

Fish & Wildlife Resources

Wildlife habitat is highly modified by noxious weed infestation, right-of-way disturbances, and drought conditions in the project area. Williams Creek and Wild Horse Dry Creek provide the best habitat for fish and wildlife.

- The project would not permanently impact fish habitat or impede fish movement.
- The project would result in approximately 7.3 acres of habitat loss due to the removal of vegetation and fragmentation of habitat with the addition of a third lane.

Vegetation & Noxious Weeds

Shortgrass prairie vegetation/habitat is being conserved off-site as part of an agreement between the US Fish and Wildlife Service and CDOT to off-set the permanent removal of vegetation as part of the project. Areas that are temporarily disturbed during construction will be reseeded.

Noxious weeds will be treated with herbicides and best management practices to limit the further spread of noxious weeds during construction.

Migratory Bird Nests and Habitat

Migratory bird nests and habitat identified along Williams Creek, Wild Horse Dry Creek, and near Purcell Blvd./US 50 intersection

Special Status Species

- No suitable habitat for federally-listed threatened or endangered species.
- Prairie dog colonies adjacent to US 50 provide habitat for Western Burrowing Owls (State Threatened Species).
- Habitat for massasauga rattlesnake, triploid Colorado checkered whiptail, plains leopard frog, and northern leopard frog (State Species of Special Concern) present in project area.

Water Quality

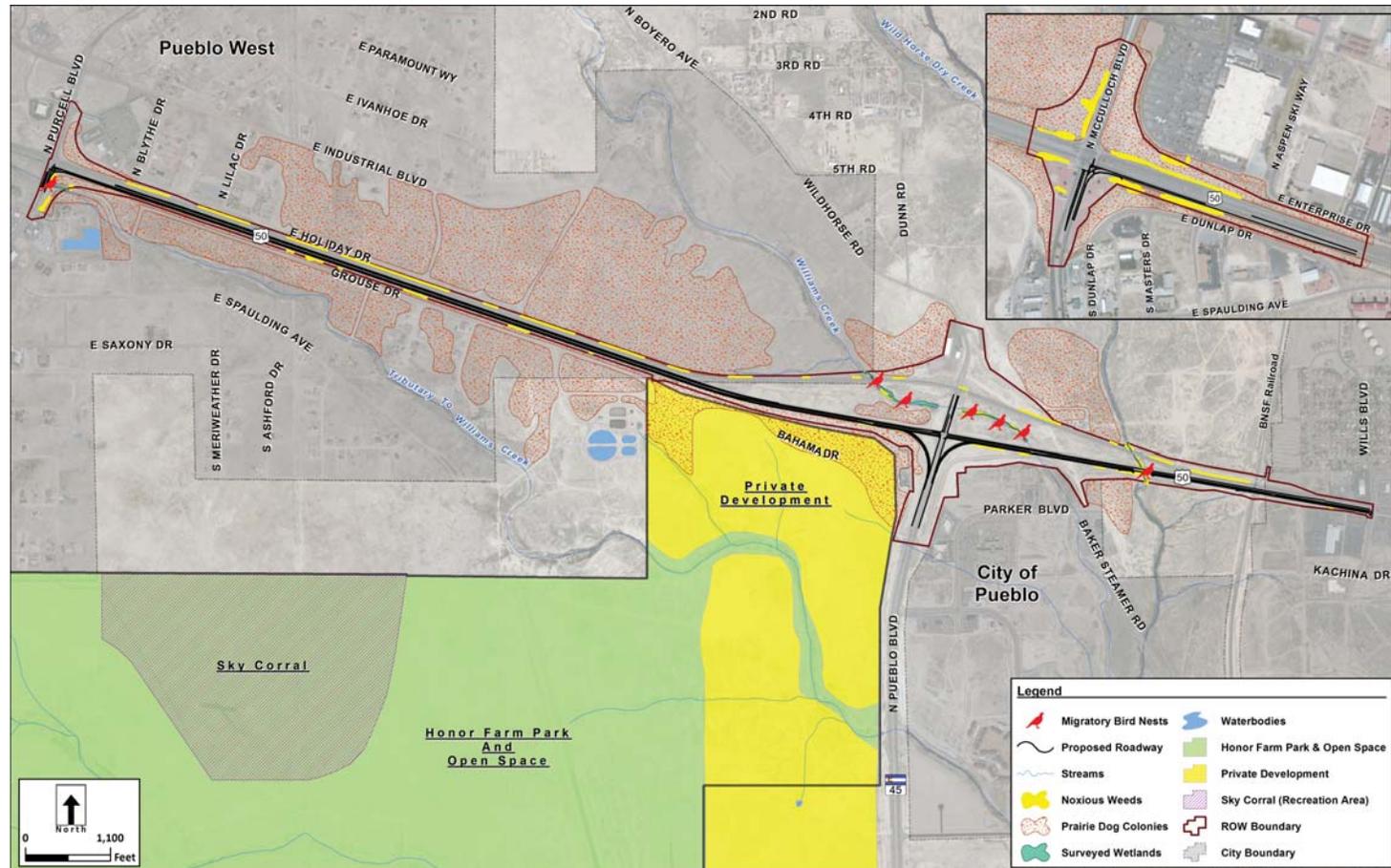
A stormwater management plan will contain best management practices to prevent erosion and the deposition of sediment into Williams Creek, a tributary to Williams Creek, and Wild Horse Dry Creek. Two water quality ponds and flat swales along US 50 will also treat stormwater runoff from US 50.

Park and Recreation Resources

The Honor Farm Park and Open Space is located adjacent US 50, but will not be affected by the project.

Revegetation Along Wild Horse Dry Creek

Tamarisk along Wild Horse Dry Creek will be cleared and the area will be replanted with a combination of sandbar willow (1:1 mitigation ratio), shrubs, and native grasses.



Other Resources Analyzed

Air Quality

Adding one eastbound lane to US 50 and reducing a.m. peak hour congestion would reduce air pollution from eastbound US 50. The project would not cause exceedences of regulatory thresholds for any criteria pollutants, nor would it result in changes in traffic volumes, vehicle mix, or any other factor that would cause an increase in mobile source air toxics.

Wetlands/Waters of the United States

The project avoids impacts to Waters of the US, including wetlands.

Historic, Archaeological, & Paleontological Resources

The project would not affect historic resources, but ground disturbance from heavy equipment and construction activities has the potential to encounter unknown buried cultural material and/or subsurface fossils.

Hazardous Materials

One inactive leaking underground storage tank site is located in the project area, but is not expected to affect project construction.