



Environmental Site Assessment Report

FOR

Bennett Station Lateral
(DA-2201-13 & 2019-6048-14)

Prepared For:



City of Aurora
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Prepared By:



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Wildlife Impact Management Plan Applicability Statement:

This project is located within the CPW-recommended 1/8-mile buffer around suitable burrowing owl habitat but was determined to not be located in any Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) High Priority Habitat and, therefore, the City of Aurora Wildlife Impact Management Plan (WIMP) regulation is not applicable. This report provides the results of the desktop and field environmental site assessment for this location and outlines any applicable recommendations to ensure the protection of natural resources.

1. INTRODUCTION

RPG Resources (RPG), on behalf of Crestone Peak Resources Midstream, LLC (CPRM), conducted an environmental site assessment for the proposed Bennett Station Lateral construction project to identify any wildlife or other natural resource constraint(s) present within or surrounding the proposed project area. This assessment was conducted in order to ensure CPRM's compliance with the City of Aurora Energy & Environment Division requirements Chapter 135 of Aurora City Code, Endangered Species Act (ESA), Colorado Nongame, Endangered, or Threatened Species Conservation Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA), Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), Clean Water Act (CWA), and other applicable requirements and recommendations. This report summarizes the project location, methods, assessment results, and recommendations to avoid or minimize impacts to wildlife and other natural resources.

2. PROJECT LOCATION

CPRM's Bennett Station Lateral (Site) is located in Sections 33 and 34 of Township 3 South, Range 64 West in the City of Aurora, Adams County, CO. Boundaries of the Site are defined as the limits of disturbance, including the temporary and permanent easements. The Site is in the Central High Plains, Southern Part Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) of the Western Great Plains Range and Irrigated Region Land Resource Region (LRR) of the Central High Plains, Southern Part Major Land Resource Region (MLRA; NRCS 2006), and the surrounding land types are cropland and oil and gas. The proposed project is approximately 3,265 feet. The easement currently contains a steel crude oil pipeline, six inches in diameter, and will ultimately contain a steel natural gas pipeline, six inches in diameter. There are no proposed above ground appurtenances for this lateral within City of Aurora limits.

3. METHODS

RPG's environmental site assessment included a desktop review of aerial imagery, agency-mapped sensitive natural resources, and a site-specific U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consulting (IPaC) report. Following the desktop review, RPG conducted a windshield and pedestrian field site survey on 02/25/2025. The field survey was conducted by a qualified biologist and a wetland scientist and included a survey for nesting raptors within ½-mile of the Site, any burrowing owl habitat / prairie dog colonies within 1/8-mile (660-feet) of the Site (Appendix B), and any wetlands, waters of the U.S., and Floodplains features within 500-feet of the Site. Although the field survey was conducted outside the standard Colorado non-raptor migratory bird breeding season, suitable habitat for non-raptor nesting was also assessed during the site visit. Recommendations to avoid and minimize impacts to wildlife and other sensitive natural resources were provided based on the results of the assessment and the proposed start date.

4. RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. Eagles

There is no suitable bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) or golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) nesting habitat within ½-mile of the Site. There are no CPW-mapped bald eagle winter night roost areas or CPW-mapped bald eagle nests within ½ mile of the Site.

No further action is recommended.

4.2. Burrowing Owls

There is suitable burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) habitat (i.e., black-tailed prairie dog colony) approximately 622-feet north of the central portion of the Site. This habitat is within the CPW-recommended 1/8-mile (660-foot) buffer for burrowing owls. This habitat was active with black-tailed prairie dogs at the time of the site assessment. This habitat was not surveyed during the 2025 burrowing owl nesting season.

If construction begins between March 15 and October 31, qualified biologists will conduct burrowing owl surveys, in accordance with CPW-recommended protocol.

4.3. Other Raptors

There are three (3) inactive non-eagle raptor nests located within ½-mile of the Site. One nest is located approximately 25-feet northeast of the eastern terminus of the Site, a second nest is located approximately 123-feet east of the eastern terminus of the Site, and a third nest is located approximately 436-feet east of the eastern terminus of the Site.

If construction begins between February 1 and August 15, raptor nesting surveys will be conducted by qualified biologists.

4.4. Migratory Birds

Suitable non-raptor nesting habitat, including surface topography, vegetation, and artificial structures, is present at and immediately surrounding the Site. The Site assessment was conducted outside the standard Colorado non-raptor migratory bird nesting season.

If construction begins between April 1 and August 31, migratory bird nesting surveys will be conducted by qualified biologists.

4.5. High Priority Habitats

The Site is not located within any CPW-mapped High Priority Habitats.

No further action is recommended.

4.6. Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species

The USFWS IPaC report included six (6) federally listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species that have potential to exist within or in the immediate vicinity of the Site. No suitable habitat for any of these species was identified at the Site.

Table 1. IPaC Report Results & Assessment

Species	Habitat Description	Results & Recommendations
Birds		
Piping plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> Threatened	The piping plover breeds on bare sand or gravel beaches, sandbars, or islands along rivers, reservoirs, or alkaline wetlands. Limited numbers breed in Colorado.	No suitable habitat present within the Site. No recommended action.
Whooping crane <i>Grus americana</i> Endangered	The whooping crane breeds, nests, migrates, winters, and forages in wetlands, coastal marshes, estuaries, inland marshes, lakes, ponds, wet meadows and rivers, and agricultural fields. <i>There are no known populations currently present in Colorado.</i>	No suitable habitat present within the Site. No river depletions or other impacts to potential downstream habitats expected to occur. No recommended action.
Fish		
Pallid sturgeon <i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i> Endangered	The pallid sturgeon is a bottom-oriented, large river obligate fish that is found in the Missouri and Mississippi rivers and some tributaries. <i>There are no known populations currently present in Colorado.</i>	No suitable habitat present within the Site. No river depletions or other impacts to potential downstream habitats expected to occur. No recommended action.
Insects		
Monarch butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> Candidate	Although Critical Habitat Documents are not currently available for the monarch butterfly, this species almost exclusively utilizes milkweed (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.) for breeding and reproduction. During spring migration, this species will commonly nectar on <i>Coreopsis</i> spp., <i>Viburnum</i> spp. and <i>Phlox</i> spp. Additionally, western populations rely on various native and non-native evergreen and deciduous trees as roost sites during nighttime migration periods. Note: The monarch butterfly is a candidate species and not yet listed or proposed for listing.	No suitable habitat present within the Site. No recommended action.

Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee <i>Bombus suckleyi</i> Candidate	No critical habitat or conservation plans are currently available for the Suckley's cuckoo bumblebee.	No habitat documentation currently available. No additional action recommended. <i>Note: The Suckley's cuckoo bumblebee is a candidate species and not yet listed.</i>
Flowering Plants		
Ute ladies'-tresses <i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i> Threatened	The Ute ladies'-tresses is primarily found in moist meadows and may also be found in seasonally flooded river terraces, sub-irrigated or spring-fed abandoned stream channels, lakeshores, irrigation canals, berms, levees, irrigated meadows, reservoirs, and other similar habitat.	No suitable habitat present within the Site. No river depletions or other impacts to potential downstream habitats expected to occur. No recommended action.
Western prairie fringed orchid <i>Platanthera praeclara</i> Threatened	The western prairie fringed orchid is a perennial species most often found in unplowed, calcareous prairies and sedge meadows and dependent on moist soils. <i>There are no known populations currently present in Colorado.</i>	No suitable habitat present within the Site. No river depletions or other impacts to potential downstream habitats expected to occur. No recommended action.

The Colorado state-listed T&E species that have potential to occur in the same area as the Site are the burrowing owl and the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (PMJM). The burrowing owl is discussed above in Section 4.2. The Site lies within the USFWS PMJM Overall Range. No suitable PMJM habitat was present within the Site during the site assessment.

4.7. Wetlands, Waters of the U.S., and Floodplains

One National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)-Mapped feature is approximately 261-feet north of the eastern-most terminus of the Site. Due to private property access issues, the northwest and western portion of the NWI-mapped feature was not field-verified. Only the eastern portion of the feature was field-verified present and delineated by our wetland scientist. This wetland is within a deep depression with a 3-foot-high rock outfall, creating a dam, to the west, that extends at least 400-feet north. There were 2 inches of standing water along the northern area of the wetland and saturated soil throughout the mapped wetland area. Needle spikerush (*Eleocharis acicularis*) dominates the wetland area. The boundary was determined by the increased cover of Blue Wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*). Additionally, there is an unmapped, field verified and delineated stormwater pond with wetland fringe, located approximately 176-feet northeast of the eastern-most terminus of the Site. The pond has an ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) and fringe wetlands along the bed and bank. A drainage feature moves water downslope, from north to south, and into the pond. Because neither water feature is in the right-of-way of the project, no impacts are anticipated as part of this project, and BMPs will be used as necessary. Both water features within 500-feet of the Site were deemed non-jurisdictional by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on February 14, 2025.

The Site is not located within any Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-mapped 100-year floodplain. No impacts to floodplains are expected as a result of this project.

No further action is recommended.

4.8. Noxious Weeds and Vegetation

The Site is surrounded by rangeland. No noxious weeds were observed.

No further action is recommended.

4.9. Safety and Other Concerns

No safety or other concerns were identified.

No further action is recommended.

5. SUMMARY

No active wildlife constraints were found at the time of the survey. Suitable nesting habitat for non-eagle raptors, burrowing owls, and other migratory birds was identified within the applicable CPW-recommended species-specific buffers. If construction begins between February 1 and October 31, additional wildlife surveys are recommended to ensure no new active nests or other wildlife constraints are present.

Two (2) water features were identified adjacent to the Site. These two features do not pose any concerns for this project. No other natural resource constraints or safety issues were identified.

CPRM and all associated contractors agree to adhere to all relevant operating requirements outlined in this plan. In addition to the standard operating requirements, supplementary measures and protocols may be implemented in response to specific needs identified at the Site.

LITERATURE CITED

- Colorado Natural Heritage Program. 1997+. Colorado Rare Plant Guide. www.cnhp.colostate.edu. Latest update: February 2025.
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife. 2020. Colorado Parks and Wildlife's (CPW) Recommendations to Avoid and Minimize Impacts to Wildlife from Land Use Development in Colorado. Colorado Department of Natural Resources.
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife. 2020. Recommended Buffer Zones and Seasonal Restrictions for Colorado Raptors. Colorado Department of Natural Resources.
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Species Profiles. <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/SpeciesProfiles.aspx>. Accessed February 2025.
- National Resources Conservation Service. 2006. National Coordinated Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) Version 4.2. U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Soil Survey Center.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2016. Draft Revised Recovery Plan for the Northern Great Plains Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*).
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2021. Featured Pollinator Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*). https://www.fws.gov/pollinators/features/Monarch_Butterfly.html. Accessed February 2025.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation. <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. Accessed February 2025.

Photos



1. Near the western terminus of the lateral facing south along the ROW.



2. Near the southwestern corner of the lateral facing east along the ROW.



3. Near the center of the lateral facing east along the ROW



4. Near the southeast corner of the lateral facing north along the ROW.

APPENDIX A

Environmental Site Assessment



ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT



Project Name:	Bennett Station Lateral	County, State:	Adams County, CO
Report Date:	2/28/2025	Region:	DJ Basin
Inspection Date:	2/25/2025	Field Name:	Wattenberg
Inspector Name:	Miranda Roberts	Location:	S33 & S34 T3S R64W
ESA Type:	Pre-Construction	Project Lat-Long:	39.739750, -104.541411

RAPTORS

Bald and Golden Eagle Habitat:	No	Status:	CLEARED
Bald and Golden Eagle Active Nests:	No		

No bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) or golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) nests or nesting activity were observed within ½ mile of the Site during the field surveys. There is no suitable eagle nesting habitat (e.g., trees and cliffs) within ½ mile of the Site.

Bald Eagle Winter Night Roost/Communal Roost:	No	Status:	CLEARED
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There are no CPW-mapped bald eagle winter night roosts / communal roosts within 1/2-mile of the Site.

*Burrowing Owls and Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Habitat:	Yes	Status:	TEMPORARILY CLEARED
*Burrowing Owl nests:	No		

Suitable burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) habitat (i.e., prairie dog town) was identified within 1/8-mile of the Site, however, this habitat was not surveyed during the 2025 burrowing owl nesting season.

Other Raptor Habitat:	Yes	Status:	TEMPORARILY CLEARED
Other Raptor Nests:	Yes		

Three inactive non-eagle raptor nests were observed within ½ mile of the Site. One nest is located approximately 25-feet northeast of the eastern terminus of the Site, a second nest is located approximately 123-feet east of the eastern terminus of the Site, and a third nest is located approximately 436-feet east of the eastern terminus of the Site.

OTHER BIRDS

Grouse or Prairie Chicken High Priority Habitats:	No	Status:	CLEARED
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The Site is not within any grouse or prairie chicken HPHs.

Non-Raptor Migratory Bird Habitat:	Yes	Status:	TEMPORARILY CLEARED
Non-Raptor Migratory Bird Nests:	No		

Suitable non-raptor nesting habitat, including surface topography, vegetation, and artificial structures, is present at and immediately surrounding the Site. The Site assessment was conducted outside the standard Colorado non-raptor migratory bird nesting season.

MAMMALS

Big Game High Priority Habitats:	No	Status:	CLEARED
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The Site is not located within any CPW-mapped High Priority Habitats.

** Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (PMJM) Habitat:	No	Status:	CLEARED
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The Site is within CPW-mapped PMJM habitat, however, no suitable PMJM habitat was observed during the survey.

Swift Fox Habitat:	No	Status:	CLEARED
Swift Fox Dens:	No		

The Site is not within CPW-mapped swift fox overall range, and no swift fox habitat was observed during the survey.

VEGETATION

**Ute ladies'-tresses orchid (ULTO):	No	Status:	CLEARED
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No suitable Ute ladies'-tresses orchid habitat was observed during the survey.

Colorado State Noxious Weeds - List A,B,C:	No	Status:	CLEARED
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No noxious weeds were identified at the Site during the survey.

Current Land Use:	Rangeland and O&G	Future Land Use:	Rangeland and O&G
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ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT



AQUATIC HABITATS

Aquatic High Priority Habitats:	No	Status:	CLEARED
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There are no Aquatic High Priority Habitats within 1000 feet of the Site.

Wetlands/WOUS:	Yes	Status:	CLEARED
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One National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)-Mapped feature is approximately 261-feet north of the eastern-most terminus of the Site. Due to private property access issues, the northwest and western portion of the NWI-mapped feature was not field-verified. Only the eastern portion of the feature was field-verified present and delineated by our wetland scientist. This wetland is within a deep depression with a 3-foot-high rock outfall, creating a dam, to the west, that extends at least 400-feet north. There were 2 inches of standing water along the northern area of the wetland and saturated soil throughout the mapped wetland area. Needle spikerush (*Eleocharis acicularis*) dominates the wetland area. The boundary was determined by the increased cover of Blue Wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*). Additionally, there is an unmapped, field verified and delineated stormwater pond with wetland fringe, located approximately 176-feet northeast of the eastern-most terminus of the Site. The pond has an ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) and fringe wetlands along the bed and bank. A drainage feature moves water downslope, from north to south, and into the pond. Because neither water feature is in the right-of-way of the project, no impacts are anticipated as part of this project, and BMPs will be used as necessary. Both water features within 500-feet of the Site were deemed non-jurisdictional by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on February 14, 2025.

OTHER/SAFETY

Other Issues:	No	Status:	CLEARED
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None.

Safety Issues:	No	Status:	CLEARED
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None.

FIELD DATA COLLECTED	GENERAL COMMENTS
Site Photos?	Yes
Reference Area Photos?	Yes
Updated Aerial Imagery Taken?	Yes
Ground Control Points?	Yes
Wetland Determination Data Form?	Yes
There is suitable non-eagle raptor, burrowing owl, and migratory bird nesting habitat present. Additional wildlife surveys are recommended prior to the start of construction to ensure no sensitive wildlife resources will be impacted.	

Reviewed By:

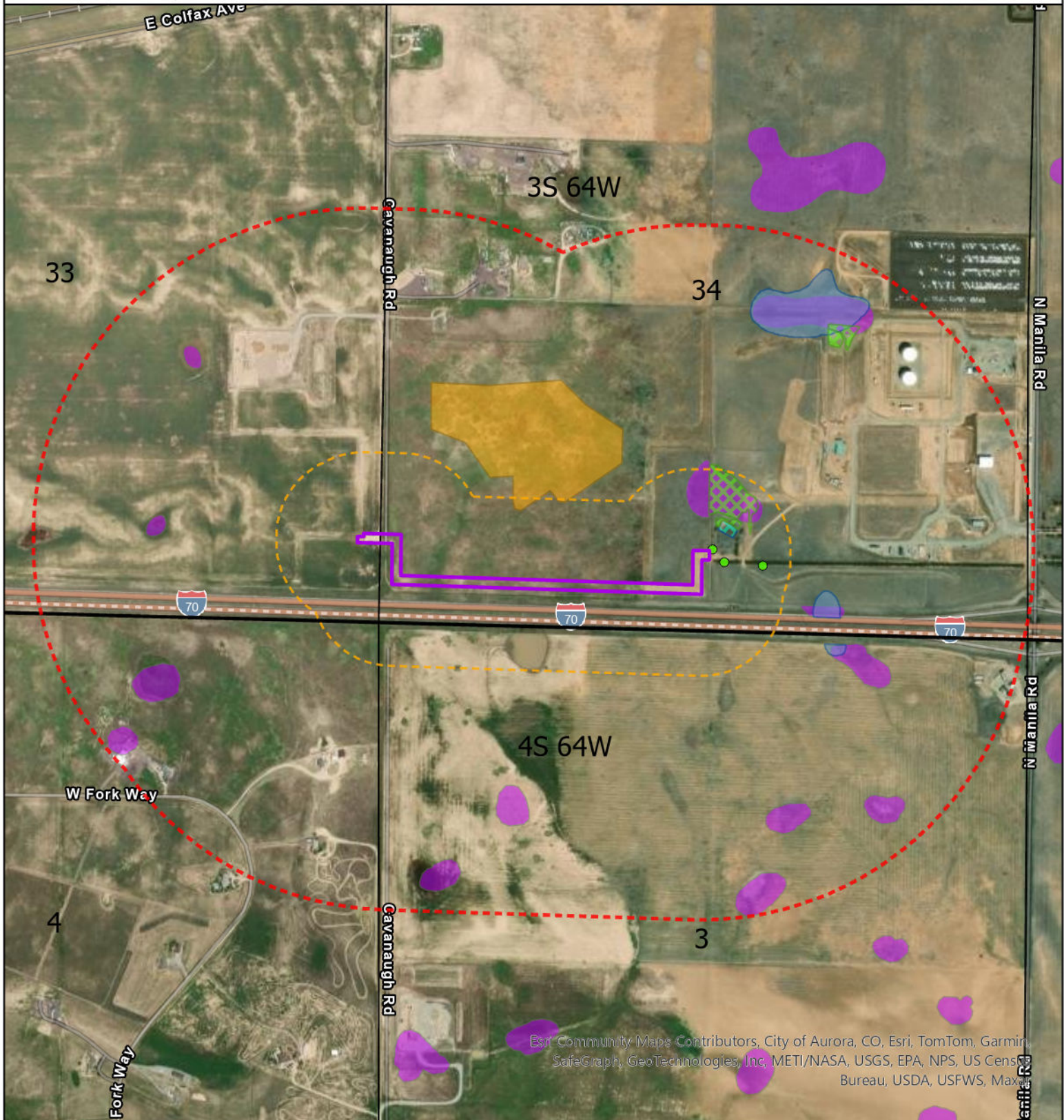
Brent Hoepfner

Title:

Wildlife Project Manager

Signature:

APPENDIX B
Environmental Site Map



Esri Community Maps Contributors, City of Aurora, CO, Esri, TomTom, Garmin,
 SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census
 Bureau, USDA, USFWS, Maxar

ENVIRONMENTAL MAP

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Linear Easement | Delineated Lake/Pond |
| 0.125-Mile Survey Radius | Burrowing Owl Habitat |
| 0.5-Mile Survey Radius | NHD-Mapped Lake/Pond |
| Inactive Non-Eagle Raptor Nest | NWI-Mapped Feature (Other) |
| Delineated Wetland | |

Projection: WGS 1984
 Date: 2/27/2025
 Drafted by: BNB



0 500 1,000
 Feet

1 inch equals 1,400 feet