BLM

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Environmental Assessment

DOI-BLM-UT-G010–2015–0150-EA
Ouray Park Water System Improvements
250,000 Gallon Culinary Water Tank, Access Road, Waterlines
RIGHT-OF-WAY UTU-91188

PREPARING OFFICE

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
170 South 500 East
Vernal, Utah 84078
(435) 781–4400 Office
(435) 781–4410 Fax

Environmental Assessment

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Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
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Finding of No Significant Impact

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Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts (per Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-UT-G010–2015–0150–EA), I have determined that the proposed action with the mitigation measures described below will not have any significant impacts on the environment and an environmental impact statement is not required.

Signatures:

Approved by:

/s/ Jerry Kenczka	Nov 20, 2015
Jerry Kenczka Assistant Field Manager, Lands and Minerals	Date

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DECISION RECORD

Decision

It is my decision to authorize Ouray Water Park Water Improvement Districts application for a 250,000 gallon culinary water tank, access road and water lines, and to proceed as set out in the Proposed Action of the Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2015–0150-EA) subject to the applicant committed measures, stipulations, Plan of Development (POD), compliance and monitoring. This alternative is hereafter called the Selected Alternative. This decision applies to BLM-administered lands only.

I have determined that authorizing this selected alternative is in the public interest, and will minimize impacts so that no undue disturbance will occur.

The 250,000 gallon culinary water tank, access road and water pipelines will be constructed on Public lands within the following legal description: Salt Lake Meridian, UT

T. 6, 7 S., R. 20 E., Sec. 31,5,6, SLM, UT.

The right-of-way area granted herein is a water tank site 200 feet x 200 feet (0.92 acres), access road (upgraded two-track) 759 feet in length and 20 feet wide) approximately 0.35 acres, and 3,850 feet of buried, 12–inch pvc pipeline (layed in an existing 33–foot wide right-of-way) consisting of 2.92 acres more or less. (The length of the pipeline is not one continuous linear pipeline. The line will be layed in two different areas).

Also, included in the tank site area, is an emergency concrete energy dissipation box, buried drain pipeline 50 feet in length with a 10’ x 10’ wrapped rip rap area at the end of the pipe, approximately 0.02 acres. The pipe and rip rap will be placed outside of the 200’ x 200’ permanent authorized area, on the southwest corner of the tank.

In addition, temporary construction areas to be utilized during construction of the water tank, road and pipelines for (90 days or 3 months) include: additional 200 x 200 foot water tank area, (0.92 acres), and an additional 17–foot wide pipeline construction area (3,850 feet long and located 8.5 feet each side of the permanent 33 foot wide pipeline right of way) approximately 1.51 acres. Temporary construction acres is approximately 2.43 more or less. Total permanent right-of-way acres is 4.21 more or less.

/s/ Jerry Kenczka	Nov 20, 2015
Jerry Kenczka Assistant Field Manager, Lands and Minerals	Date

Compliance, Monitoring, Stipulations

Compliance and monitoring checks will be conducted in accordance with BLM Regulations.

Stipulation(s)

Invasive Plants/Noxious Weeds, Soils & Vegetation Mitigation:

- Interim reclamation will begin shortly upon completion construction of the water tank and its facilities and shall include all areas not required for maintenance activities including areas on and around the buried portions of the water tank.

  All reclamation will be done in accordance with the Green River District Reclamation Guidelines, dated May 22, 2014.

- The operator shall regularly monitor and promptly control noxious weeds or other undesirable plant species as set forth in the *Noxious Weed Field Guide for Utah*, 3rd Edition. A Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP) must be approved by the BLM prior to the use of herbicides.

- All vehicles and equipment shall be cleaned either through power-washing, or other approved method, if the vehicles or equipment were brought in from areas outside the Uinta Basin, to prevent weed seed introduction.

  Paleontology Mitigation:

  - A certified paleontological monitor will be present for construction of the following:

    - The tank pad and pipeline in Section 6 (Parcels A and B as described in the plat titled *Ouray Park Waterline Improvement Project*) (Appendix B)

    - The western most pipeline in Section 5 (Parcel D as described in the plat titled *Ouray Park Waterline Improvement Project*) (Appendix B)

  If paleontological resources are uncovered during any ground-disturbing activities, the operator will suspend all operations which would further disturb such materials and will immediately contact the BLM Authorized Officer, who will arrange for a determination of significance and, if necessary, recommend a recovery or avoidance plan.

Plan Conformance and Consistency

The proposed action and alternatives have been reviewed and found to be in conformance with one or more of the following BLM Land Use Plan and the associated decision(s):

The selected alternative has been reviewed, and found to be in conformance with the Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (October 31, 2008). The RMP/ROD decision allows for processing applications, permits, operating plans, mineral exchanges, leases on public lands in accordance with policy and guidance and allows for management of public lands to support goals and objectives of other resources programs, respond to public requests for land use authorizations, and acquire administrative and public access where necessary (RMP/ROD p. 86).

It has been determined that the proposed action and alternative(s) would not conflict with other decisions throughout the plan.

Uintah County: The proposed action is also consistent with the "Uintah County General Plan (Uintah County 2012-as amended)". The Uintah County General Plan contains specific policy statements addressing public and multiple-use resource use and development, access, and wildlife management. In general, the Plan indicates support for development proposals through its

emphasis on multiple-use public land management practices and responsible use and optimum utilization of public land resources. The County, through the Plan, supports the development of natural resources as they become available as new technology allows.

Compliance with NEPA:

This EA was prepared by the BLM in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and in compliance with all applicable regulations and laws passed subsequently, including the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and the U.S. Department of Interior requirements and guidelines listed in the BLM Manual Handbook H-1790-1. This EA assesses the environmental effects of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative.

Rationale / Authorities / Public Involvement

The decision to authorize the 250,000 gallon culinary water tank, access road and buried water pipeline, has been made in consideration of the environmental impacts of the proposed action. This decision has been made after considering impacts to resources within the Vernal Field Office while accommodating Ouray Park Water Improvement District's desire to construct the water tank, access road and buried water lines.

Identification of issue(s) for this assessment was accomplished by considering any resources that could be affected by implementation of one of the alternatives.

Issues identified by BLM Specialists are documented in the Appendix A Interdisciplinary Team Checklist.

Alternatives Considered

Alternative A: Proposed Action

Ouray Park Water Improvement District proposes to install a new 250,000 gallon culinary water tank, upgrade existing two—track road for access, lay 3,850 feet of new buried water line, and an emergency concrete energy dissipation box, drain line and a wrapped rip rap area (50' x 10' area) constructed on the south/southwest side of the water tank.

Alternative B: No Action

Under the No Action alternative, BLM would not approve Ouray Park Water Improvement District proposal to install a new 250,000 gallon culinary water tank, upgrade existing road for access, lay 3,850 feet of new buried water line, and an emergency concrete energy dissipation box, drain line and wrapped rip rap area (50' x 10' area) constructed on the south/southwest side of the water tank on public lands. The no action alternative effectively constitutes denial of the Proposed Action. This alternative was not selected because it would not respond to the applicant's need for the new 250,000 gallon culinary water tank, upgrade existing two-track road for access, lay 3,850 feet of new buried water line, and an emergency concrete energy dissipation box, drain line and wrapped rip rap area (50' x 10' area) constructed on the south/southwest side of the water tank.

The authority for this decision is pursuant to Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976 (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C.1761).

The proposed action was posted to the public BLM E-Planning website with its assigned NEPA number on July 2015.To date, no questions or comments have been received. A public comment period was not offered due to the proposed action being similar in nature to other projects in the immediate area.

Appeal or Protest Opportunities:

Protest/Appeal Language: This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4 and the enclosed Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in this office (at the above address) within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition (request) pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 2801.10 or 43 CFR 2881.10 for a stay (suspension) of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below.

Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

(1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,

(3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and

(4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Authorizing Official:

Jerry Kenczka Date
Assistant Field Manager, Lands and Minerals

Chapter 1. Environmental Assessment Introduction

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This Environmental Assessment has been prepared to analyze the potential impacts of Ouray Park Water Improvement District's proposal to construct a 250,000 gallon culinary water tank, upgrade the existing two-track road, lay approximately 3,850 feet of new buried water line, and an emergency concrete energy dissipation box to include and area 50–foot long x 10–foot wide for the drain line and 10–foot x 10–foot area for wrapped rip rap, and installed on the south/southwest side of the water tank.

Ouray Park Water Improvement Distric's (OPWID) has an existing right-of-way (UTU-029706) with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that authorizes a 4" buried waterline and a 20,000 gallon culinary water tank. This tank and waterline have been in service for approximately 40 years. Growth over the years and regulatory changes to fire flow and storage requirements have made the facilities obsolete and they are unable to meet the increased demands. Additional capacity is needed in both the tank and pipeline to fulfill minimum state requirements for fire storage, fire flow and to allow for growth.

The District plans to build a new tank and waterline near the existing tank and waterline. The existing tank and waterline will remain in service until future projects are constructed that will allow the facilities to be abandoned.

In order to meet new demands and fire flow and storage requirements, a new 250,000 gallon tank will be constructed to provide domestic water and fire suppression water storage for approximately 25 existing households on the bench north of Pelican Lake. In recent years the District has not been able to sell new connections to the water system on the bench because the existing tank does not have the capacity to serve their culinary or fire suppression needs. The tank will also provide water for fire suppression for the entire water district.

The new tank will be located just to the northeast of the existing tank. The dimensions of the proposed tank will be approximately 80 feet in diameter and 8 feet in height. The tank will be constructed of reinforced concrete, and it is anticipated that the tank will be partially buried. The portion of the tank that is above grade will be covered with mounded soil against the wall and over the lid to allow native vegetation to grow and minimize the visual impact. When completed, the new tank will be fenced with a 4' barbed wire fence. The permanent ROW area around the tank would be 200' x 200'.

A road right-of-way (ROW) is also requested to access the tank. An existing two-track road will be utilized for this purpose and improvements will be made where necessary to make the road passable for construction traffic. The dimensions of the proposed permanent road right-of-way across BLM-Managed land is 759' long and 20' wide.

The tank will feed the OPWID system through a new 12" PVC line that will run parallel to the existing 4" line that was authorized under UTU-029706. The right-of-way being applied for will be in the same general location as the existing right-of-way for the 4" waterline. The permanent waterline right-of-way being requested is 33' wide, the same as existing right-of-way UTU-29706. An additional 17– foot wide temporary pipeline construction area is requested for 90 days during construction. The new waterline will be a 12" PVC buried line that will cross BLM land in three different areas and have a combined length of pipe (on BLM land) of 3,850 feet.

An emergency concrete energy dissipation box, drain line and wrapped rip rap area (50' x 10' area) would be constructed on the south/southwest side of the water tank.

The EA is a site-specific analysis of potential impacts that could result with the implementation of a proposed action or alternatives to the proposed action. An EA assists the BLM in project planning and ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in making a determination as to whether any "significant" impacts could result from the analyzed actions. "Significance" is defined by NEPA and is found in regulation 40 CFR 1508.27. An EA provides evidence for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a statement of "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI).

A FONSI is a document that briefly presents the reasons why implementation of the selected alternative would not result in "significant" environmental impacts (effects) beyond those already addressed in the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan (VFO RMP), October 2008. If the decision maker determines that this project has "significant" impacts following the analysis in the EA, then an EIS would be prepared for the project. If not, a Decision Record may be signed for the EA approving the alternative selected.

1.1. Identifying Information:

1.1.1. Title, EA number, and type of project:

Ouray Park Water Improvement Districts 250,000 Culinary Water Tank, upgrade existing two-track access road, lay a new 12–inch buried water line, and an emergency concrete energy dissipation box to include and area 50–foot long x 10–foot wide for the drain line and 10–foot x 10–foot area (wrapped rip rap).

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1.1.2. Location of Proposed Action:

SLM, UT

T. 6 S., R. 20 E.,

Sec. 31, SE¼SE¼.

T. 7 S., R. 20 E.,

Sec. 5, Lots 3,4, SW¼NW¼;

Sec. 6, Lot 1.

1.1.3. Name and Location of Preparing Office:

Lead Office - Vernal Field Office

170 South 500 East

Vernal Utah 84078

1.1.4. Identify the lease, serial, or case file number:

UTU-91188

1.1.5. Applicant Name:

Ouray Park Water Improvement District

1.2. Purpose and Need for Action:

The BLM's need is to consider approval of the application for Ouray Park Water Improvement District's proposal to construct and install a new 250,000 gallon culinary water tank, upgrade an existing two-track road for access, install approximately 3,850 feet of new buried water line, and an emergency concrete energy dissipation box, drain line and wrapped rip rap area (50' x 10' area) would be constructed on the south/southwest side of the water tank, in accordance with Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976, as amended through September 1999, (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761). BLM's purpose is to avoid or reduce impacts on sensitive resource values associated with the project area and prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the public lands.

1.3. Scoping, Public Involvement and Issues:

During preparation of the EA, public involvement consisted of posting the proposal on the e-planning NEPA website. *No public comment or inquiries to date have been received.* The proposed action was reviewed by an interdisciplinary team of BLM resource specialists. For a list of all resources considered, refer to Appendix A.

Notice letters were mailed to other right-of-way holders within the proposed project area notifying them of the proposed project.

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Chapter 2. Proposed Action and Alternatives

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2.1. Description of the Proposed Action:

This EA focuses on the Proposed Action, as well as, the No Action Alternative. No unresolved conflicts were identified that required the consideration of another alternative.

Ouray Park Water Improvement District (OPWID) has a current right-of-way (UTU-029706) with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that authorizes a 4" buried waterline and a 20,000 gallon culinary water tank. This tank and waterline have been in service for approximately 40 years. Growth over the years and regulatory changes to fire flow and storage requirements have made the facilities obsolete and they are unable to meet the increased demands. Additional capacity is needed in both the tank and pipeline to fulfill minimum state requirements for fire storage, fire flow, and to allow for growth.

The District plans to build a new tank and waterline near the existing tank and waterline. The existing tank and waterline will remain in service until future projects are constructed that would allow the facilities to be abandoned.

In order to meet new demands and fire flow and storage requirements, a new 250,000 gallon tank would be constructed to provide domestic water and fire suppression water storage for approximately 25 existing households on the bench north of Pelican Lake. In recent years the District has not been able to sell new connections to the water system on the bench because the existing tank does not have the capacity to serve their culinary or fire suppression needs. The tank would also provide water for fire suppression for the entire water district.

The new tank would be located just to the northeast of the existing tank. The dimensions of the proposed tank would be approximately 80 feet in diameter and 8 feet in height. The tank would be constructed of reinforced concrete, and it is anticipated that the tank would be partially buried. The portion of the tank that is above grade would be covered with mounded soil against the wall and over the lid to allow native vegetation to grow and minimize the visual impact. When completed, the new tank would be fenced with a 4' tall barbed wire fence.

A road right-of-way (ROW) is also requested to access the tank. An existing two-track road would be utilized for this purpose and improvements would be made where necessary to make the road passable for construction traffic. The dimensions of the proposed permanent road right-of-way across BLM-Managed land is approximately 759 feet long and 20’ wide.

The tank will feed the OPWID system through a new 12" PVC line that would run parallel to the existing 4" line authorized under UTU-029706. The new waterline would cross BLM land in three different areas and have a combined length of pipe (on BLM land) of 3,850 feet. The right-of-way being applied for is in the same general location as the existing right-of-way for the 4” waterline. The new permanent waterline right-of-way would be 33’ wide, the same as the existing right-of-way.

A 17’ wide temporary construction easement is requested for approximately 90 days.

The project consists of the construction of the following items:

- 3,850 feet of buried 12” C–900 PVC water pipeline
- A 250,000 gallon, partially buried, concrete culinary water storage tank

- Upgrade an existing two-track road approximately 759 feet in length with a 20 foot permanent width
- Emergency concrete energy dissipation box, drain line and wrapped rip rap area (50' x 10' area) would be constructed on the south/southwest side of the water tank

Total disturbed area of proposed new ROW and temporary construction area is 6.64 acres (Includes temporary construction areas)

Permanent ROW is 4.21 acres. A map of the proposed ROW, including temporary construction ROW, is included in Appendix B

Water Line:

The pipeline and storage tank will be used to store and distribute domestic drinking water and fire suppression water to homes and business in the Ouray Park Water Improvement District.

The water line would be used as a water distribution line. The water line would be completely buried, the storage tank will be partially buried and then covered with soil.

The permanent water line right-of-way would be 33 feet wide and 3,850 feet long with different length for the three 3 segments.

The permanent tank ROW site area would be 200 ft x 200 ft.

The permanent road ROWwould be 759 feet in length with a 20– foot permanent width.

Overall the total area of the permanent ROW is approximately 4.21 acres (for the water tank, access road, water lines, and emergency concrete energy dissipation box and drain line) more or less.

Temporary construction area for the water lines, and tank is requested. An additional 17 feet (8.5 feet on both sides of the permanent 33–foot ROW width) is requested for the water line, and an additional 200 feet x 200 feet temporary construction ROW is proposed adjacent to and northeast of the proposed permanent tank ROW. (See Appendix B map(s))

Road Access:

An access road to the existing tank and the new tank is being requested. ROW UTU-029706 (existing 20,000 tank) did not include an access road. The existing two-track road will be utilized. Some areas of the existing two-track road are currently unpassable for construction equipment, such as a concrete truck. These areas will be improved by removing rock outcroppings and smoothing the road surface until drivable. Gravel or road base may be placed in areas where needed. The permanent road width would be 20–feet wide (12' driving surface) and approximately 759 feet in length. A map of the proposed road ROW is included in Appendix B map(s).

Water Pipelines

There is an existing right-of-way in place (UTU-029706) authorizing an 4–inch buried waterline and a 20,000 gallon tank (200 ft x 200 ft). The proposed new waterlines would parallel the route of the existing 4–inch lines.

Water Tank

The new water tank ROW would be constructed in a 200 ft x 200 ft permanent area, and will overlap a portion of the existing 200 ft x 200 ft water tank area authorized in right-of-way UTU-029706.

The location for the water tank, road, and pipelines was selected based on the existence of the current authorized ROW, and is proposed in an effort to minimize disturbance.

Legal Description

The proposed water tank, access road and pipelines and emergency dissipation box, drain pipe and rip rap area would be located on public lands within the following legal description:

SLM, UT

T. 6 S., R. 20 E.,

Sec. 31, SE¼SE¼.

T. 7 S., R. 20 E.,

Sec. 5, Lots 3,4, SW¼NW¼;

Sec. 6, Lot 1.

A copy of the original ROW plat from 1975 that contains the legal description of the ROW is included

in Exhibit B. The proposed ROW matches the existing ROW.

Facility Design Factor

Pipeline pressure standards: The pipe will be 12 inch C900 PVC water pipe and will meet all AWWA and Utah Division of Drinking Water requirements. Pipe wall thickness for 12 inch C900 PVC is approximately 0.73 inches, and the working pressure rating is 235 psi.

Toxicity of pipeline product: The C900 PVC pipe is a non-toxic pipe rated for carrying potable water. Anticipated operating temperatures in the pipe will vary in temperature (depending on the season from 35 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

Depth of the pipeline: The pipe will be buried at a minimum depth of 5 feet to prevent freezing. Minor variations for depth are expected where significant variations existing ground elevations occur over short distances. The pipe line will be 12 inch diameter and will be placed in a 3 foot wide trench.

Temporary Construction Areas

A temporary construction ROW is requested throughout the entire length of the pipeline with 8.5 feet on both sides of the 33–foot wide permanent ROW, making a 50-foot-wide construction ROW. A temporary construction area of 200’ x 200’ for the water tank construction is also requested, and will be adjacent to the permanent tank ROW as shown in Appendix B map(s).

Additional Components of the Right-of-way

Connection to an existing Right-of-Way:

The proposed water pipeline and subsequent ROW will be in the same location as the existing 4 inch pipe line ROW.

The proposed tank will be placed to the northeast of the existing tank, and the proposed ROW for the new tank will partially overlap the existing ROW authorized 200' x 200' site for the existing tank.

Existing Components on or off public lands:

There is currently a 4–inch waterline that will be used to fill the new storage tank and an existing 20,000 gallon tank that will remain in place and be utilized for times when the new tank is drained for maintenance.

Possible future components:

Center leg of the requested ROW leading toward the Avalon cemetery is expected to be constructed within the next five years.

No pumping stations are expected for the system now or in the future.

Gravel for pipe bedding would be required and would be obtained from local permitted commercial gravel pits.

Location of equipment storage areas

No permanent equipment storage areas are anticipated for the system. Temporary storage of construction equipment will either be in the proposed ROW or on private property.

Government Agencies Involved

FERC, USFWS

This project does not fall under the jurisdiction of the FERC. A wildlife impact study has been performed for the project and is included as Exhibit C.

State and local agencies that may be involved

Utah Division of Drinking Water

Uintah County

Tri-Ccounty Health

Construction of the Facilities

Construction of the waterline will involve the following tasks:

- clearing and grubbing of the proposed pipe line alignment
- excavation of the waterline trench and stockpiling of excavated materials for the use as trench backfill
- pipe bedding, installation and backfill
- final project cleanup, placement of final cover, seeding and mulching

Construction of the water tank will involve the following tasks:

- clearing and grubbing of the proposed tank locations
- initial grading and excavation for tank foundation
- excavation for and installation of connecting piping
- placement of bedding material for tank foundation
- forming and pouring of tank foundation, walls and then lid
- final connection of piping
- coating and backfilling tank
- final grading, placement of final cover, seeding and mulching

Major facilities (including vehicles and number of tons and loads) Pipeline:

- 12 loads of bedding material, approximately 140 tons
- Approximately two loads of piping

Concrete Water Storage Tank:

- Approximately 440 cubic yards of concrete will be used to construct the tank.
- At 10 yards per truck that results in 44 truckloads of concrete.
- An additional 10 truckloads of road base will be brought in under the tank base.
- An estimated 4 loads of reinforcing steel.

Ancillary Facilities

No ancillary facilities are planned for this project.

Work force (number of people and vehicles)

Pipeline:

- 6 workers, 3 trucks, 2 excavators, 1 loader, 1 dump truck, 1 backhoe, 1 water truck

Concrete Water Storage Tank:

- 10 workers while forming, 20 workers while pouring, 4 trucks, 2 dump trucks, 1 excavator, 1 grader, 1 compactor, 1 loader, 1 dozer, 1 water truck, 1 crane, 1 concrete pumper

Flagging or staking the right-of-way:

Staking of the ROW would be performed as part of the construction process and would be conducted under the supervision of a licensed surveyor.

Clearing and grading

Prior to construction of the waterline or tank, the areas would be cleared of vegetation. The vegetation will be stockpiled and chipped for mulch after reseeding.

Description of construction process

The pipeline would be constructed by excavating a five (5) foot deep trench, installing gravel bedding material, installing the 12–inch PVC pipe, covering the pipe with additional gravel material and then back filling the trench with the native excavated material.

The tank would be constructed by clearing the proposed site, excavating the proposed tank location, placing and compacting road base and gravel, forming and pouring the floor, walls and lid, backfilling around and on top of the tank and placing final seeding.

Access to, and along, right-of-way during construction

Existing county roads are adjacent to the ROW along the east and middle legs of the water line ROW. The west leg of the water line and the tank site would be accessed by the existing two-track road, for which a road ROW is being requested at this time.

Engineering drawings and specifications for site-specific problems relating to surface use or special mitigation:

No problems were found when investigating the proposed site, and the existence of similar structures and facilities supports these observations.

Diagrams, drawings, and cross sections to help visualize the scope of the project

The construction drawings for the portions of the project to be located on federal lands are included in Exhibit B.

No specialized equipment beyond those generally used in pipe construction and concrete is planned to be utilized.

Contingency planning

Contact Information

Ouray Park Water Improvement District

Lisa Frost

HC 69 Box 127

Randlett, UT 84063 (435) 545-2415

Safety Requirements

All construction would be subject to and conform to Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations for the type of construction being performed.

Industrial wastes and toxic substances:

No toxic substances are planned for use on the project and all fuel and lubricants for construction equipment will be stored off site.

Resource Values and Environmental Concerns:

The tank and waterlines would be placed in existing corridors with pipes and tanks.

Anticipated conflicts with resources or public health and safety:

air, noise, geologic hazards, mineral and energy resources, paleontological resources, soils, , vegetation, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, visual resources, BLM projects, recreation activities, wilderness, etc.

Once the project is complete and reclamation is accomplished, none of the above listed resources will be compromised.

Stabilization and Rehabilitation

Soil replacement and stabilization:

The top 6 inches of soil will be removed and stockpiled prior to construction. Once all areas have been backfilled and final grade established the topsoil will be replaced and a BLM approved seed mixture planted over all disturbed areas. Soil replacement and stabilization will be performed in accordance with Green River District Reclamation Guidelines.

Disposal of vegetation removed during construction (i.e., trees, shrubs, etc.)

Existing vegetation will be chipped and used as mulch in conjunction with the reseeding process.

Seeding specifications

The mix will consist of seeds included in the Zone 1 Species list for 4 to 8 inches of annual precipitation and meet the requirements listed in the Green River District Reclamation Guidelines. The seed mix will be composed of the following seeds broadcast at the prescribed rate. After seeding, the chipped native vegetation will be spread as mulch over the seed.

Common Name Scientific name Broadcast Rate

Crested Wheatgrass	Agropyron cristatum	2 lb/acre
Siberian Wheatgrass	Agropyron fragile	2 lb/acre
Needle and Thread Grass	Stipa comate	2 lb/acre
Scarlet Globemallow	Sphaeraicea coccinea	2 lb/acre
Shadescale	Atriplex confertifolia	3 lb/acre
Fourwing Saltbrush	Atriplex canescens	2 lb/acre

Fertilizer

It is not anticipated that fertilizer would be used on the project.

Limiting access to the right-of-way

All of the pipe and tank ROWs are adjacent to existing roads, limiting access to the ROW would be difficult, costly and in some areas would require blocking existing Uintah County ROWs. The existing two-track road that would be utilized, and for which a road ROW is being applied, would remain in service for access and maintenance purposes. No other roads would be built during construction.

Operation and Maintenance

A new access ROW is requested as part of the project for operation and maintenance of the tank and the line connecting to the tank.

Hydrostatic testing and subsequent release of water

It is anticipated that approximately 50,000 gallons of water will be used to perform hydrostatic testing of the water line and for disinfecting of the new water line and tank. This water will be conveyed off federal lands via the water line and disposed of on private property or in accordance with state, county and local regulations.

Removal and/or addition of pipe and/or pumps be required as part of pipeline maintenance

No pumps are included or planned as part of the project or as part of future additions to the project on BLM lands. From time to time, breaks in the waterline will occur that may necessitate removal and replacement of short sections of the line.

All maintenance activities would be confined within the right-of-way.

Safety

Maintenance activities will conform to OSHA guidelines for pipe and tank operation and maintenance.

Toxic Substances

All toxic substances will be stored in approved storage facilities and not on the right-of-way.

Inspection and maintenance schedules

Inspection and maintenance will occur on the ground.

Work schedules

The tank and line will be inspected on a weekly basis for proper operation.

Fire Control

Ouray Park Water Improvement District and its contractors will do everything within reason and within its power to prevent fires on or near the construction area during the construction of the tank and water line, as well as throughout the tem of the right-of-way. Each vehicle on the job site will be equipped with a radio and fire extinguisher.

Contingency Planning

In the event that the tank must be taken out of service, the existing 20,000 gallon tank will be utilized until such time as the new tank can be repaired and placed back in service. In the event that the waterline must be removed form service, the system will be supplied with water utilizing a tie over from the 4 inch to the 12 inch line on the system outside of BLM lands.

Termination and Restoration

Removal of structures

It is unlikely that the system will be abandoned or removed from service. In the event that the system is abandoned, it is not proposed that the tanks be removed. Waterline would be cleaned and left in the ground.

Obliteration of Roads

Most of the roads are existing Uintah County roads. The access road to the tank would be obliterated and the ROW relinquished in the event of the system being abandoned.

Stabilization and re-vegetation of disturbed areas

If the tanks are removed and the access road obliterated, the disturbed area will be stabilized and re-vegetated, utilizing the same process detail above in section 8, Stabilization and Restoration.

2.2. No Action Alternative

Under this action, BLM would not approve the proposal of the 250,000 gallon culinary water tank, upgrade of existing two-track road, and installation of 3,850 feet of buried water line on Federal Land.

2.3. Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed in Detail

There were no other alternatives identified aside from the Proposed Action and No Action alternatives that would meet the purpose and need of this proposed project.

2.4. Conformance With BLM Land Use Plan

The proposed action would be in conformance with the Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (October 2008). The RMP/ROD decision allows ROWs on public lands in accordance with the Realty Decisions. It has been determined that the proposed action and alternative(s) would not conflict with any decisions throughout the plan..

2.5. Relationships To Statutes, Regulations, and Other Plans

This EA was prepared by the BLM in accordance with NEPA of 1969 and in compliance with all applicable regulations and laws passed subsequently, including the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and U.S. Department of Interior requirements and guidelines, as listed in the BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1.

Uintah County: The proposed project is consistent with the Uintah County General Plan 2012-as amended. The Uintah County General Plan contains specific policy statements addressing public land, multiple-use, resource use and development, access, and wildlife management. In general, the plan indicates support for development proposals such as the proposed action through the plan's emphasis on multiple-use public land management practices, responsible use and optimum utilization of public lands resources. The County, through the Plan, supports the development of natural resources as they become available, as new technology allows.

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Chapter 3. Affected Environment:

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This chapter presents the potentially affected existing environment (i.e., the physical, biological, social, and economic values and resources) of the impact area as identified in the Interdisciplinary Team Checklist found in Appendix A. This chapter provides the baseline for comparison of impacts/consequences described in Chapter 4.

3.1. Air Quality & Greenhouse Gas Emissions

3.2. Invasive Plants/Noxious Weeds, Soils and Vegetation

Cheatgrass is an invasive species that is currently present in the project area.

The soils in the area are typically mixed with a high content of sandy loams, clays, and rock outcrop complexes. According to NRCS soil survey data (2013, WSS query) the soils in the area are considered Braf-Rock Outcrop complexes and Badland-Rock Outcrop complexes.

Braf-Rock Outcrop complexes are somewhat excessively drained, nearly level to moderately sloping (2 to 15% slopes) soils found on structural benches at elevations from 4,900 to 5,300 feet. The parent materials are eolian deposits and slope alluvium derived from sandstone. Surface layer is sandy loam 0 to 3 inches thick; upper subsoil, where present, is sandy loam about 5 inches thick. The permeability is moderately rapid, runoff is very high and erosion hazard is moderate. This soil is classified as a desert shallow loam. The landscape is characterized by species such as black sagebrush *(Artemisia nova)*, Mormon Tea *(Ephedra viridis)*, shadscale *(Atriplex confertifolia)*, bottlebrush squirreltail *(Elymus elymoides)*, galleta grass *(Pleuraphis jamesii)*, and saline wildrye *(Leymus salinus)*.

Badland-Rock Outcrop complexes are somewhat excessively drained, nearly level to very steep (1 to 100% slopes) soils found on cliffs, erosion remnants, ridges, hills, escarpments, and ledges at elevations from 4,700 to 7,000 feet. Surface layer is clay 0 to 2 inches thick; subsoil is not present (underlying layer is bedrock or weathered bedrock). The permeability is very slow, runoff is very high, and erosion is active. Badlands are barren lands that are dissected by many intermittent drainage channels, and are associated with soft geologic materials of the Duchesne River, Green River, Mancos, Morrison, and Uinta formations. Rock Outcrops consist of exposures of bedrock associated with shale, siltstone, sandstone, limestone, and quartzite of the Browns Park, Duchesne River, Green River, Mancos, Park City, and Uinta formations. Vegetative classification is semi-desert shallow loam or desert shallow loam, characterized by species such as black sagebrush *(Artemisia nova)* and shadscale *(Atriplex confertifolia)*.

3.3. Invasive Plants/Noxious Weeds, Soils & Vegetation

3.4. Paleontology

Paleontological resources on Federal lands are protected under the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C 470aaa to 470aaa-11), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; as well as Federal regulations, BLM policy and other mandates.

As a part of its policy, BLM uses a Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) of geologic units which rates their potential to produce scientifically important fossils (lowest PFYC 1 to highest

PFYC 5). Bighorn Environmental Consultants, LLC. (BLM Permit No. UT13–015C) carried out a field survey of the project area as detailed in their report dated June 19, 2015 (Alderks, 2015). Quaternary alluvium (PFYC 2) and outcropping Tertiary Uinta Formation (Myton Member) (PFYC 4a) were observed in the project area. Within the Myton Member, multiple turtle and mammal fossil localities were recorded in addition to fossil scatters.

3.5. Wildlife: Migratory Birds (including raptors)

All migratory birds and their nests are protected from take or disturbance under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (16 U.S.C., 703 et seq.). These protection laws were implemented for the protection of avian species. Unless permitted by regulations, it is unlawful to pursue, hunt, kill, capture, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any species covered under these Acts. In addition, Executive Order 13186 sets forth the responsibilities of federal agencies to further implement the provisions of these Acts by integrating bird conservation principles and practices into agency activities and by ensuring that federal actions evaluate the effects of actions and agency plans on protected avian species.

The BLM has reviewed district files and completed a field visit for raptor nesting and migratory bird habitat within all lands up to ½ mile of the proposed project. There are no known raptors nesting located within ½ mile of the proposed project; however, the project is located within migratory bird nesting and foraging habitat. The following addresses migratory birds that may utilize the project area for nesting or foraging activities, including those species classified as Priority Species by Utah Partners-in-Flight. Utah Partners-in-Flight is a cooperative partnership among federal, state, and local government agencies as well as public organizations and individuals organized to emphasize the conservation of birds not covered by existing conservation initiatives.

Desert/Shrub Areas: American robin, American white pelican, bald eagle, blue-gray gnatcatcher, black-billed magpie, black-capped chickadee, black-chinned hummingbird, black-throated sparrow, bobolink, Brewer’s blackbird, Brewer’s sparrow, broad-tailed hummingbird, common raven, mountain bluebird, sage sparrow, sage thrasher, short-eared owl, song sparrow, and western kingbird.

Chapter 4. Environmental Effects:

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This chapter describes the direct and indirect impacts that would be expected to occur upon the implementation of the considered alternative. It also discloses the expected cumulative impacts, which are those impacts resulting from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions.

4.1. Proposed Action

4.1.1. Invasive Plants/Noxious Weeds, Soils & Vegetation

The Proposed Action would disturb approximately 6.03 acres of soils and vegetation. The portions of the disturbed area that would not be utilized for maintenance and transportation would be subject to interim reclamation. If interim reclamation is successful, direct long-term impacts to vegetation would not occur. If interim reclamation is not successful, the entire area could remain disturbed for the long term. Long-term impacts to vegetation are expected for the life of the project.

The project would contribute an estimated additional 3.0 tons of soil per acre per year above the current natural erosion rate for the first year of development. After the first year, the soil erosion attributed to the project would reduce to 1.5 tons per acre per year until the access roads and project area are fully reclaimed. Erosion rates are higher during the first year due to disturbance during construction.

Direct impacts to soils include mixing of soil horizons, soil compaction, short-term loss of topsoil and site productivity, and loss of soil/topsoil through wind and water erosion. Loss of soil/topsoil in disturbed areas would reduce the revegetation success of seeded native species due to increased competition by annual weed species. Annual weed species are adapted to disturbed conditions, and have less stringent moisture and soil nutrient requirements than do perennial native species.

Additional direct impacts to vegetation are primarily associated with clearing of vegetation during construction. Indirect impacts to vegetation resources include the invasion and establishment of introduced, undesired plant species. The severity of these invasions would depend on the success of reclamation and revegetation, and the degree and success of noxious weed control efforts.

The area's poor soil reclamation potential, has made successful reclamation efforts challenging. BLM field inspections indicate that short-term impacts may be more accurately portrayed as long-term impacts. However, most of these issues should be addressed in the Site Specific Reclamation Plan that was submitted as part of the proposed action.

Impacts to soils and vegetation would be partially mitigated by reclamation of disturbed areas with native vegetation and control of noxious and invasive weeds by mechanical and chemical treatment.

4.1.1.1. Mitigation

- Interim reclamation will begin shortly upon completion construction of the water tank and its facilities and shall include all areas not required for maintenance activities including areas on and around the burried portions of the water tank.

- All reclamation will be done in accordance with the *Green River District Reclamation Guidelines*, dated May 22, 2014.

- The operator shall regularly monitor and promptly control noxious weeds or other undesirable plant species as set forth in the *Noxious Weed Field Guide for Utah*, 3rd Edition. A Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP) must be approved by the BLM prior to the use of herbicides.

- All vehicles and equipment shall be cleaned either through power-washing, or other approved method, if the vehicles or equipment were brought in from areas outside the Uinta Basin, to prevent weed seed introduction.

4.1.2. Paleontology

The Proposed Action involves earth moving activities that will alluvium and bedrock. All bedrock in the project area is of the Tertiary Uinta Formation (Myton Member), which has a PFYC of 4a (high impact potential). Based on this, and the fact that significant fossil localities occur in bedrock outcrops within the project area, the Proposed Action may result in direct impacts to both known and undiscovered paleontological resources. Direct impact via illegal collecting and vandalism are also possible once fossil localities are exposed. Nonetheless, these impacts can be successfully mitigated through implementation of the following measures:

Mitigation

- A certified paleontological monitor will be present for construction of the following:

    - The tank pad and pipeline in Section 6 (Parcels A and B as described in the plat titled *Ouray Park Waterline Improvement Project*) (Appendix B)

    - The westernmost pipeline in Section 5 (Parcel D as described in the plat titled *Ouray Park Waterline Improvement Project*) (Appendix B)

- If paleontological resources are uncovered during any ground-disturbing activities, the operator will suspend all operations which would further disturb such materials and will immediately contact the BLM Authorized Officer, who will arrange for a determination of significance and, if necessary, recommend a recovery or avoidance plan.

4.1.3. Wildlife: Migratory Birds (including raptors)

Given the abundance of foraging habitat in the surrounding area habitat losses are not expected to be reduced to levels where “take” would occur. Impacts to migratory birds within the proposed project area would also be dependent upon the time when project activities would occur. If these activities occur in the late fall, most of the species would have left the area during winter migration. If construction activities were to occur during the spring or summer months it could cause birds to move into other adjacent habitats or into habitats where interspecific and intraspecific competition between species may increase. Surface and noise disturbance associated with project activities would be considered temporary and is anticipated to occur during typical working hours.

4.2. No Action

4.2.1. Invasive Plants/Noxious Weeds, Soils & Vegetation

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no direct disturbance or indirect effects to soils and vegetation from surface-disturbing activities associated with this proposed action. Current land use trends in the area would continue, including increased industrial development, increased off-highway vehicles (OHV) traffic, and increased recreation use for hunting, bird watching, and sightseeing.

4.2.2. Paleontology

The No Action Alternative involves no surface disturbance and, therefore, would not impact paleontological resources.

4.2.3. Wildlife: Migratory Birds (including raptors)

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no direct or indirect effects to wildlife species. Current land use trends in the area would continue of which would mainly include increased oil and gas development activities.

4.3. Cumulative Impacts

4.3.1. Invasive Plants/Noxious Weeds, Soils & Vegetation

Analysis of the cumulative impacts is incorporated by reference to the existing document Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision. For the purpose of cumulative impact analysis, the cumulative impacts analysis area (CIAA) considered is the boundary of the Township 6 South, Range 20 East (T6S R20E). The proposed action is within oil and gas fields. Cumulative impacts typical of oil and gas field development include: removal of native vegetation and increased erosion rates of soils which are generally very thin, slow to develop, and difficult to reclaim due to the arid climate and the low organic content.

The CIAA considered for this analysis is the boundary of the T6S, R20E. Cumulative actions within the T6S, R20E area include a number of plugged and active wells primarily on BLM surface. BLM acreage within this area is approximately 7,021 acres of the total 22,769 acres in the township and range. There are currently several wells proposed in this township and range. The Proposed Action would disturb approximately 6.03 acres, approximately 0.03% of the CIAA (T6S R19E), or approximately 0.090 % of the total BLM acreage in the CIAA. The No Action Alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts on soils and vegetation.

Soil erosion would be increased due to the disturbance associated with oil and gas activities in the area. Each acre of disturbance adds to a cumulative effect by increasing erosion and destroying native vegetation, and through the invasion of undesirable and/or non-native plant species. In general, soils in the Uinta Basin are very thin, slow to develop, and difficult to reclaim because of the arid climate and lack of organic material.

Direct surface disturbances to vegetation indicated by past, present, and reasonably foreseeable developments are primarily attributable to oil and gas development and vegetation management by various federal agencies. Oil and gas development, however, would continue to degrade local habitat by direct disturbance and slow reclamation of disturbed areas. The Proposed Action would add 6.03 acres of surface disturbance. The No Action alternative would not result in an accumulation of impacts.

4.3.2. Paleontology

The CIAA for paleontological resources is the Uinta Basin. Cumulative impacts, including damage to, and destruction of, paleontological resources would result from surface disturbing activities within fossil bearing rock formations. In addition, increased accessibility would likely result in cumulative impacts due to theft and vandalism.

It is noteworthy that pre-construction surveys and other mitigation measures required by the BLM would result in recovery of important fossils and minimization of cumulative impacts.

The No Action Alternative would not contribute to cumulative effects.

4.3.3. Wildlife: Migratory Birds (including Raptors)

The cumulative impact analysis area for migratory birds is defined as the Pelican Lake Hydrologic Unit Boundary consisting of approximately 18,515 acres. This hydrologic unit boundary was chosen for cumulative impact analysis as this best represents a soil and vegetation habitat type avian species found within the project area would utilize in whole. Future actions of the Proposed Action could increase human presence in the area continuing to fragment and manipulate the surrounding habitats by increasing the presence of non-native invasive plant species. Further introduction of non-native invasive plant species could have significant adverse impacts on migratory birds that are dependent upon prevalent species for their survival. In general such an environmental shift would probably have negative impacts on wildlife species and would favor non-native and readily adaptive species.

Impacts to migratory birds in the cumulative impact analysis area would be dependent upon the season of project activities. Any activities completed in the late fall would less likely have a direct impact to avian species because many of the species would have left for winter grounds. Though the stipulation associated with the proposed project will further limit disturbance to avian species within the area. Successful reclamation efforts would return disturbed habitats to pre-disturbance levels and loss of vegetation would be a temporary impact to migratory bird habitat. The No Action Alternative would not result in an accumulation of impacts.

Chapter 5. Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted:

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Table 5.1. List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	Project within greater sage-grouse habitat. Coordination with UDWR regarding sage-grouse occupancy near the area	No sage-grouse habitat is present within the project area. Consultation through emails took place with (DWR, Brian Maxfield) on Oct. 20, 2015.

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Chapter 6. List of Preparers

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See Appendix A ID Team Checklist

Table 6.1. List of Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Margo Roberts	Realty Specialist	EA Project Lead
Brandon McDonald	Wildlife Biologist	Fisheries and Wildlife analysis

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Chapter 7. References

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REFERENCES

Alderks, Dave O., 2015, Paleontological Reconnaissance Survey Report: Proposed Ouray Water Park Tank and Pipelines located in (NE/NE quarter-quarter section of Sec. 6, T 7 S, R 20 E & NW/NW quarter-quarter section of Sec. 5, T 7 S, R 20 E), Bighorn Environmental Consultants, LLC.

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Chapter 8. Acronyms

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AO Authorized Officer

BLM Bureau of Land Management

DR Decision Record

EA Environmental Assessment

EIS Environmental Impact Statement

ENBB Environmental Notification Bulletin Board

FLPMA Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976

FONSI Finding of No Significant Impact

ID Interdisciplinary

NEPA National Environmental Policy Act

RFA Reasonably Foreseeable Action

RMP Resource Management Plan

ROD Record of Decision

ROW Right-of-Way

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Appendix A. Interdisciplinary Checklist

Project Title:

NEPA Log Number:DOI—BLM—UT—G010–2015–0150–EA

File/Serial Number:UTU-91188

Project Leader: Margo Roberts

DETERMINATION OF STAFF:

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)				
NI	Air Quality & Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Emissions will occur from vehicles in the project area, but those impacts will be short term & transitory so they will not be detectable by monitors or models. No standards have been set by EPA or other regulatory agencies for greenhouse gas emissions and climate change is still in its earliest stages of formulation. Global scientific models are inconsistent, and regional or local scientific models are lacking so that it is not technically feasible to determine the net impacts to climate due to greenhouse gas emissions. It is anticipated that greenhouse gas emissions associated with this action and its alternative(s) would be negligible.	Margo Roberts	07/24/2015
NP	BLM Natural Areas	The proposed project does not fall within the boundaries of a BLM Natural Area as per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (2008) and the GIS layers database.	Margo Roberts	7/24/2015
NP	Cultural: Archaeological Resources	No cultural resources were located within the project area. Project area less than 50 acres; consultation covered under the BLM-SHPO programmatic agreement.	David Grant	9/23/2015

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NP	Cultural: Native American Religious Concerns	No Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs) are identified within the APE. The proposed project will not hinder access to or use of Native American religious sites.	David Grant	9/23/2015
NP	Designated Areas: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	The proposed project does not fall within the boundaries of an ACEC per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (2008) and the GIS data base layers.	Margo Roberts	7/24/2015
NP	Designated Areas: Wild and Scenic Rivers	The proposed project is not in a Wild and Scenic Rivers area per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (2008) and GIS Database layers.	Margo Roberts	7/24/2015
NP	Designated Areas: Wilderness Study Areas	No Wilderness areas have been designated by the U.S. Congress on BLM lands in the VFO. The proposed project is not in a Wilderness/WSA area per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (2008) and GIS Database layers.	Margo Roberts	7/24/2015
NI	Environmental Justice	No minority or economically disadvantaged communities or populations would be disproportionately adversely affected by the proposed action or alternatives because there are no such communities or populations located in the project area.	Margo Roberts	7/24/2015
NI	Farmlands (prime/unique)	All prime farmlands in Uintah County are irrigated. All unique farmlands in Uintah County are orchards. No irrigated lands or orchards are located in the project area; therefore this resource will not be carried forward for analysis.	Margo Roberts	07/24/2015
NI	Fuels/Fire Management	No Fuels/fire management projects or needs present per VFO GIS data base.	Margo Roberts	7/24/2015
NI	Geology/Minerals/ Energy Production	Geologic conditions will not be significantly impacted considering the following: ● Minimal earthworks. ● Potential for erosive event associated with tank/pipe failure limited to tank capacity. The 2008 Vernal Field Office ROD and Approved RMP lists oil, natural gas, alternative energy, Gilsonite, oil shale, tar sands, phosphate, locatable minerals and mineral materials as important resources in the area. No adverse impact is expected considering the following:	Justin Snyder	8/17/2015

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
		• The project would not directly affect current conventional or alternative energy production and would not preclude future development. • No known Gilsonite veins occur in the Project Area. • Oil shale and tar sand are expected to exist below mineable depths (2,000 feet as per VFO policy) and well beyond any impacts associated with surface use. • There are no known phosphate bearing formations in the project area. • There are no active mineral material permits, community pits etc. in the project area. • There are no known locatable minerals in the project area		
PI	Invasive Plants/ Noxious Weeds, Soils & Vegetation	The proposed action would result in approximately 6.03 acres of disturbance to soils and vegetation. Invasive Plants/Noxious Weeds (IP/NW): Disturbing the soils and vegetation could result in invasive plants establishing in greater numbers than they are already occurring at the site. A site-specific reclamation plan was received on September 3, 2015 via e-mail and additional information regarding weed control was received on November 17, 2015. This plan with the additional information was submitted as part of the proposed action for this proposal and is included in Appendix C. The reclamation plan includes measures to monitor and control weeds. Soils: The proposed project takes place in areas identified has having sandy loam soils with Badland and rock outcrop complexes throughout the area. The project proposes to disturb approximately 6.03 acres of these soils which are very prone to erosion through fluvial and eolian processes. These potential impacts have the chance to add significant amounts of new sediment into the system as a whole unless certain reclamation and storm water erosion controls measures are in place. In	David Baird	9/4/2015 11/17/2015

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
		addition, topsoil integrity could be lost if proper handling is not followed. To mitigate these impacts the applicant prepared a site specific Reclamation plan in addition to the proposed action which sets forth procedures for proper handling and stabilization of topsoil. The procedures set forth in that plan would be followed by the applicant as part of the proposed action. Veg: The proposed project takes place in areas identified as black sagebrush vegetative community consisting of shrubs, grasses, and forbs, typical of a High Desert or High Semi-Desert Ecosystem. The removal of the surface vegetation from this proposed action would destabilize soils until vegetation is reestablished. As a part of the proposed action the applicant has prepared a site specific reclamation plan that sets forth the procedures to quickly stabilize soils and establish vegetation during the interim and final abandonment phases of the project.		
NI	Lands/Access	The proposed area is located within the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan area, which allows for oil and gas development with associated road, pipeline and power line rights-of-way. Current land uses, within the area identified in the proposed action and adjacent lands, consist of existing oil and gas development, wildlife habitat, recreational use, and sheep and cattle ranching. No existing land uses would be changed or modified by the implementation of the proposed action. The existing right-of-way holders in the project area have been notified of the project. Master Title Plats have been reviewed for conflicts with Public Water Reserves, or existing ROW holders. No Public Water Reserves were identified in the project area per the Master Title Plats. The access road to the proposed project area is a Uintah County Class D road, and ends at the private property. The existing road on public lands in Lot 1 of T7S, R20E, was built to access the existing water tank authorized under UTU-0–29706..	Margo Roberts	07/24/2015

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
		Applicant Committed Measures: Permits from the counties will be obtained.		
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)	The proposed project is not located within an identified Land(s) with Wilderness Characteristics' (LWC) area, as per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office GIS Database layers.	Margo Roberts	07/24/2015
NI	Livestock Grazing & Rangeland Health Standards	This project will have negligible affects on the Ouray Road Allotment and Rangeland Health	Craig Newman	8/18/2015
PI	Paleontology	There is potential to impact paleontological resources based on the following: ● A survey of the project area was completed by Bighorn Environmental Consultants (BLM Permit No. UT13–015C) as detailed in their report dated June 19, 2015. A paleontological monitor was recommended based on the discovery of scientifically important paleontological resources within the Myton Member of the Uinta Formation (PFYC 4a). ● A paleontological monitor was not committed to in the proposed action.	Justin Snyder	8/17/2015
NI	Plants: BLM Sensitive	Suitable habitat for BLM sensitive plant species Hamilton milkvetch *(Astragalus hamiltonii)* is present in the Project Area, per BLM GIS data review. However, a Google Earth view of the Project Area shows no suitable habitat for Hamilton milkvetch within 300 feet of the proposed surface disturbance. Therefore, the project is unlikely to impact this species. Suitable habitat for other BLM sensitive plant species is not present in the project area, per soils models and GIS data review.	Christine Cimiluca	8/14/2015
NP	Plants: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate	The Project Area is outside suitable habitat for TECP plant species, per BLM GIS data, U. of Wyoming habitat models, and Google Earth review. The proposed project is unlikely to impact TECP plant species or habitat.	Christine Cimiluca	8/14/2015

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NP	Wetlands/Riparian	The project area is not within riparian or wetland area as per GIS review and onsite analysis. There are four riparian areas within a two mile radius. However, GIS analysis demonstrates that Intermittent streams and ephermal drainages do not drain into these riparian areas. As such no impacts would occur as a result of the proposed action.	David Baird	9/4/2015
NI	Recreation	The project lies south of the Brough Reservoir Recreation Site. There is little OHV use and hunting associated within the project area. Therefore, recreation is not known to be an issue. The operator has committed to reclaiming the project area according to the Green River District Reclamation Guidelines, and has prepared a reclamation plan, which would help protect the scenic quality.	Bill Civish	08/11/2015
NI	Socio-Economics	A positive impact to the social and economic status of the county and nearby communities would occur from this project. The culinary water tank installation would help the local communities by providing water service to new customers, and increase the amount of water available for use.	Margo Roberts	07/24/2015
NI	Visual Resources	Proposed project is located within VRM Class III and IV, per VFO GIS data base.Proposed project is located within VRM Class III per VFO GIS data base. "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 Visual Resources 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." The objective Class IV is to provide for management activities that require major modifications to the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the landscape can be high. The management activities may dominate the view and may be the major focus of the viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repetition of the basic visual elements of form, line, color and texture.The existing form	Bill Civish	08/11/2015

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
		lines, textures and colors will be slightly modified; however, the project will meet class III and IVobjectives. *The action would be allowed under class III and IV objectives*		
NI	Wastes (hazardous/solid)	No chemicals subject to reporting under SARA Title III in amounts greater than 10,000 pounds would be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of annually in association with the project. Trash and other waste materials would be cleaned up and removed immediately after completion of operations.	Margo Roberts	07/24/2015
NI	Water: Floodplains	There are no mapped 100-year floodplains within the Project Area, as per BLM GIS data review. The nearest mapped 100-year floodplain is the Ouray Canal 100-year floodplain, approximately 1.2 miles to the west. This floodplain is not expected to be impacted as a result of the Proposed Action.	David Baird	9/4/2015
NI	Water: Groundwater Quality	No impact is expected based on the following: ● Construction activities would not directly interact with groundwater ● Any potential discharges to groundwater would not be adverse due to the fact that the tank and pipelines would hold culinary quality water. ● There are no EPA or State of Utah designated Sole Source Aquifers or Drinking Water Source Protection Zones in the project area.	Justin Snyder	8/17/2015
NI	Water: Hydrologic Conditions (stormwater)	The Project Area is located in the Ouray Park Canal – Duchesne River Subwatershed within the Duchesne River Watershed (USGS Hydrologic Region 14, Subregion 1406, and cataloging unit 14060003). Hydrologic conditions within the Project Area consist primarily of dry ephemeral drainages within a clay loam soil environment. The proposed action as stated is not expected to alter current hydrological conditions. Storm water controls within the site specific reclamation plan address mitigation intended to protect current hydrologic conditions.	David Baird	9/4/2015

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Water: Surface Water Quality	Pollution to surface water quality is not likely to occur as a result of the proposed action. A negligible amount of soil erosion would occur through fluvial and aeolian processes. However, the site is upland more than 3 miles from perennial waters. As such, impacts to surface water quality from this project are not expected.	David Baird	9/4/2015
NP	Water: Waters of the U.S.	Waters of the U.S. are not present per USGS topographic map and GIS data review. The proposed project would not impact any drainage where a high water mark can be distinguished, drainages which regularly run water, or wetlands/riparian areas.	David Baird	9/4/2015
NP	Wild Horse and Burro	No herd areas or herd management areas are present within the proposed project area as per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office GIS Database layers.	Margo Roberts	7/24/2015
PI	Wildlife: Migratory Birds (including raptors)	Migratory birds may be present within the project area. There are no known raptor nests within or near the project area. The project is located within a General Habitat Management Area (GHMA) for greater sage-grouse. In review of a field visit to the proposed site, the site is located within a non-habitat area located within the GHMA. The site does not provide existing sagebrush or ecological potential to contain sagebrush. The site also does not provide important connectivity between areas with existing or potential habitat. Emails between BLM and UDWR regarding the proposal identify both agencies are in agreement that impacts are not anticipated to greater sage-grouse. Sage-grouse occupy areas further to the north/northeast (see project file).	Brandon McDonald	10/21/2015
NI	Wildlife: Non-USFWS Designated	BLM does not identify crucial habitat for big game species. Non-USFWS species may occur near the project area but impacts are not anticipated to a degree where mortality or declines in population would occur. Wildlife may be temporarily displaced and would likely occupy other adjacent suitable habitats.	Brandon McDonald	10/21/2015

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NP	Wildlife: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate	In accordance with district files and a field review there are no threatened, endangered, proposed or candidate species, including their associated habitats, within or near the project area.	Brandon McDonald	10/21/2015
NP	Woodlands/Forestry	The proposed project is not within a woodlands/forestry area as per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office GIS Database layers.	Margo Roberts	07/24/2015

FINAL REVIEW:			
Reviewer Title	**Signature**	**Date**	**Comments**
Environmental Coordinator	/s/ Kelly Buckner	11/20/2015	
Authorized Officer	/s/ Jerry Kenczka	11/20/2015	

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Appendix B. Maps

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Appendix C. Site Specific Reclamation Plan/Seed Mix

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Appendix D. Plan of Development