



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region



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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Utah Department of Wildlife Resources Proposed Federal Land Disposal of the Confluence Park Conservation Easement in Washington County, Utah.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has prepared this document in accordance with the procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969¹, as amended, and as it applies to the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Program (Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act). The Utah Department of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) has requested the Service's concurrence to dispose of 1.457-acres (Section 6 grant # E-8-L) of the Confluence Park Conservation Easement. The Service's approval of this land disposal constitutes a Federal action subject to provisions of NEPA, including the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate potential impacts of the proposed action on the human environment.

The Service prepared and posted a draft EA that was released for a 30-day public review and comment period from July 21, 2025, to August 20, 2025 (<https://www.fws.gov/media/confluence-park-land-disposal-draft-ea>). No public comments were received regarding the proposed Federal land disposal of 1.457 acres. Therefore, a final EA entitled Final Environmental Assessment, Confluence Park Land Disposal in Washington County, Utah, August 20, 2025, and attached Appendices, have been prepared to comply with NEPA requirements and to assist in the Service's decision-making to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

A Preferred Alternative and a No Action Alternative were analyzed in the EA. The Proposed Action is to dispose of a 1.457-acre parcel of the Confluence Park Conservation Easement due to the encroachment of surrounding residential development. UDWR has determined that the wildlife habitat value of the parcel has diminished and no longer meets the authorized purpose of the

¹ Executive Order 14154, Unleashing American Energy (Jan. 20, 2025), and a Presidential Memorandum, Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity (Jan. 21, 2025), 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). Because 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. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has also voluntarily considered the Council on Environmental Quality's rescinded regulations implementing NEPA, previously found at 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500–1508, as guidance to the extent appropriate and consistent with the requirements of NEPA and Executive Order 14154.

original Federal award. Upon evaluating the effects of the proposed disposal of the 1.457-acre parcel, UDWR has determined that there would not be a significant impact to wildlife resources and existing public interests. The 1.457-acres of wildlife habitat to be disposed of represents a small portion of the available habitat within the 327-acre conservation easement. Furthermore, UDWR will acquire approximately 20.702 acres in two parcels that are contiguous with the Confluence Park Conservation Easement.

Under the No Action Alternative, UDWR would retain ownership of the entire Confluence Park Conservation Easement, including the 1.457-acre parcel that no longer provides suitable wildlife habitat. UDWR would forfeit the opportunity to acquire the 20.702-acres of wildlife habitat intended to avoid and/or minimize effects resulting from surrounding residential development.

Based on review of the Final 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 proposed disposal will have no effect on any listed species or critical habitat. Consequently, I have determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The Final EA is on file at the Office of Conservation Investment, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver Federal Center, 1 Denver Federal Center, Building 53, Room FW 100, Denver, Colorado, 80228, and is also available online at: <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/office-conservation-investment-nepa-documents>

Signature	Date
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References:

Final Environmental Assessment, Confluence Park Land Disposal, Involving Lands Owned by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Washington County, Utah. August 20, 2025. UDWR & U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.