



Environmental Site Assessment Report

FOR

Monaghan Gas Lift Line

Monaghan Rd from 26th Ave to 38th Ave

DA-2201-13 Case Number: 2019-6048-14

Prepared For:



City of Aurora
15151 E. Alameda Parkway
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Prepared By:



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Table of Contents

Wildlife Impact Management Plan Applicability Statement:	2
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. PROJECT LOCATION	3
3. METHODS	3
4. RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS.....	4
4.1. Eagles	4
4.2. Burrowing Owls.....	4
4.3. Other Raptors	4
4.4. Migratory Birds	4
4.5. High Priority Habitats.....	4
4.6. Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species	5
Table 1. IPaC Report Results & Assessment	5
4.7. Wetlands, Waters of the U.S., and Floodplains	6
4.8. Noxious Weeds and Vegetation.....	7
4.9. Safety and Other Concerns	7
5. SUMMARY	7
LITERATURE CITED.....	8
APPENDIX A.....	9

APPENDIX A – Environmental Site Assessment

APPENDIX B – Environmental Site Map

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 Monaghan Gas Lift Line 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 Monaghan Gas Lift Line (Site) is in Sections 21, 22, 27, and 34 of Township 3 South, Range 65 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 12,179 feet and is proposed on a seventy-five-foot-wide easement that will ultimately contain a steel gas lift pipeline, six inches in diameter, and a two-inch fiber optic/telecom line. There are no proposed above ground appurtenances for this lateral, not including the surface appurtenances located on the well pads.

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 01/15/25. The field survey was conducted by a qualified biologist and wetland scientist and included a survey for nesting raptors within ½ mile, as well as any burrowing owl habitat / prairie dog colonies within 1/8 mile (660 feet) of the Site (Appendix B). 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

No bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) or golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) nests are mapped within ½-mile of the Site, and no nests were observed during the Site assessment. There are several trees suitable for eagle nesting approximately 0.41-mile west of the northern-central portion 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.

If construction begins between December 1 and July 31, eagle nesting surveys will be conducted by qualified biologists.

4.2. Burrowing Owls

There is suitable burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) habitat (i.e., black-tailed prairie dog colony) within and adjacent to the southern portion of the Site, located south of E 26th Avenue. There is also suitable habitat for burrowing owl nesting approximately 115 feet west of the southern portion of the site southwest of the intersection of E 26th Ave and N Monaghan Rd. These habitats are within the CPW-recommended 1/8-mile (660-foot) buffer for burrowing owls. Both habitats were active with black-tailed prairie dogs at the time of the site assessment. This habitat was not surveyed during the 2024 burrowing owl nesting season.

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

4.3. Other Raptors

There are no non-eagle raptor nests located within ½-mile of the Site. There is limited suitable non-eagle raptor nesting habitat, including trees and artificial structures (e.g. utility poles, farming equipment, and oil and gas structures) present within ½ mile 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

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

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 seven (7) 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
Mammals		
<p>Preble’s Meadow Jumping Mouse <i>Zapus hudsonius preblei</i> Threatened</p>	<p>The Preble’s meadow jumping mouse (PMJM) inhabits well-developed riparian habitat with a dense combination of multi-story vegetation, adjacent and relatively undisturbed grassland habitat, and a nearby water source. The PMJM uses uplands at least as far out as 100 meters beyond the 100-year floodplain.</p>	<p>No suitable habitat present within the Site. No recommended action.</p>
Birds		
<p>Piping plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> Threatened</p>	<p>The piping plover breeds on bare sand or gravel beaches, sandbars, or islands along rivers, reservoirs, or alkaline wetlands. Limited numbers breed in Colorado.</p>	<p>No suitable habitat present within the Site. No recommended action.</p>
<p>Whooping crane <i>Grus americana</i> Endangered</p>	<p>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></p>	<p>No suitable habitat present within the Site. No river depletions or other impacts to potential downstream habitats expected to occur. No recommended action.</p>
Fish		
<p>Pallid sturgeon <i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i> Endangered</p>	<p>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></p>	<p>No suitable habitat present within the Site. No river depletions or other impacts to potential downstream habitats expected to occur. No recommended action.</p>

Insects		
<p>Monarch butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> Candidate</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>No suitable habitat present within the Site. No recommended action.</p>
Flowering Plants		
<p>Ute ladies'-tresses <i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i> Threatened</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>No suitable habitat present within the Site. No river depletions or other impacts to potential downstream habitats expected to occur. No recommended action.</p>
<p>Western prairie fringed orchid <i>Platanthera praeclara</i> Threatened</p>	<p>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></p>	<p>No suitable habitat present within the Site. No river depletions or other impacts to potential downstream habitats expected to occur. No recommended action.</p>

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. Approximately 1,700 feet of northwestern portion of the Site lies within the USFWS PMJM Block Clearance Zone, while the rest of the Site lies outside of the Block Clearance Zone. No suitable PMJM habitat was present within the Site during the site assessment.

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

Three stream features are mapped intersecting the Monaghan Pipeline. The following features are described from south to north along Monaghan Road. Feature one (1), an NHD-Mapped Intermittent Stream and NWI-Mapped Riverine was field-verified present. A depression along the boundary of the stream feature was observed, to the east of Monaghan Road, extending at least 500-feet east. There was a culvert diverting water to the west, under Monaghan Road. Standing, frozen, water was observed pooled near the entrance of the culvert at the time of the survey. On the western side of Monaghan Road, there was no evidence of a stream feature within 500-feet of the pipeline. Feature two (2), an NHD-

Mapped Intermittent Stream and NWI-Mapped Riverine, was field-verified to the east of Monaghan Road. A slight depression was observed, extending at least 500-feet east from the easement. There was a noticeable change in vegetation within the depression. Upland of the depression, the area was dominated by grasses and other vegetation. Within the depression, the area consisted of mostly bare ground. There was no standing water observed within 500-feet of the pipeline. To the west of Monaghan Road, feature 2 was not present. There was a slight depression, extending approximately 50-feet west, however, there was no standing water or change in vegetation. Feature three (3), an NHD-Mapped Intermittent Stream was field-verified not present at the time of the survey. There was no visible depression, standing or flowing water, or change in vegetation at the time of the survey. No ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) nor wetland vegetation was observed at any of these features; therefore, these features are not a concern for this project. The pipeline will be installed with a minimum 5 feet of clearance beneath the mapped stream channels. No impacts to any wetlands or waters of the U.S. are expected as a result of this project.

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 cropland.

No further action is recommended.

4.9. Safety and Other Concerns

No safety or other concerns were identified from the desktop review.

No recommended action.

5. SUMMARY

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

Three streams were mapped, and two streams were field verified as present within or adjacent to the Site. No OHWM nor wetland vegetation was observed at any of these features. No wetlands or other waterbodies were identified within or adjacent to the Site. These three 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: January 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 January 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 January 2025.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation. <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. Accessed January 2025.

APPENDIX A

Environmental Site Assessment



ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT



Project Name:	Monaghan Gas Lift Line	County, State:	Adams County, CO
Report Date:	01/20/2025	Region:	DJ Basin
Inspection Date:	1/15/2025	Location:	S21, 22, 27, & 34 of T3S R65W
Inspector Name:	Dave Ames	Project Lat-Long:	39.752725, -104.659239
ESA Type:	Linear Easement		

RAPTORS

Bald and Golden Eagle Habitat:	Yes	Status:	TEMPORARILY CLEARED
Bald and Golden Eagle Active Nests:	No		
There is suitable bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>) nesting habitat (e.g., trees) within 1/2 mile of the Site. There are no mapped eagle nests within 1/2-mile of the Site.			
Bald Eagle Winter Night Roost/Communal Roost:	No	Status:	CLEARED
There are no CPW-mapped bald eagle winter night roosts / communal roosts within 1/2 mile of the Site.			
Burrowing Owl and Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Habitat:	Yes	Status:	TEMPORARILY CLEARED
Burrowing Owl Nests:	No		
There is suitable burrowing owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>) habitat (i.e, black-tailed prairie dog colony) within and adjacent to the southern portion of the Site, located south of E 26th Avenue. There is also suitable habitat for burrowing owl nesting approximately 115 feet west of the southern portion of the site southwest of the intersection of E 26th Ave and N Monaghan Rd.			
Other Raptor Habitat:	Yes	Status:	TEMPORARILY CLEARED
Other Raptor Nests:	No		
There are no non-eagle raptor nests located within 1/2-mile of the Site. There is limited suitable non-eagle raptor nesting habitat, including trees and artificial structures (e.g. utility poles, farming equipment, and oil and gas structures) present within 1/2 mile of the Site.			

OTHER BIRDS

Grouse or Prairie Chicken High Priority Habitats:	No	Status:	CLEARED
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		
The Site assessment was conducted outside the standard Colorado non-raptor migratory bird nesting season. Suitable non-raptor nesting habitat, including surface topography, vegetation, and artificial structures, is present at and immediately surrounding the Site.			

MAMMALS

Big Game High Priority Habitats:	No	Status:	CLEARED
The Site is not located within any CPW-mapped High Priority Habitats.			
Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (PMJM) Habitat:	No	Status:	CLEARED
There is no suitable PMJM habitat at the Site. Approximately 1,700 feet of northwestern portion of the Site lies within the USFWS PMJM Block Clearance Zone, while the rest of the Site lies outside of the Block Clearance Zone.			
Swift Fox Habitat:	No	Status:	CLEARED
Swift Fox Dens:	No		
The Site is not within CPW-mapped swift fox overall range. Not a constraint.			

VEGETATION

Ute ladies'-tresses orchid (ULTO):	No	Status:	CLEARED
There is no suitable Ute ladies'-tresses orchid habitat at the Site. Not a constraint.			
Colorado State Noxious Weeds - List A,B,C:	No	Status:	CLEARED
The Site is surrounded by cropland.			

Current Land Use:	Cropland and O&G	Future Land Use:	Cropland and O&G
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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:	No	Status:	CLEARED
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Three National Hydrography Dataset (NHD)/National Wetland Inventory (NWI)- features are mapped within 500 feet of the Site. However, no ordinary high water mark (OHWM) nor wetland vegetation was observed at any of these features; therefore, these features are not a concern for this project. The pipeline will be installed with a minimum 5 feet of clearance beneath the mapped stream channels.

OTHER/SAFETY

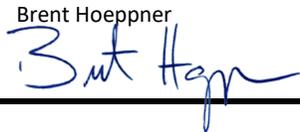
Other Issues:	No	Status:	CLEARED
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None.

Safety Issues:	No	Status:	CLEARED
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None.

FIELD DATA COLLECTED		GENERAL COMMENTS
Site Photos?	Yes	There is suitable eagle, burrowing owl, non-eagle raptor, and migratory bird nesting habitat present. Additional wildlife surveys are recommended if construction begins between December 1 and October 31 to ensure no sensitive wildlife resources will be impacted.
Reference Area Photos?	Yes	
Updated Aerial Imagery Taken?	Yes	
Ground Control Points?	No	
Wetland Determination Data Form?	No	

Reviewed By: Brent Hoepfner
Signature: 
Title: Wildlife Project Manager

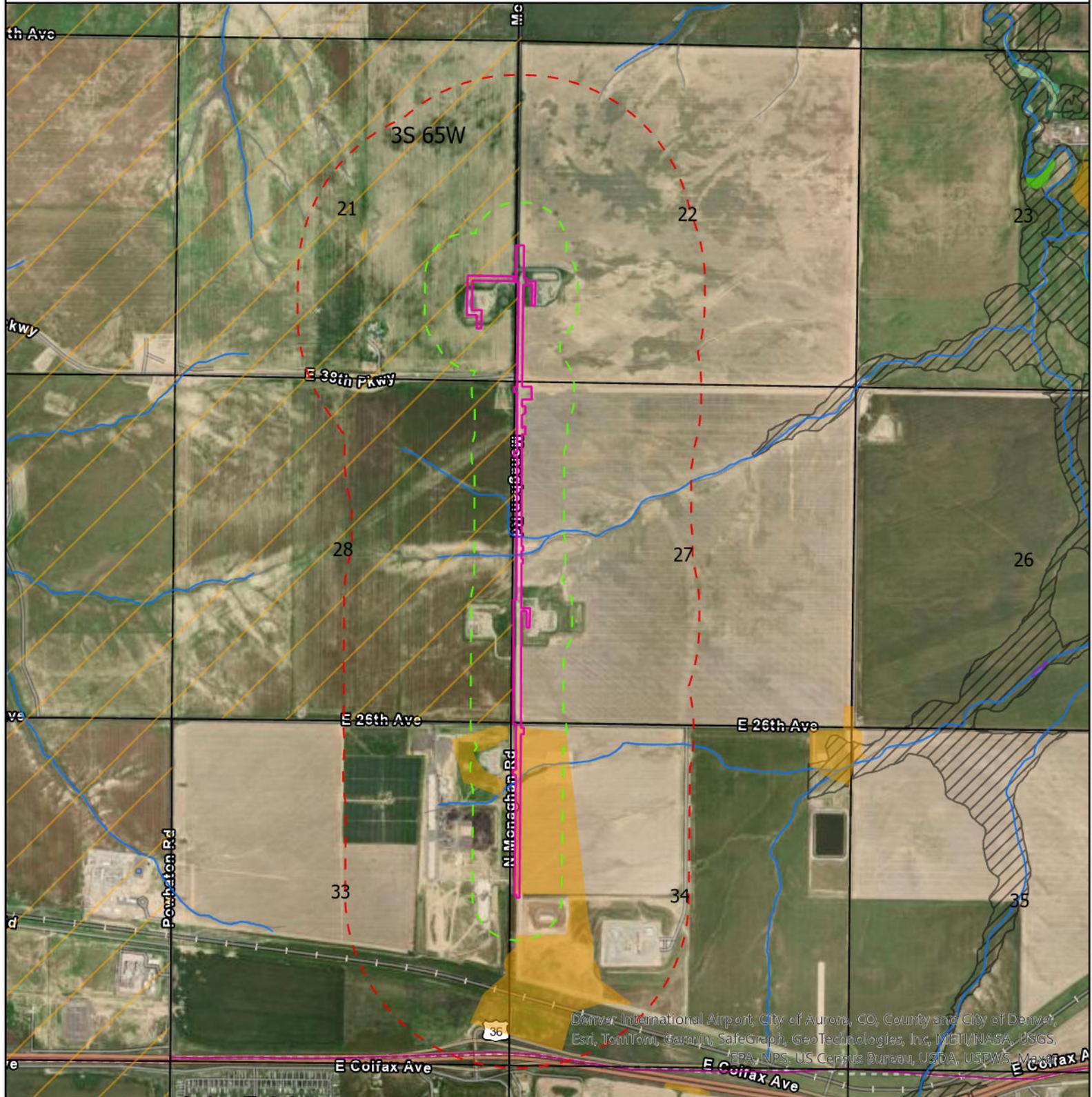
APPENDIX B
Environmental Site Map

CRESTONE PEAK RESOURCES MIDSTREAM, LLC
 (CIVITAS RESOURCES)
 MONAGHAN GAS LIFT LINE
 SEC 21, 22, 27, 34 T3S, R64W, 6th P.M.
 ADAMS COUNTY, COLORADO

Produced for:



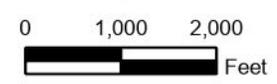
Produced by:



ENVIRONMENTAL
 SITE MAP

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Linear Easement | NWI-Mapped Riverine |
| 0.125-Mile Survey Radius | NWI-Mapped Freshwater Pond |
| 0.5-Mile Survey Radius | NWI-Mapped Freshwater Emergent Wetland |
| Burrowing Owl Habitat | NWI-Mapped Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland |
| PMJM Block Clearance Zone | NWI-Mapped Forested/Shrub Riparian Area |
| NHD-Mapped Stream/River | FEMA 100-Year Floodplain |
| NHD-Mapped Artificial Path | |
| NHD-Mapped Lake/Pond | |

Projection: WGS 1984
 Date: 1/15/2025
 Drafted by: MR



1 inch equals 2,667 feet