



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Northeast Regional Office
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Denver, CO 80216
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October 8, 2019

Ms. Carrie DeJacommo-Wiedner, P.E.
Colorado Department of Transportation - Region 1
400 Inverness Parkway, Suite 410
Englewood, CO 80112

RE: CPW letter of support for the I-25 Colorado Springs Denver South Connection Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Dear Carrie,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is pleased to submit this letter of support for the Interstate 25 (I-25) Colorado Springs Denver South Connection PEL Study undertaken by Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for the I-25 corridor between the Town of Monument (State Highway [SH] 105) and the C/E-470 (Colorado/E Highway 470). I-25 between SH 105 and C/E-470 provides an essential travel link for residents, visitors, commuters, freight, and military personnel between the City of Colorado Springs and the City of Denver. There are also large tracts of private land and county open space, particularly in southern Douglas County, with conservation easements and management practices that provide significant habitat for wildlife. As the highway width increases and traffic rates climb, wildlife attempting to cross this barrier within their habitat creates a dangerous situation for both motorists and wildlife, particularly with movements of big game species (deer, elk, and bear). This PEL Study has resulted in recommended solutions for the challenges related to wildlife-vehicle collisions that impact safety, species management, and conservation.

CPW is excited to see how big game species respond to the four new wildlife underpasses and wider bridge at East Plum Creek being constructed as part of the Gap Project. However, there are more opportunities throughout the PEL project area to improve safety and wildlife movement across I-25. CPW looks forward to continuing communication, collaboration, and implementing transportation improvements (particularly addressing new wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots) in the PEL I-25 corridor and other CDOT projects across the state.

Sincerely,

Mark Leslie
Northeast Regional Manager



cc: CDOT

Chuck Attardo, I-25 South Corridor Environmental Manager

CPW

Brett Ackerman, SE Regional Manager

Travis Black, SE Deputy Regional Manager

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Brandon Marette, NE Region Energy Liaison

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