



## MEETING NOTES

<b>PROJECT:</b>	24970 Cottonwood Pass Concept Design (Eagle and Garfield Counties)
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	Natural Resources Issue Task Force (ITF) Meeting #2
<b>DATE HELD:</b>	November 17, 2022
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Videoconference
<b>ATTENDING:</b>	Jacob Rivera, Drew Stewart, Paula Durkin, Cinnamon Levi-Flynn (CDOT); Kristin Salamack (CDOT USFWS Liaison); Marcia Gilles (Eagle County); Lindsey Freitag, Colin Brady, Erin Leifeld (BLM); Joseph Fazzi, Marcus Dreux, Michael Braudis (USFS); Robert Frank (USACE); Michael Gloden, Kara Swanson, Leah Langerman, Sarah Dormand (David Evans and Associates)
<b>COPIES:</b>	ITF Members

### Summary of Discussion:

- Kara Swanson welcomed the group and provided a project overview and review of draft design options and environmental and geotechnical considerations at each site using a PowerPoint presentation (attached).

  - ◆ This conceptual design project included only high-level environmental investigation using available data and a windshield survey. Additional research and coordination would be needed as projects move forward into future design.
  - ◆ Since the last meeting, CDOT and USFWS provided input on state and federal listed species habitat in the project area, and requested consideration for big game species. This information will be included in the Final Report.
  - ◆ The team also reviewed CDOT’s Roadside Fen Inventory Report (2018) and determined it did not include Cottonwood Pass
- During the presentation, Michael Gloden showed GIS data at some project sites where environmental resources are present.

  - ◆ Garfield County Site 3 – A tributary crosses the alignment. It is assumed to not be jurisdictional but this will be confirmed in later phases.
  - ◆ Garfield County Site 6 – The stream looks to be on the road in GIS but in reality there is 6 – 10 feet between the edge of the road and stream. Since improvements are limited to the road, the stream is not expected to be impacted.
    - ✧ Lindsay noted this site is within 100 meters of BLM sensitive species. (Site 6 in Eagle County is also within range.)
    - ✧ Michael noted USFWS and CPW have their sensitive species range maps publicly available but BLM information wasn’t available.
  - ◆ Garfield County Site 7 – Cattle Creek and associated wetlands are presumed to be jurisdictional wetlands. Cattle Creek runs along the improvement area, down Catherine Store Road and then follows Cattle Creek Road. Wetlands exist along Cattle Creek Road.

- ◆ Garfield County Site 8 – Yellow-billed cuckoo and Ute ladies tresses orchid habitat are likely present in the drainageway, but since the drainageway is separated by distance and elevation from the road, impacts are unlikely.
- ◆ Eagle County Site 2 – East Coulter Creek is below the road and there are no mapped wetlands. It is a forested section.
- ◆ Eagle County Site 3 – Both reservoirs at this location and all of the tributaries leading to them were dry during the site visit. The existing stream crossing would need to be improved for design option 1.
  - ◇ Marcia Gilles, Director of Natural Resources and Open Space for Eagle County, asked what criteria will be used to choose between these two options. The potential evaluation criteria are shown on a slide in the presentation.
- ◆ Eagle County Sites 5 & 6 – There is an unnamed tributary shown on the map crossing the new alignment but this wasn't visible in the field.

### 3. Next Steps

- ◆ This is the final meeting of this group, but the refined concepts will be sent to this group via email once they are available.
- ◆ Environmental data and concept design recommendations will be documented in a Concept Design Report. This phase is expected to be complete in February 2023.
- ◆ The presentation from today will be sent to this group and comments are requested by the end of November.