



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Southeast Region  
4255 Sinton Road  
Colorado Springs, 80907  
P 719.227.5200 | F 719.227.5264

November 26, 2023

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

RE: HWY 83 Access Management Plan (AMP)

Dear Kari Parsons,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has received the request to review the Highway 83 Access Management Plan (AMP) for El Paso County, Colorado. The AMP includes plans for updating traffic access such as the addition of traffic signals, roundabouts, right turns only, and addresses access issues to driveways on private property. CPW is familiar with the project area and has the following comments.

The location of this project is within the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (PMJM) range and habitat. PMJM is currently on both the Federal and State threatened species list. CPW recommends contacting the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for information regarding developing in potential PMJM habitat.

There are several big game species that may be found in the area, such as, mule deer, elk, pronghorn, bear, and mountain lion. CPW recommends slower speed limits be incorporated in the AMP, as well as, appropriate wildlife crossing signs to alert drivers to potential wildlife crossings. CPW also 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.

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.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on this project. Please feel free to contact, Land Use Coordinator, Cassidy English, should you have any questions or require additional information at 719-828-4877, or via email at [cassidy.english@state.co.us](mailto:cassidy.english@state.co.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Kroening". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tim Kroening  
Area 14 Wildlife Manager

CC: Regional Files  
Area 14 Files