



**I-70 Mountain Corridor CSS
ALIVE Working Group Meeting
5-21-08**

Attendees: Bill Andree/CDOW
Shane Briggs/CDOW
Lynne Deibel/USFA
Fran Enright/Clear Creek County
Tom Fresques/BLM
Keith Giezentanner/USFS
Julia Kintsch/SREP
Peter Kozinski/CDOT
Carol Kruse/USFS
Alison Michael/USWFS
Pat Noyes/Pat Noyes & Associates
Jeff Peterson/CDOT
Jo Ann Sorensen/Clear Creek County
Gary Spinuzzi/CDOT
Adam Springer/Clear Creek County
Dylan Taylor/SREP

DATE: May 21, 2008
LOCATION: Silverthorne Pavilion

Introduction

Peter Kozinski told the group that the ALIVE MOU was recently signed and the purpose of reconvening the group is to initiate the development of a program of cooperation between everyone at the table for the implementation of the MOU.

Goals, Outcomes and Actions

The group reviewed the goal:

Increase the permeability of the I-70 Corridor to terrestrial and aquatic species to provide long-term protection and restoration of wildlife linkage areas, improve habitat connectivity, and preserve essential ecosystem components.

A suggestion was made that a provision for funding maintenance should be added and it was agreed that this should be included.

The goal will be revised to read: *Increase the permeability of the I-70 Corridor to terrestrial and aquatic species to provide and maintain long-term protection and restoration of wildlife linkage areas, improve habitat connectivity, and preserve essential ecosystem components.*

Maintenance will also be added as a separate bullet to the Outcomes and Actions.

The group agreed the first bullet identifying 13 linkage interference zones (LIZs) should be revised to include all LIZs.

Review of ALIVE Memorandum of Understanding

There were 37 LIZs included in the PEIS. Thirteen have been identified as the highest priority and included in the MOU. It was noted that the MOU references aquatic species but these will be covered in the SWEEP group.

Members of the group would like to see data for all 37 LIZs. The group is concerned that there may be more LIZs along the corridor, particularly in Clear Creek County.

Peter Kozinski suggested that the group reconfirm the LIZs, confirm the recommended mitigation is suitable, and prioritize them to be done when highway construction is done.

Peter also mentioned that there may be a state-wide funding source implemented to do mitigation away from construction project areas.

The group was reminded that the objective of the ALIVE Working Group is to write the framework to support coordination and project specific decisions.

Presentation on Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project

Julia Kintsch announced that SREP & CDOT have been awarded a grant to study aquatic and terrestrial mitigation along the I-70 Mountain Corridor from Evergreen to Dotsero. They will be doing field work and data collection over the summer and will have a preliminary analysis sometime in the fall. Julia would like to keep the ALIVE group informed and feels the working group would benefit from their research.

Stakeholder Interests and Commitments

The group will work on drafting a framework for coordination and implementation.

Participants suggested revisiting the list of LIZs in light of upcoming projects in the corridor. It was also suggested that a percentage of project funding be dedicated to mitigating LIZs.

The group agreed that coordination with local entities is very important to identify local policies and action to support recommended mitigations.

Protecting the area surrounding a LIZ from development is a priority.

The group will be sent an email when the document: *A Landscape Level of Integrated Valued Ecosystems Program and its Contribution to the I-70 Mountain Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* has been uploaded to the I-70 CSS Project website: <http://www.i70css.com>.

Establish Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 17th at the Silverthorne Pavilion from 9:30 – 11:30. The project team will draft a framework for ongoing coordination for discussion at the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.