

# Over the River / project for Arkansas River, State of Colorado

## Local Permitting Process Fact Sheet

Christo and Jeanne-Claude's *Over The River* reached the most significant milestone to date with the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Record of Decision (ROD) on November 7, 2011. The ROD gave Federal approval to the artists' original vision (Alternative 1a) to suspend 5.9 miles of fabric panels in eight separate areas along a 42-mile stretch of the Arkansas River. The next step in moving forward with this temporary work of art is to secure permits from Fremont and Chaffee counties.

*Over The River* has applied for a Fremont County Temporary Use Permit. It is the kind of permit that is used for special events such as fairs, concerts or athletic events. As such, the details in Christo's permit application address county-specific issues such as potential impacts to county roads, the use of the bridge at Texas Creek and the county's role in the implementation of the project. The Chaffee County permitting process is anticipated to begin in early 2012, upon Chaffee County's completion of regulations for a Special Event Permit.

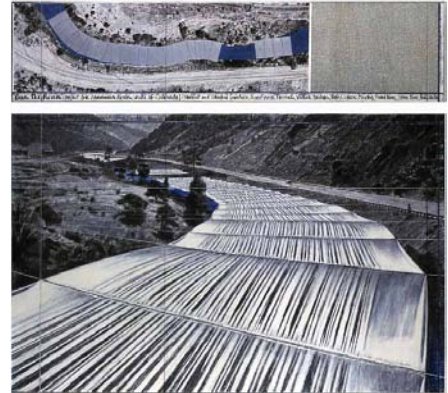
**The county application incorporates the more than 100 mitigation measures already identified in the BLM's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).** Fremont and Chaffee counties both worked as cooperating agencies with the BLM to develop this comprehensive set of solutions. Below are some specific points from the Final EIS:

- Temporary US 50 lane closures would occur only on weekdays during the installation period and involve no more than a 400-foot stretch of the highway in any 10-mile section.
- One lane of traffic would remain operational at all times and lane closures would be avoided during the high-traffic summer months, with a few exceptions during the year of the exhibition.
- Traffic control would be utilized at key intersections on US 50 during the two weekends when traffic would be heaviest.
- A medical helicopter would be staged at the Texas Creek Staging Area during the exhibition period, along with two ambulance and paramedic crews stationed in the project corridor.

**The application also includes a number of strategies to address event-related issues, such as:**

- Four visitor areas will be established along the corridor. During the exhibition period, OTR staff will be stationed at each location to distribute information regarding the rules along US 50, fire minimization, viewing opportunities, traffic conditions and other pertinent information.
- Compensation for road maintenance or repair that may be required as a result of OTR will be through a contribution of materials such as gravel, chip seal or road resurfacing material.
- In addition to increased law enforcement during the exhibition period, a private security team will patrol the corridor once installation begins and continue through removal.
- Solid waste and recycle bins will be located throughout the corridor and serviced daily. Also, daily sweeps will be conducted during exhibition to collect any trash not captured in the available bins.
- Nearly 100 portable toilets will be provided throughout the corridor during exhibition. These facilities will be serviced on a daily basis with 30 additional units kept in reserve.

*The above details will be part of an event management plan that will be finalized in the near future.*



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## How You Can Help

1. **Urge Fremont County to approve the Over The River permit.** Write the commissioners to express your support and encourage them to approve the Temporary Use Permit. All supportive comments are helpful, especially those from Fremont County residents.

**Mail:** Fremont County Planning and Zoning Department  
615 Macon Avenue, Room 210, Cañon City, CO 81212

**Email:** [planning@fremontco.com](mailto:planning@fremontco.com) and cc: [bocc@fremontco.com](mailto:bocc@fremontco.com)

2. **Attend the Public Meetings.** Fremont County plans to hold two public hearings regarding the permit. Verbal comments will be considered at the hearings. It is critically important that *Over The River* supporters attend to help voice their enthusiasm!

**February 1:** Fremont County Administration Building from 9am to 12pm and 1:30pm to 3:30pm (615 Macon Avenue, Cañon City)

**February 2:** Cotopaxi School from 5pm to 8:30pm (345 County Road 12, Cotopaxi)

3. **Submit a letter to the editor.** Send a copy of your supportive comment to the local newspaper. Visit [www.OverTheRiverInfo.com](http://www.OverTheRiverInfo.com) and click "Get Involved" for contact information.
4. **Join Friends of Over The River.** Sign up for Friends of Over The River (FOR), a grassroots supporter organization. They will keep you informed of opportunities to get involved in the county permitting process. Send your contact information to: [FriendsofOTR@yahoo.com](mailto:FriendsofOTR@yahoo.com).
5. **Share this information.** Tell your friends and neighbors that *Over The River* is near the end of the permitting process. It is essential that supporters get involved now to make this work of art a reality!

## Key Points / Comment Ideas

Here are some key points to keep in mind as you talk with your County Commissioners, attend a public meeting, discuss the project with your neighbors or write a letter to the editor.

- **Comprehensive Mitigation:** The permit application incorporates the more than 100 mitigation measures already identified in the BLM's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). These measures avoid or minimize the potential impacts related to the project and would be applied to the county permit, if granted. Fremont and Chaffee counties worked closely with the BLM, as cooperating agencies, to develop this comprehensive set of EIS solutions for *Over The River*.
- **Traffic:** The Final EIS states: "Overall, impacts to local businesses and commercial traffic as a result of traffic delays during installation and removal would be negligible to minor and short-term."
- **Safety:** The Final EIS concludes that: "Local service providers, including emergency services, would be able to meet demands of both visitors and residents from the beginning of the installation period through the end of the removal period."
- **Socioeconomic Benefits:** Total economic output generated by the project in Colorado would exceed \$111.3 million, including the creation of over 620 jobs, the majority of which will be designated to local residents.
- **Wildlife:** The Final EIS identifies no "Significant Impacts" to any terrestrial, avian or aquatic wildlife as a result of *Over The River* when the identified mitigation measures are implemented. In fact, the mitigation plan will have long-term benefits for the local bighorn sheep population by providing a wildlife corridor previously identified by the Colorado Division of Wildlife as a habitat enhancement.

**For more information visit [www.OverTheRiverInfo.com](http://www.OverTheRiverInfo.com)**