



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Southeast Region
4255 Sinton Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
P 719.227.5200

May 20, 2024

Kari Parsons- Project Manager
El Paso County Public Works
2880 International Circle Suite 110
Colorado Springs, CO. 80910

RE: Major Transportation Corridor Plan MP 2024

Dear Kari Parsons,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has received the request to review the Major Transportation Corridors Plan (MTCP) for El Paso County, Colorado. The MTCP includes plans for connecting all areas, reducing traffic congestion, promote multimodal transportation, expand public transportation, and develop sustainable funding mechanisms. This includes the addition of new roads and widening current roads. CPW is familiar with the project area and has the following comments.

CPW has a statutory responsibility to manage all wildlife species in Colorado; as such we encourage protection for Colorado's wildlife species and habitats through responsible energy development and land use planning. Protection of core wildlife areas, quality fisheries and habitat, big game winter range and seasonal migration corridors, and raptor nesting locations are of extreme importance. CPW recommends that all proposed projects be assessed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts to sensitive wildlife habitats and species. That includes species of concern as well as Federal and/or State listed species, big game wildlife (migration corridors, winter range, and parturition areas), breeding and nesting habitats for sensitive ground-nesting birds, and nests of raptors sensitive to development in order to prevent loss of habitat or fragmentation of habitat. US Fish and Wildlife Service should be consulted on any Federally-listed Endangered and Threatened Species that might be present at the location.

Reduce Human-Wildlife Conflicts:

There are several big game species that may be found in the area, such as, mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, pronghorn, bear, and mountain lion. Wildlife often come into conflict with humans in El Paso County by causing vehicle collisions, become entangled in fences, and trash attracts bears and other wildlife into an area.



Jeff Davis, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Parks and Wildlife Commission: Dallas May, Chair • Richard Reading, Vice-Chair • Karen Bailey, Secretary • Jessica Beaulieu
Marie Haskett • Jack Murphy • Gabriel Otero • Duke Phillips, IV • James Jay Tutchtton • Eden Vardy

- CPW recommends slower speed limits be incorporated in the MTCP, as well as, appropriate wildlife crossing signs to alert drivers to potential wildlife crossings.
- CPW recommends that if fencing will be used for any phase of construction, that wildlife friendly fencing be used. Please see the CPW document "[Fencing with Wildlife in Mind](#)" available at the CPW website.
- To reduce conflicts with bears, CPW recommends that any trash at construction sites be removed daily or kept in bear- resistant trash cans or dumpsters.

Noxious Weeds:

CPW recommends the development and implementation of a noxious weed control plan for the construction sites. All disturbed soils should be monitored for noxious weeds and noxious weeds should be actively controlled until native plant revegetation and reclamation is achieved. Care should be taken to avoid the spread of noxious weeds, and all construction equipment should be cleaned prior to leaving the site. A noxious weed management plan should be developed prior to any disturbance of the site. CPW recommends that all landscaping in the developed area should be comprised of native species. Native plant species can also provide an aesthetically pleasing landscape that requires little maintenance and are frequently more drought-tolerant than non-native species.

CPW appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on this project. Please feel free to contact, Land Use Specialist, Cassidy English, should you have any questions or require additional information at 719-828-4877, or via email at cassidy.english@state.co.us.

Sincerely,



Tim Kroening
Area Wildlife Manager
Area 14- Colorado Springs

CC: Regional Files
Area 14 Files

