



Informal Consultation Request

January 10, 2019

Mr. Drue DeBerry
Acting Colorado Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Colorado Ecological Services Field Office
134 Union Blvd., Suite 670
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

2019-TA-0422

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO CONCERNS
<input type="checkbox"/>	CONCUR NOT LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT
<input type="checkbox"/>	NO COMMENT
<i>Leslie Ethwood</i>	4-2-2019
Drue DeBerry	DATE
Colorado and Nebraska Field Supervisor	

- marginal prairie habitat, not connected to good habitat
- Conservation measures will protect riparian areas
- will survey for WLT0; marginal habitat

RE: Request for Technical Assistance Regarding the Likelihood of Take of Federally-listed Threatened and Endangered Species resulting from the proposed development of the Winsome Project in El Paso County, Colorado

Dear Mr. DeBerry:

Ecosystem Services, LLC (ecos) has prepared the enclosed habitat evaluation on behalf of PT McCune, LLC to describe the physical/ecological characteristics of the Winsome Property (Site) and evaluate the potential effects of the proposed development project (Project) on the Federally-listed threatened and endangered (T&E) species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The El Paso County Environmental Division has completed its review of the Winsome project (Project) and has requested the following: "Documentation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) shall be provided to the Planning and Community Development Department prior to project commencement where the project will result in ground disturbing activity in habitat occupied or potentially occupied by threatened or endangered species and/or where development will occur within 300 feet of the centerline of a stream or within 300 feet of the 100 year floodplain, whichever is greater."

At this time there is no Federal action and no Federal agency is making a formal effects determination under Section 7 (a)(2) of the ESA. Therefore, ecos is requesting technical assistance from USFWS regarding PT McCune, LLC's (i.e., the non-federal party) responsibilities under the ESA, and specifically the likelihood of the Project (described herein) resulting in take of listed species. If the USFWS concurs with the findings presented herein we request that you issue an informal letter of concurrence for use in the El Paso County Project review process.

1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION and SITE LOCATION

The Site is situated in the northeastern corner of the Black Forest approximately 12.5 miles east of Monument and 7.3 miles east of Highway 83, in El Paso County, Colorado. The Site is located in the northwest corner of Hodgen and Meridian Roads. The Site is specifically located within Section 24, the south $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 13, and the west $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 19, Township 11 South, Range 65 West in El Paso County, Colorado (refer to Figure 1).

The Applicant proposes to form a metropolitan district within El Paso County and develop the 766.66-acre Site as a residential community consisting of 5-acre and 2.5 acre single-family detached rural-residential lots and one 7.9-acre commercial lot, including trails, utilities, and streets and cul-de-sacs that provide access to each lot; and preserve 148.6 acres of open space along West Kiowa Creek (refer to Figure 2).

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Office Assessment

Ecos performed an office assessment in which available databases, resources, literature and field guides on local flora and fauna were reviewed to gather background information on the environmental setting of the Site. We consulted several organizations, agencies, and their databases, including:

- Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) Noxious Weed List;
- Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP);
- Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) GIS Online;
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW);
- El Paso County Black Forest Preservation Plan Update;
- Google Earth current and historic aerial imagery;
- CNHP Survey of Critical Biological Resources, El Paso County, Colorado;
- CNHP Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in El Paso and Pueblo Counties, Colorado;
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Region 6;
- USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI); and
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

2.2 Onsite Assessments

Following the collection and review of existing data and background information, ecos conducted a field assessment of the Site on September 5, 2018 to identify any potential impacts to natural resources associated with the Project. Field reconnaissance concentrated on identification of wetland habitat, waters of the U.S. and on the presence of habitat suitable to support threatened and endangered wildlife. Ecos conducted a follow-up field assessment on September 20, 2018 to gather additional data. Wetland habitat and waters of the U.S. boundaries, wildlife habitat, and vegetation communities were sketched on topographic and aerial base maps and located using a hand-held Global Positioning System as deemed necessary. Representative photographs were taken to assist in describing and documenting Site conditions and potential ecological impacts.