

NATURAL RESOURCES IMPACTS

A Beautiful Natural Setting

The natural beauty of North Cheyenne Cañon Park is what attracts so many visitors every year, and therefore is a critical consideration of the project.

The park contains a diverse variety of wildlife and vegetation communities, including open grasslands, shrublands, and unique forest canyons. It also contains narrow bands of riparian habitat and potential for fringe wetlands along the North Cheyenne Cañon Creek.



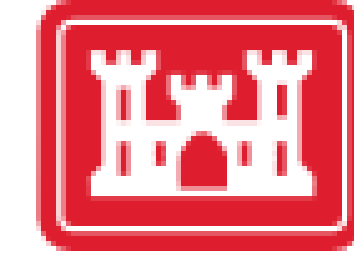
NEPA Environmental Review Process

The project will follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The resulting document will be evaluated by both CDOT and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with input from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Colorado Parks and Wildlife, to determine the project's potential effects on the following resources:

- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Hazardous Materials
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Wetlands, Riparian Habitat, and Streams
- Noxious Weeds
- Paleontology
- Archaeology
- History
- Visual/Aesthetics
- Land and Water Conservation Fund



Colorado Department
Of Transportation
Region 2



US Army Corps of Engineers
Albuquerque District



Colorado Parks and Wildlife



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Stream Habitat and Stability

North Cheyenne Creek is a steep, rocky, cold water mid-elevation stream that supports a population of non-native trout and other small-bodied native fish. Only minimal temporary impacts are expected to the stream, and no long-term effects.

Wildlife

The canon is home to a variety of wildlife species, including potential cliff-nesting raptors, black bear, mountain lion, mule deer, and wild turkey. No threatened or endangered species have been identified in the park, but the project team is currently evaluating potential affects to Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse, Mexican Spotted Owl, and Greenback Cutthroat Trout, which are known to be in the area and may have once inhabited the cañon. The project will minimize impacts to wildlife by requiring special provisions for species surveys, as necessary, including migratory bird nesting activity.



Wetlands and Riparian Habitat

The tight, high energy, cañon contains a narrow riparian zone with only small pockets of riparian wetlands. This narrow zone supports much of the plant and animal life seen in the cañon. The project is not expected to impact any wetlands, and impacts to riparian habitat will be minimized and restored where feasible upon project completion.