

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION



Proposed Action Title: Western Colorado Maintenance Office Communication Site and Facility Herbicide Treatments

Location: Chaffee, Custer, Dolores, El Paso, Fremont, Garfield, Grand, Gunnison, Jackson, La Plata, Lake, Moffat, Montezuma, Montrose, Rio Blanco, Routt, San Miguel, and Summit Counties, Colorado; San Juan County, New Mexico; Daggett and Uintah Counties, Utah; Lincoln and Sweetwater Counties, Wyoming

Project Number: 2024-026

Expiration Date: December 31, 2029

A. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION:

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Rocky Mountain Region (RMR), proposes to conduct routine herbicide application for vegetation management in the spring and fall, as necessary, at the communication sites and facilities listed below. Herbicide will be applied by backpack sprayer or custom vehicle-mounted sprayer. All weeds located within WAPA's property boundaries and rights-of-way (ROWS) on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Navajo Nation (NAV), State of Colorado (CO), and US Forest Service (USFS) will be treated. Treatment areas will be accessed using existing access routes; no road maintenance or new road construction is authorized.

Facility Name	Facility Type	FID	County	State	Land Management Agency
Animas River	Substation	ANM	La Plata	Colorado	N/A
Bears Ears	Substation	BEA	Moffat	Colorado	CO
Big Mesa	Communication Site	BMS	Gunnison	Colorado	BLM
Blue Mesa	Switchyard	BM	Gunnison	Colorado	BLM
Blue Ridge	Communication Site	BLR	Grand	Colorado	USFS
Brush Creek Tap	Substation	BCK	Uintah	Utah	BLM
Cahone	Pumping Plant	CNE	Dolores	Colorado	BOR
Canon West	Substation	CCW	Fremont	Colorado	N/A
Cathedral Bluff	Communication Site	CAB	Rio Blanco	Colorado	BLM
Cedar Mountain	Communication Site	CMT	Moffat	Colorado	BLM
Cliff Ridge	Communication Site	CLI	Uintah	Utah	BLM
Cow Point	Communication Site	CWP	Montezuma	Colorado	BLM
Craig Maintenance Facility	Service Center	CRM	Moffat	Colorado	N/A

Curecanti	Substation	CCI	Montrose	Colorado	N/A
Deer Peak	Communication Site	DPK	Custer	Colorado	USFS
Dove Creek	Pumping Plant	DOV	Dolores	Colorado	BOR
Fairview	Pumping Plant	FRV	Montezuma	Colorado	BOR
Flaming Gorge	Substation & Communication Site	FGE	Daggett	Utah	USFS
Fontenelle Camp	Substation & Communication Site	FNP	Lincoln	Wyoming	BOR
Four Corners	Communication Site	FCM	San Juan	New Mexico	NAV
Granby Pumping Plant	Switchyard	GPP	Grand	Colorado	BOR
Granby	Substation	GRB	Grand	Colorado	BLM
Great Cut	Pumping Plant	GCT	Montezuma	Colorado	BOR
Green Mountain	Communication Site & Switchyard	GMM	Summit	Colorado	USFS
Green River	Communication Site	GNR	Sweetwater	Wyoming	BLM
Grizzly Ridge	Communication Site	GRZ	Uintah	Utah	USFS
Hayden	Communication Site, Pole Yard & Substation	HDN	Routt	Colorado	N/A
Kremmling	Substation	KRM	Grand	Colorado	BLM
Midway	Substation	MID	El Paso	Colorado	N/A
Monarch	Communication Site	MNK	Chaffee	Colorado	USFS
Moncisco	Communication Site	MCO	San Juan	New Mexico	NAV
Montrose	Substation	MTR	Montrose	Colorado	N/A
Mount Elbert	Substation	MTE	Lake	Colorado	BOR
North Park	Substation	NOP	Jackson	Colorado	N/A
Oak Creek	Tap	OCR	Routt	Colorado	N/A
Pinion Hill	Communication Site	PNN	Chaffee	Colorado	N/A
Pleasant View	Pumping Plant	PTV	Montezuma	Colorado	BOR
Poncha	Switchyard	PON	Chaffee	Colorado	N/A
Raspberry Creek	Communication Site	RBC	Montrose	Colorado	USFS
Rifle	Substation & Communication Site	RFM	Garfield	Colorado	N/A
Ruin Canyon	Pumping Plant	RUC	Montezuma	Colorado	BOR
Salida	Substation	SLA	Chaffee	Colorado	N/A
Sandroek	Communication Site	SDR	San Miguel	Colorado	BLM
Sheeps Knob	Communication Site	SHK	Montrose	Colorado	BLM



Shiprock	Substation	SHR	San Juan	New Mexico	BLM
Silt	Pumping Plant	SLT	Garfield	Colorado	BOR
Skito	Metering Station	SKO	Gunnison	Colorado	N/A
Sunlight Peak	Communication Site	SUN	Garfield	Colorado	BLM
Table Mountain	Communication Site	TBM	Grand	Colorado	USFS
Towaoc	Power Plant	TOA	Montezuma	Colorado	BOR
Tyzack	Substation	TYZ	Uintah	Utah	BOR
Vernal	Substation	VNL	Uintah	Utah	N/A
Vernal	Communication Site	VNL	Uintah	Utah	N/A
Vernal	Pole Yard	VNL	Uintah	Utah	N/A
Waterflow	Substation	WTF	San Juan	New Mexico	BLM
Willow Creek	Switchyard	WCR	Grand	Colorado	N/A

B. STIPULATIONS PERTAINING TO PROPOSAL:

- 1) If the scope of work of this project changes, RMR's Environment Department must be contacted to determine whether additional environmental review is required.
- 2) **This Categorical Exclusion expires on December 31, 2029.** If all project work has not been completed by the expiration date, or if the need for an environmental compliance extension is anticipated, RMR's Environment Department must be contacted for an updated environmental review.
- 3) Pesticide and herbicide applicators must meet all state licensing requirements and must follow all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines. Applicators must use only EPA-registered pesticides and herbicides that are approved for the intended use and location and must follow all applicable label directions.
- 4) Any injured or orphaned birds and all observed active nests must be immediately reported to RMR Environment at (970) 593-8803 or (970) 342-6462. Any dead birds must be reported to RMR Environment within twenty-four (24) hours of discovery. Additional documentation, such as photographs and GPS coordinates, may be requested to support RMR's reporting requirements to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- 5) If any cultural resources are inadvertently discovered during implementation of the proposed action, work within 100 feet of the discovery area must halt immediately, and an RMR Archaeologist must be contacted immediately at (970) 302-4753 or (970) 286-3523. Work in the area of discovery must not resume until notification to proceed is provided by an RMR Archaeologist.



- 6) If any possible human remains are inadvertently discovered during implementation of the proposed action, work within 100 feet of the discovery area must halt immediately, and an RMR Archaeologist must be notified immediately at (970) 302-4753 or (970) 286-3523 (no later than 24 hours from the time of discovery). A reasonable effort must be made to protect the remains from looting and/or further damage. Work in the area of discovery must not resume until notification to proceed is provided by an RMR Archaeologist.
- 7) To prevent the transport of non-native and invasive plants and animals, including noxious weeds and aquatic nuisance species, work crews must thoroughly wash all vehicles and equipment (trailers, trucks, UTVs, etc.) before entering the action area and working on the project.
- 8) Activities involving the use of fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid, or other petroleum products must comply with RMR's Spill Response Plan (SRP).

C. NUMBER AND TITLE OF THE CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION BEING APPLIED:

(See text in 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D.)

B1.3 Routine maintenance

D. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS 10 CFR 1021.410 (b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposed action fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B of 10 CFR 1021.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of the Department of Energy (DOE) or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances; pollutants; contaminants; or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.



There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal has not been improperly segmented, and the proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

E. DETERMINATION:

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**James
Wood**

Digitally signed by
James Wood
Date: 2024.02.28
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Signature and Date

James Wood, Regional Environmental Manager
Rocky Mountain Region
Western Area Power Administration

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