



US 160 Wildlife Crossings Archuleta County

Project Overview

The Colorado Department of Transportation and prime contractor, Ralph L. Wadsworth Construction Co, will begin building new wildlife crossings on US Highway 160 near Chimney Rock National Monument and Lake Capote - a critical migratory corridor for both mule deer and elk.



The project will span for two miles, approximately 13 miles west of Pagosa Springs and 37 miles east of Durango (MM 126-128). New safety features for motorists and animals will include:

- Wildlife underpass
- Wildlife overpass
- 8-foot-tall exclusion fence along both sides of US 160
- Earthen escape ramps and deer guards
- Extension of the existing westbound passing lane and left-turn acceleration lane on US 160 at the CO 151 intersection

Benefits of the Project

Wildlife-vehicle collisions make up more than 60 percent of crashes in the planned area. The \$11.3 million dollar project is expected to reduce those collisions by at least 80 percent. The wildlife mitigation treatment will provide benefit for approximately 75 years and will continue to function effectively as traffic volumes increase over time.

Traffic Impacts

Daytime work hours will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. A temporary signal will be installed, reducing vehicles to a single-lane and alternating traffic intermittently in either direction throughout the duration of the project. Fifteen-minute delays are expected. Speeds will be reduced to 30 mph in the work zone. Nightwork will take place for the construction of the overpass with a full shutdown of US 160 for approximately five nights. Alternative routes are advised. Project completion is late fall.

Project Information

The public is encouraged to sign-up for email updates or access information through the following resources:

- Project Hotline: 970-903-4004
- Project Email: PublicInfoCO@gmail.com
- Website: www.codot.gov/projects/us160-wildlife-crossing

