

Addendum to the Technical Memorandum “U.S. 287 at Lamar: Threatened and Endangered Species” dated June 9, 2003

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Introduction

This addendum memorandum updates the Technical Memorandum “U.S. 287 at Lamar: Threatened and Endangered Species” dated July 3, 2003. The information presented in this addendum memorandum does not change the conclusions of the original analysis.

Updated Existing Conditions

A project site visit was conducted in April 2007 to determine if changes had occurred to the presence and distribution of noxious weeds within the project area since the original field survey. A colony of black-tailed prairie dogs is situated in the study area between the Arkansas River and SH196. An April 2003 field survey estimated the colony at just over 80 acres in size. This survey conducted confirmed the presence of prairie dogs and burrowing owls. A supplemental field survey by project biologists in 2007 confirmed that this colony still existed, however it had decreased substantially in size.

Updated Potential Impacts

The decreased colony size as mentioned above reduces the likelihood of black-footed ferret presence in the project corridor. In addition, the project may no longer impact this colony because of the significant reduction in its size. Project impacts, if any, to the black-tailed prairie dog will be managed by implementing CDOT’s relocation guidelines.

The Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) confirmed that the project would not impact the lesser prairie-chicken. Surveys in the project area conducted by the CDOW annually since 2004 have found no presence of lesser prairie-chicken in the area of the proposed action (Prenzlow, 2007).

Conclusion

The information presented above updates the conclusions in the original threatened and endangered species Technical Memorandum. Impacts and mitigation measures as detailed in the Environmental Assessment have been updated to reflect the changes detailed above.

References

Prenzlou, Dan, Colorado Division of Wildlife. Personal communication to Laura Dreher/
CH2M HILL, July 5, 2007.