



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Mountain-Prairie Region



IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/R6/

MAILING ADDRESS:

Post Office Box 25486
Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado 80225

STREET LOCATION:

1 Denver Federal Center
Building 53, Room FW-100
Denver, Colorado 80225

May 5, 2025

Chuck Stevens
County Manager
La Plata County
1101 East 2nd Avenue
Durango, Colorado
81301

SUBJECT: Colorado Parks and Wildlife Southwest Regional Office Complex Construction Project

Dear Manager Stevens:

Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) is proposing to reconfigure the CPW Southwest Regional Office Complex in Durango, La Plata County, Colorado (Undertaking). Federal funds granted through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 (Pittman-Robertson Act, 16 U.S.C. § 669 *et seq*) and dispersed by the Office of Conservation Investment (CI) of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) will be used for the proposed project. Therefore, this project is a federal undertaking as defined by 36 CFR 800.16(y), and the Service is the lead federal agency responsible for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA; 54 U.S.C. § 306108), and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800. Enclosed is documentation that describes the proposed project, defines the areas of potential effects (APE), efforts to identify historic properties, and provides the finding of effects.

The Service initiated Section 106 consultation with Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), federally recognized Tribal Nations that have ancestral ties to Durango and La Plata County, and other consulting parties via correspondence dated July 19th, 2024. All written correspondence between the Service, SHPO, Tribal Nations and other consulting parties is included as an enclosure to this letter.

Through consultation with the SHPO, Tribal Nations, and other consulting parties, the Service has made a finding of adverse effects to the San Juan Basin Office (5LP12125), which is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A and C, in accordance with 36 CFR 800.5(d)(2). We invite you to participate in consultation to resolve for adverse effects per 36 CFR 800.6(a)(1). The Service invites you to participate in virtual meeting on June 24, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. Mountain Time, to address adverse effects to 5LP12125 in order to execute and implement a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in accordance with 36 CFR 800.6(c). One potential mitigation effort is to complete a NRHP nomination form for the San Juan Basin Office (5LP12125) and create a three-dimensional model that will be on display in the Durango Wildlife Museum on the property.

In addition to the SHPO, the following Tribal Nations and consulting parties have been invited to participate in the consultation: the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma; the Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana; the Hopi Tribe of Arizona; the Jicarilla Apache Nation, New Mexico; the Navajo Nation Arizona, New Mexico & Utah; the Ohkay Owingeh, New Mexico; the Pueblo of Acoma, New Mexico; the Pueblo of Cochiti, New Mexico; the Pueblo of Isleta, New Mexico; the Pueblo of Jemez, New Mexico; the Pueblo of Laguna, New Mexico; the Pueblo of Nambe, New Mexico; the Pueblo of Picuris, New Mexico; the Pueblo of Pojoaque, New Mexico; the Pueblo of San Felipe, New Mexico; the Pueblo of San Ildefonso, New Mexico; the Pueblo of Sandia, New Mexico; the Pueblo of Santa Ana, New Mexico; the Pueblo of Santa Clara, New Mexico; the Pueblo of Taos, New Mexico; the Pueblo of Zia, New Mexico; the Santo Domingo Pueblo; the Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado; the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation, Utah; the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe; the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo; the Zuni Tribe of the Zuni Reservation, New Mexico; as well as the Historic Preservation Board, City of Durango; the Community Development Commission and Land Use Board of Adjustment, City of Durango; the La Plata County Historical Society; the Colorado Department of Transportation; the National Park Service Intermountain Regional Partnerships Program; the United States Army Corps of Engineers; the Colorado Preservation Incorporated; and the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeology.

The Service looks forward to working with you to resolve adverse effects to the San Juan Basin Office (5LP12125) that will result from this undertaking. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Grace Bello, Archaeologist, at grace_bello@fws.gov or 720-760-3366.

Sincerely,

Clinton Riley
Regional Manager,
Office of Conservation Investment