

# **DRAFT**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE**

### **I. SUMMARY**

#### **A. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

Applicant:

Address:

Project No.

#### **B. CONTACT PERSON**

Mr./Ms. City or County Manager

P.O. Box

\_\_\_\_\_, Colorado 80\_\_\_\_

#### **C. ABSTRACT**

Briefly summarize the proposed project in one paragraph if possible, two paragraphs at the most. Include the following information:

- Proposed alternative and major components
- Need for the project
- Old vs. new capacity
- Increases in user rates if applicable
- Total project cost and loan amount

#### **D. COMMENT PERIOD**

In conformance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Colorado Environmental Review Process, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be subject to a 30-day public review period. The FNSI will be distributed to interested persons and agencies for their review. The FNSI will be available for public review at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Any comments received will be given due consideration. Comments should be addressed to:

\_\_\_\_\_, Project Manager  
Water Quality Control Division  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
WQCD-OA-B2  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South  
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530

### **II. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION**

Describe why the facility planning process was started. Address applicable issues related to:

- Compliance
- Additional capacity for population growth
- Replacement of aged infrastructure

### **III. PROJECT SUMMARY**

Briefly summarize the technical features and costs of the project. Reference the analysis of design alternatives in the utility or facility plans if available. If there has not been an evaluation of different design alternatives including the proposed alternative, include an evaluation in this section. A summary of each alternative should include an overview of the technical and financial features, including net present value, as well as their advantages and disadvantages.

### **IV. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

#### **A. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AREA**

The entire planning area defines the scope of the environmental assessment. In most cases the planning area encompasses the current and future service area and facility site. The future service area would include the urban growth area of the municipality (ies) and any other likely areas for extension over the 20-year planning period. A description of the planning area should include:

- The general location in Colorado.
- A reproducible map of the planning area to include major roads and land uses if possible. Show urban growth boundaries if applicable.
- Reproducible map(s) of the environmentally sensitive areas within the planning area including: major streams and other waterbodies, 100-year floodplains (FEMA), wetlands (National Wetlands Inventory), and any identified wildlife habitat. Describe the current conditions of these resources if possible.
- A listing of sites on the national and state register of historic places.

#### **B. POPULATION AND FLOW PROJECTIONS**

Describe the current and projected population figures and drinking water needs over the 20-year planning period and estimate the population growth rate. Evaluate conformance of population and flow forecasts with the local planning agencies if applicable.

### **V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

#### **A. DIRECT AND SECONDARY IMPACTS**

Lead off this section with the following language...

“Construction of \_\_\_\_\_ may have direct impacts from facility construction and secondary and cumulative impacts from future development within the service area. “Secondary impacts are those induced or stimulated by, or as a result of, the proposed action. These can include cumulative, social and land use impacts, among others.” “Cumulative impacts are the collective incremental impacts of the proposed action regardless of the entity undertaking the action.” Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.” From the characteristics of the proposed project, and descriptive elements of the environmental setting, probable impacts are direct and/or secondary.

Potential secondary and cumulative impacts to the environment from new development, such as increased quantity and decreased quality of urban runoff, degradation of wetland and wildlife habitat and increased air pollution and noise are likely to affect the planning area. Some of the more specific impacts are as follows:

#### Surface Water and Groundwater Quality and Quantity

Discuss the potential impacts that the proposed alternative and development within the service area may have on surface water and groundwater. Review point and nonpoint sources of pollution and focus on area- specific water quality concerns if possible.

Potential secondary impacts may include changes in nonpoint source pollution as a result of the cumulative impact of changing land uses, from rural to suburban, and accompanying increases in population. Urban and suburban runoff typically contains higher concentrations of nutrients, (e.g., nitrogen and phosphorous) oxygen consuming wastes, pathogens, pesticides, heavy metals, and oil compared with runoff from rural areas. As areas develop, local waterbodies are likely to receive higher levels of nonpoint source pollution.

#### Wetlands

Discuss the potential impacts to wetlands found within the planning area and identify those most at risk based on encroaching development. If there are documented wetland losses in the area please specify.

Secondary and cumulative impacts to wetlands may be similar to those for water quality. Increased delivery of non-point source pollution including temporary increases in sediment loads from construction sites can impact wetlands. Changes in hydrological regimes may alter the structure and function of wetlands. Recreational use of stream areas may also degrade wetland habitat.

#### Floodplains

Discuss the development patterns in and historical changes to the 100-year floodplain(s) found within the planning area. Impacts to the 100-year floodplain can occur in two forms: (1) directly through changes to the volumetric capacity of the floodplain; or (2) indirectly through an increase in the total volume of water arriving at and being conveyed by the floodplain. Indirect impacts are especially important when considering cumulative impacts to floodplains from all the previous, current, and planned projects in an area.

#### Terrestrial and Aquatic Plants and Wildlife

Focus on federal and state threatened and endangered species that may be found in the planning area. Summarize findings of any past surveys.

Potential secondary and cumulative impacts include road kill, loss, degradation or fragmentation of wildlife habitat and temporary or permanent reductions in biodiversity.

#### Cultural, Historical and Archeological Resources

Discuss any likely impacts to resources. State that direct impacts could occur to undiscovered resources during construction activities.

### Air Quality

Discuss whether or not the planning area is an attainment or non-attainment area for air quality standards. State that the non-conformance rule applies for the project. Mention potential secondary impacts as follows:

Secondary air quality impacts may result from increased emissions from vehicle usage, heating systems, lawn care and cooking appliances, commercial and industrial facilities, and electric generating systems.

### Environmental Justice

Discuss the racial make-up of the planning area as a whole and in the vicinity of the project site. State whether or not the direct impacts of the project are likely to affect minority populations disproportionately.

**Include any other impacts identified on the Environmental Assessment Checklist.**

## **B. UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS**

Unavoidable adverse impacts of all construction and development related projects that may not be fully mitigated include:

- Short-term increases in noise and ambient air particulate levels and increased traffic in the immediate vicinity of construction activities.
- Increased pollution in stormwater runoff from construction sites and impervious surfaces throughout the planning area.
- Commitment of resources including capital, manpower, and materials.
- Loss of potential wildlife habitat due to development.
- Increased traffic associated with residential and commercial development served by the project.

**Modify and add others as applicable.**

## **C. MITIGATION OF ADVERSE IMPACTS**

Summarize local and regional measures that may mitigate the environmental impacts. Address the following applicable measures and if there are none state as such:

- Regional watershed plan
- Comprehensive or master plan
- Urban growth boundary or other growth management tools
- Stormwater management plan
- Habitat and/or open space preservation and protection
- Wetland polices/ordinances
- Floodplain policies/ordinances

- Erosion control and re-vegetation requirements
- Development review/approval processes that relate to wetlands, open space, wildlife, and stormwater
- Local or regional air quality monitoring
- Mitigation measures requested by contact agencies

Include any additional measures not listed that may mitigate impacts.

## **VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

An overview of the project and any changes in rates should be discussed at a public meeting. This meeting can be part of a regular council or board meeting although the public notice must be published 30 days in advance of the meeting. State the time, date and location of the public meeting, summarize any discussion, and submit a copy of the public notice.

## **VII. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

Reference the utility plan, master plan, wildlife surveys, and other documents as appropriate.

## **VIII. AGENCIES CONTACTED**

Send a letter with a brief description of the proposed project and planning area along with a map of the planning area to the agencies listed below and on the attached mailing list. Allow 30 days for a response and attach copies of responses to the environmental assessment. Modify contact names as necessary.

- A.** U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Susan Linner
- B.** Historical Society, Jim Green
- C.** Corps of Engineers, Terry McKee
- D.** Natural Resources Conservation Service, John E. Andrews
- E.** Colorado Division of Wildlife, Regional Contact
- F.** Colorado State Engineer's Office, Bill McIntyre
- G.** Colorado Air Pollution Office, Mark McMillan
- H.** National Park Service, Gary Weiner

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AGENCY CONTACT LIST

## A. Fish & Wildlife (Wild & Scenic Rivers/Endangered Species)

**Mail:** U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service **Delivery ONLY:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services Ecological Services  
Colorado Field Office Colorado Field Office  
P.O. Box 25486, DFC 134 Union Blvd., Ste. 670  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486 Lakewood, CO 80228-1807  
Susan Linner (effective 7/28/03) (303) 275-2370  
Main Office Phone: (303) 236-4773  
Main Office Fax: 303-236-4005

**Staff:** Susan Linner, Colorado Field Supervisor; Adam Misztal; Peter Plage; Sandy Vana-Miller; Laura Archuleta; Susan Kennedy; Leslie Ellwood, Alison Michael; Donna Lakamp.

### **Western Slope:**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Western Colorado Field Office  
764 Horizon Drive, Building B  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506-3946  
Main Office Phone: (970) 243-2778

**Staff:** Al Pfister, Patty Gelatt, Rick Krueger (Colorado Depletions), Terry Ireland

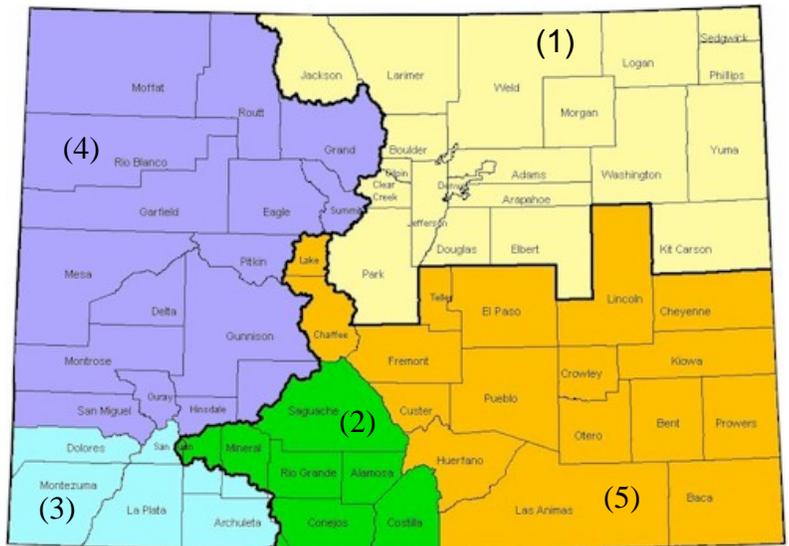
## B. Colorado Historical Society

Colorado Historical Society  
1300 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80203-2137  
Dan Corson (303) 866-2673  
or Jim Green (303) 866-4674

## C. Corps of Engineers (Floodplains & Wetlands)

**Denver Regulatory Office (1)**  
**(Omaha District)**  
9307 South Wadsworth Blvd.  
Littleton, CO 80128-6901  
Phone: (303) 979-4120  
Fax: (303) 979-0602

**Durango Regulatory Office (2)**  
**(Albuquerque District)**  
Attention: Hildreth Cooper  
799 E. 3rd Street, Unit #2  
Durango, CO 81303  
Phone: (970) 375-6235  
Fax (970) 375- 9531



Source: <https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-tl/coloreg-home.htm>

***Durango Regulatory Office (3)***

***(Sacramento District)***

Attention: Kara Hellige  
799 E. 3rd Street, Unit #2  
Durango, CO 81303  
Phone: (970) 375-9506  
Fax: (970) 375-9531

***Colorado/Gunnison Basin Regulatory Office (4)***

***(Sacramento District):***

Attention: Sue Nall  
400 Rood Ave, Room 142  
Grand Junction, CO 81501-2563  
Phone: (970) 243-1199  
Fax: (970) 241-2358

***Southern Colorado Regulatory Office (5)***

***(Albuquerque District)***

Attention: Van Truan  
200 South Santa Fe Avenue, Suite 301  
Pueblo, CO 81003  
Phone: (719) 543-9459  
Fax: (719) 543-9475

**Colorado Regulatory Offices web site:**

<https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-tl/coloreg-home.htm>

**D. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (Agricultural Lands)**

***Natural Resources Conservation Service***

Attention: Allen Green  
Denver Federal Center  
Building 56, Room 2604  
PO Box 25426  
Denver, CO 80225-0426  
Phone: (720) 544-2810  
FAX: (720) 544-2962

**Natural Resources Conservation Service web site:**

<http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/index.html>

**E. Division of Wildlife (Wildlife Protection, Endangered Species).**

--Please submit two copies: One copy to CDOW Headquarters, and one copy to the respective region.

***CDOW Headquarters***

Attention: Regional Manager  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80216

***Division of Wildlife - Southeast Region***

Attention: Regional Manager  
4255 Sinton Road  
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

***Division of Wildlife - Southwest Region***

Attention: Regional Manager  
151 East 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Durango, CO 81301

***Division of Wildlife - Northwest Region***

Attention: Regional Manager  
711 W. Independent Avenue  
Grand Junction, CO 81503

***Division of Wildlife - Northeast Regional Service Center***

Attention: Regional Manager  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80216

**F. State Engineers Office (Water Rights)**

**Department of Natural Resources**

Dick Wolfe, State Engineer  
Colorado Division of Water Resources  
1313 Sherman St., Rm. 818  
Denver, CO 80203  
Main Phone Number: (303) 866-3581  
Fax number: (303) 866-3589

**Colorado Division of Water Resources web site:**

<http://water.state.co.us/org/contacts.asp>

**G. Air Pollution Office**

**Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment**

Attention: Jim DiLeo  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South  
Denver, CO 80246-1530  
Phone: (303) 692-3127

**H. National Park Service**

**Wild and Scenic Rivers**

National Park Service  
Intermountain Regional Office  
Attn: Environmental Quality  
12795 West Alameda Parkway  
Lakewood, CO 80228