

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

Executive Summary.....	ES-1
 Chapter 1	
Purpose and Need .....	1-1
1.1 Introduction.....	1-1
1.2 Background.....	1-2
1.3 Need for the Proposed Action.....	1-9
1.4 Decisions to Be Made .....	1-10
1.5 Conformance With BLM Land Use Plan.....	1-10
1.6 Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or Other Plans .....	1-11
1.7 Summary .....	1-14
 Chapter 2	
Alternatives.....	2-1
2.1 Alternatives Development Process .....	2-1
2.1.1 Agency Coordination .....	2-1
2.1.2 Project Component Alternatives .....	2-1
2.2 Means of Transporting the Coal .....	2-2
2.2.1 Rail.....	2-2
2.2.2 Truck.....	2-2
2.2.3 Slurry Pipeline .....	2-4
2.2.4 Conveyor System.....	2-5
2.2.5 No Transport of Coal – Use of the Coal at the Mine Site.....	2-5
2.3 Coal Transportation Routes and Delivery Locations.....	2-5
2.3.1 Roads.....	2-5
2.3.2 Railroad Alignments .....	2-5
2.3.3 Railroad/Highway Crossings .....	2-6
2.3.4 Loadout Facility Location.....	2-21
2.4 Means and Routes for Delivering the Required Electrical Power to the Mine Facilities.....	2-22
2.4.1 Overhead Transmission Line .....	2-22
2.4.2 Underground Transmission Line .....	2-22
2.5 Water Delivery Routes.....	2-22
2.6 Waste Rock Disposal .....	2-22
2.7 Future Coal Leasing Area .....	2-23
2.8 Location of the Mine Portal .....	2-29
2.8.1 Alternative Mine Portal Location .....	2-29
2.9 Methane Venting.....	2-29
2.10 Secondary Screening.....	2-35
2.10.1 Alternatives Considered Summary Tables.....	2-36
2.11 Alternatives Carried Forward for Consideration .....	2-36
2.11.1 Proponent Proposed Action .....	2-36
2.11.2 Expand Coal Mining Production .....	2-36
2.11.3 Railroad Spur .....	2-38
2.11.4 Auxiliary Facilities.....	2-49

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

	2.11.5	New Mine Portals and Benches .....	2-56
	2.11.6	Associated Surface Facilities .....	2-67
	2.11.7	Grade-Separated Crossing of County Road M.8 .....	2-76
	2.11.8	Noiseless Crossings .....	2-76
	2.11.9	Transmission Line Alternatives .....	2-77
	2.11.10	Summary of Alternatives .....	2-78
	2.12	No Action Alternative.....	2-81
Chapter 3		Affected Environment .....	3-1
	3.1	Human Environment and Resource Use .....	3-1
	3.1.1	Land Ownership and Use.....	3-1
	3.1.2	Grazing.....	3-5
	3.1.3	Wilderness and Special Designations .....	3-6
	3.1.4	Recreation .....	3-7
	3.1.5	Socioeconomics .....	3-8
	3.1.6	Transportation.....	3-21
	3.1.7	Utilities.....	3-21
	3.1.8	Visual .....	3-22
	3.1.9	Noise .....	3-24
	3.1.10	Hazardous Materials .....	3-28
	3.1.11	Health and Safety .....	3-33
	3.2	Physical Resources.....	3-33
	3.2.1	Air Quality .....	3-33
	3.2.2	Cultural Resources/Native American Religious Concerns .....	3-43
	3.2.3	Geology and Minerals.....	3-47
	3.2.4	Paleontology .....	3-52
	3.2.5	Soils.....	3-59
	3.2.6	Groundwater .....	3-64
	3.2.6.1	Conceptual Hydrogeologic Model .....	3-82
	3.2.7	Surface Water.....	3-94
	3.2.8	Water Quality.....	3-100
	3.2.8.1	Surface Water Classifications .....	3-110
	3.2.8.2	Stormwater Quality Regulations Affecting the Project.....	3-112
	3.2.9	Floodplains.....	3-113
	3.2.10	Vegetation .....	3-115
	3.2.11	Wetlands and Riparian.....	3-120
	3.2.12	Fish and Wildlife.....	3-121
	3.2.13	Threatened and Endangered Species .....	3-136
Chapter 4		Environmental Consequences and Mitigation .....	4-1
	4.1	Human Environment and Resource Use .....	4-5
	4.1.1	Land Ownership and Use.....	4-5
	4.1.2	Grazing.....	4-12
	4.1.3	Wilderness and Special Designations .....	4-14

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

4.1.4	Recreation .....	4-15
4.1.5	Socioeconomics .....	4-18
4.1.6	Transportation .....	4-29
4.1.7	Utilities.....	4-32
4.1.8	Visual .....	4-34
4.1.9	Noise .....	4-46
4.1.10	Hazardous Materials .....	4-59
4.1.11	Health and Safety .....	4-61
4.2	Physical Resources.....	4-66
4.2.1	Air Quality .....	4-66
4.2.2	Cultural Resources/Native American Religious Concerns .....	4-78
4.2.3	Geology.....	4-80
4.2.4	Paleontology .....	4-92
4.2.5	Soils.....	4-93
4.2.6	Groundwater .....	4-101
4.2.7	Surface Water.....	4-113
4.2.8	Floodplains.....	4-124
4.2.9	Vegetation .....	4-126
4.2.10	Wetlands and Riparian.....	4-131
4.2.11	Fish and Wildlife.....	4-132
4.2.12	Threatened and Endangered Species .....	4-138
4.3	Short Term Use vs. Long-Term Productivity .....	4-147
4.4	Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources.....	4-149
4.4.1	Resources Not Requiring Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources.....	4-149
4.4.2	Irreversible and Irretrievable Resource Commitments .....	4-149
4.5	Cumulative Impacts .....	4-152
4.5.1	Methodology .....	4-152
4.5.2	Actions Considered for the Cumulative Impact Analyses ....	4-152
4.5.2.1	Cumulative Impacts by Resource.....	4-159
4.5.2.2	Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures .....	4-173
Chapter 5	Public Involvement Summary.....	5-1
5.1	Consultation and Coordination .....	5-1
5.1.1	Cooperating Agencies.....	5-1
5.1.2	Agency Scoping Meeting.....	5-2
5.1.3	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Consultation .....	5-2
5.1.4	Section 106 Consultation .....	5-2
5.1.5	Section 404 Consultation .....	5-3
5.1.6	Native American Interests.....	5-3
5.2	Public Involvement .....	5-3
5.2.1	Scoping Period.....	5-4
5.2.2	Scoping Notice.....	5-4
5.2.3	Scoping Meeting .....	5-5
5.2.4	Opportunities to Comment.....	5-5
5.2.5	Future Public Involvement.....	5-5

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

	5.3	Distribution List .....	5-6
Chapter 6		List of Preparers .....	6-1
Chapter 7		References and Index .....	7-1

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

## List of Tables

Table 1-1	List of Permits and Approvals
Table 2-1	Alternatives – Secondary Screening
Table 2-2	Alternatives Considered Summary
Table 2-3	Earth Moving
Table 2-4	Compliance
Table 2-5	Bridge Construction
Table 2-6	Culvert Installation
Table 2-7	Track Material Delivery
Table 2-8	Track Construction
Table 2-9	Portal Road and Benches
Table 2-10	Mine Access Road Material
Table 2-11	Mine Access Road Surfacing
Table 2-12	Mine Structures
Table 2-13	Transmission Line Lengths and Land Status Crossed
Table 2-14	Alternatives Examined in Detail
Table 3-1	Total and Per Capita Income in Mesa County
Table 3-2	Population of Mesa County and Incorporated Communities, 1980-2005
Table 3-3	Selected Public Revenue Categories, Mesa and Garfield Counties, 1999-2003
Table 3-4	Mesa County, Race/Ethnicity and Poverty Level
Table 3-5	Land Use Categories and Metrics for Transit Noise Impact Criteria
Table 3-6	Noise Levels Defining Impact for Transit Projects
Table 3-7	Average Annual Temperature and Precipitation
Table 3-8	Assumed Background Concentrations
Table 3-9	Natural and Existing Visibility
Table 3-10	2006 Deposition at Gothic, Colorado
Table 3-11	Authorized Oil and Gas Leases Within the Existing Coal Lease Application
Table 3-12	Groundwater Data Near the Red Cliff Mine
Table 3-13	Groundwater Level Data
Table 3-14	Baseline Bedrock Groundwater Quality for Red Cliff Mine

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

Table 3-15	Summary of Overburden and Cameo Coal Zone Groundwater Quality from Dorchester Mine Monitoring Wells (1981 to 1983)
Table 3-16	Water Quality for McClane Canyon Mine Discharge Water (Underground Samples)
Table 3-17	Estimated Depth of Groundwater Table at Spring Locations
Table 3-18	Hydraulic Parameter Values Specified in MODFLOW Model
Table 3-19	Streams, Ditches, and Reservoirs Located within the Red Cliff Mine Project Area
Table 3-20	Summary BLM and USGS Water Quality Data from Gaging Stations
Table 3-21	Vegetation Associations Found within the Study Area
Table 3-22	Mesa and Garfield Counties Noxious Weeds List
Table 3-23	Raptor Species that May Be Present in the Project Area
Table 3-24	Raptor Nest-Site Locations
Table 3-25	Birds of Conservation Concern Likely to Occur in the Project Area
Table 3-26	Threatened and Endangered Species with the Potential to Occur within the Project Area
Table 3-27	White-Tailed Prairie Dog Colonies
Table 3-28	Federal and State Sensitive Species
Table 4-1	Railroad Spur, Water Pipeline, and Transmission Line Alternatives Temporary and Long Term Impacts to BLM-Managed Land and Private Land
Table 4-2	Transmission Line Impacts to Private Land Parcels
Table 4-3	Red Cliff Mine, Estimated Construction Employment
Table 4-4	Red Cliff Mine, Employment and Income Impacts
Table 4-5	Projected Criteria Pollutant Emission Increases for the Proposed Red Cliff Mine, (tpy)
Table 4-6	Colorado Coal Mine Production and Methane Emissions
Table 4-7	Projected Uncontrolled GHG Emissions for the Proposed Red Cliff Mine
Table 4-8	Estimated Controlled and Uncontrolled CO <sub>2</sub> e Emissions from Red Cliff Mine (tpy CO <sub>2</sub> e)
Table 4-9	Vegetation Associations Impacted by Proposed Action
Table 4-10	Historical Mine Permits – Mesa and Garfield Counties, Colorado
Table 4-11	2007 Coal Production in Colorado
Table 4-12	Active Mine Permits – Mesa and Garfield Counties, Colorado
Table 4-13	Annual Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs)
Table 4-14	Summary of Impacts of Each Alternative Compared to the Proposed Action

---

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

## List of Figures

Figure 1-1	Proposed Action
Figure 1-2	Coal Lease Area
Figure 1-3	Red Cliff Mine Project Location
Figure 2-1	Rail Alignment Revisions and County Road 10 Realignment
Figure 2-2	Proposed Rail Alignments
Figure 2-3	County Road 10 Realignment
Figure 2-4	County Road M.8 Realignment
Figure 2-5	Proposed Loadout Facility
Figure 2-6	Waste Rock Pile
Figure 2-7	Overburden and Lease Alternatives
Figure 2-8	Initial Mine Plan
Figure 2-9	Grade Crossing Safety Devices
Figure 2-10	Typical Cut & Fill Sections
Figure 2-11	Typical Transmission Pole Configuration
Figure 2-12	Proposed Mine Facilities, Map 1 of 5
Figure 2-13	Proposed Mine Facilities, Map 2 of 5
Figure 2-14	Proposed Mine Facilities, Map 3 of 5
Figure 2-15	Proposed Mine Facilities, Map 4 of 5
Figure 2-16	Proposed Mine Facilities, Map 5 of 5
Figure 2-17	Coal Operations Sequence
Figure 2-18	Transmission Lines Alternatives
Figure 3-1	Recreational Trails within the North Fruita Desert SRMA
Figure 3-2	Socioeconomic Affected Community
Figure 3-3	Mesa County Employment, 1980-2005
Figure 3-4	Population of Mesa County and Incorporated Communities, 1990-2005
Figure 3-5	County Road M.8/Railroad Grade Crossing Noise Sensitive Areas
Figure 3-6	County Road 10/Railroad Grade Crossing Noise Sensitive Areas
Figure 3-7	Air Quality Monitoring Station Locations
Figure 3-8	Typical Geologic Cross Section
Figure 3-9	Authorized Oil and Gas Leases within the Project Area

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

Figure 3-10	Remnant Alluvial Fans at Red Cliff Mine Site
Figure 3-11	Water Wells within the Project Area
Figure 3-12	Spring Locations
Figure 3-13	Groundwater Levels and Land Surface Topography
Figure 3-14	Conceptual Hydrogeologic Model
Figure 3-15	Satellite Image of the Study Area
Figure 3-16	Potentiometric Surface
Figure 3-17	Numerical Model Boundaries
Figure 3-18	MODFLOW Simulation A Groundwater Levels and Flow Into McClane Canyon Mine
Figure 3-19	Red Cliff Mine Jurisdictional Determination Drainage Crossings – South
Figure 3-20	Red Cliff Mine Jurisdictional Determination Drainage Crossings – North
Figure 3-21	USGS Stations
Figure 3-22	USACE Wetlands
Figure 3-23	Wildlife Observations
Figure 3-24	Winter & Severe Winter Range
Figure 3-25	Grand Buckwheat Habitat and Occurrences
Figure 4-1	Photo Simulation Location Map
Figure 4-2	Photo Simulation – Looking South at Railroad Alignment Crossing Under SH 139
Figure 4-3	Photo Simulation – Looking at Mine Site
Figure 4-4	Photo Simulation – Looking North at Jeep Trail Alignment Crossing Over SH 139
Figure 4-5	County Road M.8/Railroad Grade Crossing Railroad Horn Noise Impact Areas
Figure 4-6	County Road 10/Railroad Grade Crossing Railroad Horn Noise Impact Areas
Figure 4-7	County Road M.8 Grade Crossing with Noiseless Crossing Traffic Control, Railroad Noise Impacts
Figure 4-8	County Road 10 Grade Crossing with Noiseless Crossing Traffic Control, Railroad Noise Impacts
Figure 4-9	Surficial Geology and Geologic Hazards, Red Cliff Mine
Figure 4-10	Surficial Geology and Geologic Hazards, Red Cliff Mine Railroad Spur
Figure 4-11	MODFLOW Simulation B Groundwater Levels and Flow into McClane Canyon Mine with Red Cliff Mine Extended to Existing Coal Lease Limit
Figure 4-12	MODFLOW Simulation C Groundwater Levels and Flow into McClane Canyon Mine with Red Cliff Mine Extended into Eastern Part of Proposed Coal Lease
Figure 4-13	Mine Plan and Overburden



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

Figure 4-14    Counties with Active Coal Production in Colorado

## List of Appendices

- Appendix A    Permit Applications
- Appendix B    Standard Practices and Mitigation Measures
- Appendix C    Mining Operations and Subsidence
- Appendix D    Subsidence
- Appendix E    Coordination and Consultations
- Appendix F    Soils Data
- Appendix G    Water Data and Information
- Appendix H    Air Quality Analysis Modeling Report

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

# H:# V	slope: horizontal to vertical
°C	degrees Celsius
°F	degrees Fahrenheit
µg	microgram
µmhos	micromhos
µS	microSiemen
AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
ACEC	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
ACIA	Arctic Climate Impact Assessment
ADT	average daily traffic
AERMOD	American Meteorological Society/U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (AMS/EPA) Regulatory Model (atmospheric dispersion modeling system)
AFT	Agricultural, Forestry, Transitional District
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act
AMD	acid mine drainage
APCD	Air Pollution Control Division
APD	Application for Permit to Drill
APE	Area of Potential Effects
AQRV	air quality-related values
AQTSD	Air Quality Technical Support Document
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
AUM	animal unit month
AVF	alluvial valley floor
BACT	Best Available Control Technology
BLM	U.S. Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practice
BOCC	birds of conservation concern
BOR	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Btu	British thermal unit
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAQS	Colorado Ambient Air Quality Standards

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

CAM	CAM–Colorado, LLC
CASTNET	Clean Air Status and Trends Network
CCW	coal combustion waste
CDMG	Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Division of Minerals and Geology
CDOT	Colorado Department of Transportation
CDOW	Colorado Division of Wildlife
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
CDPS	Colorado Discharge Permitting System
CDRMS	Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFC	chlorofluorocarbon
cfd	cubic feet per day
CFR	<i>Code of Federal Regulations</i>
cfs	cubic feet per second
cm	centimeter
CNHP	Colorado Natural Heritage Program
CO	carbon monoxide
CO <sub>2e</sub>	carbon dioxide equivalent
COGCC	Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
COSTIS	Colorado Storage Tank Information System
CR	County Road
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
CRS	Colorado Revised Statutes
CSP	Colorado State Parks
CVCP	Colorado Vegetation Classification Project
DAT	deposition analysis threshold
DAU	Data Analysis Unit
dB	decibel
dBA	“A” weighted decibel scale
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Dinosaur Diamond	Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway
DNR	Department of Natural Resources (Colorado)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

DOI	U.S. Department of the Interior
DPM	diesel particulate matter
DRMS	Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (Colorado)
dv	deciviews
E. Coli	<i>Escherichia coli</i>
ECSQG	Erosion Control and Stormwater Quality Guide
EDR	Environmental Data Resources
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EPCRA	Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Maps
FLAG	Federal Land Managers' AQRV Work Group
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy Management Act
FRA	Federal Railroad Administration
ft	foot or feet
ft <sup>2</sup>	square feet
FTA	Federal Transit Authority
GHG	greenhouse gas
GIS	geographic information system
GMU	Game Management Unit
gpm	gallons per minute
GPS	global positioning system
GVP	Grand Valley Power
ha	hectare
HEC-RAS	Hydrologic Engineering Centers River Analysis System
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
I-#	Interstate #
IBLA	Interior Board of Land Appeals
ID	identification

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

IMPLAN	Input-Output Model for Planning
IMPROVE	Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments
in	inch(es)
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRMA	Intensive Recreation Management Area (Grand Valley)
JD	Jurisdictional Determination
K	hydraulic conductivity
kg	kilogram
km	kilometer
KOP	Key Observation Point
kV	kilovolt
L	liter
lb	pound
LBA	Lease by Application
LEDPA	Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative
LOS	level of service
m <sup>3</sup>	cubic meter
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCM	McClane Canyon Mine
MER	Maximum Economic Recovery
mg	milligram
mg/L	milligrams per liter
MINER	Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response
MLA	Mineral Leasing Act
MMcfd	million cubic feet per day
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
mph	miles per hour
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
MSDS	material safety data sheet
MSHA	Mine Safety and Health Administration
msl	mean sea level
N/A	not applicable

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

N <sub>2</sub> O	nitrous oxide
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NAID	not analyzed in detail
NCA	National Conservation Area
NCB	National Coal Board
NDIS	Natural Diversity Information Source
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NESC	National Electrical Safety Code
NFDMP	North Fruita Desert Management Plan
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
NMA	National Mining Association
NO <sub>2</sub>	nitrogen dioxide
NOI	Notice of Intent
NO <sub>x</sub>	nitrogen
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NSO	no surface occupancy
NTU	nephelometric turbidity unit
NWP	Nationwide Permit
OHV	off-highway vehicle
OS	open space
OSE	Office of the State Engineer
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OSM	Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement
P.M.	Principle Meridian
PFYC	Potential Fossil Yield Classification
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	particulate matter less than 2.5 microns
PM <sub>10</sub>	particulate matter less than 10 microns

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

PPE	personal protective equipment
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
PUC	Public Utilities Commission
PUD	Planned Unit Development
PUS	potentially unstable slope
PVC	polyvinyl chloride
R2P2	Resource Recovery Protection Permit
RAMP	Recreation Area Management Plan
RL	resource lands
RMF	residential-multi-family
RMP	Resource Management Plan
ROD	Record of Decision
ROM	run-of-mine
ROW	right-of-way
RPW	Relatively Permanent Waters
RR	Railroad
RSF	residential-single-family
SH	State Highway
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SIL	Significant Impact Level
SMCRA	Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977
SO <sub>2</sub>	sulfur dioxide
SPCC	Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
SSM	supplemental safety measures
su	standard unit
SWMP	Stormwater Management Plan
T#, R#	Township #, Range #
TCP	traditional cultural property
TDS	total dissolved solids
TESS	threatened, endangered, and sensitive species
TMDL	total maximum daily loading



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

TNW	Traditionally Navigable Waters
tpy	tons per year
TWA	time-weighted average
U.S.	United States
U.S.C.	<i>United States Code</i>
UPRR	Union Pacific Railroad
US #	U.S. Highway
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USBEA	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USDOI	U.S. Department of the Interior
USDOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geologic Survey
UST	underground storage tank
UTM	Universal Transverse Mercator
VAM	ventilation air methane
VOC	volatile organic compound
vpd	vehicles per day
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WA	Wilderness Area
WOUS	Waters of the U.S.
WQCC	Water Quality Control Commission
WQCD	Water Quality Control Division
WRCC	Western Regional Climate Center
WSA	Wilderness Study Area
WSS	Web Soil Survey
yr	year

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---