

Appendix 6.1.0 Rail Relocation for Colorado Communities

Preliminary Cultural Resources Study

PB Americas for CDOT

Introduction

PB Americas contracted with RMC Consultants, Inc. to conduct a preliminary cultural



Figure 1 General view typical of Alternative B location.

resources
study for the
Rail
Relocation
for Colorado

Communities
(R2C2) project. The R2C2 project involves consideration of the feasibility of relocating freight rail traffic from the Front Range corridor to the eastern portion of Colorado. The goal of the cultural resources study was to determine if significant cultural resources occur within the general project corridors (see Figure 1). The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is the lead agency in the study.

Methodology

GIS shapefiles of the alignments were provided to RMC by PB, and the files were used to request a file search of the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) database for all known, previously recorded cultural resources. RMC requested

that the search include ½ mile buffer on both sides of the alignment centerlines, for a total of a 1 mile wide corridor. This corridor is referred to as the Cultural Resources Study Area. In addition, known resources of interest within a 2.5 mile radius of Limon, Brush and Las Animas were also included. The files search results only include known previously recorded resources. Additional steps were taken to attempt to generally assess the potential for undocumented significant resources to occur in the alternative corridors.

The OAHP file search results were used to classify all sections that intersect the Cultural Resources Study Area according to sensitivity for cultural resources. Several criteria were established as the basis for this classification, as follows:

High Sensitivity

- Locations of known resources that are eligible, or have been recommended eligible, for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties
- Towns, which may contain significant historic buildings or structures
- Linear features such as U.S. or State highways, railroads, canals

Medium Sensitivity

- Proximity to surface water drainages (a critical factor for prehistoric resources), specifically lands within 500 feet to both sides of permanent or intermittent drainages (see Figure 2)

Low Sensitivity

- All other lands not meeting criteria for High or Medium



Figure 2. View of one of the drainages in the study area, one of the criteria for sensitivity for prehistoric resources.

Sensitivity levels were applied to the accompanying base maps at the section level, i.e., if a resource, potential resource or any portion of the mile-section intersecting the Cultural Resources Study Area met the criteria listed above, the entire section is shown on the base map at that sensitivity level. The locations of known resources are shown on the map. The exact locations of cultural resources are not always disclosed to the general public for protection of the resources, especially for archaeological resources. The scale of the enclosed maps does not allow for the precise location of resources.

The study methodology included consideration of several resources of interest to the general public in the vicinity of the project area, as shown on the study base maps, including Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, Boggsville National Register Site, the Limon Depot, the Bent County Courthouse and Jail, the Union Pacific Roundhouse in Hugo, and Walks Camp Park. These sites are currently outside of the study area corridor,

but should be considered in any final alternative selection (see Appendix 6.1.1 and 6.1.2 - Maps 1 and 2).

The files search and sensitivity analysis did not include those segments of the alternatives that would utilize existing track. The center section of Alignment A, from approximately Byers to Aroya, would utilize the existing Union Pacific track, and thus would not result in additional impacts to cultural resources.

Results

A total of 46 known resources are within or intersect the Cultural Resources Study Area and area of interest (see Table 1). Three sites have been listed in the State Register, the Haswell Women's Booster Club-Booster Hall (5KW.49), located at 211 E. 4th St. in Haswell, the Walks Camp Park (5LN.94), located north of Limon, and the Hugo Union Pacific Railroad Roundhouse in Hugo. Four resources are listed in the National Register: the Bent County Courthouse and Jail (5BN.99), in Las Animas; Boggsville National Historic Site (5BN.363), south of Las Animas; the Limon Depot (5LN.221), in Limon; and Bent's Old Fort National Historic Landmark, west of Las Animas.



Figure 3 View of the historic railroad, 5KW.52, within the study area.

Two sites have been officially determined eligible for the NRHP; the “Missouri Pacific Railroad (Towner to

North Avondale Junction) National Register Eligible Historic District;

Union Pacific Railroad-Missouri Pacific Railroad-Pueblo & State Line Railway (subsidiary of Missouri Pacific)” (5KW.52), and the “Denver Texas and Fort Work Railroad, Beshoar Junction, Beshoar Siding” (5LA.7636.1). The Missouri Pacific railroad intersects the study area north of Las Animas, and the Denver Texas railroad intersects the study area at the Beshoar Junction (see Figure 3). Two other resources have been recommended (field) eligible, but no official determinations have been made at this time; they are portions of the Santa Fe Trail (5BN.391) and US Highway 6 (5MR.743.1). Segments of the Santa Fe Trail would almost certainly be officially determined eligible for the NRHP, assuming they still retain sufficient physical integrity. William Bent’s Gravesite (5BN.366), located south of Las Animas, has been recommended not eligible but no official determination has been made. Two resources, both prehistoric archaeological sites (5AH.125 and 5CH.15), have no NRHP status or recommendations; both resources were recorded in the 1930s, and locations and other data have never been verified. All other known documented resources are either recommended or officially determined not eligible for the NRHP.

Based on the sensitivity analysis described above, the alternative segments contain the following sensitivity levels:

Alignment A-New Track

- 22 sections High Sensitivity;
- 59 sections Medium Sensitivity;
- 101 sections Low Sensitivity;

Alignment B-New Track

- 31 sections High Sensitivity;
- 131 sections Medium Sensitivity;
- 124 sections Low Sensitivity;

There is some overlap of sections between the two alignments at Haswell. The new alignment from Haswell to Las Animas, labeled as Alignment A on the project base map, was included in the tally for Alignment A; this alignment would be utilized for either Alignment A or B, as currently configured.

The higher number of Medium sensitivity sections in Alignment B is due to the numerous surface drainages that the alignment crosses. This generally reflects a greater possibility for prehistoric resources to occur in Alignment B. However, modifications to the methodological approach used here would likely reduce the number of Medium sensitivity sections. For example, an intersection of a half-mile wide study area and a 200-foot buffer of drainages would yield fewer Medium sensitivity sections than the intersection of the mile-wide Cultural Resources Study Area and a 500-foot buffer used here.

Table 1. Known cultural resources in the study area and area of interest.

County	Site No.	Site Name	Site Type	NRHP Status	Sensitivity	Comment
Arapahoe	5AH.125		Archaeological/open camp	None	Unknown	1935 site recording-unverified
Adams	5AM.507		Archaeological/isolated find	Field not eligible	Low	
Bent	5BN.376	Fort Lyon Canal	Historical archaeology	Field not eligible	Low	
Bent	5BN.99	Bent County Courthouse and Jail	Historic building	Listed in the National Register of Historic Places	High	
Bent	5BN.363	Boggsville	Historic district	Listed in the National Register of Historic Places	High	
Bent	5BN.366	William Bent's Grave	Historic grave	Field not eligible	Low	
Bent	5BN.391	Santa Fe Trail segments	Historical archaeology	Field eligible	High	
Cheyenne	5CH.15		Archaeological/open camp	None	Unknown	1932 site recording-unverified
Cheyenne	5CH101		Archaeological/open lithic	Officially not eligible	Low	
Cheyenne	5CH.102		Historical archaeology/trash scatter	Officially not eligible	Low	
Cheyenne	5CH.104		Archaeological/isolated find	Field not eligible	Low	
Kiowa	5KW.35	L and M Market	Historic building	Field not eligible	Low	
Kiowa	5KW.38		Historic building	Field not eligible	Low	
Kiowa	5KW.49	Haswell Women's Booster Club	Historic building	Listed in the State Register of Historic Properties	High	
Kiowa	5KW.52	Missouri Pacific Railroad	Historic railroad district	Officially eligible	High	
Las Animas	5LA.1822	Elson Bridge	Historic structure location	Structure originally listed in the NRHP, but since has been removed and delisted	Low	Within the Beshoar Junction alternative study area
Las Animas	5LA.7636.1	Denver Texas and Fort Worth Railroad, Beshoar Junction, Beshoar Siding	Historic railroad	Officially eligible	High	Within the Beshoar Junction alternative study area
Lincoln	5LN.83		Archaeological/open lithic	Officially not eligible	Low	
Lincoln	5LN.94	Walks Camp Park	Historic building	Listed in the State Register of Historic Properties	High	
Lincoln	5LN.121		Archaeological/isolated find	Field not eligible	Low	
Lincoln	5LN.144		Archaeological/isolated find	Field not eligible	Low	
Lincoln	5LN.156		Archaeological/Historical archaeology/open lithic/trash scatter	Officially not eligible	Low	
Lincoln	5LN.157		Archaeological/isolated find	Field not eligible	Low	
Lincoln	5LN.158		Archaeological/isolated find	Field not eligible	Low	
Lincoln	5LN.170.6		Historical archaeology/historic road	Officially not eligible	Low	
Lincoln	5LN.179		Archaeological/isolated find	Field not eligible	Low	
Lincoln	5LN.195	Hugo Union Pacific Roundhouse	Historic building	Listed in the State Register of Historic Properties	High	
Lincoln	5LN.221	Limon Depot	Historic building	Listed in the National Register of Historic Places	High	
Lincoln	5LN.231		Archaeological/isolated find	Field not eligible	Low	
Lincoln	5LN.232		Archaeological/quarry	Officially not eligible	Low	

Lincoln	5LN.288	Beaver Creek to Big Sandy Transmission Line	Historical archaeology/historic transmission line	Field not eligible	Low	
Lincoln	5LN.302		Archaeological/open camp	Officially not eligible	Low	
Lincoln	5LN.324		Archaeological/isolated find	Field not eligible	Low	
Lincoln	5LN.325		Archaeological/isolated find	Field not eligible	Low	
Lincoln	5LN.326		Archaeological/isolated find	Field not eligible	Low	
Morgan	5MR.477		Archaeological/isolated find	Field not eligible	Low	
Morgan	5MR.696	Beaver Creek to Deering Transmission Line	Historical archaeology/historic transmission line	Officially not eligible	Low	
Morgan	5MR.699	Beaver Creek to Sterling Transmission Line	Historical archaeology/historic transmission line	Field not eligible	Low	
Morgan	5MR.702	Hoyt to Terry Street Transmission Line	Historical archaeology/historic transmission line	Field not eligible	Low	
Morgan	5MR.736		Historical archaeology/isolated find	Field not eligible	Low	
Morgan	5MR.743.1	U.S. Highway 6 segment	Historical archaeology/historic highway	Field eligible	High	
Morgan	5MR.803		Historical archaeology/trash scatter	Officially not eligible	Low	
Morgan	5MR.817		Historical archaeology/agricultural complex	Field not eligible	Low	
Otero	5OT.149	Bent's Old Fort	Historic district	National Historic Landmark	High	
Washington	5WN.83		Archaeological/open lithic	Officially not eligible	Low	

No previously recorded resources were located within the study area in Elbert or Weld Counties.

