

# Biological Environment



## Wetlands

Wetlands serve an important ecological function related to water quality, biodiversity, and hydrological and ecological processes. They are identified on the basis of vegetation, adequate hydrology, and hydric soils.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

<u>No-Action</u>	<u>General Purpose Lanes</u>
No effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permanent impacts to 0.44 acre jurisdictional wetlands, 1.19 acres non-jurisdictional wetlands, and 0.03 acres waters of the U.S.</li> <li>Temporary impacts to 0.06 acre jurisdictional wetlands and 0.23 acre non-jurisdictional wetlands</li> </ul>

<u>Tolled Express Lanes (Preferred Alternative)</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permanent impacts to 0.47 acre jurisdictional wetlands, 1.34 acres non-jurisdictional wetlands, and 0.03 acres waters of the U.S.</li> <li>Temporary impacts to 0.04 acre jurisdictional wetlands and 0.27 acre non-jurisdictional wetlands</li> </ul>

### MITIGATION

- All wetland impacts mitigated on 1:1 basis
- When locally important functions and values can be maintained adjacent to streams, onsite mitigation will be implemented
- Other wetland impacts will be mitigated through purchase of Army Corps of Engineers-approved mitigation bank credits



## Prime and Unique Farmlands

Prime and unique farmlands are considered of national importance due to their physical and chemical characteristics ideally suited for production of feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

<u>No-Action</u>	<u>General Purpose Lanes</u>
No effects	No effects

<u>Tolled Express Lanes (Preferred Alternative)</u>
No effects

### MITIGATION

None required



## Vegetation

Vegetation refers to collective plant cover present in an area and classified as a distinct grouping of individual species with similar physical and environmental characteristics.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

<u>No-Action</u>	<u>General Purpose Lanes</u>
No effects	• 3.8 acres of riparian habitat would be disturbed or eliminated

<u>Tolled Express Lanes (Preferred Alternative)</u>
• 4.1 acres of riparian habitat would be disturbed or eliminated

### MITIGATION

- Follow CDOT's re-vegetation practices
- Implement the Noxious Weed Management Plan prepared for the C-470 Corridor



# C-470 CORRIDOR PROJECT