

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Categorical Exclusion
DOI-BLM-CO-SO54-2015-0053 CX**

September 2015

Bureau of Reclamation - Piping of the GF Lateral

Location: North of Olathe, Montrose and Delta Counties, Colorado

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, CO 81401
Phone: (970) 240-5300**



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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-S054-2015-0053- CX

CASEFILE: COC-67472, Amendment No. 6

PROJECT NAME: Piping of the GF Lateral

PLANNING UNIT: Gunnison Gorge NCA Resource Management Unit

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: New Mexico Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 51 N., R. 10 W.,
sec. 23, N1/2SW1/4 and SW1/4SW1/4.

APPLICANT: Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

The proposed action is to amend right-of-way reservation (ROW) COC-67472 issued to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) for piping of the GF Lateral off of the East Canal. The project is located approximately 3 miles north of Olathe, beginning at the East Canal and includes a water pipeline, headgate, associated valves, syphon or gravel sump, and the associated operation and maintenance (O&M) access road. The pipeline would be located adjacent to the current ditch alignment and within the existing O&M road.

The GF Lateral would be piped with a 36-inch diameter pipeline to be buried immediately adjacent to the existing ditch alignment and within the existing O&M access road. The ROW would be 1700 feet in length and 40 feet in width (20 feet each side of centerline) on the public land, and contain approximately 1.561 acres. To drain the pipeline each fall, a 2-inch diameter siphon (drainpipe) may be installed or a gravel sump. If a siphon is used, it would daylight downstream within the ROW and riprap would be installed at the drain discharge to minimize soil erosion.

The GF Lateral would be granted under Amendment No. 6 of the original reservation that was authorized under FLPMA for 30 years. The reservation expires on December 31, 2034, with the right of renewal. As a Federal agency, the BOR is rental exempt. The ROW would be subject to the attached terms and conditions and Exhibit B, Supplemental Plan of Development, GF Lateral, dated April 7, 2015.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan: Gunnison Gorge Resource Management Unit

Date Approved: November 2004

Decision Number/Page: MU-6, other public lands, page 2-10

Decision Language: BLM will cooperate with BOR to acknowledge and document the agency's existing facilities and access roads for maintenance and operation of these facilities.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, Number: E.16 which allows for, "Acquisition of easements for an existing road or issuance of leases, permits, or rights-of-way for the use of existing facilities, improvements, or sites for the same or similar purposes."

None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Exclusion	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.	___	<u>X</u>
2. Have adverse effects 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.	___	<u>X</u>
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.	___	<u>X</u>
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	___	<u>X</u>
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	___	<u>X</u>
6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	___	<u>X</u>
7. Have adverse effects on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places.	___	<u>X</u>
8. Have adverse effects 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.	___	<u>X</u>
9. Have the potential to violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	___	<u>X</u>
10. Have the potential for a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.	___	<u>X</u>

11. Restrict access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites. X
12. Significantly, 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:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Area of Responsibility</u>
Nick Szuch	Realty Specialist	Lands and Realty
Glade Hadden	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources Native American Religious Concerns
Ken Holsinger	Biologist	Threatened and Endangered Species, Wildlife, Migratory Birds

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The entire BLM portion of the project is situated within previously disturbed surface, which has been inventoried with negative results. No further work is required.

Native American Religious Concerns: There are none known or anticipated for this project.

Threatened and Endangered Species and Sensitive Species: There are no animal or plant species listed, proposed, or candidate to the Endangered Species Act, nor considered sensitive by the BLM, that are known to inhabit the areas potentially influenced by the Proposed Action.

NAME OF PREPARER: Nick Szuch

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:  Jedd Sondergard

DATE: 9/18/15

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, E.16. 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 516 DM 2 apply.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:


Barbara Sharrow,
Uncompahgre Field Office, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 9-21-15

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The holder is subject to the existing right-of-way reservation, COC-67472, and any amendments thereof, including all stipulations.
2. The Bureau of Reclamation shall contact the Bureau of Land Management's authorized officer at least five days prior to the anticipated start of construction on the right-of-way. The authorized officer may require and schedule a preconstruction conference prior to any surface disturbing activity on the right-of-way to review the terms, conditions, and stipulations of the right-of-way. The Bureau of Land Management authorized representative is Barney Buria, Environmental Protection Specialist, who can be reached at the Uncompahgre Field Office, 2465 South Townsend, Montrose, Colorado 81401 or phone at (970) 240-5333. An alternate contact is Nick Szuch, Realty Specialist, Uncompahgre Field Office, (970) 240-5322.
3. The Bureau of Reclamation shall construct, operate, and maintain the raw water pipeline within this right-of-way in conformance with the Bureau of Reclamation's East Side Laterals Salinity Control Project, Final Environmental Assessment, and the Lower Gunnison Basin Unit, East Side laterals Feasibility Report/Final Environmental Statement, and Supplement to the Feasibility Report. In addition, the Bureau of Reclamation shall comply with the General Plan of Development for the East Side Salinity/Selenium Reduction Project, dated August 29, 2006, and the Supplemental Plan of Development, GF Lateral, Revised April 7, 2015, (Exhibit B) and Modifications to the General and Supplemental Plans of Development. A copy of this right-of-way reservation including the Plans of Development shall be made available on the right-of-way at all times during construction. The Bureau of Reclamation shall provide as-built drawings showing the actual facilities and centerline survey for the right-of-way.
4. Locates: Prior to any surface disturbing activities, the Utility Notification Center of Colorado, telephone number 811, shall be contacted to verify existing buried utilities. BLM records indicate Rocky Mountain Natural Gas, LLC and Tri-County Water have pipelines buried adjacent to County Road 6000.
5. The abandoned GF ditch will be filled and reclaimed to the extent practical; however, excessive disturbance of nearby soils shall be avoided.
6. Existing soil and side-cast materials within the right-of-way shall be used to the extent possible to backfill the pipeline and recontour the disturbed areas. Any additional fill material needed shall be acquired from outside sources other than lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

7. Water bars or dips shall be installed along the pipeline and operation and maintenance access road, as needed, to prevent runoff concentration on the right-of-way surface (water bar spacing will be provided by the Bureau of Land Management representative).

8. The Bureau of Reclamation shall control all noxious weeds, including Russian knapweed, within the right-of-way and areas including the existing road and ditch that will be reclaimed. Pre-treatment of noxious weeds may be required prior to construction to reduce spreading of weeds in the project area and onto adjacent BLM lands. Contact Lynae Rogers of the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office at 970 240-1068.

9. All disturbed areas shall be re-seeded with the seed mix recommended below.

BLM places the following requirements on seed mixes which are put on BLM lands:

- a. All seed must comply with BLM and Colorado weed seed guidelines. There should be no prohibited species seed, and no more than allowable levels of restricted species seed. In addition, there should be no more than 0.5% total weed seed, less than 2% other seed, and no trash larger than ¼" in length. Seed shall not be stored in burlap bags.
- b. The UFO places additional local restrictions on seed to minimize cheatgrass spread. If seed tests show any *Bromus tectorum* or *Bromus japonicus*, the BLM should be consulted with for approval. No mix placed on BLM shall contain more than 150 *Bromus tectorum* and/or *Bromus japonicus* seeds per pound.
- c. BLM requires additional seed tests on seeding projects that are greater than 20 acres and/or require over 200 lbs of seed. For these seeding projects, the project proponent should have the seed supply company store the purchased seed prior to mixing, and pull samples to be sent to a certified laboratory, such as Colorado State Laboratory at the following address. Seed test results must comply with the criteria listed above before seed is mixed, shipped and applied to the project area:
Colorado State Laboratory
Colorado State University
Department of Soil and Crop Sciences
Fort Collins, CO 80523
- d. BLM will need copies of seed tags and test results for all seed applied regardless of project size.
- e. Only State Certified weed free mulch shall be used

	A	B	C	D	E
Species	Desired % of planting	Multiplier (A x 0.01)	PLS lbs for full stand	PLS lbs per acre needed for mix (B x C)	PLS lbs per acre for project (D x # acres)
Bottlebrush squirreltail (<i>Elymus elemoides</i>)	25	0.25	8	2	
Western Wheatgrass (<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>) Variety Arriba	25	0.25	10	2.5	
Galleta Grass (<i>Hilaria</i> or <i>Pleuraphis jamesii</i>)	10	0.1	8	0.8	
Indian Ricegrass (<i>Acnatherum hymenoides</i>) Variety Paloma	10	0.1	8	0.8	
Salina Wildrye (<i>Leymus salinus</i>)	5	0.05	8	0.4	
Scarlet Globemallow (<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>)	2	0.02	3	0.06	
Annual sunflower (<i>Helianthus annuus</i>)	3	0.03	10	0.3	
Winterfat (<i>Eurotia</i> or <i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i>)	5	0.05	5	0.25	
Shadscale (<i>Atriplex confertifolia</i>)	5	0.05	5	0.25	
Four-Wing Saltbush (<i>Atriplex canescens</i>) from western Colorado, E Utah	5	0.05	6	0.3	
Basin Big Sagebrush (<i>Artemisia tridentata tridentata</i>)	5	0.05	1	0.05	
Totals	100	1.0		7.85	

10. This reservation shall remain in effect until December 31, 2034, unless it is terminated by mutual agreement of the agencies prior to that date.

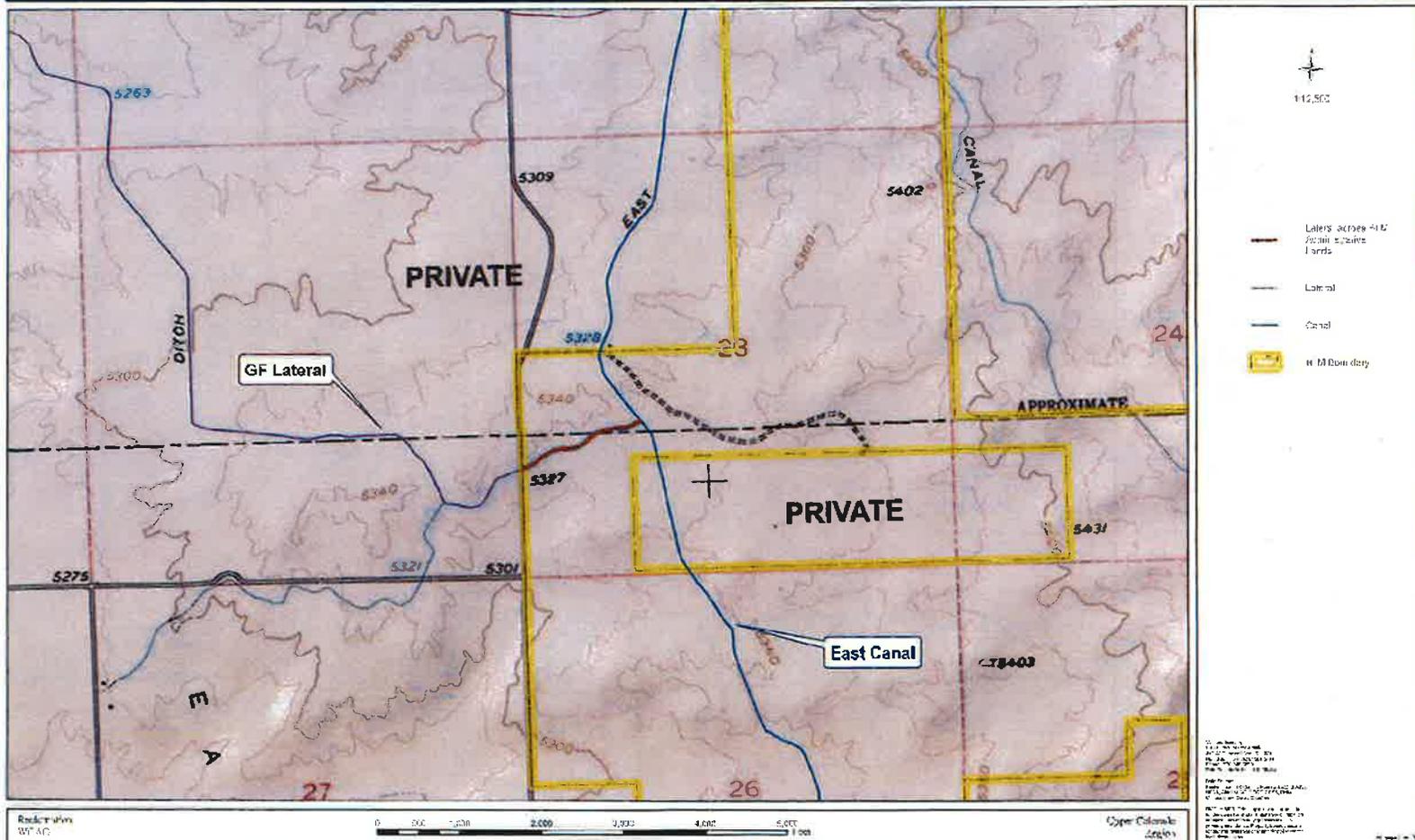
New Mexico Principal Meridian T. 51 N., R. 10 W., Section 23,
 BOR Reservation COC-67472 – Amendment No. 6 - Piping of the GF Lateral

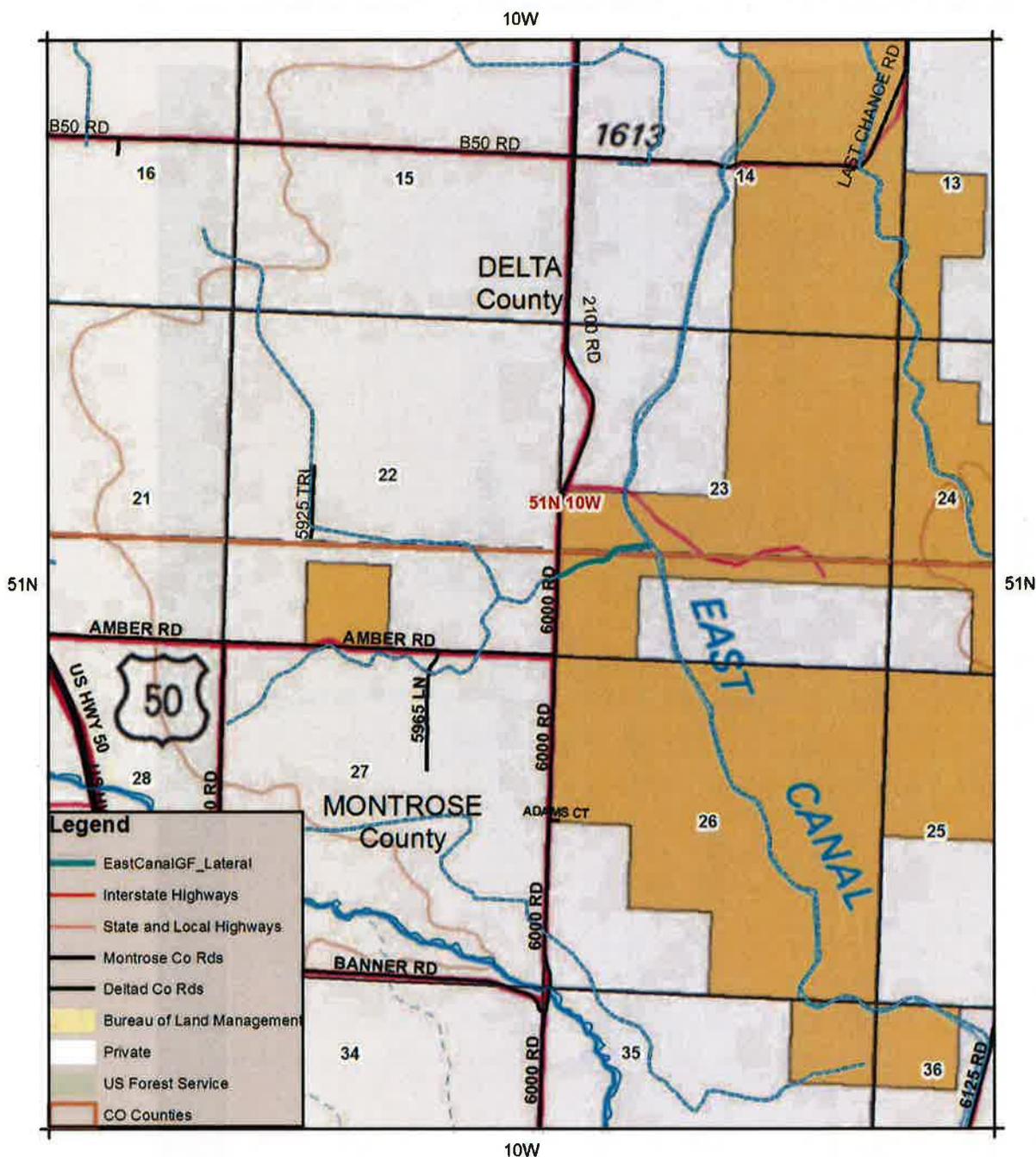
RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Exhibit A Lateral GF Piping East Side Salinity/Selenium Reduction Project

Amendment to COC-67472





BOR COC-67472 Amend #6 Piping GF Lateral-East Canal

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.



Date: 9/14/2015

Document Path: T:\COGIS\giswork\kfo\projects\lands\BOR\GF Lateral\BOR.mxd

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, CO 81401**

Decision Record

(DOI-BLM-CO-S054-2015-0053 CX)

PROJECT NAME: Piping of the GF Lateral

DECISION: It is my decision to amend BOR's ROW reservation for the construction, operation and maintenance for piping of the GF lateral. The project is located north of Olathe, beginning at the East Canal and then runs approximately one-half mile west to the boundary of the private and BLM managed public land.

The project consists of burying a 36-inch diameter water pipeline adjacent to the existing operation and maintenance access road for the ditch. The ditch will be reclaimed upon construction of the pipeline. The total ROW on BLM managed public land is approximately 1700 feet in length, 40 feet in width and encumbers approximately 1.56 acres.

The existing ROW reservation will be amended to include the GF Lateral. The reservation expires on December 31, 2034, and is subject to the attached terms and conditions.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

All stipulations shown in Exhibit A of the CX will be followed.

RATIONALE:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E.16. 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 516 DM 2 apply.

COMPLIANCE WITH MAJOR LAWS and CONFORMANCE WITH LAND USE PLAN:

The decision is in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policy, including the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act and National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the Gunnison Gorge NCA RMP.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The BLM informed the public about this project by listing it on the online Uncompahgre NEPA Register and a copy of the completed Categorical Exclusion will be posted on the NEPA website.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES:

If you are adversely affected by this decision, within 30 days of receipt of this decision you have the right of appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR §4.400. This decision goes into effect immediately and will remain in effect pending appeal unless a stay is granted (43 CFR §2801.10).

NAME OF PREPARER: Nick Szuch

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:  Jedd Sondergard

DATE 9/18/15

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL



Barbara Sharrow
Field Manager
Uncompahgre Field Office

DATE SIGNED 9-21-15