excavations are backfilled.

Categorical Exclusion Review

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, E19: “*Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations for such uses as storage sites, apiary, sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition*”.

The Proposed Action has been reviewed with the list of extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) described in the table below.

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
a) Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.		X
b) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.		X
h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
l) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X

Interdisciplinary Review

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on 04/21/2015. A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional review or remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	5/21/2015
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	05/06/2015
Heather Woodruff	Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	7/9/2015
Keesha Cary	Realty Specialist	Project Lead	07/15/2015
Joe David	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	NEPA Compliance	07/17/2015

Cultural Resources: The proposed pipeline repair areas are covered by all or portions of three Class III (100 percent pedestrian) level inventories (Hauck 2001 compliance date 6/11/2001, Pennefather-O'Brien *et al.* 1992 compliance dated 12/17/1992, Peterson *et al.* 2012 compliance dated 9/7/2012) with no cultural resources identified in the inventoried areas. It is unlikely that any known historic properties would be impacted by the excavation activities associate with pipeline repair.

Native American Religious Concerns: No Native American Religious Concerns are known in the area, and none have been noted by Northern Ute tribal authorities. Should recommended inventories or future consultations with Tribal authorities reveal the existence of such sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken.

Paleontological Resources: The proposed pipeline excavation and repair areas are in an area generally mapped as the Uintah Formation (Tweto 1979), which the BLM has classified as a Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 5 formation, indicating that it is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources. (c. Armstrong and Wolny 1989). Any excavation into previously undisturbed portions of the underlying sedimentary rock formation has the potential to impact scientifically noteworthy fossil resources. Any impacts to previously undetected resources could result in the permanent, long term, irreversible and irretrievable loss of scientific data from the regional paleontological database.

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: There are no threatened or endangered animal species that are known to inhabit or derive important use from the project area. There are no additional wildlife-related issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

Threatened and Endangered Plant Species: The project area was surveyed during the summer of 2015 (SWCA 2015). No occupied habitat for *Physaria congesta* or *Physaria obcordata* was identified within 300 meters of the project area. However, 6.6 acres of suitable habitat was identified during the survey. All mapped suitable habitat falls outside of the proposed work area. There are no special status plant species issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

References Cited:

Armstrong, Harley J., and David G. Wolny

1989 Paleontological Resources of Northwest Colorado: A Regional Analysis. Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, Colorado.

Hauck, F. Richard

2001 Cultural Resource Evaluations of Proposed Well Locations & Pipeline Corridors in the Magnolia Locality of Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Archeological-Environmental Research Corporation, Bountiful, Utah. (01-38-06: OAH # RB.LM.NR1160)

Pennefather -O'Brien, Elizabeth, Patrick Lubinski and Michael D. Metcalf

1992 Colorado Interstate Gas Company Unita Basin Lateral 20" Pipeline: Class III Cultural Resources Final Report Utah, Colorado and Wyoming. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Eagle, Colorado. (92-54-26: OAH # MC.LM.R71)

Peterson, Marcia, Dayna Reale, Rachel Collister, Zachary nelson, and Lance McNees

2012 A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for the Northwest Pipeline GP Piceance Lateral Pipeline, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Cardno ENTRIX, Salt Lake City, Utah. (12-174-01: OAH # RB.LM.R1289)

SWCA Environmental Consultants

2015 Dudley Bluff's Bladderpod and Dudley Bluff's Twinpod Survey for the CIG 155A Dig 2 Project, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Prepared for White River BLM Field Office. Broomfield, CO 80021.

Tweto, Ogden

1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

Mitigation

1. For reclamation, the BLM recommends Seed Mix #3 outlined below. It is recommended that seeding occur between September 1 and March 31. If an alternate date of seeding is requested, contact the designated Realty Specialist prior to seeding for approval. Drill seeding is the preferred method of application and drill seeding depth must be no greater

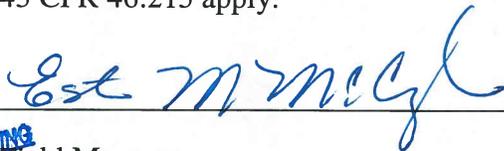
than ½ inch. If drill seeding cannot be accomplished, seed should be broadcast at double the rate used for drill seeding, and harrowed into the soil.

3	Rosana	Western Wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	4
	Whitmar	Bluebunch Wheatgrass	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i> ssp. <i>inermis</i>	3.5
	Rimrock	Indian Ricegrass	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	3
		Needle and Thread Grass	<i>Hesperostipa comata</i> ssp. <i>comata</i>	2.5
	Maple Grove	Lewis Flax	<i>Linum lewisii</i>	1
		Scarlet Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	0.5

2. All seed tags will be submitted via Sundry Notice (SN) to the designated Realty Specialist within 14 calendar days from the time the seeding activities have ended. The SN will include the purpose of the seeding activity (i.e., seeding well pad, cut and fill slopes, seeding pipeline corridor, etc.). In addition, the SN will include the well or well pad number associated with the seeding activity, if applicable, the name of the contractor that performed the work, his/her phone number, the method used to apply the seed (e.g., broadcast, hydro-seeded, drilled), whether the seeding activity represents interim or final reclamation, the total acres seeded, an attached map that clearly identifies all disturbed areas that were seeded, and the date the seed was applied.

Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E19. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.



ACTING
Field Manager

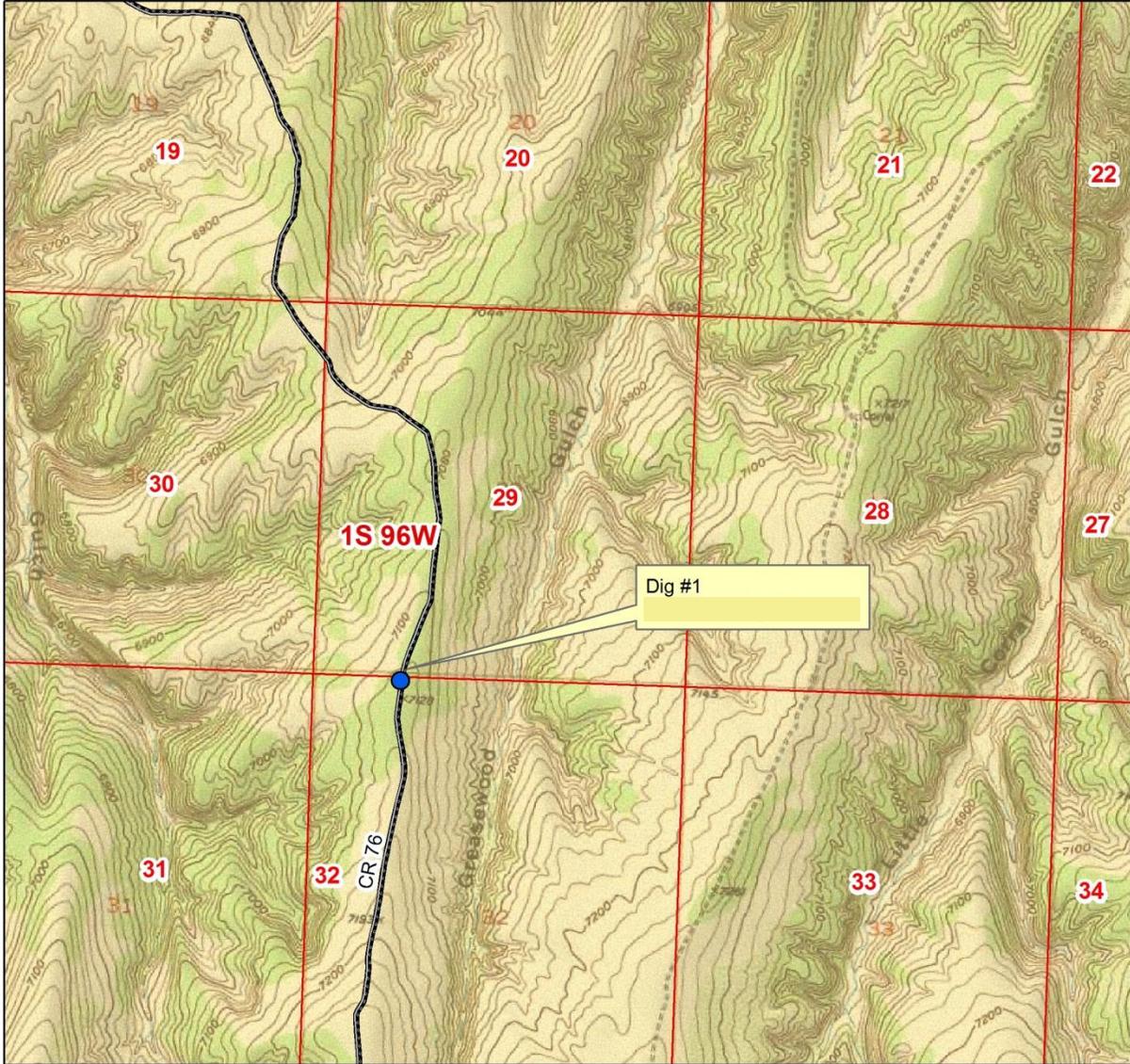
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Appendix A. Figures

Exhibit A

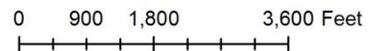
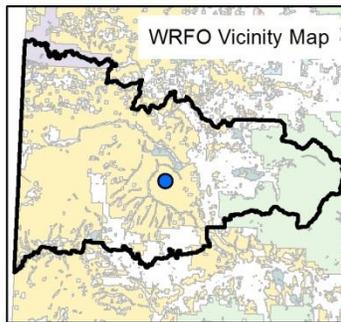
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COC77138 - Colorado Interstate Gas Company
 6TH PM, T. 1S., R. 96W.,
 sec. 32, NW1/4NW1/4, Rio Blanco County, Colorado.



Legend

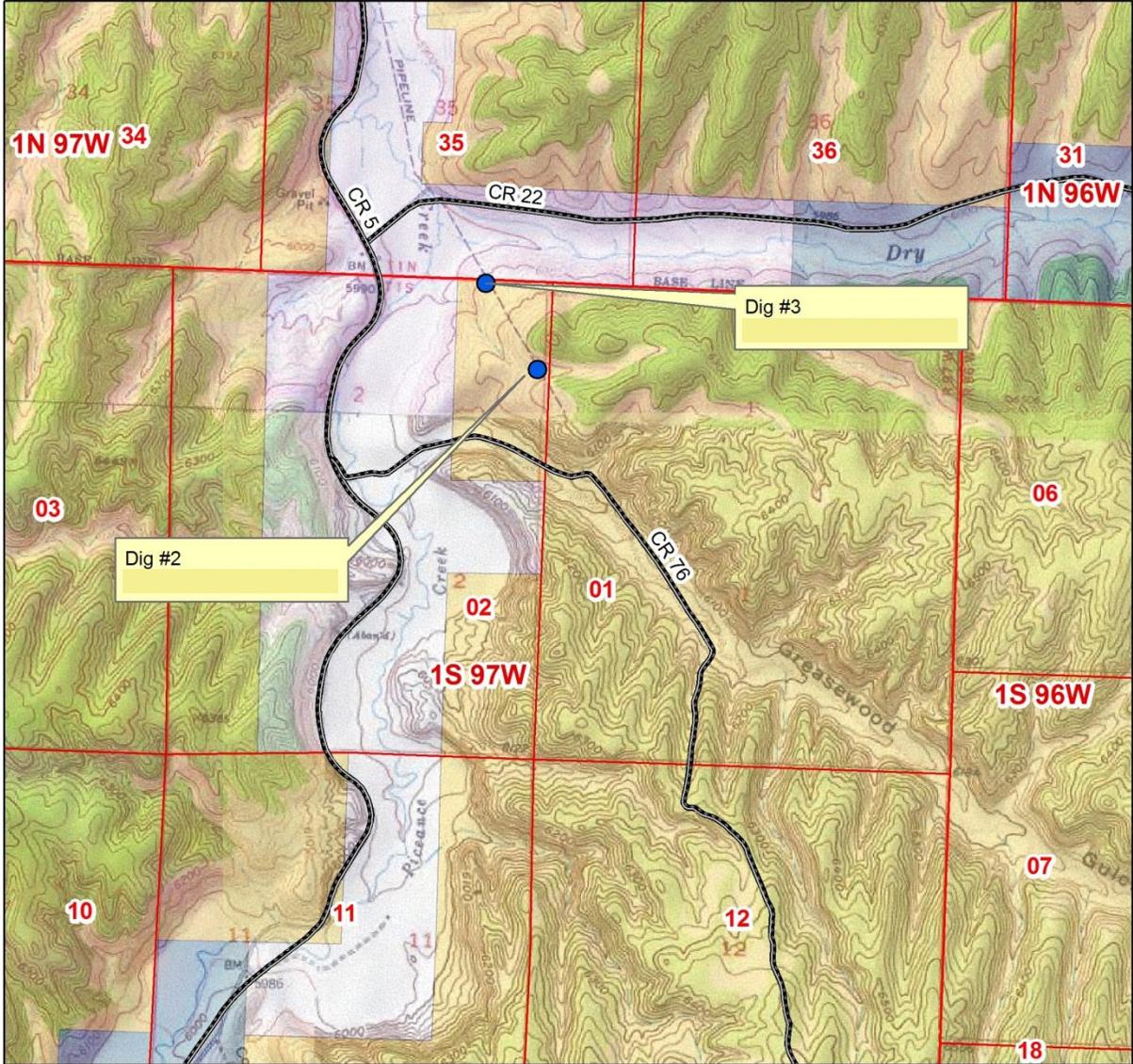
- Temporary Use Locations
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Indian Reservation
- Military Reservation
- National Grasslands
- National Park Service
- Other Federal
- Private
- State
- State, County, City, Areas
- Bankhead-Jones Land Use Lands
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service



Sources:
 BLM, USGS, CDOW, etc.
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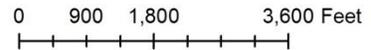
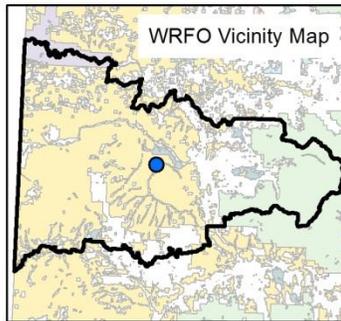
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6TH PM, T. 1S., R. 97W.,
sec. 2, Lot 5, Rio Blanco County, Colorado.



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