

## **STERLING RANCH FILING 3 FINAL PLAT**

### **WILDLIFE REPORT**

#### ***AUGUST 2021***

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Wildlife Habitat Maps prepared for the State of Colorado by the Division of Wildlife (DOW) were consulted to determine the potential for important habitat within Sterling Ranch Filing No. 3. A Wetlands Analysis Report for the Sterling Ranch Phase 2 Preliminary Plan was prepared by Bristlecone Ecology, dated August, 2021. A Preliminary Habitat Assessment dated March 28, 2007 by Walsh Environmental Scientists and Engineers, LLC, previously submitted and reviewed with the Sterling Ranch Sketch Plan, states that the site is unsuitable for EL Paso County T&E species. In addition, an updated clearance for the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse has been previously submitted.

Wildlife that has been viewed on the site and surrounding areas include prairie dogs, coyotes, pronghorn antelope, western meadowlarks, sparrow and several species of hawks including red tail. Prairie voles, mice and prairie dogs are the typical rodent population in the area. As development occurs within Sterling Ranch, care will be taken to minimize human and wildlife conflicts within reasonable limits. The Sand Creek Channel is protected and provides a wildlife corridor through the development.

Vegetation on the project site includes short- and mid-grass prairie species in areas outside of the Sand Creek corridors. Within the creek corridors, vegetation includes upland and wetland trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation, as follows:

- common cattail
- redtop
- Baltic rush
- wild rye
- Nebraska sedge
- beaked sedge
- sandbar willow
- woods rose
- snowberry
- plains cottonwood
- peach-leaf willow
- crack willow
- narrow-leaf cottonwood

The vegetation on the project site can support a variety of wildlife, including prairie dogs, coyotes, pronghorn antelope, western meadowlarks, sparrow and several species of Hawks, including red tail. However, evaluations of the project site have identified no evidence of any prairie dog inhabitants. The

proposed development is not expected to have a significant impact on wildlife known to be present on or near the site.