

PUBLIC NOTICE

AF Academy invites public comment on draft Environmental Assessment for proposed stormwater management infrastructure at I-25/North Gate interchange

The U.S. Air Force has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate potential stormwater infrastructure improvements in the vicinity of the Interstate 25 (I-25) and North Gate Boulevard interchange in El Paso County, Colorado. This work is a cooperative effort between the Air Force Academy, El Paso County, Federal Highway Administration, and the City of Colorado Springs.

The Proposed Action would construct new storm sewer pipes under Struthers Road and North Gate Road, carrying stormwater to a new extended detention basin to be located in the median of I-25. This basin would normally be dry but would receive stormwater after a precipitation event and gradually release it into Smith Creek after allowing sediment to drop out of the water for periodic removal.

The purpose of this Proposed Action is to address local drainage problems and achieve water quality improvement for a 57-acre watershed located north and northeast of the North Gate interchange. Stormwater management is an important strategy for compliance with the Clean Water Act.

Failure to undertake stormwater management improvements would result in continued discharge of untreated stormwater into Smith Creek, gradually degrading its ecological health. Smith Creek is known to be occupied by the Preble's meadow jumping mouse, listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a threatened species.

Based on USAFA's EA analysis for the Proposed Action, the Air Force has prepared a proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Finding of No Practicable Alternative (FONPA). The Draft EA and FONSI are available for review at the following locations:

USAFA Base Library, 10 FSS/FSDL
5136 Redtail Drive, Suite H103
USAF Academy, CO

Monument Library
1706 Lake Woodmoor Drive
Monument, CO

Pikes Peak Library District East Branch
5550 N Union Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO

Electronic copies of the documents can also be found on the US Air Force Academy Website at <https://www.usafa.af.mil/>

PRIVACY ADVISORY This EA is provided for public comment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and 32 CFR Part 989, Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP). The EIAP provides an opportunity for public input on Air Force decision making, allows the public to offer inputs on alternative ways for the Air Force to accomplish what it is proposing, and solicits comments on the Air Force's analysis of environmental effects. Public commenting allows the Air Force to make better, informed decisions.

Letters or other written or oral comments provided may be published in the EA. As required by law, comments provided will be addressed in the EA and made available to the public. Providing personal information is voluntary. Any personal information provided will be used only to identify your desire to make a statement during the public comment portion of any public meetings or hearings or to fulfill requests for copies of the EA or associated documents. Private addresses will be compiled to develop a mailing list for those requesting copies of EA; however, only the names of the individuals making comments and specific comments will be disclosed. Personal home addresses and phone numbers will not be published in the EA.

You are encouraged to **submit comments through Friday, March 22, 2024**. Comments should be provided to 10th Civil Engineering Squadron, Attn: Mr. Barry Schatz, 8120 Edgerton Dr., US Air Force Academy, CO 80840 or emailed to 10ces.cenpp.planning_programming@us.af.mil.

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