ROARING FORK RAILROAD CORRIDOR
CONSERVATION AREA ASSESSMENT
October 20, 2020

Confluence of the Roaring Fork and Crystal Rivers, Milepost 10.92

Prepared For:
Covenant Enforcement Commission
Roaring Fork Transportation Authority

Prepared By:
NEWLAND PROJECT RESOURCES, INC

I. Introduction, Approach to the Assessment

The Rio Grande Corridor is a 34-mile long stretch of property running from Glenwood Springs to Woody Creek, Colorado. The Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA) owns the corridor and is charged with maintaining the property for public transportation and recreation purposes. A trail is currently located on the corridor that enjoys heavy use by trail enthusiasts. As a part of the purchase of the corridor, RFTA and the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund (GOCO), a funding partner, agreed to place a Covenant on approximately half of the corridor to preserve the "conservation values" on the property.

To monitor and enforce the covenant, RFTA created a Covenant Enforcement Commission (RFTA CEC) made up of representatives from each of the entities that the Authority serves. It is the responsibility of the Commission to meet annually to assess the rail corridor and to recommend to RFTA that it make any corrections necessary to ensure that the conservation values of the areas described within the Conservation Covenant are not compromised. An annual assessment of the nine Conservation Areas is conducted to determine if any potential violations exist. The report is then presented to and discussed by the RFTA CEC.

In 2018 the assessment was expanded to cover the entire length of the corridor from the main line tracks in Glenwood Springs to the terminus of RFTA ownership at Woody Creek Road. The format of this report has also been modified to account for this change. This report will first summarize all active violations, showing which violations are new, which are in the process of being remedied, and those that have been remedied. Both the existing and new encroachments are detailed on separate Encroachment forms that describe the location, type of encroachment, background information on the encroachment, and a recommended remedy to resolve the issue.

Also included is Appendix A which describes the nine Conservation Areas.

III. Summary

Based on the visual inspection of the corridor, the following is a summary of the remaining violations on the corridor:

New Violations Noted

Milepost	*Conservation Area*	*Description*	*Form #*
10.79	Area #4	Trash/storage in ROW	1
18.71	Area #6	New Trash Shed in Corridor	2
24.92	Area #7	New Irrigation or use as golf course?	4
25.40	No	New stair access to trail	5
29.04	No	Private Access to River	6

Violations Being Remedied

Milepost	*Conservation Area*	*Description*	*Form #*
9.37	-	Landscaping at Sign in ROW	7
25.32 – 25.49	-	Lawn Encroachments, Samuelson Subdivision	8
19.80	Area #6	Structure and berm in Corridor	9

Violations Remedied:

Milepost	*Conservation Area*	*Description*	*Form #*
5.36	Area #2	Utility burial work	10

General Corridor Comments:

There were six new potential violations this year, four of which are within Conservation Areas. Overall, the corridor is in good condition, the trail is well used and maintained; most notably, no weed infestations or trash accumulations were present.

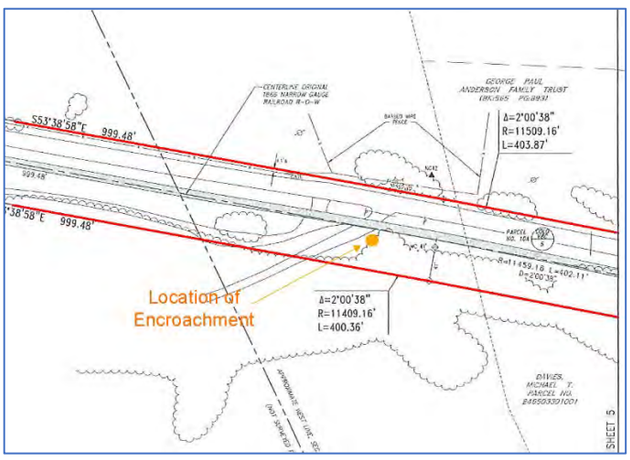
Conservation Enforcement Commission Comments:

(To be inserted after meeting)

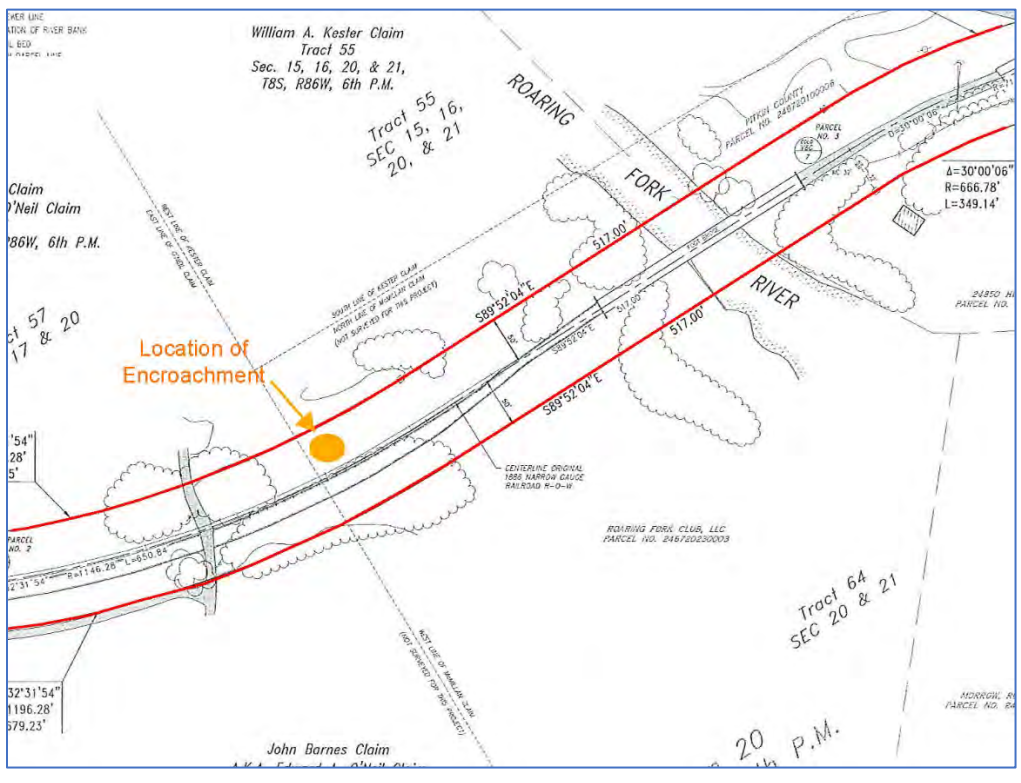
RFTA CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL COVENANT ENCROACHMENT

DATE	September 24, 2020	**ENCROACHMENT**	**#1**
MILEPOST	10.79		
CONSERVATION AREA	Conservation Area #4: Aspen Glen to Satank		
NEW/EXISTING	New		
TYPE OF ENCROACHMENT	Trash or storage of materials . 		
BACKGROUND	Upon researching this possible encroachment, it appears to be within the 100-foot wide right-of-way owned by RFTA. The plantings are to the left of the sign in the picture shown above. 		
RECOMMENDED REMEDY	Contact property owner to discuss removal of items.		

RFTA CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL COVENANT ENCROACHMENT

DATE	October 25, 2020	ENCROACHMENT	#2
MILEPOST	18.71		
CONSERVATION AREA	Yes Conservation Area #6: Catherine Store Bridge to Sopris Creek		
NEW/EXISTING	Existing		
TYPE OF ENCROACHMENT	Trash Storage Shed along at 1126 Hooks Spur Lane.		
BACKGROUND	Although previously listed as being remedied, however the shed continues to exist on the corridor.  		
RECOMMENDED REMEDY			

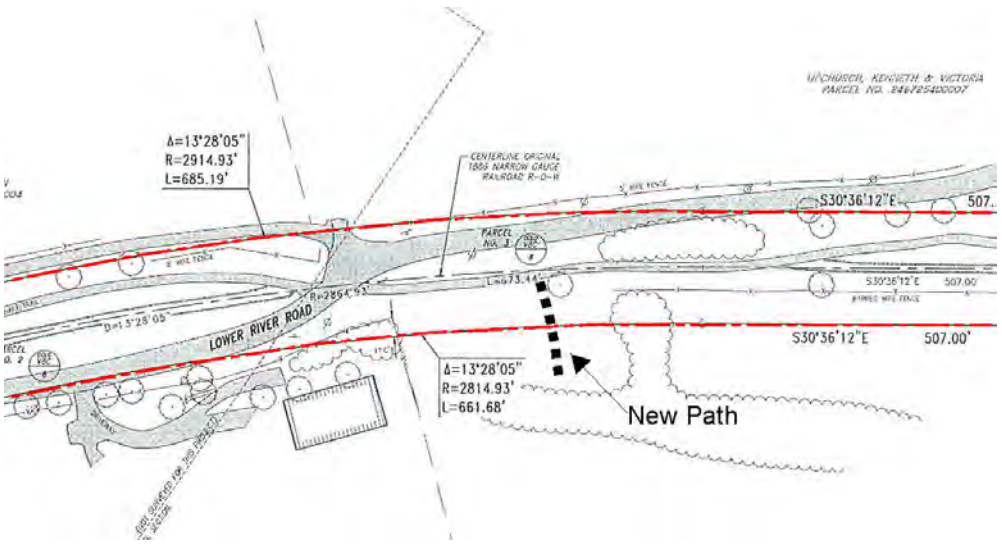
RFTA CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL COVENANT ENCROACHMENT

DATE	September 25, 2020	**ENCROACHMENT**	**#3**
MILEPOST	24.92		
CONSERVATION AREA	Yes Conservation Area #7: Sopris Creek to Wingo Junction		
NEW/EXISTING	New		
TYPE OF ENCROACHMENT	Marking noticed along the edge of a putting green. Could mean a new irrigation line or could mean a water hazard. 		
BACKGROUND	The RFTA Survey shows the area of encroachment: 		
RECOMMENDED REMEDY OR STEPS TAKEN	It is unknown whether these makings indicate the alignment of a new irrigation line or if it is a delineation of a water hazard for the golf course. The Roaring Fork Club should be approached on this matter.		

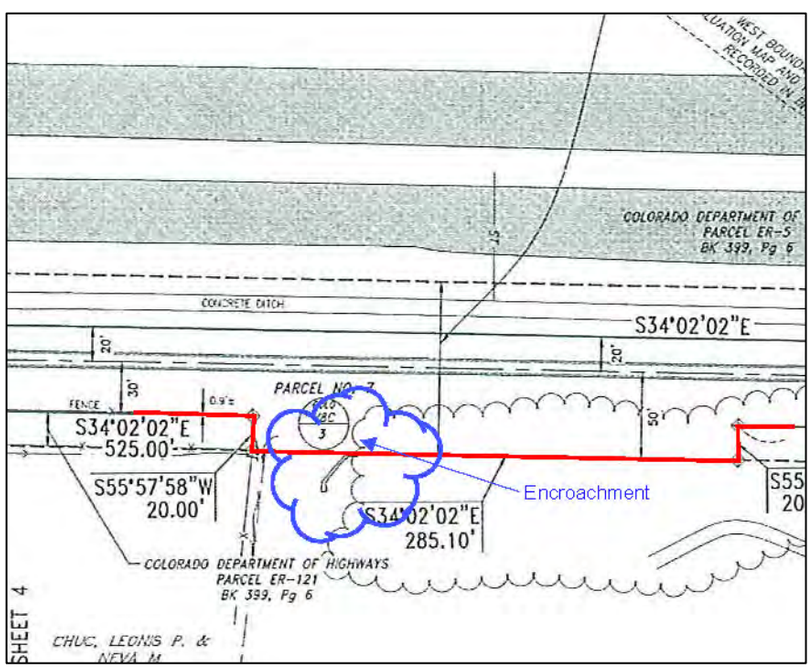
RFTA CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL COVENANT ENCROACHMENT

DATE	September 25, 2020	**ENCROACHMENT**	**#4**
MILEPOST	25.40		
CONSERVATION AREA	Not in Conservation Area		
NEW/EXISTING	New		
TYPE OF ENCROACHMENT	A new stairway to the trail has been placed to allow access from an adjacent property.		
BACKGROUND	This is located on the easternmost parcel of the Samuelson Subdivision.		
RECOMMENDED REMEDY	Contact property owners to discuss options for compliance.		

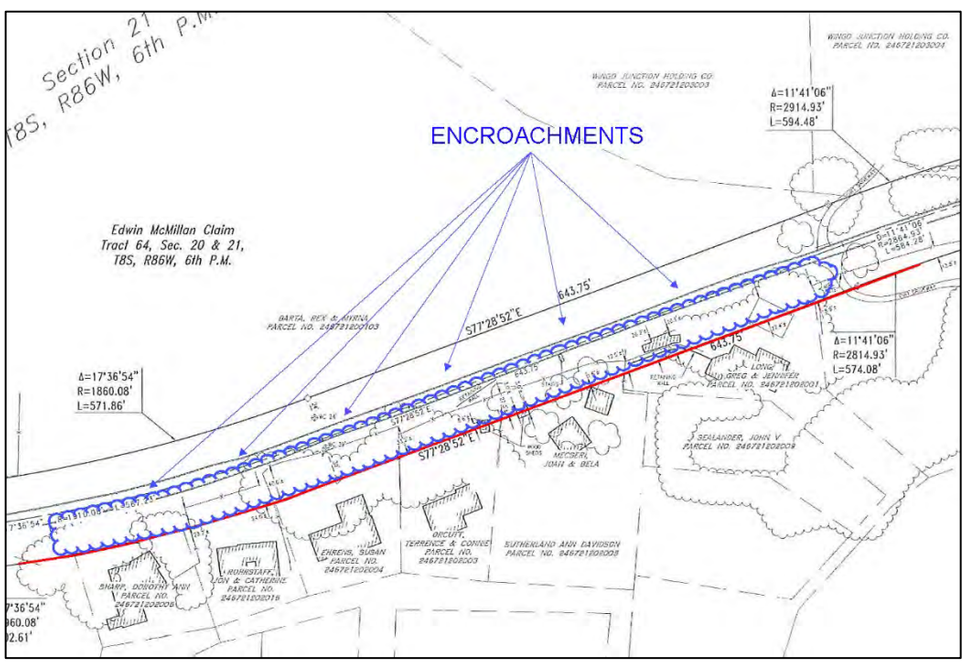
RFTA CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL COVENANT ENCROACHMENT

DATE	September 25, 2020	**ENCROACHMENT**	**#5**
MILEPOST	29.04		
CONSERVATION AREA	Not in Conservation Area		
NEW/EXISTING	New		
TYPE OF ENCROACHMENT	New path to Private River Access from trail. The path does not cross the trail but starts on the south side of trail and goes to the river. Path from trail to river End of trail with “No Trespassing” sign		
BACKGROUND	A new encroachment with a twist. Rather than building a path to connect private property to the trail, this path connects the trail to private property. 		
RECOMMENDED REMEDY	Consider what action would be appropriate to mitigate this use of public lands, if any. Contact property owner (DBS LOWER RIVER ROAD 2014 LLC, SPID# 246725302001) to discuss options for compliance.		

RFTA CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL COVENANT ENCROACHMENT

DATE	September 24, 2020	**ENCROACHMENT**	**#6**
MILEPOST	9.37		
CONSERVATION AREA	Outside of Conservation Area		
NEW/EXISTING	Existing since 2019		
TYPE OF ENCROACHMENT	New landscaping around the “Aspen Glen” sign		
BACKGROUND	Upon researching this possible encroachment, it appears to be within the 100-foot wide right-of-way owned by RFTA. The plantings are to the left of the sign in the picture shown above. 		
RECOMMENDED REMEDY	Contact Aspen Glen to discuss planted material.		

RFTA CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL COVENANT ENCROACHMENT

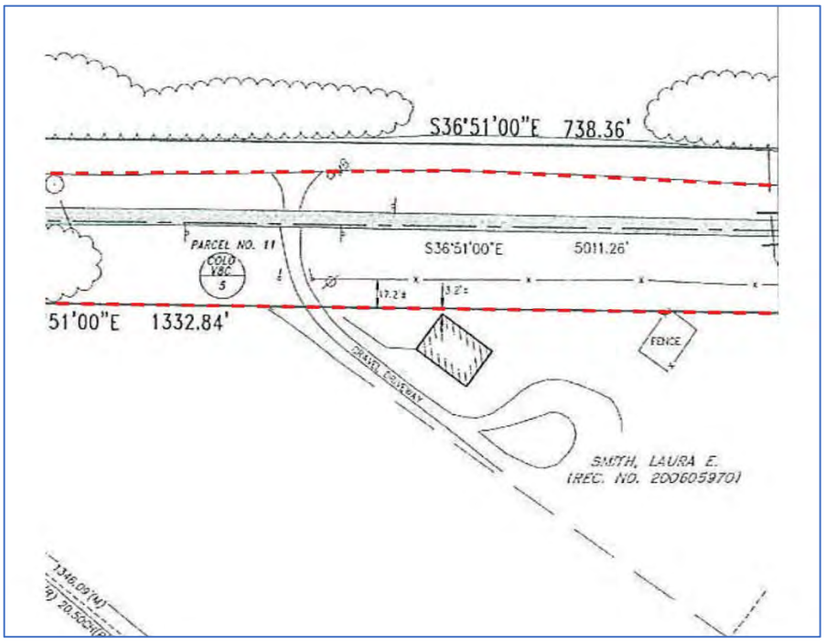
DATE	September 25, 2020	**ENCROACHMENT**	**#7**
MILEPOST	25.32 – 25.49		
CONSERVATION AREA	Not in Conservation Area		
NEW/EXISTING	Existing		
TYPE OF ENCROACHMENT	Lawn Encroachments into Rail Corridor		
BACKGROUND	Upon researching these possible encroachments, it appears to be within the 100-foot wide right-of-way owned by RFTA. Most of the lots have lawns encroaching and some have storage buildings encroaching. 		
RECOMMENDED REMEDY	Contact property owners to discuss options for compliance.		

RFTA CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL COVENANT ENCROACHMENT

DATE	September 25, 2020	**ENCROACHMENT**	**#8**
MILEPOST	19.80		
CONSERVATION AREA	Yes	Conservation Area #6: Catherine Store Bridge to Sopris Creek	
NEW/EXISTING	Existing since 1996		
TYPE OF ENCROACHMENT	Berm and structure in rail corridor.		

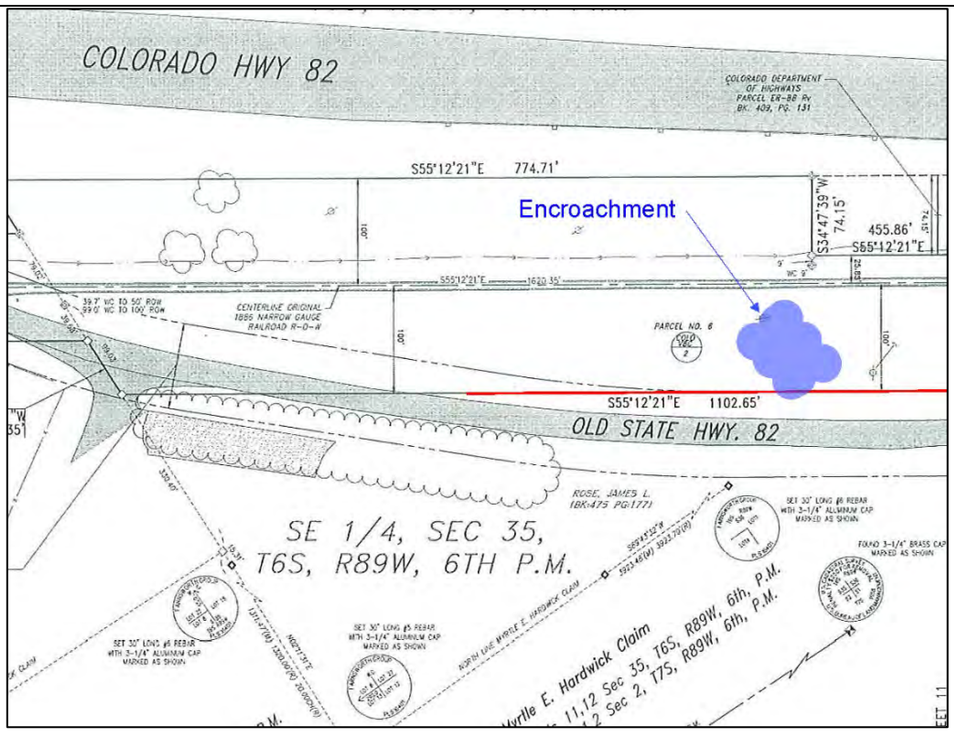
RFTA has determined the specific location of the property line using a surveyor.

Stakes from the survey show the barn to be entirely on the rail corridor.

BACKGROUND	Upon researching this possible encroachment, it appears to be within the 200-foot wide right-of-way owned by RFTA. 
ACTIONS TAKEN:	RFTA staff has been working with the landowner and is close to determining a path forward.

RFTA CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL COVENANT ENCROACHMENT

DATE	September 19, 2019	**ENCROACHMENT**	**#9**
MILEPOST	5.36		
CONSERVATION AREA	Conservation Area #2: CR 107 to CMC Road		
NEW/EXISTING	New		
TYPE OF ENCROACHMENT	Utility Company doing work in rail corridor 2019 2020 The revegetation appears to be establishing itself however this will take a few years.		
BACKGROUND	Upon researching this possible encroachment, it appears to be within the 100-foot wide right-of-way owned by RFTA. This work was noticed by Brett prior to the assessment date.		

	
RECOMMENDED REMEDY	The violation has been remedied.