

# **Desktop Analysis for Sensitive Biological Resources**

Bridge J-15-G

Colorado Department of Transportation  
Denver, Colorado

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Final

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## Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of the potential impacts to natural resources for the replacement of Bridge J-15-G (the Project) located approximately 6.6 miles south of Guffey, Colorado. This report includes findings that a Design-Build Contractor may need to consider when bidding on the construction of the above referenced Project.

### Key Findings

- The Project bridge spans the ephemeral Mack Gulch.
- Surface Waters
  - The Project has the potential to impact 0.28 acres (or 370 linear feet [ft]) of USACE jurisdictional tributaries (Figure 5).
- Sensitive Species
  - The Project has no potential to impact species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.
  - The Project has the potential to impact nine BLM sensitive species.
  - The Project has no potential to impact species listed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) as endangered or threatened
  - There is potential for Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) species and bats to occur
- Floodplains
  - The Project is not located within a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Zone A Floodplain (Attachment D).
- Hazardous Waste
  - No hazardous waste sites were identified during survey (Attachment F).

- Archaeological, Historic and Paleontological Resources
  - These resources are being assessed by CDOT and will be provided under separate cover

### Risks, Permits and Mitigation

- Surface Waters
  - Avoidance of impacts to potential waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) are recommended wherever possible.
  - If any impacts to a USACE regulated surface water are anticipated for the Project
    - A Permit may be required under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Nationwide Permit [NWP] or Individual Permit [IP], depending on the level of impacts).
    - Mitigation measures for those impacts may be required, mitigation could include:
      - Construction best management practices such as stormwater silt fencing, construction procedures, etc.
- Sensitive Species
  - Coordination with BLM will likely be required
  - Clearance of MBTA species may be required prior to construction. Coordination with CPW may be required if seasonal avoidance is not possible
  - Clearance of bat species may be required prior to construction
  - SB 40 wildlife certification from CPW may be required
  - No Consultation with the USFWS is anticipated.
- Stormwater
  - Impacts over 1 acre require a General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity (depending on the level of impacts) which need to be approved by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Hazardous Waste
  - Prior to any underground digging or soil disturbance, a utility locate should be called to prevent damage to any existing utilities in the project area.

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- Attachment A – Information for Conservation and Planning Report (IPaC)
- Attachment B – Colorado BLM Sensitive Species
- Attachment C – Preliminary Bat Assessment Guidelines for Bridges/Structures
- Attachment D – FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRMETTE)
- Attachment E – Photolog
- Attachment F – Hazardous Waste Memorandum

# 1. Introduction

Stanley Consultants, Inc. (Stanley) was retained by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to assess the environmental resources present within the vicinity of Bridge J-15-G, which scheduled to be replaced (the Project). The assessment of environmental resources presented in this desktop analysis is intended to inform the bridge planning and design process, as well as be used for permitting purposes once a bridge design has been selected. This document presents a summary of the findings of the resources assessed within the potential footprint of disturbance (Project Review Area [PRA]; Figure 1).

## 2. Background

### 2.1 Project Description

The CDOT Region 2 Bridge Bundle Design Build Project consists of the replacement of a total of nineteen (19) structures, including two (2) Additionally Requested Elements (AREs) structures, bundled together as a single design-build project. These structures are rural bridges on essential highway corridors (U.S. Highway [US] 350, US 24, Colorado State Highway [CO] 239 and CO 9) in southeastern and central Colorado. These key corridors provide rural mobility, intra- and interstate commerce, movement of agricultural products and supplies, and access to tourist destinations.

Fourteen (14) structures in this design build project are jointly funded by the USDOT FHWA Competitive Highway Bridge Program grant and the Colorado Bridge Enterprise (Project No. 23558). The remaining five (5) structures (including the two ARE structures) are funded solely by the Colorado Bridge Enterprise (Project No. 23559). Bridge J-15-G is funded under Project No. 23558.

The bridges included in the ‘Region 2 Bridge Bundle’ were selected based on similarities in the bridge conditions, risk factors, site characteristics, and probable replacement type, with the goal of achieving economy of scale. Seventeen of the bridges being replaced are at least 80 years old. Five of the bridges are Load Restricted, limiting trucking routes through major sections of the US 24 and US 350 corridors. The bundle is comprised of nine timber bridges, four concrete box culverts, one corrugated metal pipe (CMP), four concrete I-beam bridges, and one I-beam bridge with corrugated metal deck.

Bridge J-15-G is located on CO 9 at milepost 15.970, approximately 6.6 miles southeast of Guffey, Colorado (Figure 1). The existing structure is comprised of two corrugated metal pipes (7 feet [ft] in diameter) which conduct stormwater flows through Mack Gulch before discharging into Currant Creek, located approximately 2.3 miles downstream (south) of the structure. The Project will replace this structure with a culvert or bridge.

No bypass is currently planned for this location; during construction of the new structure, the existing structure will likely be split to allow work to proceed on one side of the structure while accommodating traffic on the other side. The area of disturbance will be restricted to the limits of the right-of-way (ROW).

Once bridge construction is completed and ready for use, any disturbed areas will be restored to the original contours and reseeded.

## 2.2 Project Purpose and Need

The two corrugated metal pipes at J-15-G were installed in 1971 along CO 9, a key corridor connecting residents and tourists from southern Colorado to the recreational activities in the Rocky Mountains. Due to age, much of the two pipes are severely corroded and areas of section loss ranging from 25 percent to 100 percent are present along the length of the pipes. The corrosion has allowed removal of the surrounding sediment leading to bulging and distortion in several areas. In addition, part of the exposed portion of one pipe shows impact damage.

This bridge is nearing the end of its design life and must be replaced to prevent potential failure.

# 3. Project Review Area

Since the final bridge design has not yet been selected, the limits of the 16.32-acre Project Review Area (PRA; see Figure 2) were defined to include all potential designs informed by discussions with the Project engineers and include considerations such as the location of the CDOT ROW, access permissions from adjacent land owners, the need for traffic control during construction, and design requirements to bring existing structures into alignment with current CDOT standards. Based on those discussions, the PRA for this bridge includes the work area around the structure, which extends approximately 20 ft south of the CDOT ROW around the bridge and the roadway limit of disturbance that extends 50 ft north of the CDOT ROW around the bridge (Figure 2). The PRA also extends length-wise for 2,000 ft south-east and north-west from the bridge along the road (CO 9) within the CDOT ROW.

The PRA is located partially on BLM-managed lands in Fremont County, Colorado, southeast of Guffey, Colorado within portions of Sections 6 and 7 of Township 16 South, Range 72 West (6<sup>th</sup> Principal Base and Meridian) (Figure 1).

## 3.1 Land Use

Land use in the vicinity of the PIA predominantly consists of the CO 9 transportation corridor, rural residences and roads, and ranching activities. The area immediately surrounding the Project consists of a mixture of BLM and privately-owned lands (Figure 1). No other structures or residences are located within the PIA.

## 3.2 Water

The dominant hydrological feature in the PRA is Mack Gulch, an ephemeral drainage that which crosses through the J-15-G structure and extends parallel to CO 9 upstream and downstream of the

PRA. Mack Gulch discharges into Current Creek approximately 2.3 miles downstream of the PRA, which travels south until the stream's confluence with Tallahassee Creek, after which it discharges into the Arkansas River.

The primary hydrology input in the PRA is stormwater flows from Mack Gulch, with other minor inputs comprised of sources such as groundwater and surface runoff from the adjacent hillsides and the highway.

### 3.3 Physical Features

The PRA is located within the valley containing Mack Gulch, surrounded by rolling hillsides and the river terraces and slopes. The elevation at the site is approximately 8,000 feet (ft) above mean sea level (AMSL).

The soils within the PRA are composed of predominantly nonhydric to nonhydric soils (Soil Survey Staff 2020).

Within the PRA, the bridge, roadway, and roadway shoulder are the dominant constructed features, while the natural features consist of the river and its associated riverine habitats, the alluvial terrace the river extends through, and moderate rolling hillslopes adjacent to the highway.

### 3.4 Vegetation Community

The plant community in the drainage in the PRA consists primarily of a dense riparian layer within the channel and sparse to moderately sparse shrubby herbaceous vegetation on the uplands adjacent to the road. The riparian vegetation contains a dense shrub layer of narrowleaf willow (*Salix exigua*), while the herbaceous layer is dominated by Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*). Additional species observed within the PRA include wild mint (*Mentha arvensis*), an unidentified sedge (*Carex* sp.; individual specimens were not in a condition to identify the species), and Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*).

### 3.5 Wildlife Corridors

The statewide assessment of wildlife linkages (Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project 2005) mapped no wildlife linkage corridors within the vicinity of the PRA (Figure 3). The only wildlife linkage corridor within 20 miles of the PRA is a bighorn sheep corridor (not an identified high priority linkage corridor) located approximately 13 miles from the PRA. Four deer roadkill have been recorded within the PRA and eleven more deer roadkill have been recorded within 1 mile of the PRA (OTIS 2020).



## 4. Resource Analysis Methods

### 4.1 Desktop Analysis

A desktop analysis was conducted to identify potential resources of concern and collect information respective of the PRA from available publications and online resources. The desktop analysis also assessed Project location and associated land management to determine applicable environmental regulations to be considered for the Project.

The desktop analysis was conducted by gathering data from a variety of sources including: the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) wetlands mapping; Colorado Wetland Inventory; Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain mapping; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) and other publicly available documents on species reviews and rulings; USFWS critical habitat mapper; U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Resources Conservation Service soil mapping; U.S. Geological Survey StreamStats; Environmental Protection Agency's waters mapping; and aerial photography.

### 4.2 Species Screening Analysis

Special status species analyzed in this report include: 1) species listed by the USFWS under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that have been identified by the USFWS Colorado Ecological Service Field Office through the IPaC online query (Attachment A); 2) species listed by the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office as sensitive (Attachment B); 3) species listed by Colorado Park & Wildlife (CPW) as State Endangered or State Threatened; 4) species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA); and 5) species listed under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA).

Screening analysis methods for determining species lists and habitat information includes resources mentioned above (e.g., IPaC), as well as CPW databases and publications related to any state-listed threatened or endangered species. Other resources on species-specific information includes a variety of sources such as USFWS literature and fact sheets, U.S. Forest Service literature and fact sheets, and published white literature. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) species presence database was queried for records of ESA- and state-listed threatened and endangered species, as well as BLM species, within several miles of the bridge location.

Based on the special status species lists generated from the above sources, a screening analysis was performed to evaluate the potential for special status species or designated or proposed critical habitat to occur within the PRA. Criteria used to determine the potential of occurrence of each species included in this screening analysis are defined as follows:

**Present:** The species has been observed to occur in the PRA based on known records, the PRA is within the known range of the species, *and* habitat characteristics required by the species are known to be present.

**Possible:** The species has not been observed in the PRA based on known records, but the known, current distribution of the species includes the PRA *and* the required habitat characteristics of the species appear to be present in the PRA.

**Unlikely:** The known, current distribution of the species does not include the PRA, but the distribution of the species is close enough such that the PRA may be within the dispersal or foraging distance of the species. The habitat characteristics required by the species may be present in the PRA.

**None:** The PRA is outside of the known distribution of the species, *and/or* the habitat characteristics required by the species are not present.

The screening analysis also assessed the potential for impacts to sensitive species. Impacts to ESA-listed species were assessed per the criteria outlined in the Endangered Species Consultation Handbook (USFWS 1998, Section 3.5, pg 3-12):

- **No effect:** No impacts, positive or negative, to listed or proposed resources. Generally, this means no listed resources will be exposed to action and its environmental consequences.
- **May affect, but not likely to adversely affect:** All effects are beneficial, insignificant, or discountable. Insignificant effects relate to the size of the impact and include those effects that are undetectable, not measurable, or cannot be evaluated. Discountable effects are those extremely unlikely to occur.
- **May affect, and is likely to adversely affect:** Listed resources are likely to be exposed to the action or its environmental consequences and will respond in a negative manner to the exposure.

An Action Area, defined as “all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action” (50 CFR § 402.02(d)) is typically required for a review of ESA-listed species. An Action Area was not created for this analysis, as the specific action and associated direct or indirect impacts have not yet been determined for the Project at this time. The PRA extends 2,000 ft out from the bridge along the road from the bridge where the limits of disturbance will be concentrated (Figure 2). However, a larger Action Area may be needed to review ESA-listed species depending on the final design.

Impacts to BLM sensitive species were assessed per the objectives and criteria for sensitive species management objectives outlined in BLM Manual 6840 (6840.2.C.1):

- **No effect.** No impacts, positive or negative, to listed or proposed resources.
- **May effect, but is not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or loss of viability.**
- **May effect, and may cause a trend to federal listing or loss of population viability.**

### 4.3 Field Survey

On August 30, 2020, Stanley biologists conducted a pedestrian survey of the 16.3-acre PRA. The pedestrian survey included delineations of any potential wetlands or other waters of the U.S. (WOTUS), and characterizations of the surrounding vegetation and wildlife habitat that could be potentially impacted by construction activities. General site observations were also recorded, such as the topography, the land use and condition within and adjacent to the PRA, and any wildlife observations.

Our project team conducted WOTUS and wetland survey and delineations in accordance with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) delineation guidance (USACE 2005, USACE and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] 2008), regional supplemental manuals (USACE 2010), and OHWM identification manuals (Curtis and Lichvar 2010). Although the definition of WOTUS has been in flux in recent years, Colorado remains under the jurisdictional interpretation of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) established in *Rapanos v. United States* (Rapanos). The potential for WOTUS to occur within the PRA was therefore evaluated per the Rapanos guidance and associated documents. Additional details are provided in the Aquatic Resources Delineation Report. GPS locations of any resources were recorded using ESRI's Collector and Survey123 apps on an iPad connected to a sub-meter GPS antenna.

## 5. Resource Analysis Results

### 5.1 Special Status Species

This first screening was to determine species that have potential habitat or records with or near to the PRA. Results from the IPaC query (Attachment A), the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office sensitive species (Attachment B), and the CPW state-listed threatened and endangered species identified a total of **65** species for assessment (Table 1, Special Status Species Analysis Screening). Of the **65** special status species, the following nine (**9**) species were determined to have some potential to occur within the PRA:

#### **Possible:**

- Degener's beardtongue (BLM sensitive)
- Golden eagle (BLM sensitive; BGEPA)
- Gunnison's prairie dog (BLM sensitive)
- Northern goshawk (BLM sensitive)
- Rocky mountain bighorn sheep (BLM sensitive)
- Townsend's big-eared bat (BLM sensitive)

#### **Unlikely:**

- American peregrine falcon (BLM sensitive)
- Fringed myotis (BLM sensitive)
- Rock-loving neoparrya (BLM sensitive)

The remaining **56** special status species were determined to have no potential to occur within the PRA. There is no designated or proposed critical habitat within the PRA.

The bald eagle and golden eagle are both listed under the BGEPA and as a BLM sensitive species for the Royal Gorge Field Office. To consolidate the analysis, these two birds are only discussed in Section 5.3 – BGEPA Species.

The USFWS office that services the PRA (the Colorado Ecological Services Field Office) has determined that impacts to the **least tern, piping plover, and whooping crane** only need to be considered for water-related activities/use in the North Platte, South Platte, and Laramie Basins in Nebraska. The IPaC query did not identify these species for consideration for this Project

(Attachment A) and the PRA does not occur within the North Platte, South Platte, or Laramie watersheds and will not directly or indirectly impact these watersheds. However, because these species are also state threatened and endangered species, they were included in the screening analysis.

**Table 1. Special Status Species Screening Analysis**

Species and Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat and Range	Potential to Occur	Potential Effects
<b>Amphibians</b>			
<p>Boreal toad (<i>Bufo boreas boreas</i>)</p> <p>BLM CO – E</p>	<p><b>Range:</b> Alaska south to California and New Mexico. In Colorado, found in San Juan and Williams Mountains, Sawatch and Mosquito Ranges, and Upper Rift Valley. Local watersheds include Trout Creek-Arkansas River, Cottonwood Creek, Clear Creek-Arkansas River, Lake Creek, South Fork South Platte River, headwaters Arkansas River, Middle Fork South Platte River, headwaters Tarryall Creek, and headwaters North Fork South Platte River (Olson 2019).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Species occurs in mountain lakes, ponds, wet meadows, the margins of streams, and wetlands in subalpine forests. In Colorado, found at elevations between 7,500 to 12,500 ft. (Olson 2019). Breeding habitat includes spruce-fir forests and alpine meadows, as well as lakes, marshes, ponds, and bogs with sunny exposures and quiet, shallow water.</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> Although the PRA is within the species’ known range, the PRA does not contain suitable habitat (a wet meadow and/or proximity to surface waters).</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation.</b> None needed.</p>
<p>Northern cricket frog (<i>Acris crepitans</i>)</p> <p>BLM</p>	<p><b>Range:</b> In Colorado, found in northeastern Colorado. Species is possibly extirpated, not seen in the state since 1979 (CPW 2020).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Species occurs in the vicinity of sunny, muddy or marshy edges of permanent or semi-permanent ponds, reservoirs, and streams, and along irrigation ditches, in pastures and sandhill country (CPW 2020)</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA is outside of the species’ range and does not contain suitable habitat of a marshy edges along a water source.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation.</b> None needed.</p>
<p>Northern leopard frog (<i>Rana pipiens</i>)</p> <p>BLM</p>	<p><b>Range:</b> From the Northwest Territories and Labrador south to California, Texas, and Maryland. In Colorado, species is found in mountainous and plains habitats. Species has been recorded in the South Platte River Canyon, Pikes Peak Batholith, and San Juan Mountains. Documented in the Chatfield Reservoir, Trout Creek-West Creek, Monument Creek, Eleven Mile Canyon-South Platte River, and headwaters Four Mile Creek (Olson 2019).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Usually in permanent water with rooted vegetation including ponds, canals, marshes, springs, and streams (Olson 2019).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA does not contain suitable habitat of a permanent water source.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation.</b> None needed.</p>

Species and Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat and Range	Potential to Occur	Potential Effects
Plain's leopard frog <i>(Rana blairi)</i>  BLM	<p><b>Range:</b> Ranges from South Dakota to Arizona and Texas, including Kentucky. In Colorado, can be found in a variety of river and creek watersheds in eastern Colorado (Olson 2019).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> By streams, ponds, reservoirs, irrigation ditches, and other water bodies in grasslands, valleys, and canyon bottoms (Olson 2019).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA does not contain suitable habitat of a permanent water source.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation.</b> None needed.</p>
<b>Birds</b>			
American peregrine falcon <i>(Falco peregrinus anatum)</i>  BLM	<p><b>Range:</b> Species is found worldwide (CPW 2020). In Colorado, the species is found throughout the state wherever there is suitable habitat (CPW 2020).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Occurs in steep, sheer cliffs overlooking woodlands, riparian areas, or other habitats supporting avian prey species in abundance (Corman and Wise-Gervais 2005).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: Unlikely.</b> Although the PRA is within the species' range and contains woodlands and riparian habitat nearby, the topography is dominated by rolling hills rather sheer cliffs.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> There is no suitable breeding habitat within 0.5 miles of the PRA and given the species' large home ranges, the spatially-limited/temporary Project construction activities is not expected to affect the species' ability to forage.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> May require consultation with BLM if impacts occur to habitat.</p>
American white pelican <i>(Pelecanus erythrorhynchos)</i>  BLM – breeding only	<p><b>Range:</b> Found from central Canada to southern Mexico. In Colorado primarily a migrant throughout most of the state, with limited breeding in central to northern Colorado (Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2020).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Breeds on isolated islands in freshwater lakes. Forages in shallow water on inland marshes, along lake or river edges, and in wetlands 30 miles or more from nests. Migration habitat is similar to breeding and foraging habitat (Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2020).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA does not contain suitable habitat (lake, marsh, or river).</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation.</b> None needed.</p>

Species and Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat and Range	Potential to Occur	Potential Effects
<p>Brewer's sparrow (<i>Spizella berweri</i>)</p> <p>BLM</p>	<p><b>Range:</b> British Columbia and Saskatchewan south to California and New Mexico. Winters from southern California and western Texas into central Mexico. In Colorado, some habitat may be present in the Sawatch Range, San Juan Mountains, and South Park (Olson 2019).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Species is a sagebrush obligate that may also use openings in piñon-juniper woodland (Olson 2019). Common on mesas and foothills throughout western Colorado, and locally common at lower montane elevations in suitable habitat (Boyle and Reeder 2005).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA does not contain suitable habitat (sagebrush shrubsteppe; Boyle and Reeder 2005) and no species' records occur near the PRA (eBird 2020, CNHP 2020).</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation.</b> None needed.</p>
<p>Burrowing owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>)</p> <p>CO – T</p>	<p><b>Range:</b> From Alberta and Saskatchewan south to California, Texas and Mexico, and Florida. In Colorado, primarily found in eastern third of the state; breeds in South Park, Arkansas River Tablelands, Plains Canyons, and Sandhill Ogallala Plateau (Olson 2019). Species is rare to uncommon in Colorado mountain parks and on the western slope.</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Found in open, arid lands with scattered shrubs and animal burrows. In Colorado, species is more common in eastern, dry grasslands or short-grass prairie, or western desert lands.</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> Although habitat near the PRA contains elements of open, arid land, the PRA is outside of the species' common distribution and there are no CNHP records of the species within the vicinity of the PRA (CNHP 2020).</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation.</b> None needed.</p>
<p>Ferruginous hawk (<i>Buteo regalis</i>)</p> <p>BLM</p>	<p><b>Range:</b> Southern Canada to northern California and east to northern Texas. In Colorado, the species can be found mostly in the plains but can reach into the mountain parks (Olson 2019).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Grasslands and shrublands with varied topography and ready access to trees, rock outcrops, and other elevated structures. Sensitive to human activity during nesting. Attracted to prairie dog towns for forage (Olson 2019).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA is outside of the species' range and does not contain suitable habitat of grasslands or shrublands.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation.</b> None needed.</p>

Species and Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat and Range	Potential to Occur	Potential Effects
<p>Least tern (<i>Sterna antillarum</i>)</p> <p>ESA – E CO – E</p>	<p><b>Range:</b> Species occurs from Maine to Florida and west to Texas, and along the California coast. In Colorado, the species has been recorded in the Adobe Creek, Neenoshe, and Horse Creek Reservoirs and breeding in the southeastern portion of the state, generally in the La Junta-Lamar area (CPW 2020, Olson 2019). The species does not breed in the PRA’s watershed or any adjacent watersheds (Olson 2019).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> The least tern nest on barren to sparsely vegetated sandbars along rivers, sand and gravel pits, lakes, and reservoir shorelines</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA is outside of the species’ range and does not contain suitable habitat of large beaches or sandbars.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> The species does not have any potential to occur within the PRA and the Project does not occur within any watersheds of concern (see top of Section 5.1).</p> <p><b>Mitigation.</b> None needed.</p>
<p>Lesser prairie-chicken (<i>Tympanuchus pallidicinctus</i>)</p> <p>CO – T</p>	<p><b>Range:</b> In extreme southeastern Colorado.</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Large, sandy grasslands with abundant grasses, sandsage, and yucca.</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA is outside of the species known range and does not contain suitable habitat of sandy grasslands with sandsage or yucca.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation.</b> None needed.</p>
<p>Long-billed curlew (<i>Numenius americanus</i>)</p> <p>BLM – breeding only</p>	<p><b>Range:</b> Southern Canada to northern California and Texas. In Colorado, the species is mostly a summer resident of the southeastern plains including the Comanche (Olson 2019).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Nesting habitat in short and mixed grass prairies on flat to rolling lands. Vegetation generally not dense, and shallow water areas used when available (Olson 2019).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA is outside of the species known range.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation.</b> None needed.</p>
<p>Mexican spotted owl (<i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i>)</p> <p>ESA – T CO – T</p>	<p><b>Range:</b> Species occurs in Utah and Colorado south to the Guadalupe Mountains in Texas, and in other mountains scattered in southern Arizona, New Mexico and Mexico (Olson 2019). In Colorado, species occurs within Chaffee, Custer, Clear Creek, Douglas, El Paso, Fremont, Huerfano, Jefferson, Las Animas, Park, Pueblo, and Saguache counties (Olson 2019).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Species occurs in steep rocky canyon, branching tributary canyons, and old growth, mature forests comprised of pinyon-juniper woodlands, mixed-conifer and ponderosa pine forests, and/or riparian zones between 5,820 to 9,100 ft (Meyer 2007, USFWS 2012).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The nearest Mexican spotted owl critical habitat is located approximately 13 miles from the PRA and the PRA does not contain the steep rocky canyons or forest density required to support this species.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.</p>



Species and Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat and Range	Potential to Occur	Potential Effects
Mountain plover <i>(Charadrius montanus)</i>  BLM	<p><b>Range:</b> From southern Canada to New Mexico and Texas, wintering in central California, southern Arizona and Texas, and northern Mexico. In Colorado, the species can breed in the plains in many the major watersheds (Olson 2019).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Flat areas with short grass and scattered cactus, avoiding taller vegetation and hillsides. Habitat can also include fallow or tilled farm fields and prairie dog towns (Olson 2019). Does not breed in the mountains or the shore, instead preferring shortgrass prairies (CPW 2020).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA does not contain suitable habitat of shortgrass prairie.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation.</b> None needed.</p>
Northern goshawk <i>(Accipiter gentilis)</i>  BLM	<p><b>Range:</b> Found in North America south to California, New Mexico, Wisconsin, and West Virginia. In Colorado, species is found in the Mosquito Range, Sawatch Range, Pikes Peak Batholith, Williams Mountains, San Juan Mountains, Sangre de Cristo Range, and Wet Mountains (Olson 2019).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Inhabits mixed hardwood and coniferous forests from 7,500 to 11,000 feet in elevation, although can be found below 7,000 feet in winter/during migration. Prefer woodlands with intermediate canopy coverage interspersed with fields or wetlands in remote areas. Nest in mature Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, or aspen canopies and prefer old-growth forests.</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: Possible.</b> Although there are no CNHP records of the species within vicinity of the PRA, the PRA is within the species range and contains suitable habitat.</p>	<p><b>May effect, but is not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or loss of viability.</b></p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> As with MBTA species, (see Section 5.2), seasonal restrictions are applicable and clearance surveys prior to construction will be required. May require consultation with BLM if impacts occur to habitat.</p>
Piping plover <i>(Charadrius melodus circumcinctus)</i>  ESA – T CO – T	<p><b>Range:</b> Found in southeastern Alberta and southern Manitoba south to Nebraska, with additional populations in northeastern and eastern Colorado, and northern Texas. In Colorado, species occurs in eastern part of state along Arkansas and South Platte River drainages. Species does not breed in the PRA watershed or any adjacent watersheds (CPW 2020, Olson 2019).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Piping plover use wide, flat, open sandy beaches with very little grass or vegetation (CPW 2020).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA is outside of the species’ range and does not contain suitable habitat of large, suitable sandy beaches or sandbars.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> The species does not have any potential to occur within the PRA and the Project does not occur within any watersheds of concern (see top of Section 5.1).</p> <p><b>Mitigation.</b> None needed.</p>

Species and Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat and Range	Potential to Occur	Potential Effects
Plains sharp-tailed grouse ( <i>Tympanuchus phasianellus jamesii</i> )  CO – E	<b>Range:</b> In extreme northeastern Colorado, mostly in Weld County.  <b>Habitat:</b> Medium to tall grasslands, almost exclusively in Conservation Reserve Program grasslands.	<b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA is located outside of the species' known range and does not contain suitable habitat of tall grasslands.	<b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.  <b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.
Southwestern willow flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> )  ESA – E CO - E	<b>Range:</b> In southcentral and southwestern Colorado, usually below 8,500 ft.  <b>Habitat:</b> Dense riparian habitats with saturated soils, standing water or nearby streams.	<b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> Although the PRA contains dense riparian habitat, it does not contain perennial water to support this species.	<b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.  <b>Mitigation.</b> None needed.
Western snowy plover ( <i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i> )  BLM – breeding only	<b>Range:</b> Found in Pacific Coast of North America and along the Gulf Coast. In Colorado, species breeds in central and eastern Colorado (NMACP 2016).  <b>Habitat:</b> Breeds on barren or sparsely vegetated ground, usually on alkali flats where at least minimal surface water is present, or around saline lakes (NMACP 2016).	<b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA does not contain suitable habitat (alkali flats or saline lakes).	<b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.  <b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.
White-faced ibis ( <i>Plegadis chihi</i> )  BLM – breeding only	<b>Range:</b> Occurs throughout much of the western United States. In Colorado, species is primarily an uncommon breeder and common migrant, with a small area of common breeding in southern central Colorado (Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2020).  <b>Habitat:</b> Breeds in shallow marshes with taller emergent vegetation. Forages in salt, brackish, and freshwater marshes all provide foraging habitat. Frequent wet agricultural fields with low plant cover, including alfalfa, barley, wheat, oats, and rice, along with livestock pastures and hayfields (Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2020).	<b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA does not contain suitable habitat (marshes or wet agricultural fields).	<b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.  <b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.

Species and Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat and Range	Potential to Occur	Potential Effects
Whooping crane <i>(Grus americana)</i>  ESA – E CO – E	<p><b>Range:</b> Species found in disjunct populations from Alberta to Florida. In Colorado, species occurs rarely as migrants during the spring and fall in eastern Colorado. Species is not known to occur in the PRA watershed or any adjacent watersheds (CPW 2020, Olson 2019).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Species occurs in mudflats around reservoirs and agricultural areas and in shallow wetlands with wide-range visibility and are free from human disturbance (CPW 2020, Olson 2019).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b>            The PRA is located outside of the species’ known range.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b>            The species does not have any potential to occur within the PRA and the Project does not occur within any watersheds of concern (see top of Section 5.1).</p> <p><b>Mitigation.</b> None needed.</p>
<b>Fish</b>			
Arkansas darter <i>(Etheostoma cragini)</i>  BLM CO – T	<p><b>Range:</b> Found in the Upper Arkansas, Fountain Creek, Horse Creek, Upper Arkansas at John Martin, Big Sandy Creek, Rush Creek, Black Squirrel Creek and Chico Creek drainages.</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Found in shallow, clear, sandy streams with spring-fed pools an abundant rooted aquatic vegetation. Can occur in large, deep pools during late summer low-water periods when streams may become intermittent.</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b>            The PRA does not contain suitable habitat (perennial waters) and is outside of the species’ known range.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b>            The species has no potential to occur within the PRA and no potential to be impacted by Project activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed</p>
Bonytail <i>(Gila elegans)</i>  ESA – E CO – E	<p><b>Range:</b> Extirpated from historic range (USFWS 2002). Historically occurred in the Colorado River system, including the Gila, Salt, Yampa, Green, Colorado and Gunnison rivers (CPW 2020, AGFD 2020). No reproducing populations are known in the wild.</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Historically found in warm-water reaches of larger rivers (USFWS 2002). Recorded using the main stream portions of mid-sized to large rivers, usually over mud and rocks. (AGFD 2020). Observed spawning over rocky shoals and shorelines (USFWS 2002).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b>            The PRA does not occur within the species’ historic range and the species has been extirpated from its historic range.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b>            The species has no potential to occur within the PRA and no potential to be impacted by Project activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed</p>

Species and Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat and Range	Potential to Occur	Potential Effects
Brassy minnow <i>(Hybognathus hankinsoni)</i>  CO – T	<p><b>Range:</b> In Colorado, found in the Lower South Platte River Basin and in Colorado River backwaters (CPW 2016b).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Occurs in a variety of environmental conditions, including stream channels (particularly pools), backwaters, and beaver ponds with continuous connectivity to other waters (CPW 2016b). Suitable habitat includes cool, clear water, fluctuating plains streams, and streams with abundant aquatic vegetation and submergent vegetation. (CPW 2016b, Wooding 1985). The species prefers clear, slow streams but have been collected in larger rivers with higher turbidity, and occasionally in lakes (MFWP 2020).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b>            The PRA does not contain suitable habitat (perennial waters) and is outside of the species' known range.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b>            The species has no potential to occur within the PRA and no potential to be impacted by Project activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed</p>
Colorado pikeminnow <i>(Ptychocheilus lucius)</i>  ESA – E CO – T	<p><b>Range:</b> Current range restricted to the Green, Yampa, White, Gunnison, and Colorado Rivers (AGFD 2002a, CPW 2020).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Occurs in swift flowing muddy rivers with quiet, warm backwater.</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b>            The PRA occurs outside of the species' known range.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b>            The species has no potential to occur within the PRA and no potential to be impacted by Project activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed</p>
Common shiner <i>(Luxilus cornutus)</i>  CO – T	<p><b>Range:</b> Current known range in Colorado includes northern Colorado along the South Platte River from Denver and Ovid (Woodling 1985; Fuller 2004).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Occurs in moderate gradient streams with cool, clear water, gravel bottoms and shaded by brush or trees (Woodling 1985)</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b>            The PRA occurs outside of the species' known range.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b>            The species has no potential to occur within the PRA and no potential to be impacted by Project activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed</p>
Greenback cutthroat trout <i>(Oncorhynchus clarki stomias)</i>  ESA – T CO – T	<p><b>Range:</b> Historic range includes all mountain and foothill habitats of the South Platte and Arkansas river drainage systems. Currently only found in Bear Creek on Pikes Peak in the Arkansas River drainage (USFWS 2014). Reintroductions have started in a high elevation lake west of Fort Collins.</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Occurs in cold, clear, gravely headwater streams and mountain lakes which provide an abundant food supply of insects (CPW 2020).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b>            The PRA does not contain suitable habitat (cold headwater streams) and is outside of the species' known range.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b>            The species has no potential to occur within the PRA and no potential to be impacted by Project activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed</p>

Species and Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat and Range	Potential to Occur	Potential Effects
<p>Humpback chub (<i>Gila cypha</i>)</p> <p>ESA – E CO – T</p>	<p><b>Range:</b> In Colorado, species is currently found in deep, canyon-bound portions of the Colorado River in Black Rocks and in the Yampa River at Dinosaur National Monument (AGFD 2001, CPW 2020).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Occurs in deep, fast-moving, turbid waters often associated with large boulders and steep cliffs (CPW 2020).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA occurs outside of the species' known range and does not contain suitable habitat of deep, fast-moving, turbid waters.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> The species has no potential to occur within the PRA and no potential to be impacted by Project activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed</p>
<p>Lake chub (<i>Couesius plumbeus</i>)</p> <p>CO - E</p>	<p><b>Range:</b> In Colorado, the species has been recorded in the Platte River drainage west of Boulder and in South St. Vrain Creek (Stasiak 2006a), but is largely extirpated from Colorado (Wooding 1985).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Most commonly found in cool, shallow waters, but can occur in a wide variety of environments (Becker 1983, Stasiak 2006a). Also found in clear water and gravel bottoms of glacial scour lakes, and occasionally in turbid streams (Stasiak 2006a). They more commonly inhabit lakes in the southern portion of their range (Becker 1983).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA occurs outside of the species' current known range.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> The species has no potential to occur within the PRA and no potential to be impacted by Project activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed</p>
<p>Northern redbelly dace (<i>Phoxinus eos</i>)</p> <p>CO - E</p>	<p><b>Range:</b> In Colorado, extant populations occur in tributaries to the upper Platte River drainage system (Garber Creek, Jackson Creek, Plum Creek) (Stasiak 2006b).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Occurs in sluggish, spring-fed streams with a lot of vegetation and woody debris (Stasiak 2006b; Wooding 1985). Species requires a constant supply of cool, spring water with sufficient oxygen. Habitat typically includes cover in the form of undercut banks, heavy vegetation, or brushy debris (Stasiak 2006b).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA does not contain suitable habitat (spring-fed streams) and is outside of the species' known range.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> The species has no potential to occur within the PRA and no potential to be impacted by Project activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed</p>
<p>Plains minnow (<i>Hybognathus placitus</i>)</p> <p>CO – E</p>	<p><b>Range:</b> In Colorado, the species has been recorded on the South Platte River (in Washington and Yuma Counties) and Arkansas River in (Kiowa County) (Wooding 1985).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Inhabits channels of shallow, fluctuating streams with shifting sand substrates (Rees et al 2005). Found in both clear and turbid streams (Rees et al 2005).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA occurs outside of the species' known range.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> The species has no potential to occur within the PRA and no potential to be impacted by Project activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed</p>

Species and Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat and Range	Potential to Occur	Potential Effects
Razorback sucker <i>(Xyrauchen texanus)</i>  ESA – E CO – E	<p><b>Range:</b> In Colorado, species' current distribution is limited to the Yampa, Colorado and Gunnison rivers.</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Found in a variety of habitats from deep, clear to turbid waters of large rivers and some reservoirs over mud, sand or gravel (AGFD 2002b, CPW 2020).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA occurs outside of the species' known range.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> The species has no potential to occur within the PRA and no potential to be impacted by Project activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed</p>
Rio Grande sucker <i>(Catostomus plebeius)</i>  CO – E	<p><b>Range:</b> In Colorado, the species is found only in Hot Creek and McIntyre Springs in Conejos County (Rees and Miller 2005, Wooding 1985).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> An obligate riverine species found in areas near rapidly flowing water in pools, riffles, and glides (Rees and Miller 2005). The species is associated with low gradient habitats with cobble and small boulder substrate (Swift-White et al 1999).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA occurs outside of the species' known range.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> The species has no potential to occur within the PRA and no potential to be impacted by Project activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed</p>
Southern redbelly dace <i>(Phoxinus erythrogaster)</i>  CO – E	<p><b>Range:</b> In Colorado, the species is found in the headwaters of the Arkansas River near Pueblo and Canon City (Stasiak 2007, Wooding 1985).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Occurs in sluggish headwaters and upland creeks (usually spring-fed) with vegetation and woody debris (Stasiak 2007). Suitable habitat include clear creeks with abundant riparian vegetation and algal growths covering a stream substrate of deep silt deposits (Wooding 1985).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> Although the PRA is potentially within the species' range, the PRA does not contain suitable habitat (perennial waters) to support this species.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> The species has no potential to occur within the PRA and no potential to be impacted by Project activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed</p>
Suckermouth minnow <i>(Phenacobius mirabilis)</i>  CO – E	<p><b>Range:</b> In Colorado, the species is limited to the eastern plains, in portions of the mainstem and lower mainstem South Platte (Logan, Sedgewick, Washington, Weld, and Yuma Counties) and some tributaries of the Arkansas Rivers (Prowers County) (Wooding 1985).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Occurs in riffle areas of warm prairie streams of all sizes with low to moderate currents and year-round flow (Wooding 1985).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA occurs outside of the species' known range and does not contain suitable habitat of warm prairie streams.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> The species has no potential to occur within the PRA and no potential to be impacted by Project activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed</p>

Species and Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat and Range	Potential to Occur	Potential Effects
<b>Mammals</b>			
Black-footed ferret ( <i>Mustela nigripes</i> )  ESA – E CO – E	<b>Range:</b> Historically known only in eastern Colorado, experimental populations have been reintroduced in eastern Colorado since 2001.  <b>Habitat:</b> Grasslands and shrublands that support prairie dog populations.	<b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA is located outside of the species' known range.	<b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.  <b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.
Black-tailed prairie dog ( <i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i> )  BLM	<b>Range:</b> Known from Saskatchewan south to Arizona and Texas. In Colorado, found in the Arkansas River Tablelands, Picketwire Canyon-Rolling Plains, Sandhill-Ogallala Plateau, and Southern Front Range Foothills (Olson 2019).  <b>Habitat:</b> Occurs in shortgrass or mixed prairie (Olson 2019).	<b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA is located outside of the species' known range and does not contain suitable habitat of prairie grasslands.	<b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.  <b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.
Canada Lynx ( <i>Lynx canadensis</i> )  ESA – T CO – E	<b>Range:</b> Historically known from the mountainous regions, but likely disappeared from Colorado by the mid-1970s. Reintroduced in 1999 to the San Juan Mountains in southwestern Colorado.  <b>Habitat:</b> Dense, subalpine forest and mountain streams where ever abundant snowshoe hare populations are found.	<b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA does not contain suitable habitat of dense, subalpine forests or mountain streams.	<b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.  <b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.
Fringed myotis ( <i>Myotis thysanodes</i> )  BLM	<b>Range:</b> From British Columbia and South Dakota south to California and Texas. Species' status in Colorado is poorly known and they are apparently not common in the state. Present within the San Carlos Ranger District (Olson 2019).  <b>Habitat:</b> Found to roost in a variety of woodlands and some shrublands, along with caves, mines, and buildings. Habitats include ponderosa pine and piñon-juniper woodlands, greasewood, oak brush, and saltbush shrublands, as well as lower-elevation Douglas-fir or aspen stands along the central Front Range. Maximum elevation is 7,500 feet (CPW 2020, Olson 2019).	<b>Potential to Occur: Unlikely.</b> The PRA contains potentially suitable habitat and the species is present within the nearest National Forest System lands. However, there are no CNHP records of the species within the vicinity of the PRA (CNHP 2020), the species' distribution in Colorado is not well understood, and the PRA is located above the species maximum elevation.	<b>May effect, but is not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or loss of viability.</b>  <b>Mitigation:</b> Clearance surveys prior to construction will be required. May require consultation with BLM if impacts occur to habitat.
Gray wolf ( <i>Canis lupus</i> )  CO – E *Species delisted from ESA 11/3/2020	<b>Range:</b> Historically know in wildlands of Colorado but have been extirpated for some time (CPW 2020, Olson 2019).  <b>Habitat:</b> Variety of wild habitats where herds of large game and abundant small game animals exist.	<b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> Currently extirpated from Colorado.	<b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.  <b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.

Species and Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat and Range	Potential to Occur	Potential Effects
<p>Grizzly bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>)</p> <p>ESA – T CO – E</p>	<p><b>Range:</b> Current range extends from Alaska south to Washington and Wyoming. Historically known in wildlands of Colorado but no recent records occur in the state.</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Species occurs in a variety of wild habitats in foothills and mountain, including tundra and subalpine forest.</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> Currently believed to be extirpated from Colorado.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.</p>
<p>Gunnison’s prairie dog (<i>Cynomys gunnisoni</i>)</p> <p>BLM</p>	<p><b>Range:</b> Found in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah. In Colorado, occurs in the Wet Mountain Valley, Sawatch Range, Upper Rift Valley, and Pikes Peak Batholith (Olson 2019).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Occurs in high-elevation, cool, and mesic (wet) plateaus, benches, and intermountain valleys from 6,000 to 10,000 feet (USFWS 2013). Inhabits grasslands and semi-desert and montane shrublands; often found in shrubs, such as rabbitbrush, sagebrush, and saltbrush (Olson 2019, USFWS 2013).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: Possible.</b> The PRA is within the species’ range and contains some elements of suitable habitat (montane shrubland).</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.</p>
<p>Kit fox (<i>Vulpes macrotis</i>)</p> <p>CO – E</p>	<p><b>Range:</b> Species occurs from Oregon and Idaho south to California and Texas (Olson 2019). Western Colorado represents the northeastern extent of kit fox range (CPW 2005).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Species occurs in semi-desert shrublands of saltbush, shadscale, and greasewood.</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA is outside of the species’ known range and does not contain suitable habitat (semi-desert shrublands).</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.</p>
<p>Preble’s meadow jumping mouse (<i>Zapus hudsonius preblei</i>)</p> <p>ESA – T CO – T</p>	<p><b>Range:</b> Within stream and river systems along the Front Range in Colorado, generally below 7,600 ft.</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Well-developed riparian or wetland shrub vegetation with undisturbed adjacent diverse grasslands.</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA is outside of the species’ known range and is above the species’ elevation range.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.</p>
<p>River otter (<i>Lontra canadensis</i>)</p> <p>CO – T</p>	<p><b>Range:</b> Populations restored in the 1970s within stream systems in western Colorado, with some scattered populations along several drainages, including the Upper South Platte River (Olson 2019).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Healthy forested riparian habitats, with some overhanging banks along long reaches, and/or beaver ponds within 4<sup>th</sup> order or greater stream systems.</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA does not contain suitable habitat (perennial water with overhanging banks).</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.</p>



Species and Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat and Range	Potential to Occur	Potential Effects
Rocky mountain bighorn sheep ( <i>Ovis canadensis</i> )  BLM	<b>Range:</b> Occurs in mountainous regions of western North America from British Columbia and Alberta south to northern New Mexico and central Arizona (Olson 2019).  <b>Habitat:</b> Found in open or semi-open terrain characterized by a mix of steep or gentle slopes, broken cliffs, rock outcrops, and canyons and their adjacent river benches and mesa tops (Olson 2019).	<b>Potential to Occur: Possible.</b> The species' known range spans the PRA and the PRA contains suitable habitat.	<b>No Effect.</b> There is no breeding habitat within 0.5 miles of the PRA and given the species' large home ranges, the spatially-limited/ temporary Project construction activities is not expected to affect the species' ability to forage. <b>Mitigation:</b> May require consultation with BLM if impacts occur to habitat.
Swift fox ( <i>Vulpes velox</i> )  BLM	<b>Range:</b> From southwestern Canada, New Mexico and Texas. In Colorado, it occurs from the foothills east to the Arkansas River valley and the Ogallala Plateau. Uncommon in the Comanche (Olson 2019).  <b>Habitat:</b> Shortgrass prairie, plains, desert shrublands, low vegetation, away from agriculture, and can be impacted by grazing. Nocturnal species (Olson 2019).	<b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA is outside of the species' range.	<b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.  <b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.
Townsend's big-eared bat ( <i>Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens</i> )  BLM	<b>Range:</b> Found in British Columbia, South Dakota, and West Virginia south to California, Texas, and North Carolina. Has been recorded throughout the Pike and San Isabel National Forest (Olson 2019).  <b>Habitat:</b> Found primarily roosting in caves, mines, and rocky ledges habitats up to 9,500 feet, but can use trees at times. Common in mesic habitats with coniferous and deciduous forests (Olson 2019).	<b>Potential to Occur: Possible.</b> The species' known range spans the PRA and the PRA contains suitable habitat.	<b>May effect, but is not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or loss of viability.</b>  <b>Mitigation:</b> Clearance surveys prior to construction will be required. May require consultation with BLM if impacts occur to habitat.
Wolverine ( <i>Gulo gulo</i> )  CO – E	<b>Range:</b> Historically known from the mountainous regions of North America, but likely disappeared from Colorado by 1919. A few transient reports since 2009, but unlikely to be any permanent populations in Colorado.  <b>Habitat:</b> High alpine forests and tundra where snow persists in places throughout most or all of the year.	<b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA does not contain suitable habitat (high alpine forests) for the species.	<b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.  <b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.

Species and Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat and Range	Potential to Occur	Potential Effects
<b>Plants</b>			
Brandegee's buckwheat ( <i>Eriogonum brandegeei</i> )  BLM	<b>Range:</b> Endemic to Chaffee, El Paso, Fremont, and Park counties of Colorado. Species occurs in the Upper Rift Valley and Arkansas River Tablelands; and the Trout Creek-Arkansas River watersheds (Olson 2019).  <b>Habitat:</b> Occurs in open sagebrush or piñon-juniper stands on white to grayish limestone-shale soils of the Dry Union and Morrison formations at elevations ranging from 5,700 to 7,600 ft (Olson 2019).	<b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA occurs outside of the species' known elevational range and does not contain suitable habitat of limestone-shale soils.	<b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.  <b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.
Colorado buckwheat ( <i>Eriogonum coloradense</i> )  BLM	<b>Range:</b> Colorado endemic species found in Gunnison, Park, Pitkin, and Saguache counties (CNHP 2017).  <b>Habitat:</b> Occurs in gravelly or sandy soil, often subalpine and alpine slopes, some-times montane grasslands. Occurs at 8,700-14,260 ft (CNHP 1997+, 2017).	<b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The nearest known occurrence that is not historical is on the far west side of Park County (CNHP 2017); the PRA occurs outside of the species' known range.	<b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.  <b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.
Crandall's rockcress ( <i>Arabis</i> (= <i>Boechea</i> ) <i>crandallii</i> )  BLM	<b>Range:</b> Found in Wyoming and Colorado. In Colorado, a total of 17 occurrences of the species are known from Gunnison, Chaffee, and Lake counties (CNHP 2017)  <b>Habitat:</b> Found in rocky areas that are usually granitic, and often associates with sagebrush (Olson 2019). Elevational range from 8,175 to 10,600 ft (CNHP 2017).	<b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA occurs outside of the species' known range.	<b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.  <b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.
Degener's beardtongue ( <i>Penstemon degeneri</i> )  BLM	<b>Range:</b> Endemic to Colorado; found in Fremont, Chaffee, and Custer counties within the Wet Mountains and Northern Arkansas Granitics. Found in the Eightmile Creek-Arkansas River, Hardscrabble Creek, and Royal Gorge-Arkansas River watersheds (CNHP 2017, Olson 2019).  <b>Habitat:</b> Occurs in piñon-juniper woodlands, ponderosa pine woodlands, montane grasslands and mountain meadows on rocky soils with igneous bedrock at elevations ranging from 6,000 to 9,500 ft (Olson 2019).	<b>Potential to Occur: Possible.</b> The PRA is within the species' known distribution and contains potentially suitable habitat.	<b>May effect, but is not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or loss of viability.</b>  <b>Mitigation:</b> Clearance surveys prior to construction may be required following coordination with the BLM.

Species and Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat and Range	Potential to Occur	Potential Effects
Dwarf milkweed ( <i>Asclepias uncialis</i> )  BLM	<p><b>Range:</b> Wyoming south to Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. In Colorado, it is found on the eastern plains up to the east slope foothills, Mesa de Maya, Picketwire Canyon-Rolling Plains, Arkansas River Tablelands, Southern Front Range Foothills, and Wet Mountain Valley. There are at least six extant populations on the Comanche National Grassland, and possibly one on San Carlos. (Olson 2019). Colorado distribution includes Baca, Fremont, Huerfano, Las Animas and Pueblo counties</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Shortgrass prairie and open pinon-juniper woodlands, in sandy or gravelly soils (Olson 2019). Found at elevations ranging from 4,000 to 6,500 feet.</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b>  The PRA occurs outside of the species' known range.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b>  Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.</p>
Few-flower ragwort ( <i>Packera pauciflora</i> )  BLM	<p><b>Range:</b> Found from Alaska to Colorado (west) and Upper Great Lakes to Newfoundland (east). In Colorado, all recorded occurrences are on the western side of Park County (CNHP 2017).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Occurs in moist areas, bogs, stream banks, subalpine meadows, as well as woodlands and damp meadows. Occur from 8,860 –10,410 ft (CNHP 2017).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b>  The PRA occurs outside of the species' known range and does not contain suitable habitat (moist areas).</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b>  Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.</p>
Gold blazingstar ( <i>Mentzelia</i> (= <i>Nuttallia</i> ) <i>chrysantha</i> )  BLM	<p><b>Range:</b> Endemic to Colorado. There are 9 records within Colorado, most of which are located east of Canon City (NPIN 2020).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Steep hillsides, washes, clayey soils, sometimes rich in gypsum (NPIN 2020).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b>  The PRA occurs outside of the species' known range.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b>  Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.</p>
Pale blue-eyed grass ( <i>Sisyrinchium pallidum</i> )  BLM	<p><b>Range:</b> Found in Wyoming and Colorado. In Colorado, species has been recorded in Chaffee, El Paso, Fremont, Gilpin, Jackson, Larimer, Park, Saguache, and Teller counties (CNHP 2017).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Occurs in wet meadows often where ample fresh, often standing water is available at least through June or early July. It grows especially on alkaline soils, often with <i>Juncus arcticus</i> and <i>Carex aquatilis</i> (CNHP 1997+). Elevational range from 6,320-9,710 ft (CNHP 2017).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b>  The PRA occurs outside of the species' known range and does not contain suitable habitat (ample fresh water).</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b>  Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.</p>

Species and Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat and Range	Potential to Occur	Potential Effects
Rock-loving neoparrya ( <i>Mentzelia</i> (= <i>Nuttallia</i> ) <i>densa</i> )  BLM	<p><b>Range:</b> Endemic to Colorado; known from Fremont County, and adjacent Chaffee County (CNHP 1997+).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Occurs in dry open areas (washes, roadsides), naturally disturbed sites, and steep rocky slopes. Grows in gravel, scree, or on cliffs formed from Precambrian granodiorite and gneiss. Found in pinyon-juniper woodland and lower montane shrubland communities with a poorly developed understory and an open canopy (CNHP 1997+).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: Unlikely.</b> Although the PRA is within the species' range, the PRA is dominated by thick vegetation and suitable habitat (open gravel and gravel scree) is limited to a narrow stretch adjacent to the road.</p>	<p><b>May effect, but is not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or loss of viability.</b></p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Clearance surveys prior to construction may be required following coordination with the BLM.</p>
Rolland's bulrush ( <i>Trichophorum pumilum</i> )  BLM	<p><b>Range:</b> Found in Eurasia, Quebec, California, and Colorado. In Colorado, only known records are in western Park County (CNHP 1997+, 2017).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Moss hummocks in very rich fens. Moss margins in willow dominated wetlands. Elevational range from 9300 to 11,000 ft (CNHP 1997+).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA occurs outside of the species' known distribution and elevational range, and does not contain suitable habitat (moss hummocks in rich fens).</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.</p>
Royal Gorge blazingstar ( <i>Neoparrya lithophila</i> )  BLM	<p><b>Range:</b> Endemic to south-central Colorado and northern New Mexico. Found in the Sangre de Cristo Range, Wet Mountain Valley, Northern Arkansas Granitics, and Upper Rift Valley. Occurs in the Upper Huerfano, Big Cottonwood Creek-Arkansas, South Arkansas, and Trout Creek-Arkansas Rivers' watersheds (CNHP 2017, Olson 2019).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Occurs in piñon-juniper woodlands on north-facing ledges, cliffs, and canyons associated with volcanic dikes composed of igneous outcrops or sedimentary rock, and in montane meadows and grasslands. Elevational range from 7,000 to 10,000 ft.</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA is located outside of the species known range.</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.</p>
Rydberg's golden columbine ( <i>Aquilegia chrysantha</i> var. <i>rydbergii</i> )  BLM	<p><b>Range:</b> Species occurs in Utah and Colorado south to Arizona and Texas. In Colorado, species is found in the Pikes Peak Batholith, Northern Arkansas Granitics, South Platte River Canyon, Southern Front Range Foothills, and Plains Canyons (Olson 2019).</p> <p><b>Habitat:</b> Species occurs along streams or moist rocky ravines from 5,200 to 8,500 feet in elevation. Generally found in organic soils but occasionally in more coarse granite derived gravel soils. Douglas-fir is a typical canopy dominant tree in these areas (Olson 2019).</p>	<p><b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA is potentially within the species' range, but does not contain suitable habitat (perennial waters or moist ravines, Douglas-fir canopy).</p>	<p><b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.</p>

Species and Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat and Range	Potential to Occur	Potential Effects
<b>Reptiles</b>			
Common kingsnake ( <i>Lampropeltis getula</i> )  BLM	<b>Range:</b> Found from southern Canada to northern South America. In Colorado, found in south-eastern plains and grasslands (CPW 2020).  <b>Habitat:</b> In Colorado, generally associated with lowland river valleys, permanent stream flows in low, hilly semidesert shrubland, and irrigated fields (CPW 2020).	<b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA is located outside of the species known range.	<b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.  <b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.
Massasauga ( <i>Sistrurus catenatus</i> )  BLM	<b>Range:</b> Found in many western states such as Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Kansas. It occurs in southeastern Colorado below 5,500 ft (CPW 2020, Olson 2019).  <b>Habitat:</b> Variety of habitats including plains grasslands and sandhill areas, grassy wetlands, rocky hillsides, shrub-grass communities, and desert grasslands (CPW 2020). Requires dense soils for hibernation sites (Olson 2019).	<b>Potential to Occur: None.</b> The PRA is located outside of the species known distribution and elevational range.	<b>No Effect.</b> Species does not have any potential to occur and would not be impacted by the Project.  <b>Mitigation:</b> None needed.

Source: Colorado Parks and Wildlife (2020) unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup>Status:

ESA – E = Federally endangered under the Endangered Species Act

ESA – T = Federally threatened under the Endangered Species Act

BLM = BLM sensitive species for the Royal Gorge Field Office

CO – E = State of Colorado endangered according to CPW

CO – T = State of Colorado threatened according to CPW

## 5.2 MBTA Species

Based on vegetation within the vicinity of the PRA, Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) species have a potential to nest within 300 ft of the Project, as the area surrounding the Project contains riparian, forest, and scrub-shrub plant communities. The standard specifications in CDOT Section 240 Protection of Migratory Birds During Structure Work must be followed to ensure that take of migratory birds does not occur. No disturbance activities may be conducted during the MBTA nesting season (April 1 to August 31)<sup>1</sup> unless the following steps are taken (per CDOT Section 240.02):

- (1) The Contractor shall remove existing nests prior to April 1. If the Contract is not awarded prior to April 1 and CDOT has removed existing nests, then the monitoring of nest building shall become the Contractor’s responsibility upon the Notice to Proceed.
- (2) During the time that the birds are trying to build or occupy their nests, between April 1 and August 31, the Contractor shall monitor the structures at least once every three days for any nesting activity.
- (3) If birds have started to build any nests, the nests shall be removed before they are completed. Water shall not be used to remove the nests if nests are located within 50 ft of any surface waters.
- (4) Installation of netting may be used to prevent nest building. The netting shall be monitored and repaired or replaced as needed. Netting shall consist of a mesh with openings that are ¾ inch by ¾ inch or less.

## 5.3 BGEPA Species

The screening analysis determined that one species protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA), the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), has some potential to occur within the PRA. The two BGEPA species are also listed as BLM sensitive for the Royal Gorge Field Office. The basis of determination of each species’ potential to occur within the PRA is provided in Table 2.

**Table 2. Potential for Occurrence of BGEPA\* Species within PRA**

Species	Known Habitat Preferences	Distribution and Occurrence Records	Potential to Occur in the PRA
Bald Eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> )	Inhabits coastal areas, estuaries, and inland waters with unimpeded horizontal and vertical aspects for catching prey. Found in habitats with open canopy and easy-to-access mature, large trees for perching and nesting (CPW 2016a). The species typically prefers trees within 1 mile of open water with fish (CPW 2016a).	Restricted to North America, mainly in Canada and the U.S. In Colorado, bald eagles are found throughout much of the state during both the summer and winter. They can often be seen near large reservoirs and along major rivers (South Platte, Arkansas, Rio Grande, Yampa, Colorado) (CPW 2020). The species has been recorded breeding in Fremont County where the PRA is located (CPW 2016a).	<b>None.</b> Although the PRA is within the species’ geographic range, there is no suitable foraging habitat for the species (a perennial stream with fish populations) within 1 mile, and the nearest record is more than 10 miles from the PRA (eBird 2020).

<sup>1</sup> Although the Project is located at a high elevation that may result in a shorter nesting season, a change in the official MBTA nesting season would require approval of specific dates from a CDOT biologist (pers comm J. Peterson, Oct 14, 2020).

Species	Known Habitat Preferences	Distribution and Occurrence Records	Potential to Occur in the PRA
Golden Eagle ( <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> )	Occupies a wide variety of plant communities, including tundra, alpine meadows, coniferous forests, high- and mid-elevation pine forest, piñon-juniper woodlands, sagebrush and other shrub habitats, grassland, and agricultural habitats (CPW 2020, Tesky 1994). Species is known to construct its nest in areas with little to no human activity, in tall trees, cliffs, canyons, or rock ledges, near open areas where they forage for prey (Corman and Wise-Gervais 2005). Golden eagles are known to forage within 4.4 miles of the nest (Tesky 1994), generally in open habitats where prey is available (Kochert et al 2002).	In North America, the species is found from Canada south to central Mexico (Tesky 1994). Within Colorado, golden eagles can be found year-round (CPW 2020).	<b>Possible.</b> The PRA is within the species' geographic range and contains suitable habitat. Numerous sightings have occurred within several miles of the PRA (eBird 2020), and a golden eagle nest has been recorded within 0.7 miles of the PRA (J. Peterson, pers. comm.). Habitat around the PRA contains tall trees near open areas, although the presence of human activity along the road may limit nesting in the PRA.

\*Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

## 5.4 Wildlife

The only wildlife linkage corridor within 20 miles of the PRA is a bighorn sheep corridor (which was not an identified high priority linkage corridor) located approximately 13 miles from the PRA. Road kill counts recorded by CDOT from 2005-2018 show 4 deer roadkill (but no elk) have been recorded within the PRA (Figure 3) and 11 more deer roadkill have been recorded within 1 mile of the PRA (OTIS 2020), suggesting that large animals cross near this part of the roadway with some frequency.

All box culverts and bridges have some potential to be roosting sites for many common bat species as well as for bat species of concern such as Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) or the fringed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*). Removal of these structures requires prior inspection by an approved biologist to determine bat presence per FHWA guidance (Attachment C).

As an ephemeral drainage, Mack Gulch does not have natural perennial surface flows that could maintain any fisheries, therefore no fisheries concerns exist for this location. Any flows are erratic, storm event flows only.

## 5.5 Floodplain

The FEMA Flood Map Service Center is a public source for flood hazard information produced in support of the National Flood Insurance Program. This mapping tool provides information on whether a project is being proposed within a floodplain, which has permitting implications if the project is within a 100-yr floodplain.

The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) has mapped the entirety of the PRA as occurring within an Area of Minimal Flood Hazard (Zone X; see Attachment D). The bridge and road rebuild will be designed to meet CDOT construction standards. Because the Project is not within the 100-

year floodplain and the Project is not expected to alter any Special Flood Hazard Areas, the Project will not require floodplain permitting. The hydraulics of the watershed are currently being assessed and further details regarding flood design capacity will be provided in the Bridge Bundle Preliminary Hydraulics Report.

## 5.6 Potential Waters of the U.S.

Section 404 of the CWA regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into WOTUS and is administered by the USACE and EPA. The Project Impact Area (PIA; see Aquatic Resources Delineation Report, Appendix A) was surveyed for any potential wetlands or non-wetland WOTUS on August 30, 2020. All potential features were fully investigated and delineated if found to either satisfy all three parameters as defined by the USACE to be a wetland; or presented an OHWM<sup>2</sup> indicating a potentially jurisdictional WOTUS. Consultation with the USACE will be needed to confirm the delineation and jurisdictional extent of WOTUS, which is typically completed within 1-3 months of permit submittal. Details and a mapping of the full delineation can be found in the Aquatic Resources Delineation Report.

Impacts to these resources would need to be approved or permitted by the USACE. Depending on the level of impacts, the Project would likely require permitting under the Nationwide Permit (NWP) program. The NWP program is available for projects with relatively minor impacts (the exact nature of the impacts and acreage thresholds depend on the applicable NWP), while Individual Permits (IPs) are required for projects with larger impacts and can involve a lengthy permitting process.

Areas with potential WOTUS or wetland features located within the PRA but outside of the anticipated PIA (per communications with the Project engineers) were outlined as Avoidance Areas. In the event the proposed Project footprint would be extended into any such Avoidance Areas, these areas would require a formal delineation by a qualified specialist prior to any Project activities.

### 5.6.1 Wetlands

During the survey, no wetlands were observed within the more restrictive PIA. Wetland surveys would need to be conducted if Project impacts are to be extended into the Avoidance Area.

### 5.6.2 Non-wetland Waters

During the survey, the boundaries of the OHWM of Mack Gulch (totaling 0.28 acres and 370 ft), was delineated within the PRA. Specific details on the non-wetland waters are provided in the Aquatic Resources Delineation Report.

### 5.6.3 Avoidance Areas

Three Avoidance Areas are located within the PRA (Figure 5). AA1 and AA2 consists of a stretch of Mack Gulch that is located within the PRA but outside of the PIA. AA3a and AA3b are an unnamed tributary that crosses through a culvert under CO 9 and discharges into Mack Gulch downstream of the PRA. A formal delineation would be required if the final design will impact the Avoidance Area. Photographs of the Avoidance Area is provided in Attachment E – Photolog.

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<sup>2</sup> As defined in RGL-05-05.



## 5.7 Stormwater

### *Stormwater Discharges for Construction Activities*

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) manages stormwater discharges through the Colorado Discharge Permit System, under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act and the Colorado Water Quality Control Act, (25-8-101 et seq., CRS, 1973 as amended). Runoff from construction activities that goes into or adjacent to any surface water in the state are regulated based on the area of land disturbance.

Disturbances (including construction activity, borrow or fill sites within ¼ mile of a construction site, and dedicated asphalt or concrete batch plants and masonry mixing stations) that are less than 1 acre do not require any coverage. Disturbances exceeding 1 acre require authorization under CDPHE, either through a General Permit or an Individual Permit. Activities qualifying for a general permit include the following criteria:

- Construction sites that will disturb one acre or more; or
- Construction sites that are part of a common plan of development or sale; or
- Stormwater discharges that are designated by the division as needing a stormwater permit because the discharge:
  - Contributes to a violation of a water quality standard; or
  - is a significant contributor of pollutants to state waters.

Applicants must apply for a General Permit that includes a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) in accordance with Part 1.C of the CDPS General Permit, at least 10 days prior to commencing Project activities. If activities are not covered under the scope of the General Permit, an Individual Permit will be required through the CDPHE.

## 5.8 Hazardous Waste

An initial site assessment (ISA) was conducted for the potential for hazardous waste materials to occur within or near the PRA (Attachment F). The ISA determined none of the surrounding properties are known hazardous waste sites and no further hazardous waste survey is required.

## 5.9 Cultural Resources

The review of archaeological, historic, and paleontological resources is being conducted by CDOT and will be prepared under separated cover.

## 6. Discussion/Recommendations

### 6.1 Potential Impacts

The degree of potential impacts will be dictated by the exact approach of the design-builder. However, the range of potential impact could include: temporary disruption of the channel area, including channel bed and banks, surrounding the bridge location; and some temporary and/or minor permanent loss of vegetation and habitat during construction activities, and minor permanent vegetation loss in the area immediately surrounding placement of new bridge abutments/wing walls after construction. There will also be some potential risk of sedimentation or other indirect run-off into the downstream channel and the surrounding wetlands and riparian areas during the construction phase. During construction, local wildlife may be temporarily disturbed by noise and movement of the equipment.

In the event Project impacts extend outside of the CDOT ROW onto BLM land for short-term activities such as the construction of a temporary bypass, the Contractor would be required to obtain a right-of-way grant from the BLM using the SF-299 application and submitting a plan of development (POD). A POD is evaluated under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a process that requires the use of 3rd party contractors for survey and NEPA documents. Once NEPA evaluations are complete, the BLM would make a decision whether or not to authorize the ROW.

Depending on the final design and construction plans with their corresponding impacts, various permits would likely be needed and could include a Section 404 permit from the USACE, consultation with the CPW, Section 401 certification, and various stormwater (SWPPP) and construction permits.

Mack Gulch is mapped as a solid blue line approximately 50 ft downstream of the PRA on USGS topographic maps (Figure 1), which qualifies as jurisdictional under Senate Bill (SB) 40 (33-5-101-107, CRS 1973 as amended). Due to the PRA's proximity to a jurisdictional stream and the density of vegetation along the stretch of Mack Gulch within the PRA, the Project is also expected to fall under the jurisdiction of SB 40, and therefore wildlife certification from CPW will be required. Additionally, all portions of Mack Gulch within identified Avoidance Areas would be subject to SB 40 jurisdiction, should the final design impact any these areas.

### 6.2 Avoidance and Mitigation Measures

As a part of the design process, since this work is in an environmentally sensitive area, proof of avoidance or minimization efforts will need to be shown to the regulatory agencies as a part of the permit process. As a result, mitigation measures will need to be developed and implemented by the design-build team and approved by the applicable agencies. These mitigation measures may include items such as construction BMPs (stormwater silt fencing, construction procedures, etc.), wildlife mitigation (such as adjustment of construction to avoid breeding seasons), floodplain mitigation, and cultural/history mitigation.

### 6.2.1 MBTA

In order to avoid violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, all vegetation and/or nest removal timing and procedures must be conducted outside of the breeding season (April 1-August 31) unless the required steps outlined in CDOT Section 240 Protection of Migratory Birds During Structure Work are met. If any trees or shrubs are to be removed or work on/under bridges is to be completed between April 1 and August 31, a survey must be completed for active nests. If an active nest(s) is found no work may be done within 50 ft of the nest(s) until the nest(s) becomes inactive. To avoid the survey requirement, it is recommended that vegetation removal occurs after August 31 and before April 1.

### 6.2.2 Wildlife

If evidence of previous bat roosting is observed but no current roosting individuals are present, then installation of roosting preventative measures, such as the use of approved netting, is advised prior to bridge work. If active bat roosting is observed during inspection, then coordination with the CDOT Wildlife Biologist is required prior to any further bridge work.

The Project is not located within a BLM special management area, and therefore species with the potential to occur within the PRA are not subject to specific conservation strategies outside of the general strategies outlined in the Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan. In the absence of conservation strategies, per the BLM Manual (6840.2.C.8), the BLM shall manage sensitive species by incorporating “[...] best management practices, standard operating procedures, conservation measures, and design criteria to mitigate specific threats to Bureau sensitive species during the planning of activities and projects.” Best management practices would be determined by the selected design and potential impacts to species, and would require approval by the BLM as part of the POD approval discussed in Section 6.1.

Once a final design is selected and anticipated impacts are known, the ESA-listed species should be reassessed for their potential to occur within an Action Area, meaning “all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action” (50 CFR § 402.02(d)).

In the event the project has the potential to impact a listed species, consultation with the USFWS, BLM, and/or CPW may be required. As part of the consultation process, species-specific surveys may be required to determine presence/absence.

### 6.2.3 Hazardous Waste

Prior to any underground digging or soil disturbance, a utility locate should be called to prevent damage to any existing utilities in the project area.

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## List of Preparers

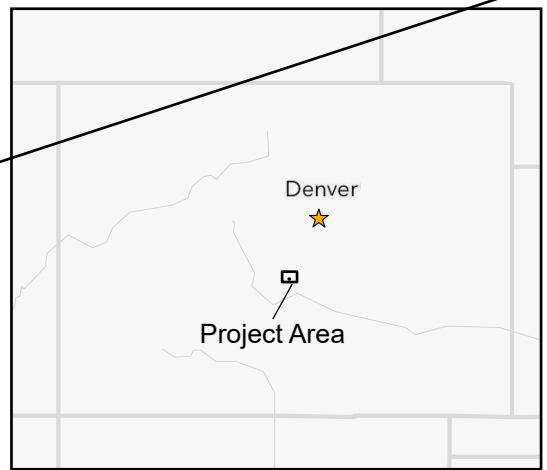
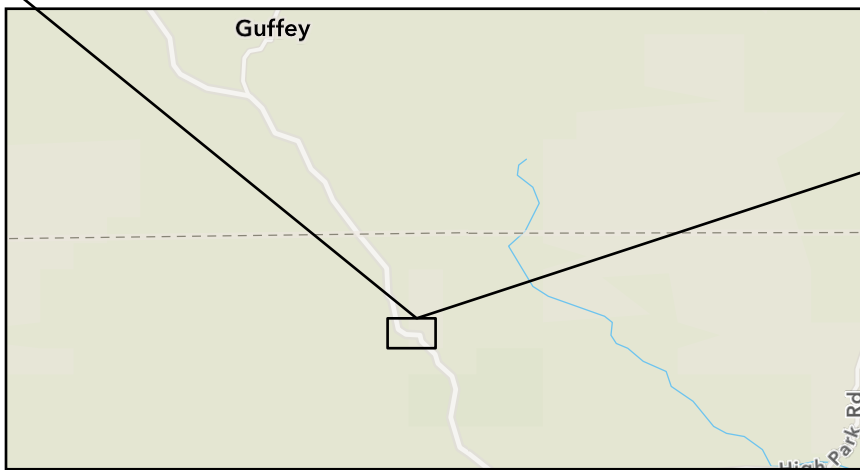
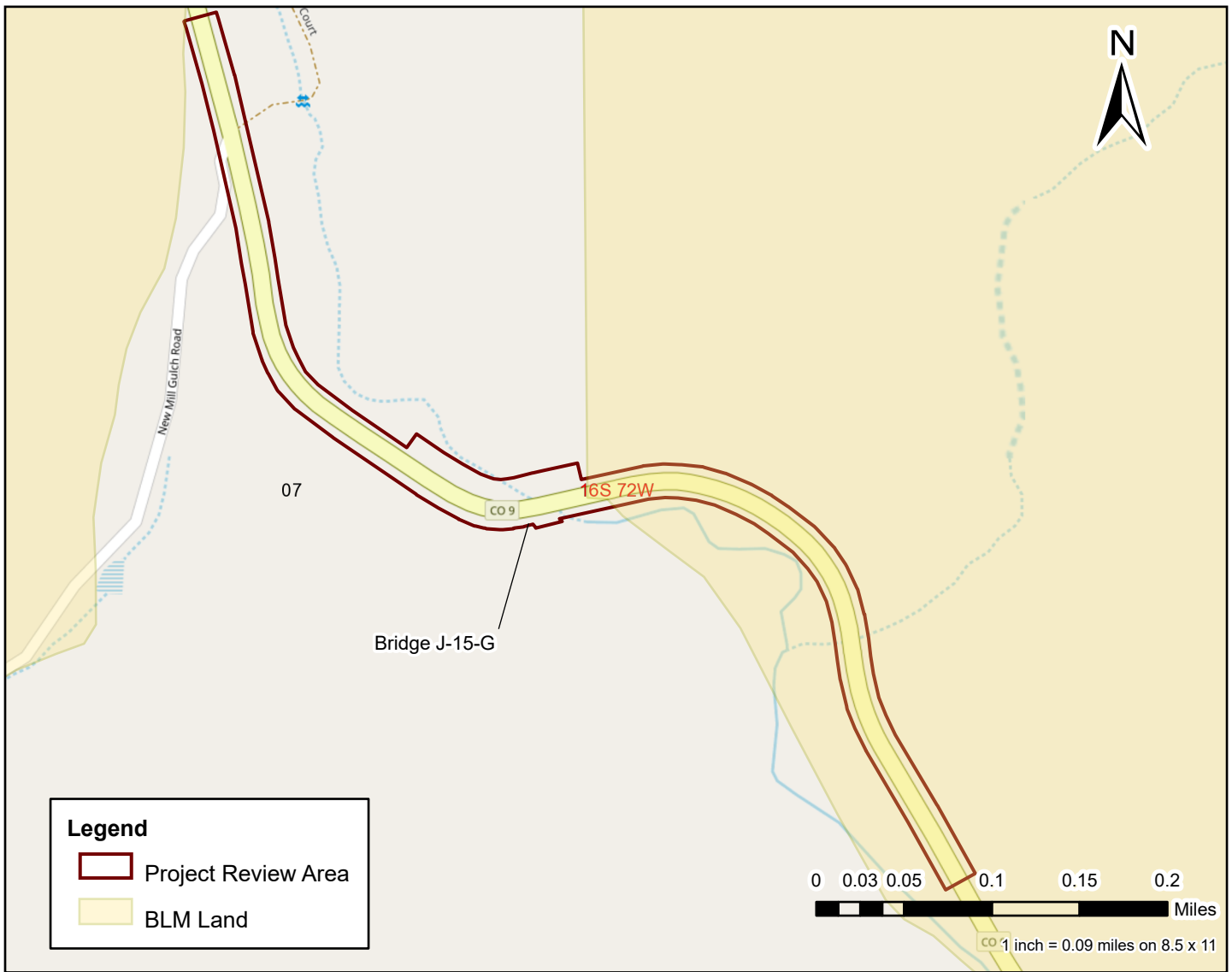
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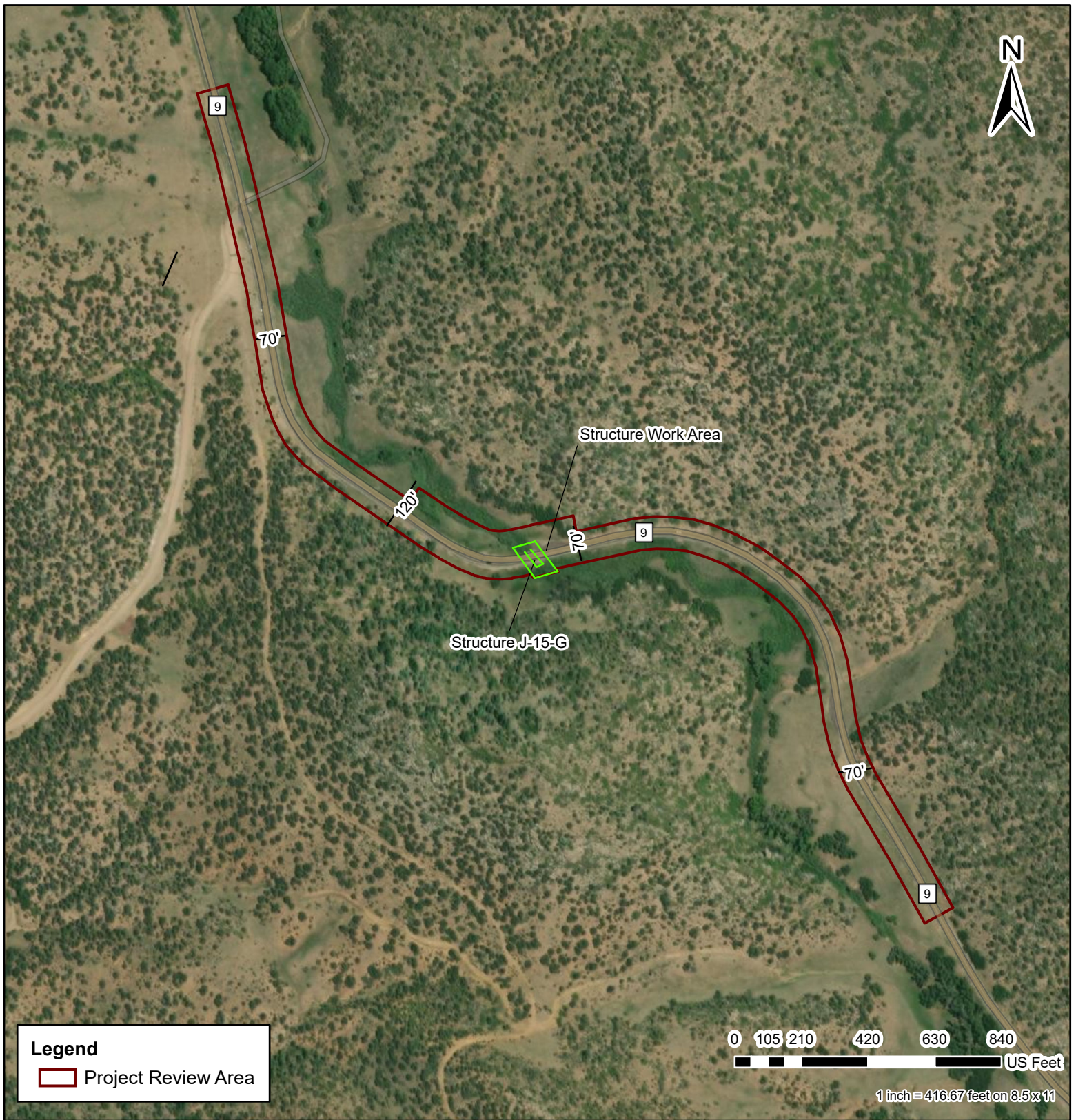
## Figures





**COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**Region 2 Bridge Rebuild Project - Bridge J-15-G**  
**Desktop Analysis for Sensitive Environmental Resources**

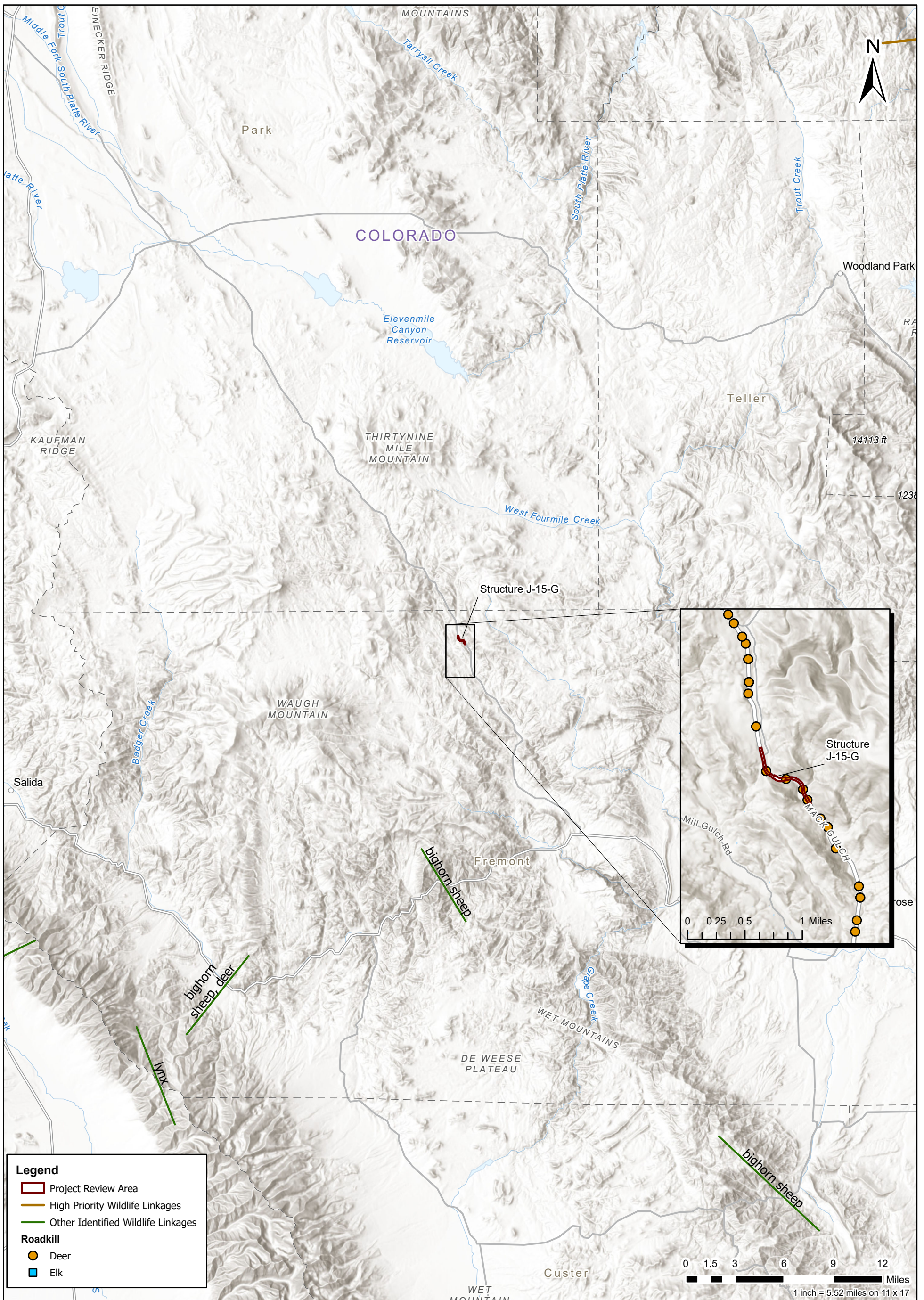
**Figure 1**  
**Vicinity Map**



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 Region 2 Bridge Rebuild Project - Bridge J-15-G  
 Desktop Analysis for Sensitive Environmental Resources

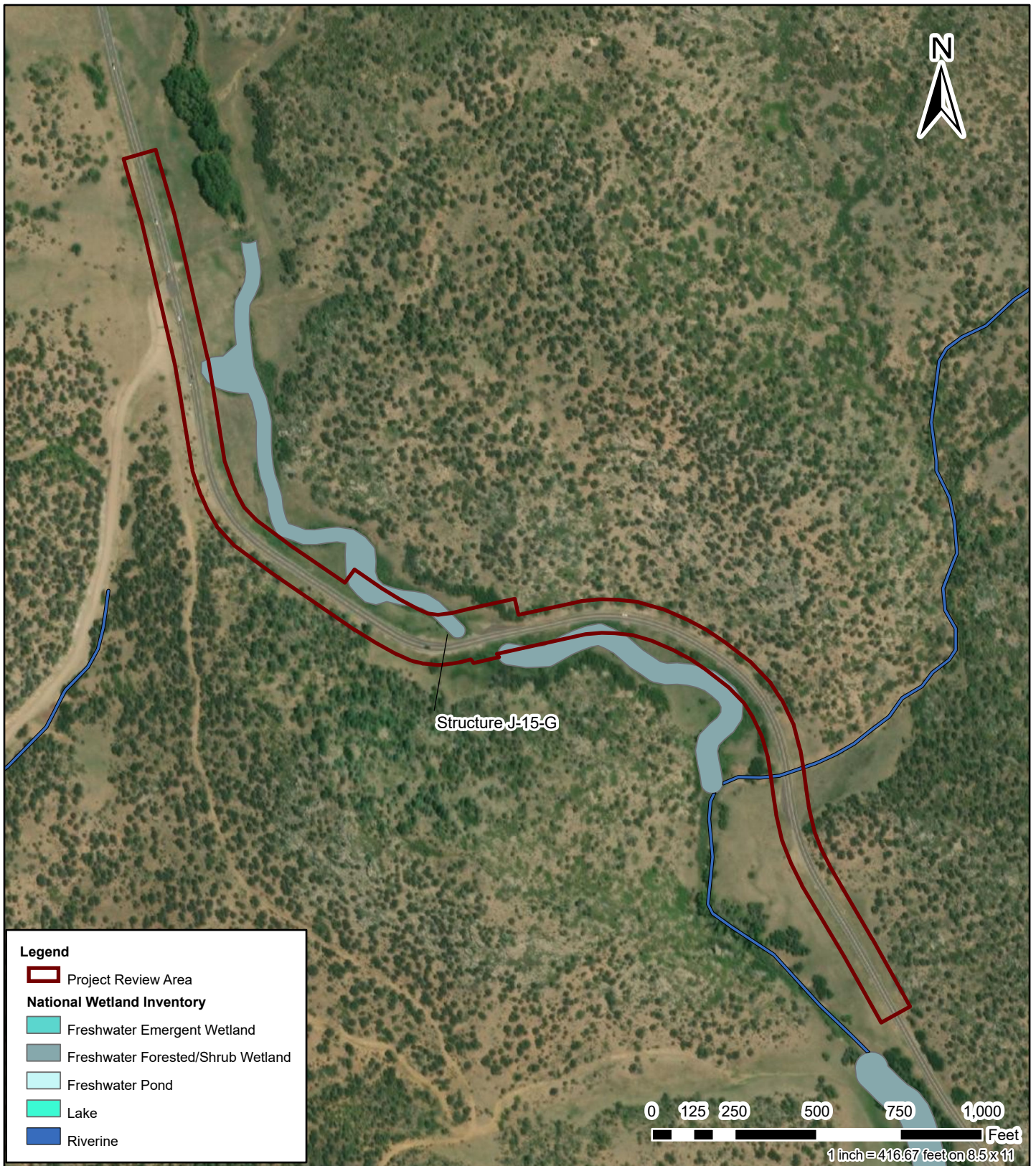
**Figure 2**  
 Project Review Area

Data Source: Stanley Consultants, Inc., CDOT  
 Image Source: ArcGIS Online, World Imagery,  
 BLM Energy, Minerals & Realty Management



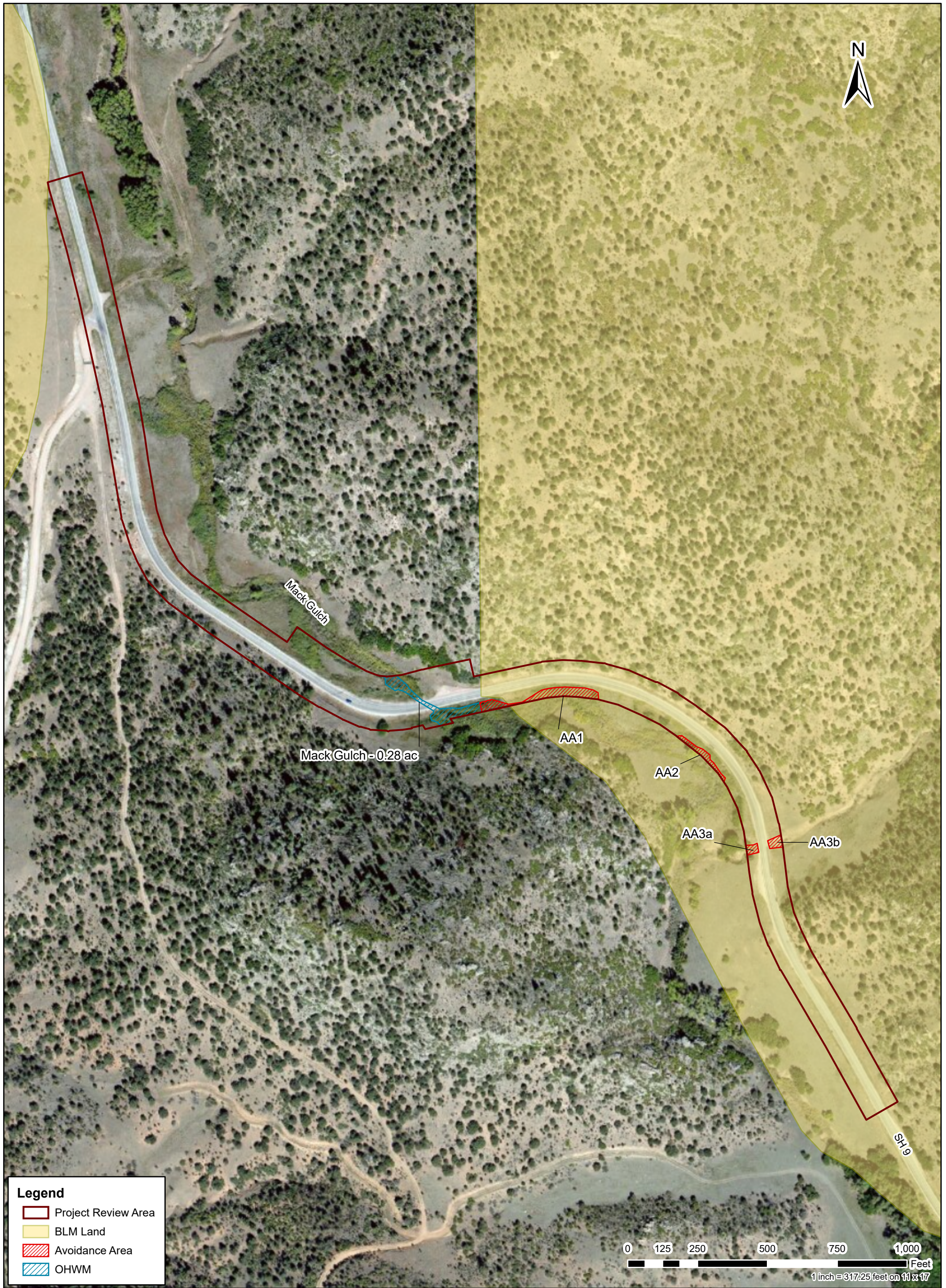
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 Region 2 Bridge Rebuild Project - Bridge J-15-G  
 Desktop Analysis for Sensitive Environmental Resources

**Figure 3**  
 Wildlife Linkages and Roadkill Records



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 Region 2 Bridge Rebuild Project - Bridge J-15-G  
 Desktop Analysis for Sensitive Environmental Resources

**Figure 4**  
 Aquatic Resources



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 Region 2 Bridge Rebuild Project - Bridge J-15-G  
 Desktop Analysis for Sensitive Environmental Resources

**Figure 5**  
 Potential Waters of the U.S.

## **Attachment A**

Information for Planning and Conservation  
(IPaC) Query

# IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

## Location


Fremont County, Colorado



## Local office

Colorado Ecological Services Field Office

☎ (303) 236-4773

 (303) 236-4005

MAILING ADDRESS

Denver Federal Center  
P.O. Box 25486  
Denver, CO 80225-0486

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

134 Union Boulevard, Suite 670  
Lakewood, CO 80228-1807

<http://www.fws.gov/coloradoES>

<http://www.fws.gov/platteriver>

NOT FOR CONSULTATION



# Endangered species

**This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.**

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population, even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species<sup>1</sup> and their critical habitats are managed by the [Ecological Services Program](#) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries<sup>2</sup>).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact [NOAA Fisheries](#) for [species under their jurisdiction](#).

- 
1. Species listed under the [Endangered Species Act](#) are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the [listing status page](#) for more information.
  2. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department

of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

## Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Canada Lynx <i>Lynx canadensis</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3652">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3652</a>	Threatened

## Birds

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Black Rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477</a>	Threatened
Mexican Spotted Owl <i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8196">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8196</a>	Threatened

## Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS AT THIS LOCATION.

## Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act<sup>1</sup> and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act<sup>2</sup>.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described [below](#).

1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern <http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationwidestandardconservationmeasures.pdf>

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the [USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern](#) (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ [below](#). This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the [E-bird data mapping tool](#) (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found [below](#).

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME

BREEDING SEASON (IF A BREEDING SEASON IS INDICATED FOR A BIRD ON YOUR LIST, THE BIRD MAY BREED IN YOUR PROJECT AREA SOMETIME WITHIN THE TIMEFRAME SPECIFIED, WHICH IS A VERY LIBERAL ESTIMATE OF THE DATES INSIDE WHICH THE BIRD BREEDS ACROSS ITS ENTIRE RANGE. "BREEDS ELSEWHERE"

INDICATES THAT THE BIRD  
DOES NOT LIKELY BREED IN  
YOUR PROJECT AREA.)

<p><b>Golden Eagle</b> <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680</a></p>	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31
<p><b>Lewis's Woodpecker</b> <i>Melanerpes lewis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9408">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9408</a></p>	Breeds Apr 20 to Sep 30
<p><b>Olive-sided Flycatcher</b> <i>Contopus cooperi</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914</a></p>	Breeds May 20 to Aug 31
<p><b>Pinyon Jay</b> <i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9420">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9420</a></p>	Breeds Feb 15 to Jul 15
<p><b>Rufous Hummingbird</b> <i>selasphorus rufus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8002">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8002</a></p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p><b>Virginia's Warbler</b> <i>Vermivora virginiae</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9441">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9441</a></p>	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31

## Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

### Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is  $0.25/0.25 = 1$ ; at week 20 it is  $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$ .
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

### Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

### Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

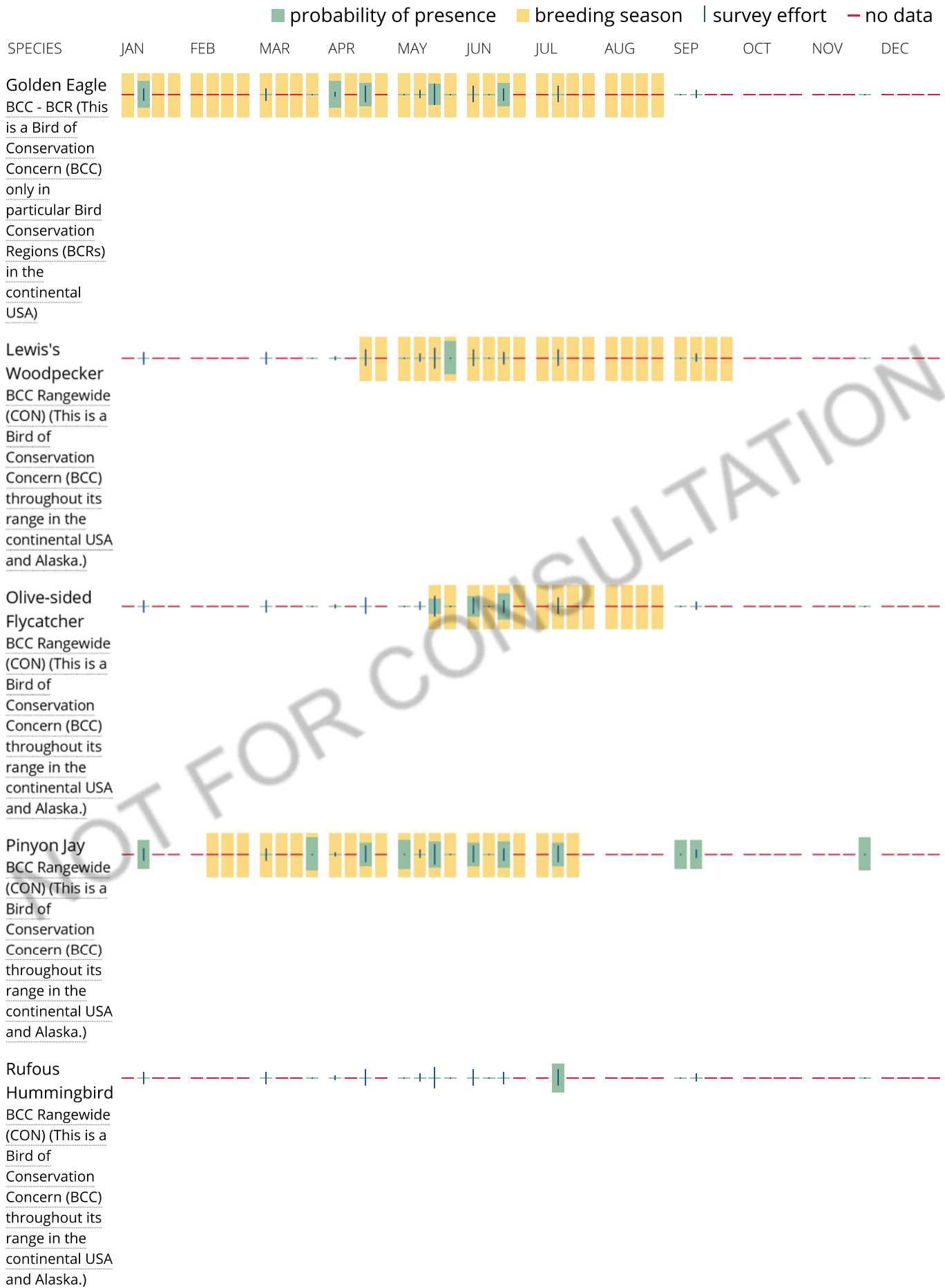
To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

### No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

### Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



Virginia's  
Warbler  
BCC Rangewide  
(CON) (This is a  
Bird of  
Conservation  
Concern (BCC)  
throughout its  
range in the  
continental USA  
and Alaska.)



## Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

[Nationwide Conservation Measures](#) describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. [Additional measures](#) and/or [permits](#) may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

## What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle ([Eagle Act](#) requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the [AKN Phenology Tool](#).

## What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). This data is derived from a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#).

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

## How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, migrating or present year-round in my project area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may refer to the following resources: [The Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds Bird Guide](#), or (if you are unsuccessful in locating the bird of interest there), the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology Neotropical Birds guide](#). If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

## What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are [Birds of Conservation Concern](#) (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the [Eagle Act](#) requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

## Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the [Northeast Ocean Data Portal](#). The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the [NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf](#) project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the [Diving Bird Study](#) and the [nanotag studies](#) or contact [Caleb Spiegel](#) or [Pam Loring](#).

## What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to [obtain a permit](#) to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.



## Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

## Facilities

### National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS AT THIS LOCATION.

### Fish hatcheries

THERE ARE NO FISH HATCHERIES AT THIS LOCATION.

## Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

This location overlaps the following wetlands:

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

[PSS1A](#)

RIVERINE

[R4SBA](#)

[R3UBG](#)

A full description for each wetland code can be found at the [National Wetlands Inventory website](#)

#### Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

#### Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tubercid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

### Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

## **Attachment B**

### Colorado BLM Sensitive Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Designation of other agencies: CNHP Global and State Ranking: G_/ S_; Forest Service Sensitive: FS; Colorado Parks and Wildlife: SGCN Tier_, and State Listed S_.	Occurrence in BLM Districts/ Field Offices/NLCS Units					
			Northwest Dist.		Southwest Dist.		Front Range Dist.	
			FO	NLCS	FO	NLCS	FO	NLCS
<b>MAMMALS</b>								
Townsend's big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens</i>	G3G4T3T4/S2, FS, SGCN Tier 1, SC	GJ, CRV, WR	DENCA, MCNCA	TR, UN	CANM, DENCA, GGNCA	SLV, RG	BC
Gunnison's prairie dog	<i>Cynomys gunnisoni</i>	G5/S5, FS, SGCN Tier 1			GN, TR, UN		SLV, RG	BC
White-tailed prairie dog	<i>Cynomys leucurus</i>	G4/S4, FS, SGCN Tier 1	GJ, K, LS, WR	DENCA	UN	DENCA, GGNCA		
Black-tailed prairie dog	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>	G4/S3, FS, SGCN Tier 1, SC					RG	
Spotted bat	<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	G4/S2, FS, SGCN Tier 1	CRV, GJ, LS, WR	DENCA	TR, UN	CANM, DENCA, GGNCA	SLV	
Allen's (Mexican) big-eared bat	<i>Idionycteris phyllotis</i>	G4/S2S3, FS, SGCN Tier 2			TR, UN	CANM	SLV	
Fringed myotis	<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	G4/S3, FS, SGCN Tier 1	GJ, CRV, WR	DENCA	TR, UN	CANM, DENCA, GGNCA	RG, SLV	BC
Rocky mountain bighorn sheep	<i>Ovis canadensis</i>	G4S4, SGCN Tier 2	K, GJ, CRV		UN GU TR	GGNCA	SLV RG	BC
Desert bighorn sheep	<i>Ovis canadensis nelsoni</i>	G4T4; FS, SGCN Tier 2	GJ	DENCA MCNCA	TR, UN	DENCA,		
Kit fox	<i>Vulpes macrotis</i>	G4/S1, FS, SGCN Tier 1, SE	GJ	DENCA MCNCA	UN	DENCA, GGNCA		
Swift fox	<i>Vulpes velox</i>	G3/S3, FS, SGCN Tier 1, SC					RG, SLV	
<b>BIRDS</b>								

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Please contact Carol Dawson for information and access if needed.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Designation of other agencies: CNHP Global and State Ranking: G_/ S_; Forest Service Sensitive: FS; Colorado Parks and Wildlife: SGCN Tier_, and State Listed S_.	Occurrence in BLM Districts/ Field Offices/NLCS Units					
			Northwest Dist.		Southwest Dist.		Front Range Dist.	
			FO	NLCS	FO	NLCS	FO	NLCS
Northern goshawk	<i>Accipter gentilis</i>	G5/S3B, FS, SGCN Tier 1	GJ, CRV, K, LS, WR		GN, TR, UN		SLV, RG	BC
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	G5/S3S4B, SGCN Tier 1, population stable, [ranking in other states: S4 in AZ, ID, NV, UT, WY]	GJ, CRV, K, LS, WR	MCNCA DENCA	GN, TR, UN	CANM, DENCA, GGNCA	SLV, RG	BC
Burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	G4/S4B, FS, ST, SGCN Tier 1	GJ, LS, WR, K	MCNCA DENCA	TR, UN GU	CANM, DENCA, GGNCA	SLV RG	BC
Ferruginous hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	G4/S3BS4N, FS, SGCN Tier 1, SC	GJ, LS, K, WR CRV	DENCA MCNCA	TR, UN GU	DENCA, GGNCA	SLV, RG	BC
Greater sage-grouse	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	<i>Federal Candidate</i> , G3G4/S4, FS, SGCN Tier 1, SC	GJ, CRV, K, LS, WR					
Western snowy plover (breeding only)	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	G3T3/S1B, SGCN Tier 1, SC					SLV, RG	
Mountain plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	G3/S2B, FS, SGCN Tier 1, SC	LS, K, WR	MCNCA			SLV, RG	
Black swift	<i>Cypseloides niger</i>	G4/S3B, FS, SGCN Tier 2	CRV		GN, TR		SLV	

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Designation of other agencies: CNHP Global and State Ranking: G_/ S_; Forest Service Sensitive: FS; Colorado Parks and Wildlife: SGCN Tier_, and State Listed S_.	Occurrence in BLM Districts/ Field Offices/NLCS Units						
			Northwest Dist.		Southwest Dist.		Front Range Dist.		
			FO	NLCS	FO	NLCS	FO	NLCS	
American peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	G4T4/S2B, FS, SGCN Tier 1, SC	LS, CRV, WR, K, GJ	DENCA, MCNCA	TR, UN, GU	CANM, DENCA, GGNCA	SLV, RG	BC	
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	G5/S1B/S3N, FS, SGCN Tier 1, SC	GJ, CRV, LS, WR, K	MCNCA, DENCA	GN, TR, UN	DENCA, GGNCA, CANM	SLV, RG	BC	
Long-billed curlew (breeding only)	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	G5/S2B, FS, SGCN Tier 1, SC					SLV, RG		
White-faced ibis (breeding only)	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	G5/S2B, SGCN Tier 2					SLV, RG		
American white pelican (breeding only)	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	G4/S1B, SGCN Tier 2, population stable					SLV, RG		
Brewer's sparrow	<i>Spizella berweri</i>	G5/S4B, SGCN Tier 1	GJ, K, LS, WR, CRV	DENCA, MCNCA	GN, TR, UN	CANM, DENCA, GGNCA	SLV, RG	BC	
Columbian sharp-tailed grouse	<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus columbian</i>	G4T3/S2, FS, SGCN Tier 1, population trend stable, SC [ranking in other states: S1 in ID, NV, OR, and WY]	LS, WR, K, CRV		TR,				
<b>FISH</b>									
Bluehead sucker	<i>Catostomus discobolus</i>	G4/S4, FS, SGCN Tier 2	GJ, CRV, K, LS, WR	DENCA, MCNCA	TR, UN	CANM, DENCA, GGNCA			

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Designation of other agencies: CNHP Global and State Ranking: G_/ S_; Forest Service Sensitive: FS; Colorado Parks and Wildlife: SGCN Tier_, and State Listed S_.	Occurrence in BLM Districts/ Field Offices/NLCS Units						
			Northwest Dist.		Southwest Dist.		Front Range Dist.		
			FO	NLCS	FO	NLCS	FO	NLCS	
Flannelmouth sucker	<i>Catostomas latipinnis</i>	G3G4/S3, FS, SGCN Tier 2	GJ, CRV, K, LS, WR	DENCA MCNCA	TR, UN	CANM, DENCA, GGNCA			
Mountain sucker	<i>Catostomas platyrhynchus</i>	G5/S2?, FS, SGCN Tier 2, SC	CRV, LS, WR						
Rio Grande sucker	<i>Catostomus plebeius</i>	G3G4/S1, FS, SGCN Tier 1, SE					SLV		
Arkansas darter	<i>Etheostoma cragini</i>	<i>Federal Candidate</i> , G3G4/S2, SGCN Tier 1, ST					RG		
Rio Grande chub	<i>Gila pandora</i>	G3/S1?, FS, SGCN Tier 1, SC					SLV		
Roundtail chub	<i>Gila robusta</i>	G3/ S2, FS, SGCN Tier 1, SC	GJ, CRV, LS, WR	DENCA MCNCA	TR, UN	CANM, DENCA, GGNCA			
Colorado River cutthroat trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarki pleuriticus</i>	G4T3/S3, FS, SGCN Tier 1, SC	GJ, CRV, K, LS, WR	DENCA	GN, TR, UN	DENCA, GGNCA			
Rio Grande cutthroat trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarki virginalis</i>	G4T3/S3, FS, SGCN Tier 1, SC					SLV,		
<b>REPTILES</b>									
Midget faded rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus viridis concolor</i>	G5T4/S3?, SGCN Tier 2, SC	GJ, CRV, LS, WR	DENCA MCNCA	UN, TR	DENCA, GGNCA			
Longnose leopard lizard	<i>Gambelia wislizenii</i>	G5/S1, SGCN Tier 2, SC	GJ	MCNCA	TR, UN	CANM			
Common kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis getula</i>	G5/S1, SGCN Tier 2, SC					RG		
Massasauga	<i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>	G3G4/S2, FS, SGCN Tier 1, SC					RG		

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Designation of other agencies: CNHP Global and State Ranking: G_/ S_; Forest Service Sensitive: FS; Colorado Parks and Wildlife: SGCN Tier_, and State Listed S_.	Occurrence in BLM Districts/ Field Offices/NLCS Units					
			Northwest Dist.		Southwest Dist.		Front Range Dist.	
			FO	NLCS	FO	NLCS	FO	NLCS
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>								
Northern cricket frog	<i>Acris crepitans</i>	G5/SH, SGCN Tier 2, SC					RG	
Boreal toad	<i>Anaxyrus boreas boreas</i>	G4T1Q/S1, FS, SGCN Tier 1, SE,	LS, WR CRV KR		GN, TR		SLV RG	BC
Canyon treefrog	<i>Hyla arenicolor</i>	G5/ S2, SGCN Tier 2	GJ	DENCA MCNCA	TR, UN	DENCA, GGNCA		
Plain's leopard frog	<i>Rana blairi</i>	G5/S3, FS, SGCN Tier 1, SC					RG	
Northern leopard frog	<i>Rana pipiens</i>	G5/S3, FS, SGCN Tier 1, SC	GJ, CRV, K, LS, WR	DENCA MCNCA	TR, UN GN	DENCA, GGNCA CANM	RG, SLV	BC
<b>INVERTEBRATES</b>								
Butterfly, Great Basin silverspot	<i>Speyeria nokomis nokomis</i>	G3T1/S1, FS, SGCN Tier 2	GJ		TR, UN			
<b>PLANTS</b>								
Narrow-stem gilia	<i>Aliciella stenothyrsa</i> ( <i>Gilia stenothyrsa</i> )	G3/S1	GJ, WR					
Jones' bluestar	<i>Amsonia jonesii</i>	G4/S1	GJ	MCNCA	TR			
Rydberg's golden columbine	<i>Aquilegia chrysantha</i> var. <i>rydbergii</i>	G4T1/S1; FS					RG	
Crandall's rockcress	<i>Arabis crandallii</i> ( <i>Boechera crandallii</i> )	G4/S2			UN		RG	BC
Dwarf milkweed	<i>Asclepias uncialis</i>	G3G4/T2T3/S2; FS					RG	
Gunnison milkvetch	<i>Astragalus anisus</i>	G3/G2			GN			
DeBeque milkvetch	<i>Astragalus debequaeus</i>	G2/S2	GJ, CRV					
Horseshoe milkvetch	<i>Astragalus equisolensis</i>	G5T1/S1	GJ					
Debris milkvetch	<i>Astragalus detritalis</i>	G3/S2	WR					

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Designation of other agencies: CNHP Global and State Ranking: G_/ S_; Forest Service Sensitive: FS; Colorado Parks and Wildlife: SGCN Tier_, and State Listed S_.	Occurrence in BLM Districts/ Field Offices/NLCS Units						
			Northwest Dist.		Southwest Dist.		Front Range Dist.		
			FO	NLCS	FO	NLCS	FO	NLCS	
Duchesne milkvetch	<i>Astragalus duchesnensis</i>	G3/S1S2	LS, WR						
Grand Junction milkvetch	<i>Astragalus linifolius</i>	G3Q/S3	GJ	DENCA	UN	DENCA			
Skiff milkvetch	<i>Astragalus microcymbus</i>	G1/S1 Federal candidate			GN				
Ferron's milkvetch	<i>Astragalus musiniensis</i>	G3/S1	GJ						
Naturita milkvetch	<i>Astragalus naturitensis</i>	G2G3/S2S3	GJ, CRV	DENCA	TR, UN	DENCA			
Fisher milkvetch	<i>Astragalus piscator</i>	G2G3	GJ						
San Rafael milkvetch	<i>Astragalus rafaensis</i>	G3Q/S1	GJ		UN				
Ripley's milkvetch	<i>Astragalus ripleyi</i>	G3/S2; FS					SLV		
Sandstone milkvetch	<i>Astragalus sesquiflorus</i>	G3/S1?			UN				
Grand Junction suncup	<i>Camissonia eastwoodiae</i>	G2/S1	GJ	MCNCA					
Slender spiderflower	<i>Cleome multicaulis</i>	G2G3/S2S3					SLV		
Crescent bugseed	<i>Corispermum navicula</i>	G1?/S1	K						
Tufted cryptantha	<i>Cryptantha caespitosa</i> ( <i>Oreocarya caespitosa</i> )	G3/S2	LS, WR						
Gypsum Valley cateye	<i>Oreocarya revealii</i>	G2/S2	GJ		TR				
Osterhout's cryptantha	<i>Cryptantha osterhoutii</i> ( <i>Oreocarya osterhoutii</i> )	G3/S1S2	GJ	MCNCA	GN				
Rollins' cryptantha	<i>Cryptantha rollinsii</i> ( <i>Oreocarya rollinsii</i> )	G4/S2	WR						
Fragile rockbrake	<i>Cryptogramma stelleri</i>	G5/S2	K		TR		SLV		
Uinta Basin springparsley	<i>Cymopterus duchesnensis</i>	G3/S1	LS						
Kachina fleabane	<i>Erigeron kachinensis</i>	G2/S1	GJ		TR				
Singlestem buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum acaule</i>	G3/S1	LS						
Brandegge's buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum brandegeei</i>	G1G2/S1S2; FS					RG	BC	
Comb Wash buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum clavellatum</i>	G2/S1			TR				
Colorado buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum coloradense</i>	G3/S2			GN		RG		

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Designation of other agencies: CNHP Global and State Ranking: G_/ S_; Forest Service Sensitive: FS; Colorado Parks and Wildlife: SGCN Tier_, and State Listed S_.	Occurrence in BLM Districts/ Field Offices/NLCS Units					
			Northwest Dist.		Southwest Dist.		Front Range Dist.	
			FO	NLCS	FO	NLCS	FO	NLCS
Grand buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum contortum</i>	G3/S2	GJ	MCNCA				
Ephedra buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum ephedroides</i>	G3/S1	WR					
Woodside buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum tumulosum</i>	G3Q/S2	LS					
Clay hill buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum viridulum</i>	G4Q/S1	LS					
Tufted frasera	<i>Frasera paniculata</i>	G4/S1	GJ					
Cathedral Bluff dwarf gentian	<i>Gentianella tortuosa</i>	G3/S1	WR					
Lone Mesa snakeweed	<i>Gutierrezia elegans</i>	G1/S1			TR			
Piceance bladderpod	<i>Physaria parviflora</i>	G2/S2	GJ, WR					
Pagosa Springs bladderpod	<i>Physaria pruinosa</i>	G2/S2; FS			TR			
Uncompaghe bladderpod	<i>Physaria vicina</i>	G2/S2		DENCA	UN	DENCA, GGNCA		
Adobe desertparsley	<i>Lomatium concinnum</i>	G2G3/S2S3			UN	GGNCA		
Canyonlands biscuitroot	<i>Lomatium latilobum</i> ( <i>Aletes latilobus</i> )	G1/S1	GJ	MCNCA				
Paradox lupine	<i>Lupinus crassus</i>	G2/S2			UN			
Dolores River skeletonplant	<i>Lygodesmia grandiflora</i> var. <i>doloresensis</i>	G1G2/S1S2	GJ	MCNCA	TR			
Gold blazingstar	<i>Mentzelia chrysantha</i> ( <i>Nuttallia chrysantha</i> )	G2/S2					RG	
Royal Gorge blazingstar	<i>Mentzelia densa</i> ( <i>Nuttallia densa</i> )	G2/S2					RG	
Roan cliffs blazingstar	<i>Mentzelia rhizomata</i> ( <i>Nuttallia argillosa</i> , <i>Mentzelia argillosa</i> )	G2/S2	GJ, CRV					
Rock-loving neoparrya	<i>Neoparrya lithophila</i> ( <i>Aletes lithophilus</i> )	G3/S3; FS					SLV, RG	
Flaming Gorge evening	<i>Oenothera acutissima</i>	G2/S2	LS,					

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			Northwest Dist.		Southwest Dist.		Front Range Dist.		
			FO	NLCS	FO	NLCS	FO	NLCS	
primrose			WR						
Bessey locoweed	<i>Oxytropis besseyi</i> var. <i>obnapiformis</i>	G5T2/S2	WR						
Few-flower ragwort	<i>Packera pauciflora</i>	G4G5/S1S2						RG	
Colorado feverfew	<i>Parthenium ligulatum</i> ( <i>Bolophyta ligulata</i> )	G3/S2	LS, WR						
Aromatic Indian breadroot	<i>Pediomelum aromaticum</i>	G3/S2	GJ	MCNCA	TR, UN				
Degener's beardtongue	<i>Penstemon degeneri</i>	G2/S2						RG	
Gibbens' beardtongue	<i>Penstemon gibbensii</i>	G1G2/S1	LS						
Graham's beardtongue	<i>Penstemon grahamii</i>	G2/S1	WR						
Harrington's beardtongue	<i>Penstemon harringtonii</i>	G3/S3; FS	CRV, K						
White River beardtongue	<i>Penstemon scariosus</i> var. <i>albifluvis</i>	G4T1/S1	WR						
Yampa beardtongue	<i>Penstemon acaulis</i> var. <i>yampaensis</i> ( <i>Penstemon yampaensis</i> )	G3T2/S2	LS						
Cushion bladderpod	<i>Physaria pulvinata</i>	G1/S1			TR				
Pale blue-eyed grass	<i>Sisyrinchium pallidum</i>	G2G3/S2	K					RG, SLV	
Rock tansy	<i>Sphaeromeria capitata</i>	G3/S1	LS						
Cathedral Bluff meadow- rue	<i>Thalictrum heliophilum</i>	G2/S2, FS	GJ, CRV, WR						
Hairy Townsend daisy	<i>Townsendia strigosa</i>	G4/S1	LS, GJ						
Rolland's bulrush	<i>Trichophroum pumilum</i> ( <i>Scirpus rollandii</i> )	G5/S2			GN			RG	

\*Field Offices:

CRV = Colorado River Valley

GJ = Grand Junction

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Attachment 1

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GN = Gunnison  
K = Kremmling  
LS = Little Snake  
RG = Royal Gorge  
SLV = San Luis Valley  
TR = Tres Rios  
UN = Uncompahgre  
WR = White River

\*NLCS Units:

BC – Browns Canyon National Monument  
CANM = Canyons of the Ancients NM  
DENCA = Dominguez-Escalante NCA  
GGNCA = Gunnison Gorge NCA  
MCNCA = McInnis Canyons NCA

## **Attachment C**

### **Preliminary Bat Assessment Guidelines for Bridges/Structures**

## APPENDIX B: Bridge Assessment Guidance

### FHWA/State DOT/FRA

## Preliminary Bat Assessment Guidelines for Bridges/Structures

#### DOT Environmental Division

*Adapted from the Indiana Department of Transportation 2010 Bridge Inspection Manual and the Bernardin, Lochmueller and Associates 2007 document.*

The guidelines in this document describe favorable characteristics of bridges/structures that may provide habitat for many bat species and preliminary indicators intended to determine if any bat species are using bridges/structures.

Individuals conducting reviews for bats must use the Bridge Assessment Form and must include a copy of the completed form in their project file. Individuals assessing bridges/structures should employ appropriate safety measures in conducting these reviews and avoid touching any bats. Recommended equipment include a flashlight (preferably a headlamp), hard hat, binoculars or spotting scope, digital camera, check list and a fine- to medium-point permanent marker or pen. It is advisable that individuals also consider having a dust mask, cellular phone, and boots if access beneath structures is desired. Easily removed, protective coveralls may be advisable if access requires crawling.

Bridge/Structure assessments conducted pursuant to the range-wide programmatic consultation are valid for one year from the date of the assessment. If a mist net or acoustic survey is used in place of the Bridge/Structure assessment protocols those surveys are typically valid for two years, but agencies should verify with the appropriate U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Field Office. There is no requirement for a follow-up evaluation seven days prior to beginning construction provided the assessment or survey follows the required protocols.

#### **Favorable Characteristics**

##### **Cracks in Concrete**

Cracks in the concrete are used by bats as a foothold in roosting (Photo 1). In addition, some bats may be hidden from sight in wider cracks in the concrete and behind deteriorating concrete sections in the ceiling or walls. Look for cracking along support beams and inner walls especially below a fillet (a concrete filling between ceiling and vertical beam). During inspection, sounds may be heard coming from behind such cracks and/or expansion joints.

##### **Expansion Joints (Bridges)**

Expansion joints can provide protected cover for bats (Photos 2 and 3), but do not always provide habitat, depending upon whether they are obstructed by road debris or other blockages to use. If possible during the assessment, individuals should look into expansion joints or in other cracks with a flashlight. If joints are used by bats, often there will be guano under the joints (Photos 4-6), but not always, since the joint may be located over water.

### **Cave-like Environment**

While assessing bridges or structures, look for dark environments that mimic cave-like conditions such as under the deck in the case of a bridge (Photos 12 and 13) or an attic in the case of a structure. This may involve crawling under low areas so a hard hat is recommended. Such places (e.g., a concrete bunker secreted into a hillside with an open front) provide protection from wind, rain, sleet, hail and predators. Bats do not roost near the ground where predators (cats, raccoons, etc.) can reach them. Roosting is usually at least 4 feet from the ground.

### **Large Rivers in Wide Floodplains (Bridges)**

Many concrete bridges that span larger rivers in wide floodplains offer excellent areas for roosting, although bats are not restricted to using these sites. These areas tend to have an ample food supply and may also serve as historic flyways for bats during migration (i.e., March-May and September-November). These bridges may also offer opportunities for mating in late fall.

### **Preliminary Indicators of Bat Presence**

The four indicators presented here document physical observations that can easily be made for individual structures. Each of these indicators should be considered on its own merits and the presence of even one of these on a bridge is enough documentation to confirm bat usage. If questions arise regarding interpretation of these indicators, individuals should contact the District Environmental Manager for clarification or assistance. (NOTE: Some of these indicators, visual and sound, will not be present during normal hibernation periods, as bats do not hibernate under bridges. Hibernation usually occurs between September and May, but contact your local USFWS Field Office for exact dates.)

#### **Visual**

Look for bats flying or roosting (hanging) during the assessment (Photo 1, 2, & 8). A flashlight or headlamp will be needed and binoculars may be necessary when viewing higher areas. If bats are present; record numbers as best as possible and their locations. Note any dead or injured bats. A sketch map would be helpful (can use bridge plan sheet as base for sketch). Thermal infrared cameras or emergence surveys can be used to document bat use.

Use of presence/absence summer surveys may also be used if the following apply:

- A presence/absence summer survey is already necessary because there will be tree removal associated with the project. The results of the presence/absence summer survey for a near-by project is not sufficient. The survey should be specific for the project in question.
- Survey points over water/edge of water (if there is a small stream) should be incorporated in the study plan.
- Survey points should be identified first based on the habitat on site then, if a point is not within 0.25 miles of a bridge, an additional level-of-effort is necessary. Either a survey point should be added within 0.25 miles, or the previous mentioned techniques (bridge inspection, emergence survey, thermal infrared cameras) should be used.
- The Service Field Office is required to review the survey SOW.
- If the bridge is within a known maternity colony home range a bridge assessment is required.



**Sound**

Listen for high pitched squeaking or chirping during the assessment and identify location(s) for later examination by DOT staff. This may be helpful in locating bats within deep cracks or open joints. A sketch map would be helpful.

**Droppings (Guano)**

Bat droppings are small (mouse-like in appearance but less regular) brown or black pellets (Photos 6 - 8). Older droppings may be gray in color. These droppings will accumulate on the ground, floor of a covered bridge or on structural components below where bats roost. Droppings may also adhere to support beams and walls below roosts.

Note bat droppings and their location. Check under likely roosting spots such as cracks, cave-like areas, and expansion joints. If guano is present, the inspector may wish to wear a dust mask. Also, it is advisable to wear rubber boots to minimize tracking of any guano into vehicle(s) and other places.

**Staining**

Stains may appear wet and are usually found in dark places. Look for four to six inch wide dark stains located on concrete support beams and walls immediately below the ceiling of the bridge, and beneath joints (Photos 8 - 11).

Literature Cited

Bernardin, Lochmueller, and Associates, Inc. 2007. Bridge Inspection Checklist for Bats. Unpublished. Evansville, Indiana.

Indiana Department of Transportation. 2012. INDOT Bridge Inspection Manual. Indiana. Available from: [http://www.in.gov/dot/div/contracts/standards/bridge/inspector\\_manual/index.htm](http://www.in.gov/dot/div/contracts/standards/bridge/inspector_manual/index.htm).

Keeley, Brian W. and Merlin D. Tuttle. 1999. Bats in American Bridges. Bat Conservation International, Inc., Austin, TX. Resource Publication No. 4, 41 pp.

**Photos \***



Photo 1: Bats hanging from cracks along Support beams



Photo 2: Visible bats within an expansion joint



Photo 3: Example of open concrete joint used by bats



Photo 4: Guano deposits visible from bridge deck, on top of pier



Photo 5: Guano deposit on pier, obscuring structural features.



Photo 6: Bat Guano on Riprap



Photo 7: Staining along longitudinal joint. Note guano deposits on the ground. Photo 8: Staining on underside of expansion joint from bat use.



Photo 9: Staining on sides of pier caps



Photo 10: Guano staining on side of pier



Photo 11: Bats Roosting & Associated Staining



Photo 12 and 13: Bridge Design Mimicking “Cave-like” Atmosphere



Photo 14: NLEBs Roosting Under a Timber Decked Bridge

\* Photos courtesy of Tom Cervone, Bernardin, Lochmueller and Associates, Jeff Gore, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Rick Reynolds, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and Kraig McPeck, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

## APPENDIX D: Bridge/Structure Assessment Form

### Bridge Assessment Form

This form will be completed and submitted to the District Environmental Manager by the Contractor prior to conducting any work below the deck surface either from the underside, from activities above that bore down to the underside, or that could impact expansion joints, from deck removal on bridges, or from structure demolish. Each bridge/structure to be worked on must have a current bridge inspection. Any bridge/structure suspected of providing habitat for any species of bat will be removed from work schedules until such time that the DOT has obtained clearance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, if required. Additional studies may be undertaken by the DOT to determine what species may be utilizing structures prior to allowing any work to proceed.

DOT Project #	Water Body	Date/Time of Inspection
---------------	------------	-------------------------

Route:	County:	Federal Structure ID:	Bat Indicators				Notes: (e.g., number & species of bats, if known. Include the results of thermal, emergent, or presence/absence summer survey)
Check all that apply. Presence of one or more indicators is sufficient evidence that bats may be using the structure.							
			Visual	Sound	Droppings	Staining	

Areas Inspected (Check all that apply)

Bridges		Culverts/Other Structures		Summary Info (circle all that apply)			
All vertical crevices sealed at the top and 0.5-1.25" wide & ≥4" deep		Crevices, rough surfaces or imperfections in concrete		Human disturbance or traffic under bridge/in culvert or at the structure	High	Low	None
All crevices >12" deep & not sealed		Spaces between walls, ceiling joists		Possible corridors for netting	None/poor	Marginal	excellent

All guardrails				Evidence of bats using bird nests, if present?	Yes	No	
All expansion joints							
Spaces between concrete end walls and the bridge deck							
Vertical surfaces on concrete I-beams							

Assessment Conducted By: _____ _____	Signature(s): _____
District Environmental Use Only:	Date Received by District Environmental Manager: _____

**DOT Bat Assessment Form Instructions**

1. Assessments must be completed a minimum of 1 year prior to conducting any work below the deck surface on all bridges that meet the physical characteristics described in the Programmatic Informal Consultation, regardless of whether assessments have been conducted in the past. **Due to the transitory nature of bat use, a negative result in one year does not guarantee that bats will not use that structure in subsequent years.**
2. Legible copies of this document must be provided to the District Environmental Manager within two (2) business days of completing the assessment. Failure to submit this information will result in that structure being removed from the planned work schedule.
3. Any bridge/structure suspected of providing habitat for any species of bat will be removed from work schedules until such time that the DOT has obtained clearance from the USFWS, if required. Additional studies may be undertaken by the DOT to determine what species may be utilizing each structure identified as supporting bats prior to allowing any work to proceed.
4. Estimates of numbers of bats observed should be place in the Notes column.
5. Any questions should be directed to the District Environmental Manager.

## **Attachment D**

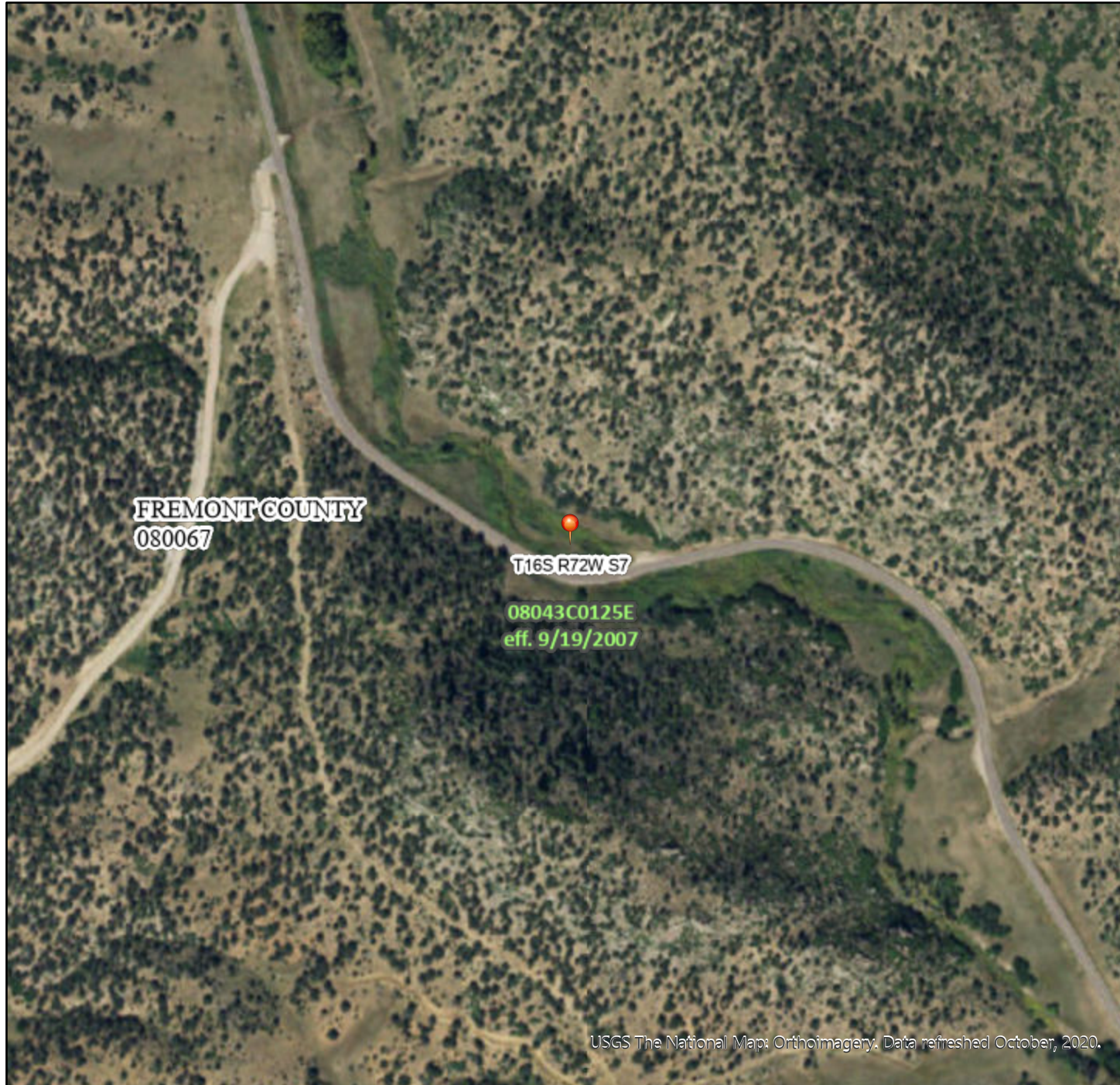
FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRMETTE)



# National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMMette



105°29'26"W 38°40'27"N



## Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS		Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) <i>Zone A, V, A99</i>
		With BFE or Depth <i>Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR</i>
		Regulatory Floodway
OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD		0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile <i>Zone X</i>
		Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard <i>Zone X</i>
		Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. <i>Zone X</i>
		Area with Flood Risk due to Levee <i>Zone D</i>
OTHER AREAS		NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard <i>Zone X</i>
		Effective LOMRs
GENERAL STRUCTURES		Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard <i>Zone D</i>
		Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer
		Levee, Dike, or Floodwall
OTHER FEATURES		20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance
		17.5 Water Surface Elevation
		Coastal Transect
		Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
		Limit of Study
		Jurisdiction Boundary
MAP PANELS		Coastal Transect Baseline
		Profile Baseline
		Hydrographic Feature
		Digital Data Available
		No Digital Data Available
		Unmapped

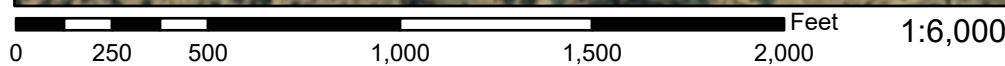
The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards

The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on **12/15/2020 at 3:40 PM** and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.

USGS The National Map: Orthoimagery. Data refreshed October, 2020.



105°28'49"W 38°39'59"N

## **Attachment E**

Photopages



**Photo 1.** Avoidance Area 1 (AA1) consists of a stretch of Mack Gulch that is located within the PRA but outside of the PIA.



**Photo 2.** Avoidance Area 2 (AA2) consists of a stretch of Mack Gulch that is located within the PRA but outside of the PIA. This photo is taken along the southern boundary of Mack Gulch, facing upstream, with SH 9 on the right side of the image.



**Photo 2.** Avoidance Area 3 (AA3a and AA3b) consists of an unnamed tributary that discharges in Mack Gulch downstream of the PRA.

## **Attachment F**

### Hazardous Waste Memorandum

<b>COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</b> <b>INITIAL SITE ASSESSMENT (ISA)</b>	Region: <b>2</b> Route ID:	Project No.: <b>29715</b> Project Code (SA#):
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**Project Description**

Project Name: <b>Bridge J-15-G</b>		
Milepost Begin: <b>15</b>	Milepost End: <b>16</b>	County: <b>Fremont</b>
Location: <b>CO Route 9</b>		
Main Project Elements: <b>Bridge/Culvert Replacement</b>		

**Project Features (Check if applies)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Structure Acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure Modification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure Demolition
<input type="checkbox"/> New ROW	<input type="checkbox"/> Easements	<input type="checkbox"/> Utility Relocation
<input type="checkbox"/> Excavation/Drilling	Disturbance depth (if known):           ft	<input type="checkbox"/> Dewatering
Gw Anticipated: <b>No</b>	Depth to gw (if known):           ft	Gw flow direction (if known):

**Records Review & Interview(s)**

The following records/sources were used in this assessment ('No' is implied if unchecked):

ASTM Standard Environmental Record Sources     OPS     CDPHE     CDOT Internal Database Date:  
 ASTM Standard Search Radii or  Modified Search Radii:  
 Previous Environmental Reports/CDOT Files:  
 Other Files/Databases (Assessor, Fire dept., Building, Planning, etc.): **Enviromapper, USGS TopoViewer**

Topographic Map(s)     Current – date:                     Historic – year(s): **1894, 1901, 1942, 1948, 1954, 1957, 1958, 1962, 1966, 1983, 1989, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019**

Aerial Photograph(s)     Current – date:                     Historic – year(s): **10/5/2019**

Sanborn Map(s) – year(s):  
 Local Street Directories – year(s):

Historic Land use(s) within the project area (if known): **Undeveloped land**

Interviews (Names/Title/Date/Comments): **N/A**

**Site Reconnaissance & Description**

Visual inspection conducted    Inspection Date: **8/30/2020**  
If 'No' document the reason:

Project area and land use(s) description:  
**Bridge and CDOT right-of-way, 2000 feet each side of the bridge**  
 Industrial     Light Industrial     Commercial     Residential     Agricultural     Undeveloped     Other:

Adjacent land use(s) description:  
**The surrounding area is generally undeveloped land**  
 Industrial     Light Industrial     Commercial     Residential     Agricultural     Undeveloped     Other:

**Potential Environmental Concerns on the immediate project area or directly adjacent to it**

(Select from dropdown menu – Yes, No, Expected, or Unknown)

Potential Environmental Concern	Project Area	Adjacent Area	Potential Environmental Concern	Project Area	Adjacent Area
Evidence of underground tanks (pipes, vents, fill caps, etc.)	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	Protected/fenced/placarded area(s)	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
Aboveground storage tank(s)	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	Liquid waste (pits, ponds, etc.)	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
Monitoring/water well(s)	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	Oil sheen (soil/water)	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
Electrical/transformer Equipment	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	Oil/gas well(s)	<b>No</b>	<b>no</b>

**Potential Environmental Concerns on the immediate project area or directly adjacent to it**  
 (Select from dropdown menu – Yes, No, Expected, or Unknown)

Potential Environmental Concern	Project Area	Adjacent Area	Potential Environmental Concern	Project Area	Adjacent Area
Cistern(s), sump(s) drain(s)	No	No	Mine tailings/waste	No	No
Barrel(s), drum(s), container(s)	No	No	Painted/preserved material(s)	No	No
Stockpile, surface trash, debris	No	No	Odor	No	No
Exposed/buried landfill	No	No	Chemical storage	No	No
Batteries	No	No	Suspect asbestos containing material	No	No
Surface staining	No	No	Suspected methamphetamine lab	No	No
Stressed vegetation	No	No			

**Findings/Conclusions:**

Are known hazardous or other waste sites on or adjacent to the project area, which may affect the project? **No**  
 Explain: **There are no known hazardous waste sites on or adjacent to the project area.**

**Recommendations:**

Materials Management Plan   
  Force Account   
  Modified CDOT Specification(s)   
  Additional Assessment/Investigation\*  
 Explain: **No additional investigations are recommended for this project area. Prior to any underground disturbance, a utility locate should be conducted to determine if any utilities are in the area.**

**\*Additional work must be approved by CDOT.**

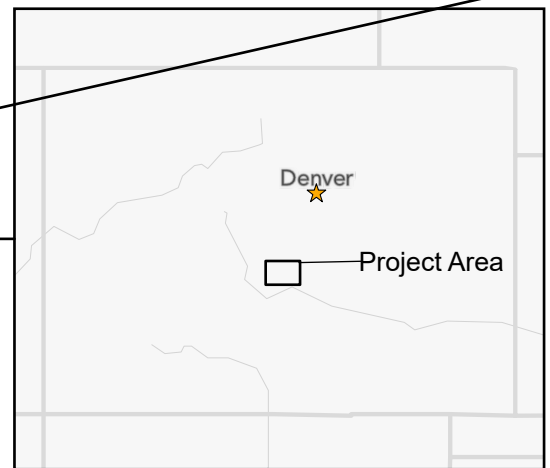
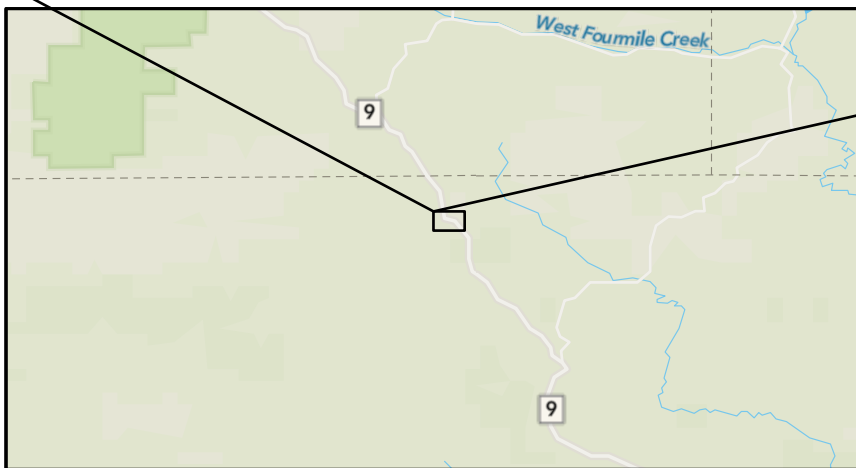
**Attachments:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Database Map	<b>No environmental concerns were identified in the environmental map search</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Modified CDOT Specification(s)	
<input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Note(s)	<b>Historical topographic maps, site location map</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maps & Figures	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agency File Data	

Completed by (Name and Title): **Jimmy Wiesbrock - Environmental Scientist**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Revised (if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

CDOT Environmental Project Manager Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 Region 2 Bridge Rebuild Project - Bridge J-15-G  
 Desktop Analysis for Sensitive Environmental Resources

**Figure 1**  
**Site Location Map**