



**APPENDIX B1**  
**AGENCY COORDINATION**



## **RESOURCE AGENCY SCOPING INVITATION LETTERS**



# COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Region 3 East Engineering Program

Page 1 of 1

January 26, 2018

Project: NHPP 0701-240

Subaccount #: 21685

Description: I-70 W. Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive  
Denver, CO 80246

Attn: Edward Smith

RE: Invitation to Resource Agency Coordination Meeting for the West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes Environmental Assessment Project

Dear Mr. Smith:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as lead federal agency, and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), as the project sponsoring agency, are initiating an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes. The project limits include I-70 and the Ten-Mile Canyon National Recreation Trail from approximately mileposts 180-190, as indicated on the attached project vicinity map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve safety and operations on West Vail Pass. This project will further address the recommendations identified in the I-70 Mountain Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

CDOT has retained AMEC Foster Wheeler and David Evans and Associates, Inc. to prepare the EA and preliminary design plans for the Proposed Action Alternative. We have initially consulted with several resource agencies as part of the project, but this meeting serves as the official agency scoping meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to introduce your agency to the project or re-introduce your agency to the project, review the project's goals and draft purpose and need, review the project schedule, and obtain agency comment on any important environmental or regulatory issues. This resource agency scoping meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2018 from 1:30-3:00 at the CDOT Mountain Residency Office located at the Eisenhower/Johnson Memorial Tunnels (see attached map for directions to the office.)

Your agency's involvement is valuable as we proceed through the NEPA process. Please RSVP to me, by telephone at 970.328.9963 or by email at john.kronholm@state.co.us by February 5th. Please send a representative if you are unable to attend and/or forward this invitation to the appropriate individual if you feel you are not the correct recipient. If your agency is unable to participate, please let me know if you would like materials or a briefing provided separately.

I look forward to your participation, and thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

  
John Kronholm, P.E.

Colorado Department of Transportation, Project Manager

Cc: Joel Barnett (FHWA), David Cesark (CDOT), Don Connors (Amec), Kara Swanson, Leah Langerman (DEA)

Attachments: Project Vicinity Graphic, Meeting Location Map





# COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Region 3 East Engineering Program

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January 26, 2018

Project: NHPP 0701-240

Subaccount #: 21685

Description: I-70 W. Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
Water Quality Control Division  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive  
Denver, CO 80246

Attn: Patrick Pfaltzgraff

RE: Invitation to Resource Agency Scoping Meeting for the West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes Environmental Assessment Project

Dear Mr. Pfaltzgraff:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as lead federal agency, and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), as the project sponsoring agency, are initiating an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes. The project limits include I-70 and the Ten-Mile Canyon National Recreation Trail from approximately mileposts 180-190, as indicated on the attached project vicinity map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve safety and operations on West Vail Pass. This project will further address the recommendations identified in the I-70 Mountain Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

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Sincerely,

John Kronholm, P.E.

Colorado Department of Transportation, Project Manager

Cc: Joel Barnett (FHWA), David Cesark (CDOT), Don Connors (Amec), Kara Swanson, Leah Langerman (DEA)

Attachments: Project Vicinity Graphic, Meeting Location Map





**COLORADO**  
Department of Transportation  
Region 3 East Engineering Program

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January 26, 2018

Project: NHPP 0701-240  
Subaccount #: 21685  
Description: I-70 W. Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes

US Army Corps of Engineers  
Grand Junction Regulatory Office  
400 Rood Avenue, Room 224  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Attn: Matt Montgomery

RE: Invitation to Resource Agency Scoping Meeting for the West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes Environmental Assessment Project

Dear Matt Montgomery:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as lead federal agency, and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), as the project sponsoring agency, are initiating an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes. The project limits include I-70 and the Ten-Mile Canyon National Recreation Trail from approximately mileposts 180-190, as indicated on the attached project vicinity map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve safety and operations on West Vail Pass. This project will further address the recommendations identified in the I-70 Mountain Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

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I look forward to your participation, and thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

John Kronholm, P.E.

Colorado Department of Transportation, Project Manager

Cc: Joel Barnett (FHWA), David Cesark (CDOT), Don Connors (Amec), Kara Swanson, Leah Langerman (DEA)

Attachments: Project Vicinity Graphic, Meeting Location Map





**COLORADO**  
Department of Transportation  
Region 3 East Engineering Program

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January 26, 2018

Project: NHPP 0701-240  
Subaccount #: 21685  
Description: I-70 W. Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes

Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
District Wildlife Manager  
0088 Wildlife Way  
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

Attn: Bill Andree

RE: Invitation to Resource Agency Coordination Meeting for the West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes Environmental Assessment Project

Dear Mr. Andree:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as lead federal agency, and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), as the project sponsoring agency, are initiating an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes. The project limits include I-70 and the Ten-Mile Canyon National Recreation Trail from approximately mileposts 180-190, as indicated on the attached project vicinity map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve safety and operations on West Vail Pass. This project will further address the recommendations identified in the I-70 Mountain Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

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I look forward to your participation, and thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



John Kronholm, P.E.

Colorado Department of Transportation, Project Manager

Cc: Joel Barnett (FHWA), David Cesark (CDOT), Don Connors (Amec), Kara Swanson, Leah Langerman (DEA)

Attachments: Project Vicinity Graphic, Meeting Location Map







**COLORADO**

Department of Transportation

Region 3 East Engineering Program

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January 26, 2018

Project: NHPP 0701-240

Subaccount #: 21685

Description: I-70 W. Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes

Colorado Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 396  
Glenwood Springs, CO 81602

Attn: Alan Martellaro

RE: Invitation to Resource Agency Coordination Meeting for the West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes Environmental Assessment Project

Dear Mr. Martellaro:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as lead federal agency, and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), as the project sponsoring agency, are initiating an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes. The project limits include I-70 and the Ten-Mile Canyon National Recreation Trail from approximately mileposts 180-190, as indicated on the attached project vicinity map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve safety and operations on West Vail Pass. This project will further address the recommendations identified in the I-70 Mountain Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

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I look forward to your participation, and thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

John Kronholm, P.E.

Colorado Department of Transportation, Project Manager

Cc: Joel Barnett (FHWA), David Cesark (CDOT), Don Connors (Amec), Kara Swanson, Leah Langerman (DEA)

Attachments: Project Vicinity Graphic, Meeting Location Map





# COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Region 3 East Engineering Program

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January 26, 2018

Project: NHPP 0701-240

Subaccount #: 21685

Description: I-70 W. Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes

US Environmental Protection Agency

1595 Wynkoop Street

Denver, CO 80202

Attn: Carol Anderson

RE: Invitation to Resource Agency Coordination Meeting for the West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes Environmental Assessment Project

Dear Ms. Anderson:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as lead federal agency, and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), as the project sponsoring agency, are initiating an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes. The project limits include I-70 and the Ten-Mile Canyon National Recreation Trail from approximately mileposts 180-190, as indicated on the attached project vicinity map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve safety and operations on West Vail Pass. This project will further address the recommendations identified in the I-70 Mountain Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

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John Kronholm, P.E.

Colorado Department of Transportation, Project Manager

Cc: Joel Barnett (FHWA), David Cesark (CDOT), Don Connors (Amec), Kara Swanson, Leah Langerman (DEA)

Attachments: Project Vicinity Graphic, Meeting Location Map







**COLORADO**

Department of Transportation

Region 3 East Engineering Program

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January 26, 2018

Project: NHPP 0701-240

Subaccount #: 21685

Description: I-70 W. Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes

US Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
P.O. Box 25426  
Denver, CO 80225-0426

Attn: Clint Evans

RE: Invitation to Resource Agency Coordination Meeting for the West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes Environmental Assessment Project

Dear Mr. Evans:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as lead federal agency, and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), as the project sponsoring agency, are initiating an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes. The project limits include I-70 and the Ten-Mile Canyon National Recreation Trail from approximately mileposts 180-190, as indicated on the attached project vicinity map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve safety and operations on West Vail Pass. This project will further address the recommendations identified in the I-70 Mountain Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

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John Kronholm, P.E.

Colorado Department of Transportation, Project Manager

Cc: Joel Barnett (FHWA), David Cesark (CDOT), Don Connors (Amec), Kara Swanson, Leah Langerman (DEA)

Attachments: Project Vicinity Graphic, Meeting Location Map





**COLORADO**  
Department of Transportation  
Region 3 East Engineering Program

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January 26, 2018

Project: NHPP 0701-240

Subaccount #: 21685

Description: I-70 W. Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes

History Colorado  
State Historic Preservation Office  
1200 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80203

Attn: Steve Turner

RE: Invitation to Resource Agency Coordination Meeting for the West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes Environmental Assessment Project

Dear Mr. Turner:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as lead federal agency, and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), as the project sponsoring agency, are initiating an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes. The project limits include I-70 and the Ten-Mile Canyon National Recreation Trail from approximately mileposts 180-190, as indicated on the attached project vicinity map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve safety and operations on West Vail Pass. This project will further address the recommendations identified in the I-70 Mountain Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

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John Kronholm, P.E.

Colorado Department of Transportation, Project Manager

Cc: Joel Barnett (FHWA), David Cesark (CDOT), Don Connors (Amec), Kara Swanson, Leah Langerman (DEA)

Attachments: Project Vicinity Graphic, Meeting Location Map





**COLORADO**

**Department of Transportation**

Region 3 East Engineering Program

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January 26, 2018

Project: NHPP 0701-240

Subaccount #: 21685

Description: I-70 W. Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes

US Forest Service  
Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger District  
P.O. Box 190  
Minturn, CO 81645

Attn: Aaron Mayville

RE: Invitation to Resource Agency Coordination Meeting for the West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes Environmental Assessment Project

Dear Mr. Mayville:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as lead federal agency, and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), as the project sponsoring agency, are initiating an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes. The project limits include I-70 and the Ten-Mile Canyon National Recreation Trail from approximately mileposts 180-190, as indicated on the attached project vicinity map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve safety and operations on West Vail Pass. This project will further address the recommendations identified in the I-70 Mountain Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

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Sincerely,



John Kronholm, P.E.

Colorado Department of Transportation, Project Manager

Cc: Joel Barnett (FHWA), David Cesark (CDOT), Don Connors (Amec), Kara Swanson, Leah Langerman (DEA)

Attachments: Project Vicinity Graphic, Meeting Location Map





# COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Region 3 East Engineering Program

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January 26, 2018

Project: NHPP 0701-240

Subaccount #: 21685

Description: I-70 W. Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Colorado Field Office  
P.O. Box 25486  
Denver, CO 80225-0486

Attn: Alison Deans Michael

RE: Invitation to Resource Agency Coordination Meeting for the West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes Environmental Assessment Project

Dear Ms. Michael:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as lead federal agency, and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), as the project sponsoring agency, are initiating an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes. The project limits include I-70 and the Ten-Mile Canyon National Recreation Trail from approximately mileposts 180-190, as indicated on the attached project vicinity map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve safety and operations on West Vail Pass. This project will further address the recommendations identified in the I-70 Mountain Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

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Sincerely,



John Kronholm, P.E.

Colorado Department of Transportation, Project Manager

Cc: Joel Barnett (FHWA), David Cesark (CDOT), Don Connors (Amec), Kara Swanson, Leah Langerman (DEA)

Attachments: Project Vicinity Graphic, Meeting Location Map





## **COOPERATING AGENCY LETTERS**



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**Colorado Division**

January 2, 2018

12300 W. Dakota Ave., Suite #180  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228  
720-963-3000  
Fax 720-963-3001

Aaron Mayville  
District Ranger  
Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District  
24747 US Highway 24, PO Box 190  
Minturn, CO 81645

**Re: Invitation to Become a Cooperating Agency on I 70 West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes  
Environmental Assessment, NHPP 0701-240, Subaccount 21685**

Dear Mr. Mayville:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) are initiating an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Interstate 70 (I-70) West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes project. The project limits include I-70 and the Ten-Mile Canyon National Recreation Trail from approximately mileposts 180-190. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve safety and operations on West Vail Pass. The I-70 Mountain Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and 2011 Record of Decision identified construction of an eastbound and westbound auxiliary lane as necessary in this segment of the corridor. This EA will analyze potential impacts of this alternative to a finer level of detail and make final decisions regarding the scope of the improvement.

Your agency has been identified as having an interest and special expertise in this project due to the facility location within the White River National Forest. With this letter, we invite your agency to become a cooperating agency in the development of the EA. You should therefore expect that the EA will be developed to enable you to fulfill your jurisdictional responsibilities. Likewise, you have an obligation to tell FHWA if, at any point in the process, your agency's needs are not being met. We expect that at the end of the process the EA will satisfy your agency's requirements in regards to the National Environmental Policy Act including those related to project alternatives, environmental consequences, and mitigation.

This project will abide by the guidance for the Freedom of Information Act, Exemption 5 of the deliberative process privilege as it relates to pre-decisional materials.

Please respond to FHWA in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitation no later than 30 days from the receipt of this letter. If your agency declines, the response should state your



reason for declining the invitation. Pursuant to 23 U.S.C. Section 139, any federal agency that chooses to decline the invitation to be a cooperating agency must specifically state in its response that it:

- Has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project;
- Has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and
- Does not intend to submit comments on the project.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this EA, please contact Joel Barnett at 720-963-3438 or via e-mail at [joel.barnett@dot.gov](mailto:joel.barnett@dot.gov). Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John M. Cater".

John M. Cater, P.E.  
Division Administrator

By: Alicia Nolan  
Assistant Division Administrator



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Colorado Ecological Services

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
FWS/R6/ES CO

Front Range:  
Post Office Box 25486  
Mail Stop 65412  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

Western Slope:  
445 W. Gunnison Avenue  
Suite 240  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501-5711

TAILS: 06E24000-2018-TA-0457

March 21, 2018

Joel Barnett  
Federal Highway Administration  
12300 West Dakota Avenue, Suite 180  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

Dear Mr. Barnett:

On February 9, 2018, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received your January 2, 2018, invitation to become a Cooperating Agency on the I-70 West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes Environmental Assessment. The project was identified as necessary in the I-70 Mountain Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and 2011 Record of Decision to improve safety and operations of the highway over Vail Pass.

The Service accepts the invitation to be a Cooperating Agency on the project and we look forward to working with you. Please contact Alison Deans Michael ([alison\\_michael@fws.gov](mailto:alison_michael@fws.gov), 303 236-4758) if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Ann Timberman* 03/22/2018

for Drue L. DeBerry  
Colorado and Nebraska Field Offices Supervisor

---

**File Code:** 2730  
**Date:** May 20, 2020

John M. Cater, P.E.  
Division Administrator  
Colorado Division  
Federal Highway Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
12300 W. Dakota Avenue, Suite #180  
Lakewood, CO 80028

Dear Mr. Cater:

This letter reaffirms the willingness of the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District of the White River National Forest to serve as a Cooperating Agency for the environmental analysis of the Interstate 70 West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes project currently under consideration by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).

To date, CDOT has ensured that our office has been fully engaged in the analysis through participation in all planning meetings and review of all planning documents, including multiple bilateral meetings consistent with our status as a Cooperating Agency.

In accordance with 40 CFR 1501.6 and 1508.5, we look forward to continuing to provide special expertise related to the management of National Forest System lands and resources within the project area.

If you have any questions, please contact Matt Klein, Realty Specialist, at (970) 827-5715 or [matthew.klein@usda.gov](mailto:matthew.klein@usda.gov).

Sincerely,

MARCIA GILLES  
District Ranger (acting)

cc: John Kronholm P.E., R3 Eagle Residency, Colorado Department of Transportation  
Matt Klein





## **USFWS CONSULTATION**



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**Colorado Division**

December 17, 2019

12300 W. Dakota Ave., Suite #180  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228  
720-963-3000

Drue L. DeBerry  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC, (MS 65412)  
Denver, CO 80225-0486  
VIA EMAIL ONLY

Attn: Alison Michael

**Subject: Request to Initiate Formal Consultation for the Biological Assessment for I-70 West Fail Pass Auxiliary Lanes Project (NHPP 0701-240, SA# 21685)**

Dear Mr. DeBerry:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), is requesting formal consultation for the above referenced project.

The details of the project, consultation history and impact analysis are included in the attached Biological Assessment (BA). Based upon the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts resulting from the project, the project **may affect, and is likely to adversely affect**, Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*). The project will have **no effect** on the other ESA-listed species identified in Table 7 of the BA.

Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (ESA) states that each Federal agency shall, in consultation with USFWS, ensure that any action they authorize, fund or carry out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. The attached BA requests a formal consultation with the USFWS on the potential impacts to Canada lynx as a result of this project. These actions will ensure that FHWA and CDOT comply with section 7(a)(2) of the ESA.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Jeff Peterson, CDOT Wildlife Program Manager, at 303-512-4959 or [jeff.peterson@state.co.us](mailto:jeff.peterson@state.co.us).

Sincerely yours,

John M. Cater, P.E.  
Division Administrator

By: Stephanie Gibson  
Environmental Program Manager

Enclosures: Biological Assessment

Cc: Jeff Peterson, CDOT Environmental Programs Branch  
John Kronholm, CDOT Region 3





U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**Colorado Division**

April 13, 2020

12300 W. Dakota Ave., Suite #180  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228  
720-963-3000

Drue L. DeBerry  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC, (MS 65412)  
Denver, CO 80225-0486  
VIA EMAIL ONLY

Attn: Kristin Salamack

**Subject: Updated Amendment to Formal Consultation for the Biological Assessment for I-70 West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes Project (NHPP 0701-240, SA# 21685)**

Dear Mr. DeBerry:

In December, 2019, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) submitted a Biological Assessment (BA) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to determine the effects the I-70 West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes Project (NHPP 0701-240, SA 21685) may have on federally listed species. An amendment to the BA was sent to your office on March 3, 2020, but included an incorrect version of the Amended BA. The correct version is attached.

Since the original BA, the U.S. Forest Service has updated their boundaries of the Lynx Analysis Units (LAUs) in the vicinity which resulted in the need to update the effects analysis for that species in the BA. Please accept the attached amendment which reflects that analysis. In addition there was a change to the project description removing reference to a concrete box culvert (CBC), The amended information does not alter the remainder of the project description or the effects determination from the December, 2019, BA.

FHWA would like to submit the attached amended BA and request formal consultation for the effects this project may have on the Canada lynx (*Lynx Canadensis*).

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Jeff Peterson, CDOT Wildlife Program Manager, at 303-512-4959 or jeff.peterson@state.co.us.

Sincerely yours,

**STEPHANIE P  
GIBSON** Digitally signed by  
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Date: 2020.04.13 14:52:25  
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John M. Cater, P.E.  
Division Administrator

By: Stephanie Gibson  
Environmental Program Manager

Enclosures: Amended Biological Assessment

Cc: Jeff Bellen, FHWA  
Jeff Peterson, CDOT Environmental Programs Branch  
John Kronholm, CDOT Region 3  
Cinnamon Levi-Flinn, CDOT R3  
Michael Gloden, David Evans and Associates  
Kara Swanson, David Evans and Associates