

***Appendix F
Agency Response Letters***



***Steamboat Springs
Airport Master Plan***



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ecological Services
764 Horizon Drive, Building B
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506-3946

orig = Justin
cc: Dennis
RECEIVED SEP 04 2007

10/11

IN REPLY REFER TO:
ES/CO:FAA
TAILS 65413-2007-SL-0224

August 31, 2007

Justin Pietz
Armstrong Consultants, Inc.
861 Rood Avenue
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

Dear Mr. Pietz:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) reviewed your letter received August 9, 2007, regarding information on federally listed threatened or endangered species in the vicinity of the Steamboat Springs Airport, Routt County, Colorado.

The Service provides the following list of federally listed threatened or endangered species, and candidates for potential future listing, that occur in or could be affected by activities in Routt County.

Bonytail*	<i>Gila elegans</i>	E
Canada lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	T
Colorado pikeminnow*	<i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i>	E
Humpback chub*	<i>Gila cypha</i>	E
Razorback sucker*	<i>Xyrauchen texanus</i>	E
Yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	C

(T = federally-listed threatened; E = federally-listed endangered; C = a Federal candidate species)

The list above was compiled from an inventory for Routt County, and therefore some or all of the species may not presently occupy or use the proposed project area. If you determine that a species listed above is not present, and/or that no habitats for the species exist in the project area, then you may arrive at a "no effect" finding for that species.

The four federally-listed fishes are included on the list in the event that project actions cause any measurable water depletions to the Upper Colorado River Basin (including the Yampa River), and therefore affect endangered fishes or their critical habitat that occur downstream in the Yampa River.

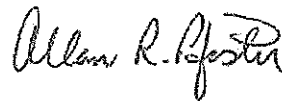
Please note that the bald eagle was removed from the list of federally listed threatened species, effective August 8, 2007, but the species will continue to be protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, it is illegal to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, possess, sell, barter, purchase, export, or import

migratory birds, their parts, nests or eggs, except as permitted by regulation. "Take" is defined under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as "pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, possess, or collect." The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act prohibits the take, possession, sale, purchase, barter, offer to sell, purchase, or barter, transport, export or import, of any bald or golden eagle, alive or dead, including any part, nest, or egg, unless allowed by permit (16U.S.C 668(a); 50 CFR 22). "Take" is defined as "pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb" a bald or golden eagle. The term "disturb" under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act was recently defined via a final rule published in the Federal Register on June 5, 2007 (72 Fed. Reg. 31332). "Disturb" means to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available, 1) injury to an eagle, 2) a decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or 3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior.

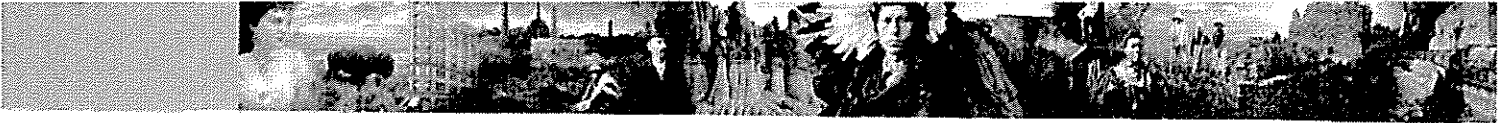
Regarding Federal candidates for official listing as threatened or endangered, these species presently have no legal protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, but it is within the spirit of the Act to consider project impacts to these potentially sensitive species. We also wish to make you aware of their potential presence because of the possibility that a candidate species could be proposed or listed prior to the time that all actions related to the project are completed.


If the Service can be of further assistance, please contact Patty Gelatt at the letterhead address or (970) 243-2778, extension 26.

Sincerely,



Allan R. Pfister
Western Colorado Supervisor



 OFFICE of ARCHAEOLOGY and HISTORIC PRESERVATION

orig - incoming
scans - Justin
- Dennis

September 6, 2007

RECEIVED SEP 10 2007

Justin Pietz
Airport Planner
Armstrong Consultants, Inc.
861 Rood Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Re: Steamboat Springs Airport Updated Master Plan (CHS #50795)

Dear Mr. Pietz,

Thank you for your correspondence dated August 8, 2007 (received by our office on August 14) regarding the project identified above which will require the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In order to determine the effect of the proposed project on cultural resources, we recommend that you coordinate your NEPA studies with the cultural resource studies required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Per 36 CFR 800.8, "Federal agencies are encouraged to coordinate compliance with Section 106 and the procedures in this part with any steps taken to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act." Also, Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act states that Federal agencies should "coordinate with the earliest phases of any environmental review carried out under the National Environmental Policy Act."

The findings from the Section 106 studies can inform the NEPA studies, such as including mitigation measures identified under Section 106 into the NEPA decision document. Once we receive the Section 106 studies, we will be able to fully complete our reviews under both NHPA and NEPA. Additional information regarding the Section 106 process is available on our website at <http://www.coloradohistory-oahp.org/FAQ/106.htm>.

A search of the Colorado Cultural Resource Inventory indicated that no surveys for cultural resources have been conducted within the areas proposed for future construction and no cultural resources have been recorded therein. However, our files contain incomplete information for this area, as most of Colorado has not yet been inventoried for cultural resources. As a result, there is the possibility that as yet unidentified cultural resources exist within this area. Consequently, we recommend a cultural resources survey in locations of proposed construction that have not been disturbed by previous airport construction to determine if cultural resources which may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) are present. A list of consultants qualified to perform such a survey is available on our website at <http://coloradohistory-oahp.org/publications/pubs/1502.pdf>. Upon its completion, please provide our office with the consultant's cultural resources inventory report and appropriate documentation so we may review them for adequacy and provide comments regarding determinations of NRHP eligibility and project effect.

Re: Steamboat Springs Airport Updated Master Plan (CHS #50795)

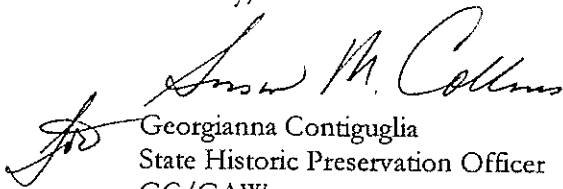
 COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

1300 BROADWAY DENVER COLORADO 80203 TEL 303/866-3395 FAX 303/866-2711 www.coloradohistory-oahp.org

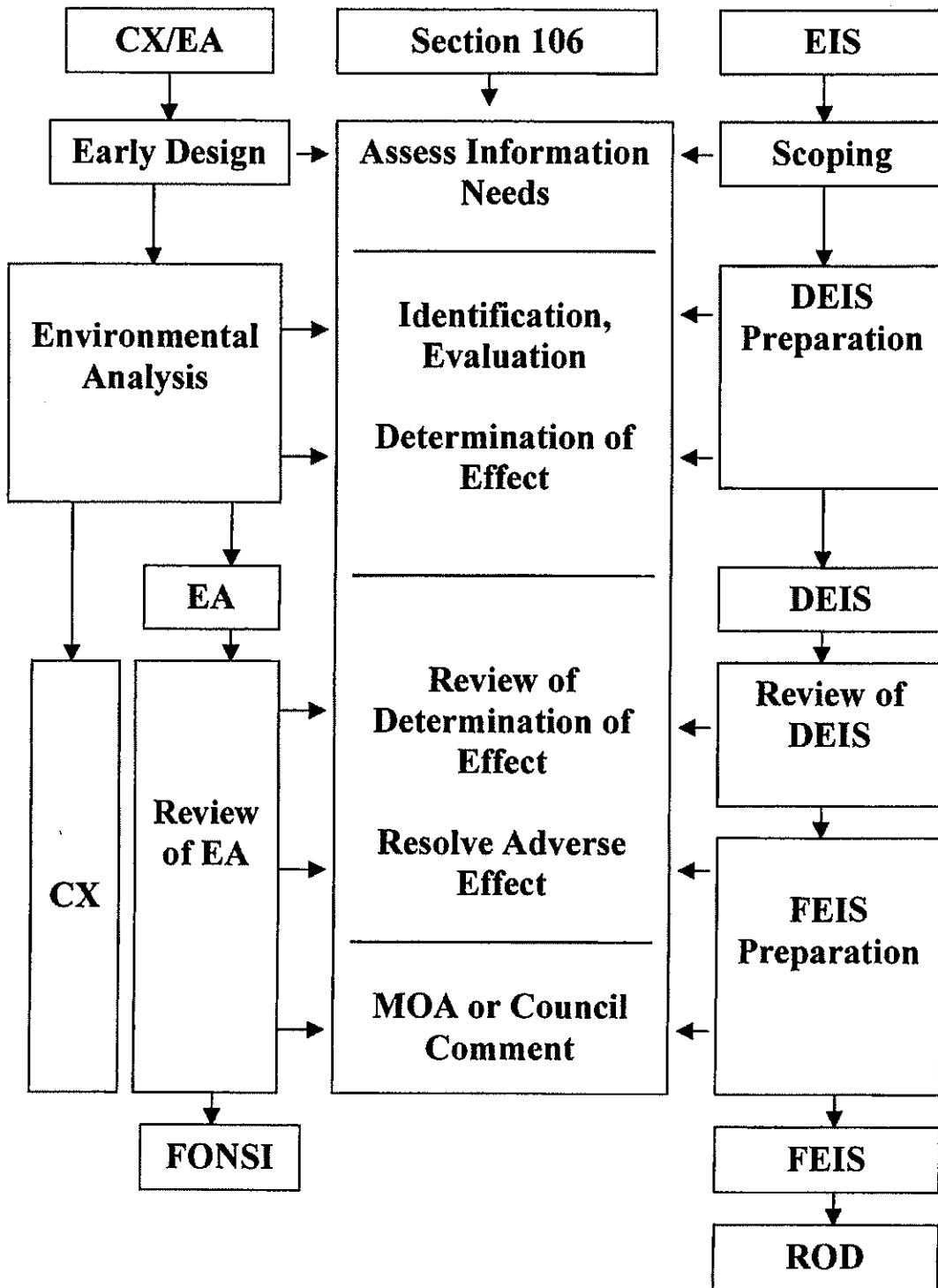
Please note that under the process established for the protection of historic properties from adverse effects as a result of federal undertakings the lead agency official remains legally responsible for all required findings and determinations if the services of a consultant have been utilized for the purpose of obtaining recommendations regarding NRHP eligibility and project effect (36 CFR 800.2(a)(3)) or if an applicant for federal assistance has been authorized by the lead agency to initiate consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (36 CFR 800.2(c)(4)). In future correspondence, please identify the FAA point of contact for the proposed project.

We have enclosed a flow chart that explains the coordination between Section 106 and NEPA. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Greg Wolff, Section 106 Compliance Coordinator, at (303) 866-4674.

Sincerely,


Georgianna Contiguglia
State Historic Preservation Officer
GC/GAW

COORDINATION BETWEEN NEPA AND SECTION 106



The Public and Consulting Parties must be notified and given the opportunity to comment during each step of the Section 106 review process.



ARMSTRONG CONSULTANTS, Inc.
airport engineering and planning services

861 Rood Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501
www.armstrongconsultants.com

Phone: 970-242-0101
Fax: 970-241-1769

Memo

To: Justin Pietz

From: Nathan Green U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Date: 8/21/07

Subject: Steamboat Springs Wetland Impacts

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) called regarding the proposed development shown for the airport determined during the Airport Master Plan. The USACE stated that any development taking place over any drainage would require a wetlands delineation to determine if any impacts would occur. The USACE also stated the a permit would be required for crossing any drainages in the vicinity of the airport.

From: "Peacock, Charles - Craig, CO" <charles.peacock@co.usda.gov>
To: <justin@armstrongconsultants.com>
Date: 7/9/2007 2:01:17 PM
Subject: FW: Steamboat Springs Colorado

Mr. Pietz

Most of the soils in Routt County, including those around the Steamboat Airport, are considered to be in a "cryic" soil temperature regime (very cold). This precludes them from being designated as Prime Farmland. There is an area along the Yampa River east of Craig that is in a slightly warmer temperature regime. That area includes the Yampa Valley Regional Airport near Hayden. Those soils would have to be scrutinized more closely as possible Prime Farmland. Please let me know if you have any more questions.

Chuck Peacock
Soil Scientist/Project Leader
Craig Soil Survey Office
USDA-NRCS
970-824-3476 x-108

-----Original Message-----

From: Justin Pietz
To: Park, Steve - Lakewood, CO
Sent: Tue Jul 03 15:15:27 2007
Subject: Steamboat Springs Colorado

Steven,

I am looking for information on prime and unique farmlands surrounding the Steamboat Springs Airport, located in Steamboat Springs Colorado. Any information would be great.

Sincerely,

Justin Z. Pietz
Airport Planner

ARMSTRONG CONSULTANTS, INC.
861 Rood Ave.
Grand Junction, CO 81501
Phone: 970 242-0101
Fax: 970 241-1769

From: "Andrew Poirot" <Apoirot@smtpgate.dphe.state.co.us>
To: <justin@armstrongconsultants.com>
Date: 10/23/2007 2:17:06 PM
Subject: Airport Master Plan Update for City of Steamboat Springs

I have reviewed the information provided for the Airport Master Plan Update for the proposed improvements to the City of Steamboat Springs Airport and have the following comments:

1) Any disturbed ground surface from construction activity that exceeds one acre will require a construction stormwater permit. Details on obtaining such a permit can be found on the Division's website at:

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/PermitsUnit/stormwater/index.html>

or you may call the department directly at 303-692-3500 and ask for the Permit Section.

2) As we discussed the Airport currently has a de-icing plan that will not change drastically with the airport expansion. The airport currently has the capability to use de-icing fluids, but chooses not to. If this policy changes in the future and the facility collects de-icing fluid for disposal, it should be properly disposed of and coordinated with the appropriate facility.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at 970-879-7479.

Andy Poirot
District Engineer
Steamboat Springs Office
(970)879-7479

CC: "Thomas Schaffer" <trschaff@smtpgate.dphe.state.co.us>