



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

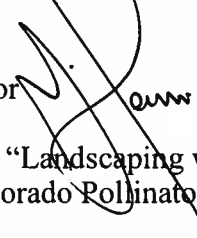
Office of Policy and Government Relations

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Denver, CO 80204

RELEASE MEMORANDUM

TO: All CDOT Employees

FROM: Michael P. Lewis, Executive Director 

RE: Updated Procedural Directive 503.1 "Landscaping with Colorado Native Plant Species and Managing the Colorado Pollinator Highway"

DATE: July 20, 2018

1. Name of Updated Procedural Directive: "Landscaping with Colorado Native Plant Species and Managing the Colorado Pollinator Highway"

2. Date of Directive this Revision Supersedes: March 11, 2016

3. Rationale for Updating Directive: Updated PD 503.1 now includes reference to House Joint Resolution 17-1029, which designated I-76 from mile marker 1 to 183 as the "Colorado Pollinator Highway." Pursuant to this House Joint Resolution, CDOT is managing the right-of-way to promote pollinator habitat on I-76. CDOT is also developing a statewide Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management program which will address pollinator habitat management for other highway corridors; it is intended that once the program is developed, the scope of this Procedural Directive may be broadened at that time.

4. Individuals/Entities/Projects Impacted by Procedural Directive: All employees and consultants who work on landscape development and the management of pollinator habitat.

5. PD 503.1 will be implemented by: Division of Transportation Development, Environmental Programs, and Division of Highway Maintenance.



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION		<input type="checkbox"/> POLICY DIRECTIVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PROCEDURAL DIRECTIVE
Subject Landscaping with Colorado Native Plant Species and Managing the Colorado Pollinator Highway		Number 503.1
Effective 7/20/18	Supersedes 03/11/16	Originating Office Division of Transportation Development / Environmental Programs

I. PURPOSE

This Procedural Directive is intended to provide direction to the Department in an effort to preserve the genetic integrity of Colorado Native Plant Species, conserve water, reduce lifecycle/maintenance costs on Colorado Department of Transportation projects, and preserve, protect, and enhance pollinator habitat along the right-of-way on I-76 from mile marker 1 to mile marker 183, designated the “Colorado Pollinator Highway.” In addition, the Department seeks to promote genetically appropriate plants that support self-sustaining dynamic ecosystems which are resistant to invasion by non-native or invasive species.

Regarding the management of pollinator habitats along other highway corridors, the intent of this Procedural Directive is to broaden its scope at the appropriate time and with management approval by expanding the number of highway corridors which will be managed to protect pollinator habitats. The Department is currently developing a statewide Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management program which, when developed, will afford an opportunity to update the Directive with further requirements for pollinator habitat management on other highway corridors.

II. AUTHORITY

Executive Director pursuant to § 43-1-105, C.R.S.

§ 23 C.F.R. 752.4

§ 23 C.F.R. 752.11

FHWA Executive Memorandum on Landscape – Guidance:
<http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/guidebook/documents/emldscp2.asp>

§ 37-96-101, *et seq.*, C.R.S., “State Projects Water Conservation in Landscaping Act”

§ 35-5.5-103(15), C.R.S., “Colorado Noxious Weed Act”

House Joint Resolution 17-1029 (Designating Interstate 76 as the “Colorado Pollinator Highway”)

III. APPLICABILITY

This Procedural Directive applies to all divisions, regions, offices and branches of CDOT. It also applies to consulting firms performing contracting work for CDOT as well as other state agencies and local agencies performing work under CDOT's authority, any entity that receives funding from CDOT for projects that are federally or state funded and any project on CDOT right-of-way.

IV. DEFINITIONS

"CDOT Landscape Architect" shall mean the CDOT employee in the Division of Transportation Development, Environmental Programs, who holds a current landscape architecture license from the State of Colorado, who oversees CDOT's responsibilities with regard to compliance with state and federal law, and who acts in an advisory capacity on all CDOT plantings and related topics.

"Colorado Native Plant Species" shall mean a native plant species that occurs naturally in a particular region of Colorado, or an ecosystem and/or habitat in Colorado, without direct or indirect human actions. *See* § 35-5.5-103(15), C.R.S.; FHWA Executive Memorandum on Landscape – Guidance.

V. REQUIREMENTS

A. Federal Requirements

1. Landscape development, which includes landscaping projects and other highway planting programs within the right-of-way of all federally funded highways or on adjoining scenic lands, shall be in general conformity with accepted concepts and principles of highway landscaping and environmental design.
2. Landscape development should have provisions for plant establishment periods of a duration sufficient for expected survival in the highway environment. Normal 1-year plant establishment periods may be extended to 3-year periods where survival is considered essential to their function, such as junkyard screening or urban landscaping projects.
3. In urban areas, new and major reconstructed highways and completed Interstate and expressway sections are to be landscaped as appropriate for the adjacent existing or planned environment.
4. In rural areas, new and major reconstructed highways should be landscaped as appropriate for the adjacent environment. Planning should include the opportunity for natural regeneration of native growth and the management of that growth.

B. Use of Colorado Native Plant Species

1. Colorado Native Plant Species shall be used on all CDOT Projects. This includes plants that are adapted to target site conditions and respond and adapt to changing climates and environment conditions and are not likely to be a source of non-native invasive pathogens. Colorado Native Plant Species shall also include the planting of native wildflowers pursuant to 23 C.F.R. § 752.4(e). Additionally, the seed mix can contain one non-native, non-invasive species as a cover crop.
2. CDOT personnel, consulting firms, state agencies and local agencies performing work under CDOT's authority are required to use Colorado Native Plant Species unless an agreement is reached with the CDOT Landscape Architect.
3. It is recommended that prior to Field Inspection Review ("FIR"), the designated engineer contact the CDOT Landscape Architect if information is needed as to which Colorado Native Plant Species must be used
4. If it is determined that Colorado Native Plant Species will not be utilized on a project, the CDOT Landscape Architect shall be consulted and approval must be obtained prior to the FIR.

C. Conservation of Water Resources

1. Wherever possible, plantings shall not require irrigation. Certain projects may require irrigated plantings. These projects are to be kept at a minimum and, where necessary, irrigation systems shall be designed to use the least amount of water. This shall be done through the use of low precipitation or drip irrigation systems.
2. All construction plans which include planting specifications and are scoped after the effective date of this Directive, as well as all staff maintenance activities, shall adhere to the requirements of this Procedural Directive. *See* § 37-96-101, C.R.S. (the "State Projects Water Conservation in Landscaping Act") for further guidance on water conservation.
3. If a local agency determines to not use Colorado Native Plant Species on a gateway project, other project, or within the terms of a landscape agreement, an agreement shall be put in place to memorialize that it is the local agency's responsibility to irrigate, maintain and provide water resources for the landscaping project.

D. Use of Compost, Fertilizers and Herbicides

1. In regard to fertilizers and herbicides, the Department shall aim to reduce the use of chemicals in the environment and increase the use of alternatives. *Source:* Executive Order 13148, "Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management," issued April 21, 2000.

2. The FHWA guidelines require that CDOT seek to reduce the use of chemicals in the environment and increase the use of alternatives, i.e. compost, mulches, and integrated pest management.

3. While elimination of chemical tools is not possible at this time, the CDOT Landscape Architect shall act as a resource to recommend the use of alternatives to fertilizer and herbicides as a best practice initiative where possible.

E. Landscaping Methods to Manage Pollinator Habitat

I-76 has been designated as the “Colorado Pollinator Highway” from mile marker 1 to mile marker 183 by the passage of House Joint Resolution 17-1029, and committed CDOT to improving roadside pollinator habitat. Accordingly, CDOT will manage pollinator habitat along the Colorado Pollinator Highway through maintenance methods contained in the CDOT Maintenance Manual.

VI. DOCUMENTS REFERENCED IN THIS PROCEDURAL DIRECTIVE

CDOT Form 463

CDOT Landscape Architecture Manual (as a reference to obtain recommended best practices)

CDOT Maintenance Manual

House Joint Resolution 17-1029 (Designating Interstate 76 as the “Colorado Pollinator Highway”)

VII. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This Procedural Directive shall be effective upon signature and shall apply to all construction plans that are scoped after the effective date.

The Office of Policy and Government Relations shall post this Procedural Directive on CDOT’s intranet as well as on public announcements.

VIII. REVIEW DATE

This Procedural Directive shall be reviewed on or before March 2023.



Michael P. Lewis
Executive Director



Date of Approval