

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR  
REPAIR KETTLE CREEK DRY DAM PROJECT  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY  
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO**

**Description:** Interested parties are hereby notified that a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)/Draft Finding of No Practicable Alternative (FONPA) have been prepared for the Proposed Action described below.

**Authority:** This notice is being issued to all interested parties in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code 4321, et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), the Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process (32 CFR Part 989), Executive Order (EO) 11990, *Protection of Wetlands*, and EO 11988, *Floodplain Management*.

**Proposed Action:** The United States (U.S.) Air Force (USAF), through the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA), proposes to repair Kettle Creek Dry Dam in order to meet current dam safety regulations. Kettle Creek Dry Dam is currently classified as a “high hazard” dam by the Colorado Department of Water Resources (DWR) and requires improvements to comply with state regulations. Under the Proposed Action, the dam would be modified into an “exempt structure” that cannot impound water above the natural ground surface, except during floods, by removing the part of the dam embankment rising above Interstate 25. The Proposed Action would also include upstream channel reach improvements to restore the Kettle Creek stream channel and improvements to the Kettle Lakes diversion structure to reduce ongoing maintenance issues. The USAF is considering two alternatives: the Preferred Alternative, which would implement the Proposed Action; and the No Action Alternative, which would not implement the Proposed Action but provides a comparative baseline for potential impacts as required under CEQ regulations.

The Draft EA evaluates the potential impacts on the environment from implementing the Proposed Action. The evaluation concludes there would be no significant impact, either individually or cumulatively, as a result of implementing the Proposed Action, which includes compliance with all federal and state laws and regulations, including consultation and permitting, and routine best management practices.

The Preferred Alternative would impact approximately 0.06 acre of wetlands and 6.7 acres of floodplains during construction. While the USAFA designed the Preferred Alternative to avoid wetland and floodplain impacts to the extent feasible, because the Preferred Alternative involves channel modifications and other work in an existing dam reservoir, there is no practicable alternative to working in wetlands and floodplains.

**Public Review:** The Draft EA and Draft FONSI/FONPA will be available between June 29, 2022, and August 1, 2022, for a 30-day public comment period. The Draft EA and Draft FONSI/FONPA were published digitally on the USAFA website at <https://www.usafa.af.mil>. Printed copies of the Draft EA and Draft FONSI/FONPA are also available at the Pikes Peak Library District – Library 21c located at 1175 Chapel Hills Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80920 for public review.

**Comments:** The public may obtain information and submit comments on the Draft EA and Draft FONSI/FONPA during the review period via US mail to Barry Schatz, Environmental Element Chief, 8120 Edgerton Drive, USAFA, CO 80840, or via email to [10CES.CENPP.Planning\\_Programming@us.af.mil](mailto:10CES.CENPP.Planning_Programming@us.af.mil). Comments must be received by August 1, 2022.