



**BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND
CULTURAL RECORDS REVIEW
MINTURN RAILROAD PUD
MINTURN ROAD AND TAYLOR STREET
EAGLE COUNTY, COLORADO**

Prepared for:

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Summary of Site Historical Use.....	1
1.2	Existing Conditions	2
2.0	AQUATIC RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	2
2.1	Waters of the U.S.	2
2.2	Wetlands.....	4
2.3	FEMA Floodplains	5
3.0	BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	6
3.1	Federal Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species.....	6
3.2	State Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species	10
3.3	CPW Tier 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need Habitat.....	11
3.3.1	<i>Fish</i>	12
3.3.2	<i>Birds</i>	12
3.3.3	<i>Amphibians</i>	13
3.3.4	<i>Mammals</i>	13
3.3.5	<i>Reptiles</i>	13
3.4	Other Species of Concern	14
3.4.1	<i>Black-Tailed Prairie Dog</i>	14
3.4.2	<i>Large Carnivores</i>	14
3.4.3	<i>Reptiles</i>	15
3.4.4	<i>Big Game</i>	15
3.5	Migratory Birds Treaty Act	16
3.6	Bald and Golden Protection Act of 1940	16
4.0	NOXIOUS WEEDS	17
5.0	CULTURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT	18
5.1	Historical and Archaeological Findings.....	18
6.0	OPINION AND RECOMMENDATION	19
7.0	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	21
8.0	LIMITATIONS	21

REFERENCES

FIGURE 1 – TOPOGRAPHIC AREA MAP

FIGURE 2 – SITE MAP

FIGURE 3 – HISTORIC SITES

FIGURES 4 THROUGH 7 - STATE SPECIES OF CONCERN

APPENDIX A – SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

APPENDIX B – WETLAND INVENTORY MAP

APPENDIX C – HISTORY COLORADO

APPENDIX D – TIER I SPECIES LIST



TERMS

ACOE – Army Corps of Engineers

BGEPA – Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

CHS – Colorado Historical Society

CPW – Colorado Parks and Wildlife

CWA – Clean Water Act

ESA – Endangered Species Act

Federally Endangered/Threatened Species – Under the ESA, species may be listed as either endangered or threatened. "Endangered" means a species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. "Threatened" means a species is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency

IPaC – Information for Planning and Consultation

Jurisdictional WOTUS– Waters that are "jurisdictional" are subject to the multiple regulatory requirements of the Clean Water Act by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Non-jurisdictional waters are not subject to those requirements.

MBTA – Migratory Bird Treaty Act

NFHL – National Flood Hazard Layer

NHD – National Hydrology Dataset

NHPA – National Historic Preservation Act

PMJM – Preble's meadow jumping mouse

State Endangered/Threatened Species – A species that is considered Endangered or Threatened by State legislature. "Endangered" means a species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range throughout the state. "Threatened" means a species is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

'Take' – According to the Endangered Species Act, 'take' means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.

USFWS – United States Fish and Wildlife Service

USGS – United States Geological Survey

WOTUS – Waters of the U.S.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

GPS Designs, LLC contracted CTL | Thompson, Inc. (CTL) to perform a Biological Assessment and Cultural Record Review for the property known as the Minturn Railroad PUD. The Site is approximately 19 acres in area and is generally located north of Minturn Road and Taylor Street in Minturn, Colorado. The Site is geographically located in the northwestern ¼ of Section 26, Township 5 South, Range 81 West, of the 6th Principal Meridian, in Eagle County, Colorado. We evaluated the Site for:

- The presence of jurisdictional wetlands;
- The presence of threatened or endangered species on the Site;
- The presence of endangered or threatened species critical habitat on the Site; and,
- The presence of registered archeological and/or historic sites on the subject Site.

On August 20, 2020, our Ms. Lela Updegrave and Christine Whitacre conducted a Site visit. Site conditions consisted of temperatures in the mid-80s, cloud cover of approximately 10% and winds of approximately 1-3 mph. Photographic documentation is presented in **Appendix A**. During this visit, Ms. Updegrave and Ms. Whitacre collected specific information about the Site's physical features, vegetation, hydrology, soil conditions, and surrounding environmental conditions. This information is required to evaluate aquatic and biological components of the Site. CTL searched publicly available literature on federal, state and local websites, and contacted local historical officials regarding the Site, which are outlined in the **REFERENCES** section of this letter report.

1.1 Summary of Site Historical Use

Historical research indicates that the Site was historically used as a storage yard for the nearby railroad to the west of the Site. The Site location and plan are shown on **Figure 1** (Area Map) and **Figure 2** (Site Plan).



1.2 Existing Conditions

The Site consists of approximately 21 acres of vacant land in a naturally vegetated state. Approximately six mobile homes are located within the center of the Site. Common species observed at the Site mostly consisted of invasive prairie grasses such as crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*), quackgrass (*Elymus repens*) and smooth brome (*Bromus inermus*). Other herbaceous species observed on the Site included invasive weeds and some native plants such as musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*), silver wormwood (*Artemisia ludoviciana*) tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) and scentless chamomile (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*). Game Creek flows to the west through the northern portion of the Site. Mature narrowleaf cottonwoods (*Populous angustifolia*), chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), willows (*Salix sp.*) and other riparian species are present in the areas near Game Creek. The EPA's Region 8 Ecoregion Map classifies the Site as sedimentary subalpine forests and northwestern forested mountains. A photographic record of our Site reconnaissance is presented in **Appendix A**.

2.0 AQUATIC RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

The following subsections discuss our research and on-Site assessment of Waters of the U.S., wetlands, and FEMA floodplains on the Site and/or in connection with the Site. Pertinent findings discussed in the following subsections are displayed in **Figure 2**.

2.1 Waters of the U.S.

The Clean Water Act was passed by the U.S. Congress in 1971 to protect the physical, biological, and chemical quality of "Waters of the U.S." The Corps Regulatory Program administers and enforces Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Under Section 404, a Corps permit is required for the discharge of dredged or fill material into wetlands and Waters of the U.S. The Corps defines Waters of the U.S. as all navigable waters and their tributaries, all interstate waters and their tributaries, all wetlands adjacent to these waters, and all impoundments of these waters.

The Corps jurisdiction of the "Waters of the U.S." changed in 2006 as a result of the U.S. Supreme Court's Decision in *Rapanos v. United States* & *Carabell v. United States*. The June 5,



2007 Agency Guidance document indicates the Corps will continue to assert jurisdiction over all water which are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide. The agency will continue to assert jurisdiction over wetlands “adjacent” to traditional navigable waters.

The Corps will assert jurisdiction over non-navigable tributaries of traditional navigable waters that are relatively permanent where the tributaries typically flow year-round or have continuous flow at least seasonally (e.g. typically three months). The Corps will assert jurisdiction over those adjacent wetlands that have continuous surface connection to such tributaries (e.g. they are not separated by uplands, a berm, dike, or similar feature).

The Corps will assert jurisdiction over non-navigable water, defined as not relatively permanent tributaries and their adjacent wetlands, as long as such tributaries and wetlands have a significant nexus to traditional navigable waters. Significant nexus includes consideration of hydraulic factors including the following:

- Volume, duration, and frequency of flow, including consideration of certain physical characteristics of the tributary;
- Proximity to the traditional navigable water;
- Size of the watershed;
- Average annual rainfall; and,
- Average annual winter snow pack.

Finally, the Corps has indicated the following geographic features generally are not jurisdictional waters:

- Swales or erosion control features (e.g. gullies, small washes characterized by low volume, infrequent, or short duration flow); and,
- Ditches (including roadside ditches) excavated wholly in and draining only uplands and that do not carry a relatively permanent flow of water.

During our Site visit on August 20, 2020, we observed Game Creek which flows to the west in the northern portion of the Site. Game Creek is a tributary to Eagle River. In our



professional opinion, Game Creek would likely be considered a jurisdictional WOTUS. Dredge or fill should not impact Game Creek as permitting may be required by the Corps.

In addition to Game Creek's WOTUS status, the waterway is also considered a locally important waterway. CPW has documented (*Salmo trutta*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and protected greenback cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*) (*O. clarkii* discussed further in section 3.1) occurring in various segments of Game Creek. Development of the Site could cause impacts to these species if sediments were to be deposited into the creek during construction. Impacts from development could occur from the planned roadway crossing, and from runoff upgradient areas such as the trail parking lot and adjacent hiking trail. A Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) should be implemented to protect from sediments entering the creek. The plan should utilize Best Management Practices (BMPs) which could include silt fence, straw wattles, inlet protection, and site-stabilization, and also include bi-weekly and post-runoff event Site inspections. Additionally, the road crossing over Game Creek should be designed with proper drainage features that will not deposit sediments from the road into the creek.

Figure 2 should be referenced for visual reference of the potential Waters of the U.S. located throughout the Site.

2.2 Wetlands

Wetlands are defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) as those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. To meet the classification, a wetland must show evidence of a minimum of one positive wetland indicator from each parameter of hydrology, soil, and vegetation. Each must be found in order to make a positive wetland determination. Delineated wetlands that are determined as jurisdictional by the Corps are regulated and proper care must be taken to protect them during development. If the disturbance and/or development of a jurisdictional wetland cannot be avoided, the Corps may approve mitigation. Mitigation may include the construction of a new wetland to replace the former wetland, either on or off the Site. Guidelines for the mitigation of new wetlands are outlined in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Standard Operating Procedures for the Regulatory Program.



During our Site visit, we observed areas along Game Creek that may be considered jurisdictional wetlands by the Corps. Dredge or fill should not impact these areas as permitting and delineation may be required by the ACOE. A map of on-Site wetlands is presented in **Appendix B**.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) defines wetlands as lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems, where the water table is usually at or near the surface, or the land is covered by shallow water. For the purpose of this classification, wetlands must have at least one of the following three attributes: (1) at least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes; (2) the substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soil; (3) the substrate is non-soil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of the year.

CTL used a USFWS National Wetland Inventory Map as an aid to help determine the location of wetlands that might be present at the Site, included in **Appendix B**. The map shows a riverine system flowing through the Site but does not indicate wetlands on the Site.

2.3 FEMA Floodplains

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides Flood Insurance Risk Maps (FIRMs), which display floodplains (also referred to as flood zones) and define floodplains based on the annual chance of flooding over a designated period of time. Floodplains may provide critical habitat for State and/or Federal protected species. FEMA also provides locations of regulatory floodways, which must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood of an area without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height. FEMA requires hydrologic and hydraulic analyses that demonstrate that the proposed development of a regulatory floodway would not result in any increase of flood levels.

We researched the FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) map for floodplains on the Site. The FEMA NFHL indicates the Site as an Area with Minimal Flood Hazard. The NFHL did not indicate regulatory floodways on the Site.



3.0 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

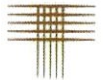
The following subsections discuss our assessment of critical habitat or potential habitat of State and Federal protected species, as well as other species of concern, on the Site and/or in connection with the Site. Pertinent findings discussed in the following subsections are displayed in **Figure 2**.

3.1 Federally Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species

The project area was assessed for potential habitat for threatened, endangered, and candidate species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Federally threatened and endangered species are protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Significant adverse effects to a federally listed species or its habitat require consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) under Section 7 or 10 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The service lists 11 threatened or endangered species with potential habitat in Eagle County (USFWS 2017). Table I lists common and scientific names and the status of the species.

TABLE I
FEDERAL THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES
EAGLE COUNTY

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STATUS
Mexican Spotted Owl	Bird - <i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i>	Threatened
Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	Bird - <i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Threatened
Canada Lynx	Mammal – <i>Lynx canadensis</i>	Threatened
Greenback Cutthroat Trout	Fish- <i>Oncorhynchus clarki stomias</i>	Threatened
Bonytail Chub	Fish - <i>Gila elegans</i>	Endangered
Colorado Pikeminnow	Fish - <i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i>	Endangered
Humpback Chub	Fish - <i>Gila cypha</i>	Endangered
Razorback Sucker	Fish - <i>Xyrauchen texanus</i>	Endangered
Ute Ladies'-tresses Orchid	Plant - <i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	Threatened
Penland's Alpine Fen Mustard	Plant - <i>Eutrema penlandii</i>	Threatened
Uncompahgre Fritillary	Insect - <i>Boloria acrocneuma</i>	Endangered



The Mexican Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) is a large bird that nests and roosts on cliff ledges or in caves in canyons with dense stands of ponderosa pine or pinyon-juniper, in forests with high canopy cover, and open understory. An adequate habitat includes large trees, uneven aged tree stands, multi-storied canopy, standing dead trees, and a tree canopy creating shade over 40 percent or more of the ground with some type of water source available. There are no cliff ledges or caves located on the Site and tree canopy did not cover 40 percent of the ground. It is unlikely the proposed development of the Site will impact the Mexican spotted owl, due to the lack of potential habitat within the Site boundaries.

The yellow-billed cuckoo is a medium sized brown bird that belongs to the Cuculidae family, also known as the Cuckoo family. The species most distinguishing features are its long black and white tail as well as its yellow-bottomed and down-curved bill. Over the past 50 years, the species has steadily declined throughout the Rocky Mountains, due to loss of streamside habitat. Yellow-billed cuckoos require a habitat composed of dense willow and cottonwood stands in river floodplains. We did not observe presence of the yellow-billed cuckoo on the Site. The Site does not contain a floodplain. We do not believe that development of the Site will adversely impact the yellow-billed cuckoo.

The Canada lynx is a medium-sized cat with long legs, large paws, long tufts on the ears, and a short, black-tipped tail. The lynx is highly adapted for hunting in deep snow due to its long legs and large feet. Distribution of lynx is closely associated with boreal forest in North America, particularly in areas that receive deep snow and have high-density populations of snowshoe hares. Boreal forest is not present on the Site or immediately surrounding the Site. It is unlikely that development of the Site will adversely impact the Canada lynx due to lack of potential habitat within the Site boundaries.

The greenback cutthroat trout is a freshwater fish belonging to the trout, salmon and whitefish family. Greenbacks generally prefer cold, well-oxygenated, clear, and gravely headwater streams or mountain lakes with low velocity flow. Greenbacks historically occupied mountain and foothill areas of the Arkansas and South Platte River systems. CPW has documented this species within Game Creek. Care should be taken not to impact Game Creek during development of the Site. We recommend that development of the Site remain outside the



streambed, banks, and above the first terrace. No discharge, dredge, or fill should impact Game Creek. A stormwater management plan should be implemented to avoid impacts to Game Creek.

The Bonytail Chub is a freshwater fish belonging to the Cyprinidae family, also known as the Minnow family. The species was once abundant in population throughout the Colorado River basin; however, it is now considered the rarest native fish in the basin. The Bonytail Chub is historically adapted to mainstream rivers and reservoirs, specifically in eddies and pools. Although habitat requirements for the conservation of the Bonytail Chub are not well known, recent data suggests that river channels and flooded, ponded, or inundated riverine habitats are most suitable. There is no suitable habitat for the Bonytail Chub on the Site; however, Game Creek, which is a tributary to Eagle River, could impact suitable riverine habitat for the Bonytail Chub. Care should be taken not to impact Game Creek during development of the Site. We recommend that development of the Site remain outside the streambed, banks, and above the first terrace. No discharge, dredge, or fill should impact Game Creek. A stormwater management plan should be implemented to avoid impacts to Game Creek.

The Colorado pikeminnow, also known as the Colorado squawfish, is a freshwater fish native to Colorado. The species belongs to the Minnow family and is currently restricted to the Upper Basin in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico. The species is known to occupy backwaters, runs, pools, eddies, and shallow, ice-covered shoreline areas throughout winter. Throughout spring and early summer, the species prefers shorelines and lowlands inundated by typical spring flooding, which provides general health benefits and reproductive conditioning for the fish. There are no backwaters, shorelines, or lowlands inundated by typical spring flooding present on the Site; however Game Creek, which is a tributary to Eagle River, could impact suitable riverine habitat for the Colorado pikeminnow. Care should be taken not to impact Game Creek during development of the Site. We recommend that development of the Site remain outside the streambed, banks, and above the first terrace. No discharge, dredge, or fill should impact Game Creek. A stormwater management plan should be implemented to avoid impacts to Game Creek.

The humpback chub is freshwater fish belonging to the Minnow family and is native to the Colorado River. The humpback chub was not described as a species until 1946, due to its historically limited distribution in remote whitewater canyons. The species occupies river canyons



throughout the basin, where they are known to utilize a variety of habitats throughout their life stages. Examples of habitats within river canyons used by the humpback chub include: pools, riffles, eddies, rocky runs, and rapids. We did not observe suitable habitat for this species on the Site; however, Game Creek, is a tributary to Eagle River and Eagle River is a tributary to the Colorado River. Impacts to Game Creek could impact suitable riverine habitat for the humpback chub. Care should be taken not to impact Game Creek during development of the Site. We recommend that development of the Site remain outside the streambed, banks, and above the first terrace. No discharge, dredge, or fill should impact Game Creek. A stormwater management plan should be implemented to avoid impacts to Game Creek.

The razorback sucker is a freshwater fish that belongs to the Catostomidae family, also known as the Sucker family. Since 1991, the species has only been known to remain in the lower Yampa and Green Rivers, the mainstream Colorado River, and the lower San Juan River. The suckers are known to migrate into flooded areas in the early spring for reproductive purposes and occupy a variety of habitats in nonreproductive periods, such as impounded and riverine areas, eddies, backwaters, gravel pits, and flooded mouths of tributary streams. There is no suitable habitat for the Razorback Sucker on the Site; however, Game Creek, is a tributary to Eagle River which is a tributary to the Colorado River. The Razorback Sucker is known to remain in the mainstream Colorado River. Impacts to Game Creek could impact suitable riverine habitat for the razorback sucker. Care should be taken not to impact Game Creek during development of the Site. We recommend that development of the Site remain outside the streambed, banks, and above the first terrace. No discharge, dredge, or fill should impact Game Creek. A stormwater management plan should be implemented to avoid impacts to Game Creek.

The Ute ladies'-tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) typically occurs at elevations below 6,500 feet in moist to wet alluvial meadows, floodplains of perennial streams, and around springs and lakes. Occurrences of Ute ladies'-tresses have been documented in Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Nevada and Utah. The populations in Colorado mostly occur along the Front Range. The Site was assessed for potential Ute ladies'-tresses habitat. According to the FEMA NFL map, floodplains are not present on the Site. We did not observe evidence of this species on the Site. It is our opinion that the Site does not present habitat suitable for the Ute ladies'-tresses and that development of the Site will not adversely affect this species.



The Penland alpine fen mustard is a small perennial plant species in the mustard family. During June through August, the Penland alpine fen mustard can be seen blooming; the clusters of white, four petalled flowers topping each stem. Plant height ranges from 1/2 to 6 inches. The species occurs only in alpine meadows at elevations above 11,800 feet in the Mosquito Range of the Rocky Mountains in central Colorado. Plants are most often found along east facing, gentle slopes and basins that are fed moisture by slow-melting snowfields above. However, they can also be found in dryer locations. In either habitat, they are often rooted in tufts of mosses or hidden among short-bladed grasses. The Site is located approximately 7,820 feet above sea level, which is too low in elevation for the Penland alpine fen mustard to occur. We do not believe development of the Site will negatively impact this species.

The Uncompahgre fritillary is a small butterfly with a 2-3 cm (1 inch) wingspan. Males have rusty brown wings crisscrossed with black bars; females wings are somewhat lighter. Underneath, the forewing is light ocher and the hindwing has a bold, white jagged bar dividing the crimson brown inner half from the purple-grey scaling on the outer wing surface. The body has a rusty brown thorax and a brownish black abdomen. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS) indicates that the Site is not within critical habitat range for the Uncompahgre fritillary. We do not believe that development of the Site will negatively impact this species.

3.2 State Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species

The boreal toad (*Bufo boreas boreas*) is Colorado's only alpine species of toad and is considered a state endangered species. Females generally grow to 11 centimeters and males to 9 centimeters. Both sexes appear warty and usually have a light stripe along the middle of the back. This species ranges throughout most of the Rocky Mountains, usually at elevations between 8,500 feet and 11,500 feet. Boreal toads prefer habitats within the vicinity of mountain lakes, ponds, meadows, and wetlands in subalpine forest. Adults often feed in meadows and forest openings near water but sometimes in drier forest habitats. According to CPW Wildlife Range data, the Site occurs within potential boreal toad range. However, we do not believe the Site contains habitat for this species. We do not believe development of the Site will negatively impact boreal toads.



The burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) is a small, migratory owl that occupies prairie dog towns in Colorado during the spring and summer breeding season. The owl is active during the day and uses prairie dog burrows for nesting and roosting. Burrowing owls are a threatened species, and are protected under federal and state laws, including the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Per CPW, no human encroachment is allowed within 150 feet of prairie dog burrows that are being used as nests from March 15 through October 31. It is recommended that efforts to eradicate prairie dogs or destroy abandoned towns do not occur between March 15 and October 31, as owls may be present. There are no prairie dog towns present on Site. We did not observe burrowing owls or habitat for this species on the Site. We do not believe development of the Site will negatively impact burrowing owls.

CPW data indicates that the Site occurs within historic range for greater sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*). The Site does not occur within the current range for this species. We do not believe development of the Site will negatively impact greater sage grouse. A map showing the historic sage grouse range on the Site is provided in **Figure 7**.

Other State protected species in Colorado been taken into consideration. Based on lack of suitable habitat on Site and information regarding population locations from CPW, we do not believe these species to be a concern for the Site.

3.3 CPW Tier I Species of Greatest Conservation Need Habitat

We reviewed the Tier I Species in Chapter 2 of Colorado's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan; Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). This chapter identifies SGCN and groups them in Tier I and Tier II categories, based on the following criteria: federal and state status, Colorado's contribution to the species overall conservation, urgency of conservation action, ability to implement effective conservation actions, and ecological value of the species. This section discusses Tier I species that may be impacted by development of the Site. Tier I species not discussed in this section are not considered to be significantly impacted due to lack of range overlap or lack of habitat. A list of Tier I Species from Colorado's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan is provided in **Appendix D**.



3.3.1 Fish

Twenty-five species and subspecies of fish are listed as Tier I species under The State Action Plan. Game Creek also contains close connectivity to Eagle River, a major watershed of Colorado. Many of these fish species would be affected if impacts to Game Creek were to occur. To avoid impacts to Tier I fish species, we recommend limiting impacts to the creek. Additionally, we recommend a stormwater management plan be implemented to avoid discharges of sediments into the creek.

3.3.2 Birds

We identified three Tier I bird species that may be impacted by the development of the Site. These species include:

- Brown-capped rosy finch (*Leucosticte australis*): Rosy-finches in general are birds of the Arctic and alpine zones, but this one inhabits the high peaks of the Rockies from Wyoming south to New Mexico. This species can be elusive in summer, seeming to favor the most remote and barren cliffs and isolated snowfields. In winter, when the birds move to lower elevations, they are often much easier to find, even coming to feeders in valley towns. This species may be seen on the Site during the wintertime; however, we do not believe the Site provides critical habitat for this species.
- Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*): The golden eagle is one of the largest North American raptors, preferring to nest on large cliff faces or sometimes in large trees. This species feeds mainly on small mammals, and requires an open terrain habitat such as open mountains, foothills, plains, or open country. According to CPW, a known golden eagle nest is present within a quarter mile of the Site. The current status of this nest is unknown. The location of Golden Eagle nests is not made available to the public, and CPW has not provided us with its general location. The area surrounding the development is residential in nature, and popular for recreation year-round. We do not believe that the development will create additional strain on this nest. The development team will work with CPW to develop a wildlife mitigation plan.
- Southern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*): The southern willow flycatcher prefers habitats with lots of bushes, willow thickets, and brushy fields. This species breeds in thickets of deciduous trees and shrubs, especially willows, or along woodland edges often near streams or marshes. The willow thickets and riparian vegetation along Game Creek could provide nesting habitat for this species. We recommend vegetation be removed outside of this species' breeding season (late May to early July). If development is planned during the breeding season, we recommend a migratory bird nest survey be performed prior to development.



We did not observe any Tier I bird species on the Site during our visit.

3.3.3 Amphibians

Game Creek and the associated wetlands on the Site may provide some foraging habitat for boreal toads (*Anaxyrus boreas boreas*) and northern leopard frogs (*Lithobates pipiens*). There are no standing pools of water observed on the Site, therefore we do not believe the Site provides adequate habitat for breeding amphibians. We did not observe any Tier I amphibian on the Site. Disturbance to Game Creek will be minimal to prevent potential impacts to amphibian species on the Site. Additionally, a stormwater management plan will be implemented to prevent sediment deposits into the creek.

3.3.4 Mammals

- Bats: Little brown myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*) and Townsends big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens*) are Tier I bat species with ranges that overlap with the Site. Bats can commonly be found roosting in crags and cracks within cliffs and can be extremely sensitive to noise impacts. The cliffs in the surrounding area could provide suitable habitat for these species. Noises from construction may disturb bat breeding season if development is planned during late summer or early fall. In a consultation with CPW, they did not express any concern about the impact of the development on the bat species in the area.
- Olive-backed pocket mouse: (*Perognathus fasciatus*): The olive-backed pocket mouse is a small rodent species that prefers habitat in a wide variety of grassland and soil types. The Site may provide habitat for this species; however, we do not believe the Site would be considered critical habitat. In a consultation with CPW, they did not express concern about the impact of the development on the olive-backed pocket mouse.

Other Tier I mammals are discussed in Section 3.1 of this report. We did not observe any Tier I mammal on the Site at the time of our visit.

3.3.5 Reptiles

Due to elevation and lack of range overlap with the Site, we do not believe the Site contains habitat for Tier I reptiles.



3.4 Other Species of Concern

The following section addresses other species that are not considered endangered, threatened, and are not included on the CPW Tier 1 Species of Greatest Conservation list. Other species of concern have been taken into consideration; however, based on lack of suitable habitat on Site and information regarding population locations from CPW, we do not believe other species not included in this section to be a concern for the Site.

3.4.1 *Black-Tailed Prairie Dog*

The Black-Tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) is a burrowing rodent, 15 inches in length with a black-tipped tail. They do not hibernate but will remain underground for several consecutive days during extremely cold weather. Once occupying seven million acres in Colorado, the black-tailed prairie dog is now present on the eastern third of Colorado below 6,000 feet. Approximately 150 other species rely on the habitat that the black-tailed prairie dog creates. We did not observe obvious evidence of this species on the Site. We do not believe development of the Site will impact this species.

3.4.2 *Large Carnivores*

The project occurs within CPW-mapped Bear-Human Conflict Area and in the state's only mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) Special Management Area (SMA). Black bear and human conflict is a known issue in Minturn. The Eagle Valley has seen a significant increase in human-predator conflicts and the number of these conflicts continues to rise compared to historic levels. These conflicts namely involve mountain lions and black bears as humans expand into these species' natural habitats.

As predator-human conflicts remain to be a problem in Minturn, the development will utilize best management practices to reduce potential predator encounters, such as no bird feeding in the summer months, no fruit-bearing trees or shrubs, no feeding pets outside, and use of bear proof trash containers. The development team will work with CPW to develop a comprehensive Bear-Human Conflict Minimization Plan.

Refer to **Figure 4** for a range map of large carnivore ranges on the Site.



3.4.3 Reptiles

CPW data indicates that the Site is within terrestrial garter snake (*Thamnophis elegans*) overall range. Although this common species may occur on the Site, we do not believe the development of the Site will have a significant negative impact to this species. Garter snakes may return to the area after the development is completed. Refer to **Figure 5** for a range map of Reptiles on the Site.

3.4.4 Big Game

Approximately 0.25 acres of the PUD area occurs within CPW-mapped Elk Severe Winter Range and is located within CPW's Elk Data Analysis Unit (DAU) E-16. Elk populations in the Elk DAU E-16 are in a population decline of around 60 percent over the past 10 years. Expanded recreational pressures may be a contributing factor to the decline of calf survivorship and calf recruitment. Unleashed or barking dogs from hikers using the trails may also contribute to these declines during the winter months. Additional stress put on the elk from domestic dogs could have a significant impact to calorie-deficient elk, already stressed due to wintering conditions. The Town of Minturn does not have a leash requirement, and off-leash dogs are common in the area of the development.

CPW data indicates that the Site occurs within mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) summer range within CPW's mule deer DAU D-8. As of the 2020 updated herd management plan for mule deer, the D-8 population is on a downward trajectory and is under CPW's established objective range. Subsequently, CPW has continued to reduce the mule deer population objective in the area to accommodate for human generated impacts and overall mule deer population decline.

CPW data also indicates that the Site occurs within moose (*Alces alces*) summer range. Although the Site may provide some foraging habitat for this species, due to the small size of the Site we do not believe development of the Site will have a significant impact to moose.

The development occurs in a residential neighborhood of Minturn with popular recreational trails in the area. We do not believe that construction will provide additional





disturbance to wintering elk. To prevent disturbance and indirect impacts to wintering elk and mule deer in the area, a wintertime closure of area trails is recommended. The development plans to enact seasonal designations for trail usage and enforcement of leashed dogs on trails on-Site at all times. The remaining trails in the area are managed by U.S. Forest Service, and are not subject to regulation by the development.

Refer to **Figure 6** for a range map of ungulate ranges on the Site.

3.5 Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Migratory birds, as well as their eggs and nests, are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The MBTA does not contain any prohibition that applies to the destruction of a bird nest alone (without bird or eggs), provided that no “take” (of bird or eggs) occurs during the destruction. The regulatory definition of “take” means to pursue, hunt, shoot, kill, trap, capture or collect, or attempt to pursue, hunt, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect. While destruction of a nest by itself is not prohibited under MBTA, nest destruction that results in the unpermitted take of migratory birds or their eggs is illegal and fully prosecutable under the MBTA. One method to avoid a violation of the MBTA is to remove vegetation and nests outside the active breeding season, which typically falls between March and August, depending on species.

The Site was assessed for potential migratory bird nesting habitat. Several migratory birds were observed on the Site including a red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamacicensis*), black-billed magpies (*Pica hudsonia*) and American robins (*Turdus migratorius*). The Site generally provides tree nesting habitat for migratory birds. For a higher level of assurance and to avoid destruction of migratory bird nests, vegetation should be removed outside of the breeding season (March to August). If development is planned during the breeding season, we recommend a migratory bird nest survey be performed prior to development.

3.6 Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940

Bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) are protected by the MBTA (discussed in the previous section) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940, as amended November 1978. These species nest in a variety of habitats,



including on cliffs and in large trees, and prefer a nearby water source. The Act allows further protection of eagles by prohibiting anyone, without a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior, from “taking” eagles, including their parts, eggs or nests. Like MBTA, “take” means to pursue, hunt, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect; however, it also includes “disturb,” which means to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to the level that causes or is likely to cause injury, decrease in productivity, or nest abandonment.

CPW data indicates that the Site is not within bald eagle habitat. According to CPW data, the nearest known called eagle nest is approximately 10 miles to the northwest of the Site. During our Site visit, we did not identify habitat for bald eagles. We do not believe development of the Site will negatively impact bald eagles.

According to CPW, the Site occurs within a quarter mile of a known golden eagle nest. The current status and location of this nest is unknown. CPW was unable to provide us with the location of this nest. The development occurs in a residential area of Minturn, and close to popular hiking, mountain biking, and the “Minturn Mile.” Due to the high volume of human encroachment in this area, we do not believe that the development will create additional stress on the golden eagle nest. The development team will work with CPW to develop a wildlife mitigation plan.

4.0 NOXIOUS WEEDS

During our Site visit, we observed several species of noxious weeds and invasive grasses on the Site, including: crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*), quackgrass (*Elymus repens*) and smooth brome (*Bromus inermus*), musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*), tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) and scentless chamomile (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*). We recommend a Noxious Weed Prevention Plan be implemented that addresses noxious weed concerns prior to construction, during construction and after construction is complete. Additionally, we also recommend native seed mixes be utilized for stormwater and erosion control. When construction is complete, an ongoing noxious weed management plan should be implemented to minimize the expanse of noxious weeds into nearby native habitats. The site should be monitored for weeds on an annual basis and an ongoing biannual treatment for noxious weeds on the Site is recommended. A



biannual weed control plan will be implemented to further reduce erosion and noxious weed issues.

5.0 CULTURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

The following section discusses our assessment of historical or archaeological listings on the Site and/or in connection with the Site. Pertinent findings discussed in the following subsections are displayed in **Figure 3**.

5.1 Historical and Archaeological Findings

Historic properties are properties that are included in the National Register of Historic Places or that meet the criteria for the National Register. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties prior to construction. If it determines that it has no undertaking, or that its undertaking is a type of activity that has no potential to affect historic properties, the agency has no further Section 106 obligations. However, if it determines its undertaking may have an adverse effect on a historic property it must notify the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer/Tribal Historic Preservation Officer to consult with during the process. It should also plan to involve the public and identify other potential consulting parties. Additionally, under NHPA Section 110(f), where a federal undertaking may directly and adversely affect a property designated as a National Historic Landmark, the agency must, prior to approving the undertaking and to the maximum extent possible, undertake such planning and actions necessary to minimize harm to such landmark. It should be noted, that with certain limited exceptions, federal agencies are prohibited by NHPA Section 110(k) from granting loans, loan guarantees, permits, licenses, or other assistance to any applicant who intentionally significantly adversely affected a historic property to which the assistance would relate with the intent to avoid the requirements of Section 106. If you perform these activities prior to the start of construction, it will help to avoid significant project delays and possible project cancellation. A review of listed cultural resources does not always rise to the level of a Section 106 review.

CTL contacted the History Colorado, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and requested a search of the Colorado Inventory of Cultural Resources. A response was



received on August 31, 2020 that identified one historical site within the Site boundaries (see **Appendix D**). Records indicate that a historic unpaved road named Stage Road was present on the Site. This road dates back to the 1880s but is officially not eligible for inclusion on the National Register, according to the data provided by the Colorado Historical Society. The locations of this road can be seen in **Figure 3**.

6.0 OPINION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the direct field observations and our limited literature research, it is our professional opinion that jurisdictional wetlands and Waters of the U.S. may be present on the Site in the form of Game Creek. Care should be taken not to impact Game Creek. All of the stormwater runoff generated on and uphill of the project site is slated to be captured and routed through a hydrodynamic separator. This will result in treatment of off-site drainage as well as on-Site drainage and will result in a dramatic improvement of the overall condition of runoff reaching the river.

Game Creek is a tributary of Eagle River and the Colorado River. Impacts to Game Creek may affect federally endangered and threatened fish species including the greenback cutthroat trout, bonytail chub, Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, and the razorback sucker. Care should be taken not to impact Game Creek during development of the Site. We recommend that development of the Site remain outside the streambed, banks, and above the first terrace. No discharge, dredge, or fill should impact Game Creek. All of the stormwater runoff generated on and uphill of the project site is slated to be captured and routed through a hydrodynamic separator. This will result in treatment of off-site drainage as well as on-Site drainage and will result in a dramatic improvement of the overall condition of runoff reaching the river..

The Site contains potential habitat for ground-nesting and tree-nesting migratory birds. For a higher level of assurance and to avoid destruction of ground-nesting migratory bird nests, vegetation should be removed outside of the breeding season (March to August). If development is planned during the breeding season, we recommend a migratory bird survey be performed prior to development.



The project occurs within CPW-mapped Bear-Human Conflict Area and in the state's only mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) Special Management Area (SMA). Best management practices should be implemented to reduce potential predator encounters, such as no bird feeding in the summer months, no fruit-bearing trees or shrubs, no feeding pets outside, and use of bear proof trash containers. The development team will work with CPW to develop a wildlife mitigation plan to diminish human-predator interaction.

The Site occurs within Severe Winter Elk range and mule deer summer range. The populations of elk and mule deer within these areas are currently declining. Construction and site disturbance should occur outside of the December 1 – April 30th timeframe, annually, to protect wintering elk. To prevent disturbance and indirect impacts to wintering elk and mule deer in the area, a wintertime closure of area trails is recommended. The development will require the use of leashes to prevent dogs from harassing elk and minimizing human impacts big game on-Site. However, the Town of Minturn does not require pets to be leashed, and the U.S. Forest Service does not enforce leashes on Game Creek Trail. These areas are outside the development's control and we recommend a meeting between the Town of Minturn and CPW to find a solution to this issue.

According to CPW, the Site occurs within a quarter mile of a known golden eagle nest. The current status and location of this nest is unknown. The development occurs in a residential area of Minturn which is popular for year-round recreation. We do not believe that this development will create additional disturbance to this nest. The development team is committed to working with CPW to develop a wildlife mitigation plan.

Several species of noxious weeds and invasive grasses were observed on the Site. We recommend a Noxious Weed Prevention Plan be implemented to address noxious weed concerns prior to construction, during construction, and after construction is complete. Additionally, we recommend implementing a Reclamation Plan that discusses topsoil retention (and testing), erosion control, and long-term vegetation establishment to further reduce erosion and noxious weed issues.



History Colorado indicated one historical site within the Site boundaries in the form of Stage Road, however it is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. We do not believe development of the Site will adversely affect eligible historic sites.

7.0 OTHER RECCOMENDATIONS

CPW further recommends that the Town of Minturn explore financial funding mechanisms generated by this and future developments to help account for and potentially offset indirect and direct impacts associated with the developments. Increasingly critical, CPW recommends the Town of Minturn adopt a holistic approach to assessing cumulative impacts to wildlife and natural resources in the local area. This locale is slated for a wide variety of actions in the near future that will result in both direct and indirect impacts to wildlife. For additional information or to request clarification on CPW's comments for this project, please contact District Wildlife Manager Devin Duval at (970) 930-5264.

8.0 LIMITATIONS

This assessment only applies to the site in its current state, in areas that were easily observed. This assessment only applies to areas of observation. We believe that CTL performed services in a professional manner, consistent with industry standards and practices in the locality of the project at the time the services were performed. No warranty, express or implied, is made.

CTL | THOMPSON, INC.

Lela T. Updegrave
Biologist

Christine Whitacre
Environmental Scientist

Reviewed by:

Matthew L. Wardlow, P.E.
Environmental Department Manager

LTU:CMW:MLW/nn

Via e-mail: gregs@gpsdesigns.com



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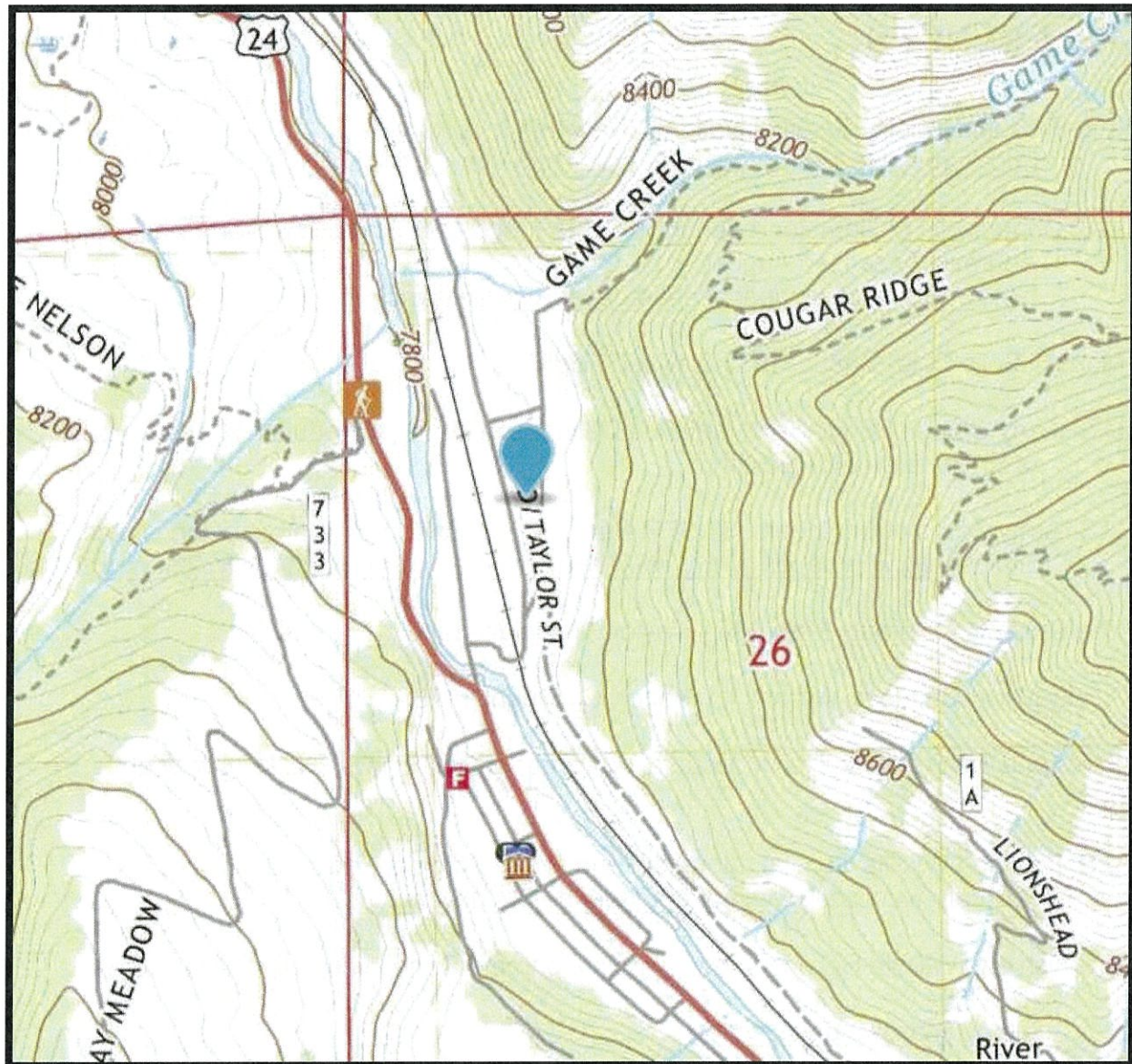
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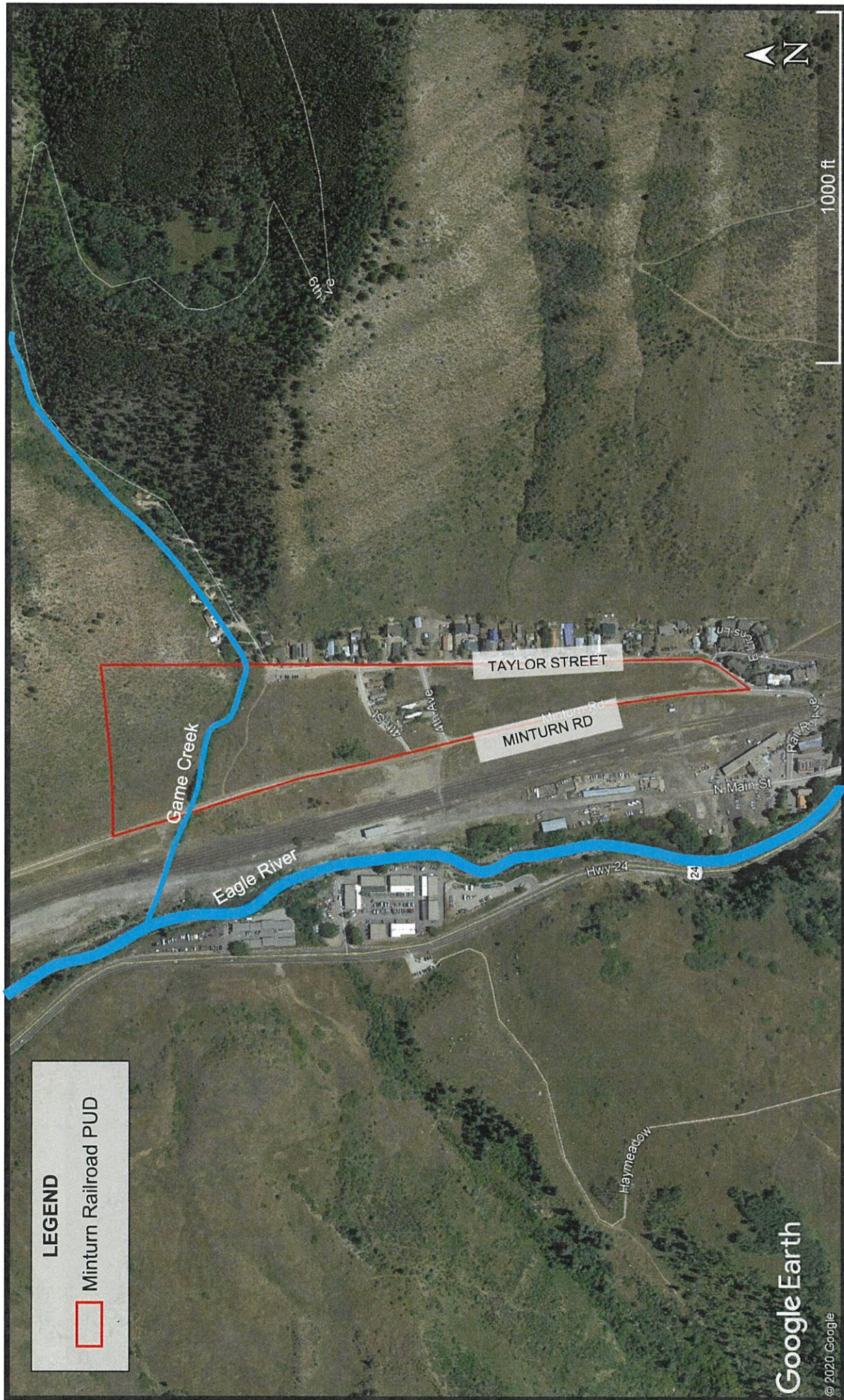
R 81 W



T 5 S

Source:
U.S.G.S Topographic Map
Minturn, Colorado
2019

Approximate Site Location
***Not to Scale**



SITE MAP
FIGURE 2

History Colorado

Historical Sites

LEGEND



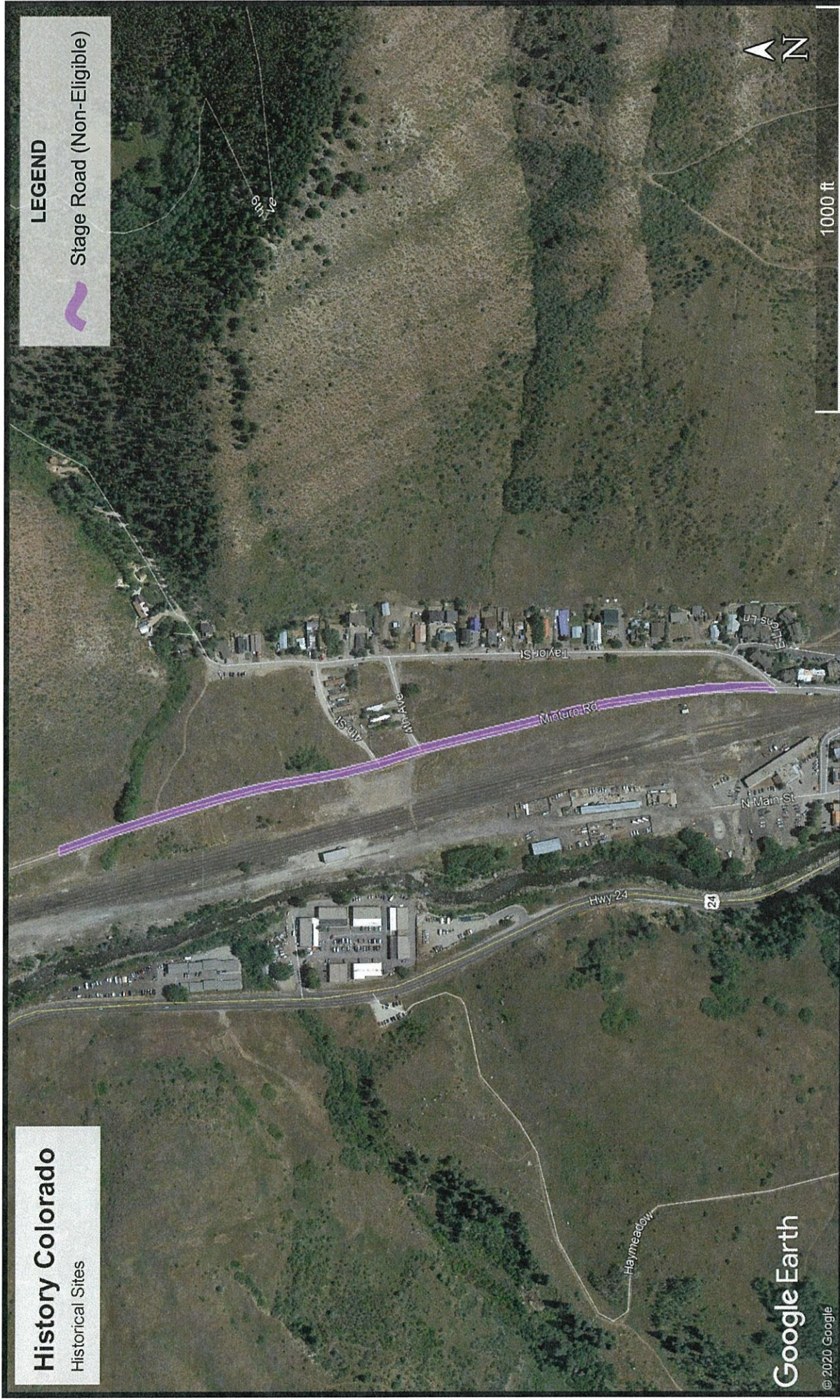
Stage Road (Non-Eligible)

Google Earth

© 2020 Google

GPS DESIGNS, LLC
MINTURN RAILROAD PUD
CTL PROJECT NO. SU01922.000-240-R1

HISTORICAL SITES
FIGURE 3



Carnivores

State Species of Concern

Legend

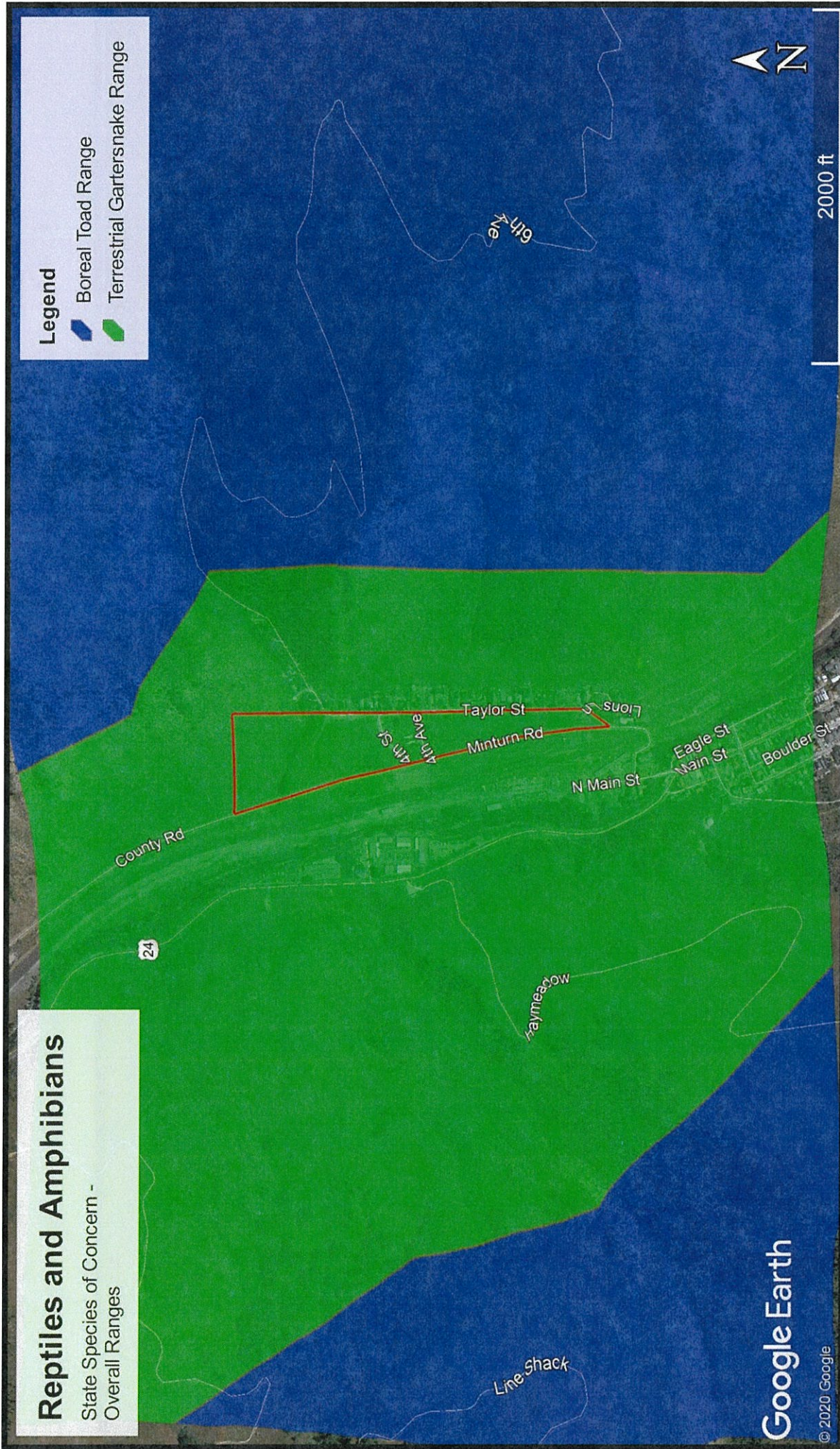
- Black Bear Summer Concentration
- Mountain Lion Overall Range

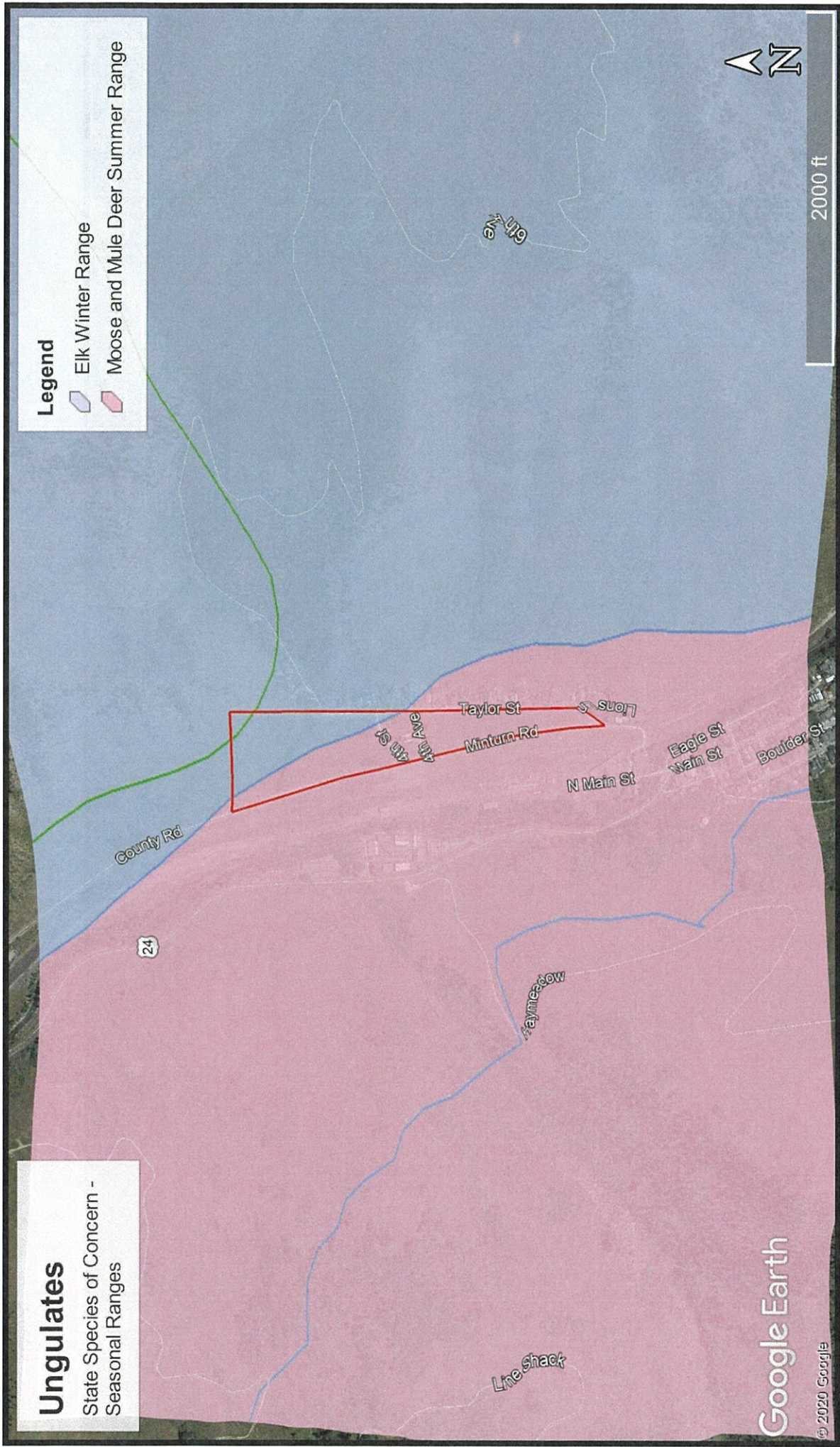
Google Earth

© 2020 Google

3000 ft







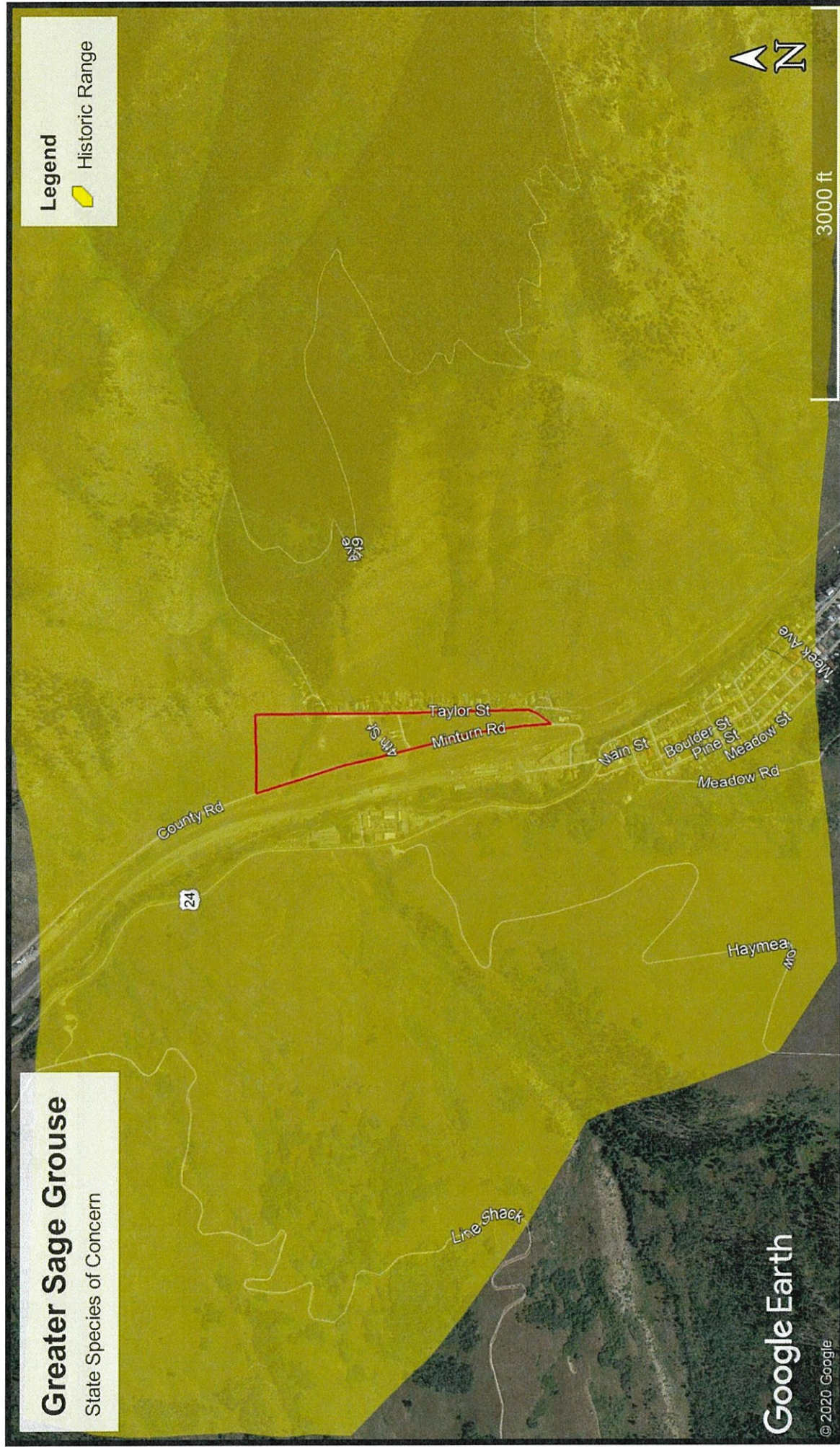
STATE SPECIES OF CONCERN
FIGURE 6

Greater Sage Grouse

State Species of Concern

Legend

Historic Range





APPENDIX A

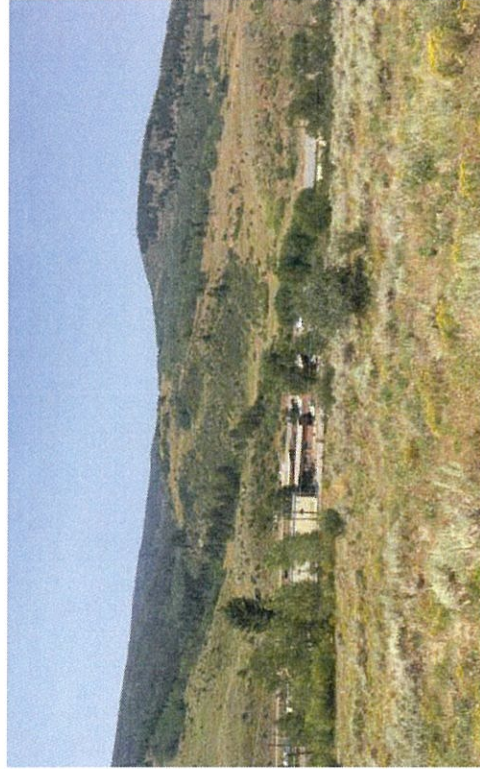
SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



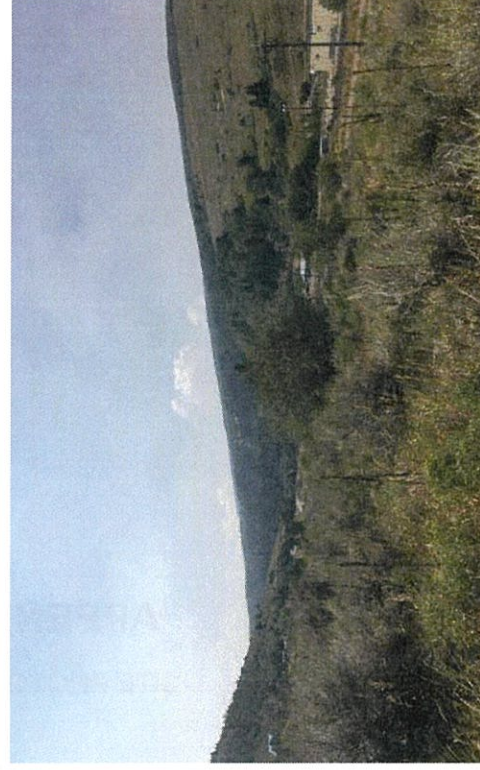
Description: General Site View
View Direction: North



Description: General Site View
View Direction: West



Description: General Site View
View Direction: East



Description: General Site View
View Direction: South

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Description: On-Site Mobile Homes
View Direction: Southeast



Description: Typical Vegetation – Game Creek
View Direction: North



Description: Typical Vegetation – Upland Weeds
View Direction: Northeast

No Photo

Description: N/A
View Direction: N/A

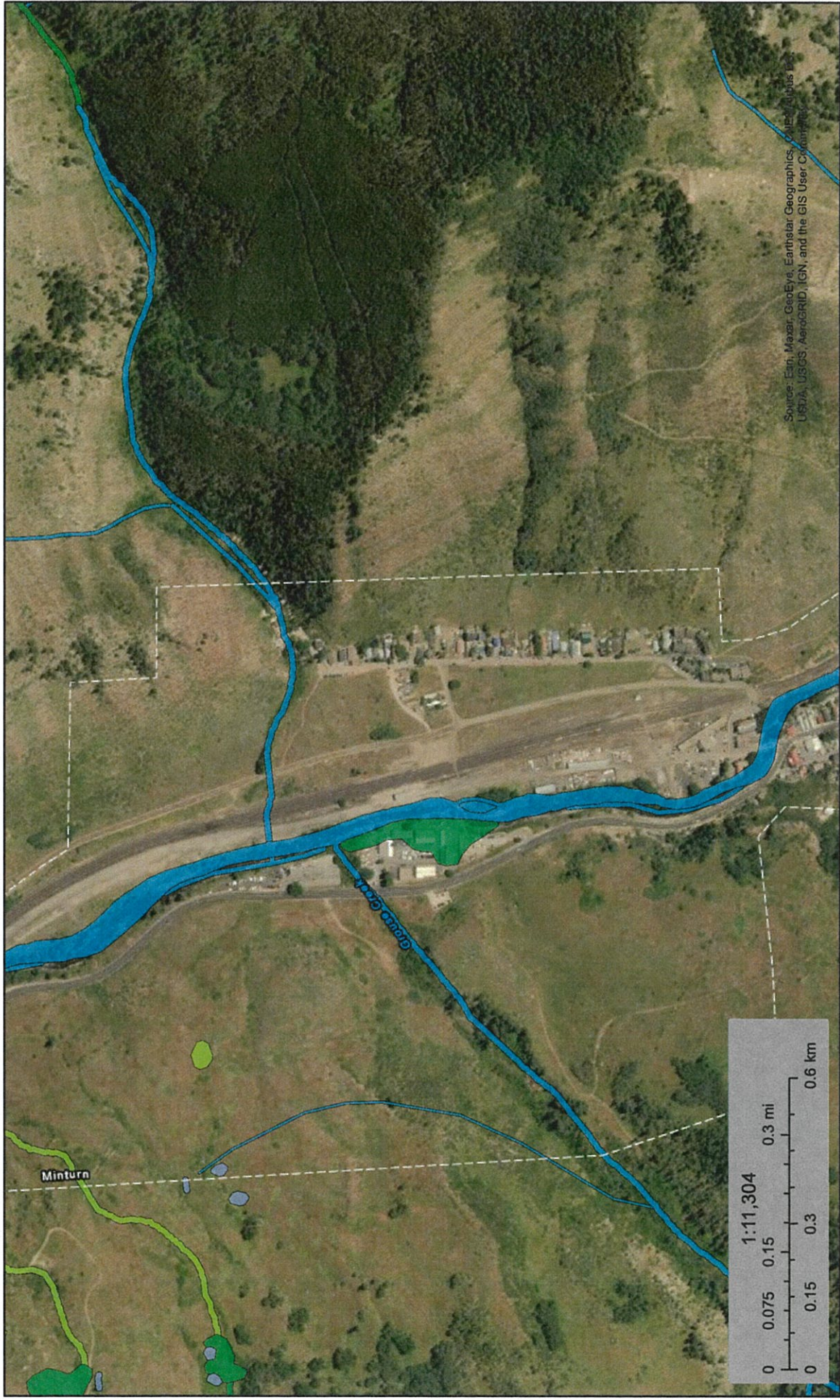
SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



APPENDIX B

WETLAND INVENTORY MAP





August 24, 2020

Wetlands

Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

Estuarine and Marine Wetland

Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

Freshwater Pond

Lake

Other

Riverine

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNR/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

This page was produced by the NWI mapper



APPENDIX C

HISTORY COLORADO

HISTORY COLORADO
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
1200 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80203

Lela Updegrave
CTL Thompson
1971 West 12th Ave
Denver, CO 80204

August 31, 2020

Re: Minturn Railroad PUD SU01922
File Search No. 23029

At your request, the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation has conducted a search of the Colorado Inventory of Cultural Resources within the area shown in the provided map, located in the following areas:

PM	T	R	S
6th	5S	81W	26

1 sites and 0 surveys were located in the designated area(s).

If information on any district, site, building, structure, or object in the project area was found, detailed information follows the summary. If no properties were found, but surveys are known to have been conducted in the project area, survey information follows the summary. We do not have complete information on surveys conducted in Colorado, and our site files cannot be considered complete because most of the state has not been surveyed for cultural resources. There is the possibility that as yet unidentified cultural resources exist within the proposed impact area.

Our letter should not be interpreted as formal consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800) or the Colorado Register of Historic Places (CRS 24-80.1). In the event that there is federal or state agency involvement, please note that it is the responsibility of the agencies to meet the requirements of these regulations.

We look forward to consulting with you regarding the effect of the proposed project on significant cultural resources in accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations titled "Protection of Historic Properties" or the Colorado Register of Historic Places, as applicable (<http://www.historycolorado.org/oahp/consultation-guidance>).

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation at (303) 866-3392. Thank you for your interest in Colorado's cultural heritage.

Steve Turner, AIA
State Historic Preservation Officer

*Information regarding significant archaeological resources is excluded from the Freedom of Information Act. Therefore, legal locations of these resources must not be included in documents for public distribution.



APPENDIX D

TIER I SPECIES LIST



Appendix D – Colorado's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan: Species of Greatest Conservation Need Tier I Species List

Species are grouped by Tier and taxonomic group, and then sorted alphabetically by common name. Legend: Federal Listing: LE – Listed Endangered; LT – listed Threatened; LT* – listed Threatened status applies to Distinct Population Segment only; C – Candidate; P – Petitioned; N – Not Warranted. State Listing: SE – state endangered; ST – state threatened; SC – Special Concern. Agency Sensitive: BLM – Bureau of Land Management; USFS – U.S. Forest Service; USFWS – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Birds of Conservation Concern for Bird Conservation Regions 16 and 18. NatureServe Global/State Status: 1 – critically imperiled; 2 – imperiled; 3 – vulnerable; 4 – apparently secure, but with cause for long-term concern; 5 – demonstrably secure; T – subspecies status; Q – taxonomic uncertainty; B – breeding; N – non-breeding; NR – not ranked; X – extirpated. Species mark with a double-asterisk (**) were added as habitat indicator species.

Species	Common Name	Priority Tier	Federal Status	State Status	USFS Sensitive Species	BLM Sensitive Species	USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern	PIF US-Canada Watch List	CO's Contribution to Conservation	Urgency of Conservation Action	Ability to Implement Effective Conservation Actions	Ecological Value of the Species	NatureServe Global Status Rank	CNHP/NatureServe State Status Rank	Declining Trend
AMPHIBIANS															
<i>Anaxyrus boreas boreas</i>	Boreal toad (Southern Rocky Mountain population)	Tier 1	P	SE	X	X			X	X		X	G4T1	S1	
<i>Lithobates pipiens</i>	Northern leopard frog	Tier 1		SC	X	X						X	G5	S3	?
BIRDS															
<i>Leucosticte australis</i>	Brown-capped rosy-finch	Tier 1					X	X				X	G4	S3B,S4N	
<i>Athene cucularia</i>	Burrowing owl	Tier 1		ST	X	X	X					X	G4	S4B	
<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus columbianus</i>	Columbian sharp-tailed grouse	Tier 1		SC	X	X				X	X	X	G4T3	S2	
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden eagle	Tier 1					X			X		X	G5	S3S4B, S4N	
<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	Greater sage-grouse	Tier 1	C	SC	X	X		X		X	X	X	G3G4	S4	
<i>Grus canadensis tabida</i>	Greater sandhill crane	Tier 1		SC									G5T4	S2B,S4N	X
<i>Centrocercus minimus</i>	Gunnison sage-grouse	Tier 1	LT	SC		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	G1	S1	
<i>Tympanuchus pallidicinctus</i>	Lesser prairie-chicken	Tier 1	LT	ST		X	X	X			X	X	G3	S2	

Species	Common Name	Priority Tier	Federal Status	State Status	USFS Sensitive Species	BLM Sensitive Species	USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern	PIF US-Canada Watch List	CO's Contribution to Conservation	Urgency of Conservation Action	Ability to Implement Effective Conservation Actions	Ecological Value of the Species	NatureServe Global Status Rank	CNHP/NatureServe State Status Rank	Declining Trend
<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Mountain plover	Tier 1		SC	x	x	x						G3	S2B	
<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus jamesii</i>	Plains sharp-tailed grouse	Tier 1		SE									G4T4	S1	
<i>Lagopus leucura alipetens</i>	Southern white-tailed ptarmigan	Tier 1	P		x							x	G5	S4	
<i>Empidonax traillii eximius</i>	Southwestern willow flycatcher	Tier 1	LE	SE			x						G5T1T2	SNA	
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	Western yellow-billed cuckoo	Tier 1	LT*	SC	x	x	x			x			G5T3Q	S1B	
FISH															
<i>Etheostoma cragini</i>	Arkansas darter	Tier 1	C	ST		x							G3G4	S2	
<i>Catostomus discobolus</i>	Bluehead sucker	Tier 1			x	x			x	x		x	G4	S4	
<i>Gila elegans</i>	Bonytail chub	Tier 1	LE	SE					x	x			G1	SX	
<i>Hybognathus hankinsoni</i>	Brassy minnow	Tier 1		ST								x	G5	S3	
<i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i>	Colorado pikeminnow	Tier 1	LE	ST					x	x		x	G1	S1	x
<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus</i>	Colorado River cutthroat trout	Tier 1		SC	x	x					x		G4T3	S3	
<i>Luxilus cornutus</i>	Common shiner	Tier 1		ST									G5	S2	
<i>Catostomus latipinnis</i>	Flannelmouth sucker	Tier 1			x	x			x	x		x	G3G4	S3	
<i>Platygobio gracilis</i>	Flathead chub	Tier 1		SC	x								G5	S3	
<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii stomias</i>	Greenback cutthroat trout	Tier 1	LT	ST					x			x	G4T2T3	S2	
<i>Gila cypha</i>	Humpback chub	Tier 1	LE	ST						x			G1	S1	x
<i>Catostomus playthrynychus</i>	Mountain sucker	Tier 1		SC	x	x							G5	S2	
<i>Phoxinus eos</i>	Northern redbelly dace	Tier 1		SE	x						x		G5	S1	
<i>Lepomis humilis</i>	Orangespotted sunfish	Tier 1									x		G5	S5	x

Species	Common Name	Priority Tier	Federal Status	State Status	USFS Sensitive Species	BLM Sensitive Species	USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern	PIF US-Canada Watch List	CO's Contribution to Conservation	Urgency of Conservation Action	Ability to Implement Effective Conservation Actions	Ecological Value of the Species	NatureServe Global Status Rank	CNHP/NatureServe State Status Rank	Declining Trend
<i>Etheostoma spectabile</i>	Orangethroat darter	Tier 1	SC	SE									G5	S3	x
<i>Hybognathus placitus</i>	Plains minnow	Tier 1	SE	SE	x							x	G4	SH	
<i>Fundulus sciadicus</i>	Plains topminnow	Tier 1			x								G4	S4	
<i>Xyrauchen texanus</i>	Razorback sucker	Tier 1	LE	SE					x	x		x	G1	S1	
<i>Gila Pandora</i>	Rio Grande chub	Tier 1	SC	SC	x	x							G3	S1	
<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii virginalis</i>	Rio Grande cutthroat trout	Tier 1	N	SC	x	x			x			x	G4T3	S3	
<i>Catostomus plebeius</i>	Rio Grande sucker	Tier 1		SE	x	x							G3G4	S1	
<i>Gila robusta</i>	Roundtail chub	Tier 1		SC	x	x			x	x		x	G3	S2	x
<i>Phoxinus erythrogaster</i>	Southern redbelly dace	Tier 1		SE	x						x		G5	S1	
<i>Noturus flavus</i>	Stoneroller	Tier 1		SC						x			G5	S1	
<i>Phenacobius mirabilis</i>	Suckermouth minnow	Tier 1		SE								x	G5	S2	
MAMMALS															
<i>Ochotona princeps</i>	American pika**	Tier 1	N										G5	S5	
<i>Mustela nigripes</i>	Black-footed ferret	Tier 1	LE	SE						x		x	G1	S1	
<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	Fringed myotis	Tier 1			x	x						x	G4	S3	
<i>Cynomys gunnisoni</i>	Gunnison's prairie dog	Tier 1	N		x	x			x			x	G5	S5	
<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Little brown myotis	Tier 1	P									x	G3	S5	
<i>Lynx Canadensis</i>	Lynx	Tier 1	LT	SE								x	G5	S1	
<i>Zapus hudsonius luteus</i>	New Mexico meadow jumping mouse	Tier 1	LE		x	x			x			x	G5T2	S1	
<i>Perognathus fasciatus</i>	Olive-backed pocket mouse	Tier 1										x	G5	S3	x
<i>Zapus hudsonius preblei</i>	Prebles meadow jumping mouse	Tier 1	LT	ST					x			x	G5T2	S1	x

Species	Common Name	Priority Tier	Federal Status	State Status	USFS Sensitive Species	BLM Sensitive Species	USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern	PIF US-Canada Watch List	CO's Contribution to Conservation	Urgency of Conservation Action	Ability to Implement Effective Conservation Actions	Ecological Value of the Species	NatureServe Global Status Rank	CNHP/NatureServe State Status Rank	Declining Trend
<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	Spotted bat	Tier 1			x	x						x	G4	S2	
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens</i>	Townsend's big-eared bat ssp.	Tier 1		SC	x	x					x	x	G3G4T3T4	S2	
<i>Cynomys leucurus</i>	White-tailed prairie dog	Tier 1			x	x						x	G4	S4	
<i>Gulo gulo</i>	Wolverine	Tier 1	N	SE								x	G4	S1	
REPTILES															
<i>Aspidoscelis neotesselata</i>	Colorado checkered whiptail	Tier 1	N	SC					x	x		x	G2G3	S2	
<i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>	Massasauga	Tier 1	P	SC	x	x						x	G3G4	S2	