



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

In Reply Refer to:
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ER 20/0461

Via Electronic Mail Only

September 2, 2021

Mr. Joshua Wayland
Program Manager
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20423
joshua.wayland@stb.gov

Re: Final EIS Seven County Infrastructure Coalition Rail Construction and Operation Project,
Carbon, Duchesne, Uintah, and Utah Counties, Utah

Dear Mr. Wayland:

The Department of the Interior (Department) has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the subject project and provides the following comments on behalf of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The FEIS references the USGS Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project data set for land cover and we recommend three changes for your consideration:

1. On page 9-11, improve the citation of the data set with an update from the following broken URL <http://earth.gis.usu.edu/swgap/> to the working URL <http://swregap.org/data/landcover/>.
2. Update the reference for the land cover data set to:
Lowry, J. H, Jr., R. D. Ramsey, K. Boykin, D. Bradford, P. Comer, S. Falzarano, W. Kepner, J. Kirby, L. Langs, J. Prior-Magee, G. Manis, L. O'Brien, T. Sajwaj, K. A. Thomas, W. Rieth, S. Schrader, D. Schrupp, K. Schulz, B. Thompson, C. Velasquez, C. Wallace, E. Waller and B. Wolk. 2005. Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project: Final Report on Land Cover Mapping Methods, RS/GIS Laboratory, Utah State University, Logan, Utah
3. An improved dataset for GAP/LANDFIRE National Terrestrial Ecosystems 2011 is available at: https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/scienceanalytics-and-synthesis/gap/science/land-cover-data-download?qt-science_center_objects=0#qtscience_center_objects.

For questions or further information regarding this response, please contact William Guertal, Deputy Associate Director, Water Resources Mission Area at 703-648-5060 or wguertal@usgs.gov. Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this project.

Sincerely,

**STEPHEN
TRYON**

Digitally signed by
STEPHEN TRYON
Date: 2021.09.02
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Stephen G. Tryon, Director
Office of Environmental Policy
and Compliance

cc: Courtney Hoover, REO Denver, CO: Courtney_hoover@ios.doi.gov