






Biological Resources






A biological resource collectively defines wildlife, vegetation, special status species, and noxious weeds. Wildlife resources include animal species, both native and exotic, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.

(More detail can be found in Section 5.13 of the DEIS)

Impacts					
	 No-Action	 Alternative 1 EXISTING	 Alternative 3 EXISTING, TOLLED	 Alternative 4 REALIGNED	 Alternative 6 REALIGNED, TOLLED
Wildlife Impacts in Acres Lost					
Mule deer habitat	None	220	226	220	238
White-tailed deer habitat	None	119	126	205	231
Other small mammals	May be temporarily displaced during construction, but would likely relocate to open space east of the project area.				
Mitigation	New structures at the South Platte River and Sand Creek would allow wildlife to continue to cross without restrictions.				
Special Status Species – Bald Eagle Impacts in Acres Lost					
Indirect impacts	None	Construction noise, human activity, and decrease in winter prey base (prairie dogs).			
Winter Habitat	None	43	45	51	
Mitigation	Mitigation will be conducted in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act				
Special Status Species – Black Tailed Prairie Dog Impacts in Acres Lost					
Habitat	None	21		22	
Mitigation	Prior to construction, CDOT will coordinate with Colorado Division of Wildlife to relocate large colonies of black-tailed prairie dogs.				

Biological Resources (continued)

(More detail can be found in Section 5.13 of the DEIS)

Impacts					
	 No-Action	 Alternative 1 EXISTING	 Alternative 3 EXISTING, TOLLED	 Alternative 4 REALIGNED	 Alternative 6 REALIGNED, TOLLED
Noxious weeds					
Construction impacts	None	Newly disturbed surfaces would be susceptible to invasive/noxious weed infestations.			
Mitigation	Use approved reseeding mixtures to limit invasive weed infestation on disturbed sites. Site monitoring to identify any noxious weed invasion. Existing areas infested with noxious weeds would be pre-treated with herbicides prior to construction to prevent the future spread and damage to newly paved surfaces. Creation of Noxious Weed Management Plan.				
Riparian Vegetation Impacts in Acres Lost					
Permanent impacts	None	0.68	0.73	0.46	0.35
Temporary impacts	None	0.49	0.54	1.07	1.03
Mitigation	All permanent effects to riparian vegetation would be mitigated through Colorado Senate Bill 40 guidelines.				