

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

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Encana Red Rock Canyon Culvert **DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2015-0085-CX**

Identifying Information

Project Title: Encana Red Rock Canyon Culvert

Legal Description: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 4 S., R. 102 W.,
sec. 1, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

Applicant: Encana Oil & Gas (USA), Inc.

Casefile: COC54679 (Access Road ROW)
COC77231 (Temporary Work Area)

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

Encana Oil & Gas (USA), Inc. (hereafter Encana) currently has a 30-ft wide right-of-way (ROW) for the Red Rock Canyon Road, which is BLM Road 1243. Encana would install a 60-ft culvert with a 36-inch diameter for the existing access road right-of-way COC54679. The culvert would help prevent the occurrence of wash-outs during significant storm events. Installation of the culvert would require an additional temporary work area outside of the ROW. An irregular-shaped parcel containing approximately 0.11 acres would be needed to install the culvert, a roadside ditch with rip rap, and construct a minor diversion to direct all run-on flow to the culvert. Encana would use WRFO Seed Mix #1 for reclamation activities. Construction would begin as soon as possible and would take approximately one week to complete.

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.

Categorical Exclusion Review

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, G2: *“Installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, waterbars, gates, or cattleguards on/or adjacent to roads and trails identified in any land use or transportation plan, or eligible for incorporation in such plan.”*

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
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 6/30/2015. 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	7/14/2015
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	7/10/2015
Heather Woodruff	Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	7/16/2015
Stacey Burke	Realty Specialist	Project Lead	7/27/2015
Joe David	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	NEPA Compliance	07/30/2015

Cultural Resources: The proposed project area has been inventoried at the Class III (100 percent pedestrian) level (Davenport 2015 compliance dated 7/14/2015) with no cultural resources identified on the surface. However, there are deep alluvial soils in the project area where there is a potential for subsurface remains. There would be no new impacts to any known cultural resources, though there is a potential loss of archaeological data, should subsurface remains be encountered.

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.

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: There are no wildlife-related issues or concerns associated with the proposed road maintenance.

Threatened and Endangered Plant Species: There are no special status plant species issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

References Cited:

Davenport, Barbara

2015 Class III Cultural Resources Inventory for a Proposed Culvert Installation Project in Rio Blanco County, Colorado for EnCana Oil and Gas (USA). Grand River Institute, Grand Junction, Colorado. (15-11-06: OAH # RB.LM.NR2430)

Mitigation

1. All applicable terms, conditions, and stipulations contained in the original ROW grant (COC54679) and any amendments will be carried forward and remain in full force and effect.

2. The holder will be responsible for monitoring the right-of-way for occurrence of noxious weeds for the life of the project and appropriately treating weeds present. The holder will implement an integrated weed management plan according to BLM Manual 9015-Integrated Weed Management (BLM 1992). The weed management plan will include the submission of a Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP) to the BLM for the use of herbicides appropriate for control/eradication of the known noxious and invasive species along the proposed ROW including the species listed above. The PUP will be filed in a timely manner such that weed treatment can begin in the first growing season after construction. Each fall the holder must submit a Pesticide Application Report (PAR) listing all weed treatments that occurred in association with this project.

3. The holder will notify the authorized officer at least 60 days prior to non-emergency activities that would cause surface disturbance in the right-of-way. A "Notice to Proceed" will be required prior to any non-emergency activities that would cause surface disturbance on the right-of-way. Any request for a "Notice to Proceed" must be made to the authorized officer, who will review the Proposed Action for consistency with resource management concerns such as wildlife, big game winter range, paleontology, special status species, and cultural resource protection. The authorized officer may require the completion of special status species surveys or other resource surveys. Additional measures may be required to protect special status species or other resources.

4. All disturbed areas will be promptly seeded. BLM recommends seeding with Seed Mix #1 (see below). Use seed that is certified and free of noxious weeds. It is recommended that this site be seeded between September 1 and March 15. If an alternate date of seeding is requested, contact the designated Realty Specialist prior to seeding for approval. Seed mixture rates are Pure Live Seed (PLS) pounds per acre. Drill seeding is the preferred method of application and drill seeding depth will 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.

Seed Mix 1

Variety	Common Name	Scientific Name	Rate (PLS)/ac.
Rosana	Western Wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	4.5
Critana	Thickspike Wheatgrass	<i>Elymus lanceolatus</i> spp. <i>lanceolatus</i>	3.5
Toe Jam Creek	Bottlebrush Squirreltail	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	3
	Scarlet Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	0.5
	Sulphur Flower Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	1.5
	Winterfat	<i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i>	1

5. The holder will be responsible for achieving a reclamation success rate equal to a minimum cover and composition of 80 percent of the Desired Plant Community (as defined by the ecological site, in an early-seral state) or in relation to the seed mix applied within three growing seasons after the application of seed. This community must be capable of persisting on the site without intervention and allow for successional processes consistent with achieving the seral stage on the site prior to surface disturbance.

6. Reclamation achievement will be evaluated using the Public Land Health Standards that include Indicators of Rangeland Health. If BLM determines that reclamation success is below an acceptable level, reclamation efforts must be repeated at the holder's expense until vegetation is successfully established.

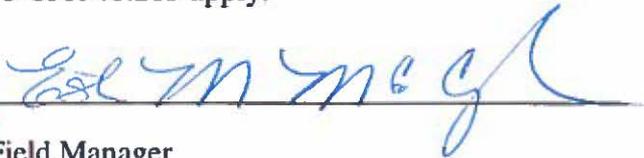
7. An archaeological monitor will be required during excavations for the placement of the culvert.

Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted

Colorado SHPO 7/16/2015

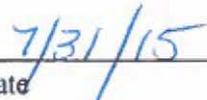
Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, G2. 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.

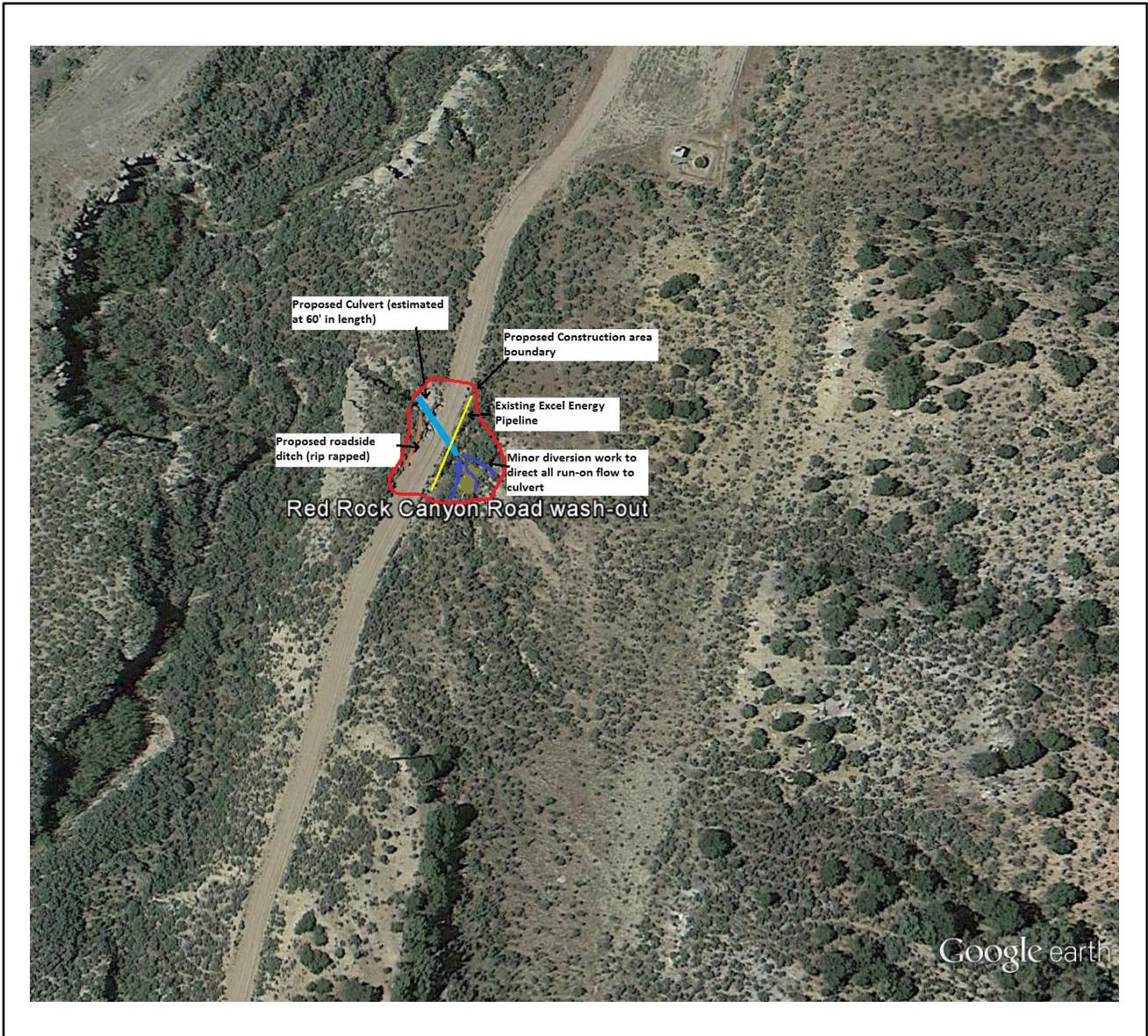


ACTIVE

Field Manager


Date

Appendix A. Figures

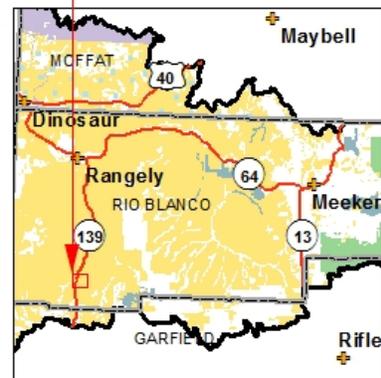
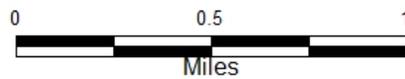


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T. 4 S., R. 102 W., 6th P.M.
sec. 1, SE¼NW¼.

6/30/2015



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