

BTPD Mitigation Contacts

Person	Agency	Title	Date	Comment
Melanie Kaknes	CDOW	District Wildlife Manager	3/18/09; 3/24/09; 3/24/09	<p>Ms. Kaknes was contacted by the project team on March 24, 2009 and informed of the project scope and BTPD colonies identified within the project area of disturbance. She indicated that management of the BTPD's would be solely at the discretion of the property owner, and that the CDOW has no regulatory authority, or preference, over the animals. Ms. Kaknes did state that the animals should be humanly treated, either with euthanasia or relocation.</p> <p>If a property owner desired to relocate the colonies, the CDOW would assume a consultation role, as well as provide applicable permits.</p> <p>A formal letter was also sent on April 3, 2009 requesting CDOW input regarding the impacts.</p>
Eliza Hunholz	CDOW	Area Wildlife Manager	3/17/09	<p>Project team contacted by telephone to discuss impacts to BTPD, and possible mitigation. Ms. Hunholz confirmed that the BTPD currently does not have any special protections. She confirmed that the CDOW would request humane euthanasia prior to any earth moving activities.</p>
Alison Michael	USFWS	Project Leader	3/18/09; 3/24/09	<p>Ms. Michael was contacted by telephone on March 18, 2009, and issued a formal letter on April 3, 2009. Ms. Michael was informed of the proposed project, and impacts to BTPD colonies. Ms. Michael indicated that mitigation in the form of donation of live prairie dogs to the black-tailed ferret program can be difficult. Several levels of permitting are required for transport, and that once transported, the prairie dogs must be quarantined for a period of time. Ms. Michael was unaware of any possible areas for relocation of the colonies, as few entities or agencies are currently accepting BTPD's for relocation.</p>
Paul Marinarie	USFWS	Biologist – Black-footed ferret program	3/18/09	<p>Voice mail left explaining the project and seeking guidance regarding mitigation of BTPD colonies.</p>



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Judy Scherpelz	Rocky Mountain Raptor Program	Executive Director	3/18/09	Ms. Scherpelz is the Executive Director of the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program, which strives to rehabilitate injured raptors and other bird-of-prey for release into the wild. She indicated that the Program does accept humanely euthanized prairie dogs as a food source for raptors. The Program only accepts prairie dogs collected by their approved consultant, ROE Ecological Services.
Chris Roe	ROE Ecological Services	Wildlife Biologist	3/18/09	Mr. Roe confirmed discussions with Ms. Scherpelz. He stated that prairie dogs donated to Rocky Mountain Raptor Program are humanely euthanized, and immediately frozen. Using this process eliminates the transportation requirements and permits necessary for transportation of living prairie dogs. Mr. Roe also indicated that he was unaware of any relocation areas. He also indicated that, if a relocation area is identified, special care should be taken so that the relocation of the colony is successful. He noted occasions where relocation was attempted, but care was not taken to ensure the success/survival of the relocated BTPD's, often leading to significantly increased mortality.
Sherry Skipper	USFWS	Biologist – RMANWR	3/18/09	Ms. Skipper is a biologist at the nearby RMANWR, and was informed about the project, and impacts to BTPDs. She was asked whether the RMANWR would accept the relocated colonies impacted by the Preferred Alternative. Ms. Skipper indicated that he RMANWR currently manages approximately 3,000 acres of BTPD colonies, and could not accept relocated prairie dogs impacted by the Project.
Scott Larson	USFWS- Pierre SD	Wildlife Biologist, Black-ferret footed program	3/18/09	Mr. Larson was informed about the Project, and impacts to BTPD colonies. He confirmed statements from others that relocation of the colonies would be problematic in that few, if any, entities or agencies would accept the animals. Mr. Larson indicated that the Colorado Field Office of the USFWS may be able to provide additional guidance.



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Rebecca Pierce	CDOT	Wetland Specialist	3/17/09	Ms. Pierce indicated that the BTPD colonies in the project area may have been relocated from another location on the former SIA. She was not aware that the colonies were afforded any special protections, however.
Jeff Peterson	CDOT	Threatened and Endangered Species Specialist	3/17/09	Mr. Peterson provided concurrence with the statement made by Ms. Pierce.
Ashley DeLaup, Wildlife Ecologist	City and County of Denver	Parks and Recreation (303)455.0785	5/12/09	Ms. DeLaup was able to provide us with the following information. Currently we have plans to begin looking at land to purchase to designate for prairie dog relocation in the next few weeks, with the hope of purchasing a property early this summer for the relocation season. As prairie dog populations are dwindling within the city and county of Denver the importance of maintaining the animals both as native species and as an integral part of the local food chain and ecosystem has been of increasing importance, and we appreciate your interest in supporting that in the upcoming I70-Central Park interchange project. I think the potential of cost sharing in the land purchase and relocation would really support the values of the Denver in coexistence with our urban wildlife.

Source: URS Corporation