

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Environmental Assessment for Colorado Parks and Wildlife Durango Service Center Durango, Colorado

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has prepared this document in accordance with Executive Order 14154, Unleashing American Energy (Jan. 20, 2025), and a Presidential Memorandum, Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity (Jan. 21, 2025), which require the Department to strictly adhere to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq. Further, such Order and Memorandum repeal Executive Orders 12898 (Feb. 11, 1994) and 14096 (Apr. 21, 2023). Since Executive Orders 12898 and 14096 have been repealed, complying with such Orders is a legal impossibility. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service verifies that it has complied with the requirements of NEPA, including the Department's regulations and procedures implementing NEPA at 43 C.F.R. Part 46 and Part 516 of the Departmental Manual, consistent with the President's January 2025 Order and Memorandum as it applies to the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (WR) as amended (50 Stat. 917, 16 U.S.C. Sec. 669 et seq.).

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has submitted a grant application titled *Southwest Region Office and Durango Service Center Construction* to the Service for approval to receive WR grant funds to complete the project. The Service's decision to approve the grant application constitutes a Federal action subject to NEPA. To address this requirement, the Service prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the impacts of the proposed project on the human environment.

Described as the Proposed Action in the draft EA, CPW will construct a new office building on land owned by CPW that will consist of a two-story structure totaling approximately 9,900 square feet on the existing Durango Hatchery and Durango Wildlife Museum's 9-acre property. The project will include construction of the new Southwest Region Office Building, associated parking and drainage facilities, associated utility services, existing utility relocations, and improvements to the 16th Street access drive. The Proposed Action has been developed over several years through internal discussions with CPW leadership, staff, and other key stakeholders, including the City of Durango and Colorado Department of Transportation. Colorado Parks and Wildlife considered other properties and building options over many years; however, because the existing CPW hatchery property is large enough to support a building and is previously disturbed with low-quality wildlife habitat, this site was the only alternative carried forward for analysis. The EA's Proposed Action would not negatively impact wildlife, floodplains, or wetlands. A No-Action Alternative was considered and while this alternative would not impact any natural resources in the area, the ability to meet CPW's mission and provide services to the public would be increasingly difficult due to space restrictions and split office locations.

Analysis of the Proposed Action identified historical properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historical Places. The Service therefore has recommended the Proposed Action be determined to have an "adverse effect to historic properties" pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5 of the NHPA. To address this, the Service is executing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.6 (c) with other parties including CPW and the Colorado State Historical Preservation Office.

The draft EA was issued for a 30-day public comment period which ended on July 5, 2025. During that time, CPW hosted an informational public meeting on June 16, 2025, attended by five members of the public. Four comments regarding the Draft EA were received from private citizens during the comment period via email. All comments were addressed and added as Appendix C to the Final EA.

Based on review of the EA, I find that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action which would significantly impact the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. I also find that all reasonable alternatives were considered in the evaluation of the proposed project and that this project complies with the intent of the National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11988 "Floodplain Management" and Executive Order 11990 "Protection of Wetlands." Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the project will have no effect on any listed species or critical habitat. Consequently, I have determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The EA is on file at the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Conservation Investment, 1 Denver Federal Center, Lakewood, Colorado, 80225 and is available upon request.

APPROVAL:

Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6

Date