Environmental Report
Timberline Fire Protection District
Timberline Fire Station 3
Addition and Improvements Project
Gilpin County, Colorado

October 17, 2024

Prepared for—

Timberline Fire Protection District
19126 Highway 119
Black Hawk, Colorado 80422

For Submittal to—

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1 Purpose and Need

Timberline Fire Protection District (TFPD) was awarded a Congressionally Directed Spending Grant that will be administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD), Rural Housing Service (RHS) for the Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project (Project) in Gilpin County, Colorado (Figure 1). TFPD's response area is about 175 square miles and extends from the town of Nederland in Boulder County, Colorado to the towns of Black Hawk and Central City in Gilpin County. Most of the response area is within Gilpin County. Gilpin County is 54 percent public lands, most of which is Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests. With increasing temperatures and longer drought periods, the intensity and size of wildfires have been increasing in Colorado over recent decades. Through its Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), Gilpin County is working to reduce wildfire risks within the community, especially the threat of wildfire to life and property. The CWPP makes recommendations for hazardous fuels reduction, public outreach and education, structural ignitability reduction, and fire response capabilities. Reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfires is an important strategy, but reducing response time to fires and other emergencies is equally important.

The TFPD serves about 6,500 residents. The location of Fire Station 3 on the northern end of Gilpin County fills a large response gap in one of the most vulnerable areas of the Front Range. Areas vulnerable to catastrophic fires occur throughout the forested rural areas of Gilpin and Boulder counties. Areas along the Union Pacific Central Corridor rail line and Moffat Tunnel that run through the Tolland Valley and along South Boulder Creek are especially vulnerable. With multiple trains carrying hazardous materials daily through the Tolland Valley, wildfires are a major concern to residents and public officials. The purpose of the proposed Project is to reduce response time and to improve TFPD's capacity to fight wildfires in TFPD's response area by providing a 2,400 square foot building addition with three storage bays for fire trucks and other emergency equipment and having a designated 30,000-gallon water storage cistern.

1.1 Proposed Action

In 2022, TFPD acquired the Fritz Peak Observatory and associated properties located in Gilpin County, Colorado (Figure 2). TFPD has converted the building into a training and administration facility and is proposing to construct an addition adjacent to the existing building for permanent storage of fire trucks and other equipment that the facility currently lacks. The proposed addition would be 2,400 square feet and would include three bays for an additional fire truck, a wildland apparatus, and an ambulance or utility vehicle (Appendix A). The proposed building would be about 30 feet (ft) high and would match the character of the existing building. A 30,000-gallon water storage cistern for firefighting would be constructed at the rear of the proposed building addition. Water for the initial filling of the cistern would be trucked from the municipal water supplies of Black Hawk or Nederland or delivered by a private water delivery

company. After the initial fill, TPFD would use well water or the same sources used for the initial fill to refill the cistern. The gravel and paved parking area in front of the existing and proposed building would be paved as part of the project. Staging areas for construction would occur in a TFPD-owned parking area to the north of the existing building and across Observatory Place (Figure 3). If additional staging is necessary, disturbed areas behind the existing building and accessed from Observatory Place would be used.

The existing building is about 40 ft by 75 ft (2,800 square ft) with a sidewalk in front of the building and steps to a gravel parking area (Figure 4). Observatory Place occurs north of the fire station and provides northern access to the circular driveway around the fire station and to nearby residences. A small retaining wall is aligned with the front of the fire station on the south side and creates a raised 0.04-acre vegetated area with small- to medium-sized aspens (*Populus tremuloides*). The proposed building addition would require removal of the retaining wall and the 0.04-acre aspen stand, and a portion of the circular driveway would be eliminated.

The Proposed Action would occur in an area that already has been mostly developed and disturbed by past development. Most of the areas that would be used for construction access and staging have been paved. The proposed project is on private property owned by TFPD and surrounded by other private property and the Roosevelt National Forest (Figure 5).

The total anticipated budget for the project is $1,651,417. Approximately $908,279 is covered by the Congressionally Directed Spending Grant, which TFPD has recently been awarded. In addition, TFPD has secured a $700,000 lease purchase loan to cover the remaining cost of the Project.

2 Alternatives to Proposed Action

In accordance with 7 CFR § 1970.13(a), projects that are single-site actions are only required to consider and document the analysis of the No Action alternative if there are no potential adverse effects on environmental resources. Based on a preliminary assessment, TFPD and Bristlecone determined that the project would have no effect or only negligible effects on environmental resources; therefore, only the No Action Alternative is discussed in addition to the Proposed Action.

2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no addition to the existing building would occur. TFPD's firefighting capacity would be limited to the current equipment and would not increase. The 30,000-gallon water storage cistern would not be available for firefighting. No construction or improvements would occur under this alternative and the purpose and need of reducing response time and expanding firefighting equipment and capacity would not be met.

3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

For the Proposed Action, the study area is approximately the boundary of TFPD's tract C (Figure 3). For the impact assessment, it was assumed that construction would require about 20 ft from

the edge of the proposed building addition, which is already paved to the east and south. The footprint of the proposed addition would be a permanent impact along with 5 ft of hardscaping for drainage around the new addition. The 20-foot setback would be the limits of disturbance for construction and would be a temporary impact in areas that are vegetated.

On September 11, 2024, Leigh Rouse with Bristlecone Environmental Consulting, LLC (Bristlecone) conducted a site visit (2024 site visit) to document existing conditions, map wetlands and other waters of the U.S., map habitat and migratory bird nests, and other resources discussed within this report. Photos of existing conditions are in Appendix B.

For the purposes of determining effects, the intensity of impacts was often described using the following terms:

- No effect: No discernable or measurable effect.
- Negligible: Effects would be at the lowest levels of detection, barely measurable, with no perceptible consequences.
- Minor: Effects result in a detectable change, but the change would be slight.
- Moderate: Effects would result in a clearly detectable change, with measurable effects.
- Major: Effects would be readily apparent with substantial consequences.

Because the No Action Alternative does not include any action and would not cause any land disturbance, the No Action Alternative would not have adverse effects on the resources discussed below and is not discussed further.

3.1 Land Use/Important Farmland/Formally Classified Lands

3.1.1 Affected Environment

Based on Gilpin County parcel data and information from TFPD, the Proposed Action would occur within private property owned by TFPD. TFPD property is along State Highway (SH) 119 and is adjacent to the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) right-of-way. Private property and the Roosevelt National Forest surround the TFPD property (Figure 5). The study area is in forested mountains, and no important farmland or formally classified lands occur within the study area (Appendix C). Because the proposed project is on private property owned by TFPD, current land use and zoning documentation is not provided.

3.1.2 Environmental Consequences

No effect would occur on land use since the proposed project would occur on private property owned by the TFPD and would occur in mostly previously disturbed areas. The property was previously used as an observatory for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Other private property, important farmland, or formally classified lands, including nearby national forest land, would not be adversely affected by the proposed project. Additional coordination with CDOT would be required if construction would occur within CDOT right-of-way and to obtain an Access Permit. TFPD is currently coordinating with CDOT for an Access Permit.

3.1.3 Mitigation

Because no effects are expected to occur on land use, mitigation is not needed or proposed for the Proposed Action.

3.2 Floodplains

3.2.1 Affected Environment

No streams occur in the study area. Ellsworth Creek, a tributary to South Boulder Creek, occurs about 0.12 mile southeast of the study area. Ellsworth Creek has a 1 percent annual chance of flood hazard, the lowest designation available (EPA 2024a). The elevation of the study area is about 8,780 ft above sea level and is about 160 feet higher than the Ellsworth Creek floodplain. A review of floodplains designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) showed that the proposed project does not occur within a 100-year, 500-year floodplain, or any area designated as a flood hazard (Figure 6). The Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) Floodplain Determination worksheet is provided in Appendix D. The study area is within Zone X, an area of minimal flood hazard. Ellsworth Creek is in Zone A, a special flood hazard area. The baseline flood elevation (BFE) for Ellsworth Creek is estimated to be 8,622 feet above sea level. The existing Fire Station 3 is at 8,780 ft.

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

The Proposed Action would not directly or indirectly affect a FEMA-designated floodplain, and there are no flood risks to the proposed building addition. Based on the determination from the FFRMS Floodplain Determination worksheet, the proposed project does not occur in the FFRMS floodplain (Appendix D).

3.2.3 Mitigation

No mitigation is needed or proposed for FEMA-designated floodplains.

3.3 Wetlands

3.3.1 Regulatory Framework

3.3.1.1 Clean Water Act

The Clean Water Act (CWA) protects the physical, biological, and chemical quality of waters of the U.S. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) Regulatory Program administers and enforces Section 404 of the CWA. Under Section 404, a Corps permit is required for the discharge of dredged or fill material into wetlands and other waters of the U.S. (streams, ponds, and other waterbodies). Since the regulatory program was initiated, the definition of waters of the U.S. has changed due to Supreme Court decisions and new rules proposed by presidential administrations. On August 29, 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Corps announced a final rule amending the 2023 definition of "waters of the U.S." to conform with the United States Supreme Court (Supreme Court) ruling under Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency, No. 21-454. The amended rule reduces the jurisdiction of the CWA over wetlands adjacent to bodies of water that do not have a continuous surface connection to other known waters of the U.S., as well as streams that do not have continuous flowing or relatively

permanent water. The amended rule removes the "significant nexus" standard that was created under *Rapanos v. United States*, removes interstate wetlands from the definition of waters of the U.S., and revises the definition of "adjacent" to mean "having a continuous surface connection." Wetlands that do not have a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional traditionally navigable water or tributary, as well as ephemeral streams that do not have relatively permanent water, are no longer jurisdictional. Potential rulings and guidance in the future could change the jurisdictional status of waters and wetlands.

3.3.1.2 Colorado Wetland Protection

The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission (CWQCC) has enacted an implementation policy to address the protection of state waters that are no longer jurisdictional as a result of Sackett, referred to as "Sackett Gap Waters." The policy contemplates the Water Quality Control Division (Division) exercising enforcement discretion for discharges of dredged or fill material into state waters that are no longer subject to CWA Section 404 permitting. The implementation policy requires notification to the Division if a project would have required a CWA Section 404 permit but no longer does as a result of Sackett. The extent and timing of notification to the Division is dependent on the level of CWA Section 404 permitting that would have been previously required.

The enactment of House Bill (HB) 24-1379, signed into law on May 30, 2024, resulted from the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Sackett v. EPA, which limited the scope of protection under the CWA. HB 24-1379 directs the Division to develop a dredge and fill authorization program and the CWQCC to establish permitting and mitigation rules by Dec. 31, 2025. The outcome will be Regulation No. 87, a control regulation for avoiding and minimizing the negative impacts of dredge and fill activity.

3.3.1.3 Executive Order 11990

Federal agencies have responsibilities to avoid, minimize, and mitigate unavoidable impacts on wetlands under Executive Order (EO) 11990. EO 11990 requires federal agencies to "consider factors relevant to a proposal's effect on the survival and quality of the wetlands." EO 11990 requires that adverse effects on wetlands and other waters of the U.S. be avoided, where possible, in implementing federal actions.

3.3.2 Methods

Data on wetland resources were obtained from the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps produced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service 2024a). For its NWI mapping, the Service uses a series of letter and number codes that correspond to the classification nomenclature developed by Cowardin et al. (1979) to classify wetlands and open water habitats. NWI maps are prepared from interpretation of high-altitude imagery, and wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology, and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery. Information on soils within the study area was obtained from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS 2024) and is provided as Appendix C. During the 2024 site visit, Bristlecone reviewed the site for wetlands and other waters that may be subject to Corps or State of Colorado jurisdiction.

3.3.3 Affected Environment

No NWI wetlands occur in the study area (Figure 6), and no wetlands or other waters were observed during the 2024 site visit. Soils within the study area are classified as Cypher-ratake families complex, 5 to 40 percent slopes (NRCS 2024; Appendix C). Cypher-ratake are typically on mountain slopes with parent material of colluvium, residuum and/or slope alluvium derived from igneous and metamorphic rock. The drainage class is considered somewhat excessively drained, and this soil complex does not rate as a hydric soil.

3.3.4 Environmental Consequences

Wetlands and other waters are not present in the study area and would not be affected by the Proposed Action (Figure 6). Results from the soil survey indicate that hydric soils are not present within the study area.

3.3.5 Mitigation

Because wetlands and other waters would not be affected, mitigation for wetlands is not needed or proposed for the Proposed Action.

3.4 Cultural Resources

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 300101 et seq.) (NHPA, 1966, as amended), federal agencies must consider the project's potential effects on historic properties prior to permitting, funding, or conducting ground disturbing activities. Therefore, federal agencies that are funding or permitting this project, such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), will review the Proposed Action study area to identify cultural resources (i.e., objects, archaeological sites, structures, and buildings 50 years old and older) and evaluate their eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). In the event any historic properties (i.e., cultural resources eligible for listing or listed in the NRHP) are located in the study area, a lead federal agency will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on project effects to the historic properties.

3.4.1 Affected Environment

AK Pioneer Consulting, LLC (AKPC) completed a file search at the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) to determine if other known resources may be affected. AKPC reviewed the OAHP's Compass database to determine previous cultural resource inventories and sites within one mile of the Project. According to data received from the OAHP on September 24, 2024 (File Search No. 26506), 19 inventories have been completed, and 46 cultural resources have been recorded within one mile of the Project Area of Potential Effect (APE; Appendix E). Five previous inventories and two cultural resources intersect the Project APE. The entire APE has been previously surveyed. The former Fritz Peak Observatory and cottage are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A for their contribution to "…our knowledge and understanding of oceanic and atmospheric environments. In particular, to ozone depletion and climate change" (Aaron 2020). The Fritz Peak Observatory was designated a Gilpin County Historic Landmark on October 18, 2022 (Gilpin County 2022).

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences

The entire Project APE has been previously inventoried for cultural resources. No archaeological resources were found within the APE during those inventories. The Fritz Peak Observatory is within the Project APE. TFPD is coordinating with the State Historical Fund for proposed work on the Fritz Peak Observatory building. AKPC recommends no additional work. The proposed project would comply with Section 106 of the NHPA.

3.4.3 Mitigation

To support Gilpin County goals and policies, AKPC recommends following processes and procedures outlined in an Inadvertent Discovery Plan or similar plan should unanticipated resources be discovered during construction and other ground-disturbing activities. An archaeologist would be consulted for cultural remains (not human), and a paleontologist would be consulted for fossil remains discovered during ground-disturbing activities. If suspected human skeletal remains are discovered, the Gilpin County Coroner and Sheriff would be notified immediately.

3.5 Visual Aesthetics

3.5.1 Affected Environment

The proposed project is within a naturally scenic area with the Continental Divide along the Arapahoe Peaks and James Peak Wilderness as a backdrop to the northwest. The proposed building addition would be next to the existing Fire Station 3, a historical 1940's building. The SH 119 corridor, which is mostly forested or characterized by open meadows, has many existing houses and commercial buildings on both sides of the highway. Travelers on SH 119 have a view of the historical Fire Station 3 and parking area in the front as they travel on the highway.

3.5.2 Environmental Consequences

The proposed building addition is proposed to be constructed on the southeast end of the existing building and would be in character with other structures in the area. The proposed building addition would be seen by travelers on SH 119, but once the project is complete, the building would be consistent with existing buildings and would not be an adverse visual effect. Construction of the proposed building would result in temporary effects on visual resources for travelers on SH 119. Construction could also result in a higher amount of fugitive dust. No important visual features in the surrounding scenic area would be blocked from people's view.

3.5.3 Mitigation

The following mitigation measures would be implemented to avoid, minimize, and mitigate for visual resources:

- Temporarily affected areas would be restored as soon as possible following construction.
- Water would be applied with standard construction practices to control airborne fugitive dust to minimize temporary effects during construction.

3.6 Biological Resources

Projects involving a federal nexus must comply with federal and state laws and regulations protecting wildlife species including:

- Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 USC 1531 et seq.)
- Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940, as amended (16 USC 668-668d)
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, as amended (16 USC §§ 661-667e)
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended (16 USC §§ 703-712)
- Executive Order 13186 Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds
- Colorado wildlife statutes concerning nongame and endangered species conservation (Title 33, Article 2, C.R.S. (2007)

Federally listed threatened and endangered species are protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended. Potential effects from a project on a federally listed species or its habitat resulting from a project with a federal action require consultation with the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under Section 7 of the ESA. Modification of designated critical habitat for a federally listed species also requires consultation with the Service. The results of the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) from the Service are provided in Appendix F.

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act requires the federal action agency to consult with the Service and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) on issues related to conservation of wildlife resources for federal projects resulting in modifications to waters or channels of a body of water (16 USC §§ 661-667e).

Migratory birds, including raptors, and active nests are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The MBTA prohibits activities that result in taking, killing, or possessing migratory birds and their eggs. Possession of any nest and destruction (without possession) of active nests that results in the loss of eggs or young is also prohibited (16 USC §§ 703-712). Executive Order 13186 directs federal agencies to take certain actions to implement the MBTA (86 Fed. Reg. 3853).

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) (16 USC 668-668d) includes several prohibitions not found in the MBTA, such as molestation or disturbance. In 1962, the BGEPA was amended to include the golden eagle. In 2007, the term “disturb” was defined to mean “to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes injury to an eagle, a decrease in productivity, or nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior (72 Fed. Reg. 31332).

As directed by Colorado Revised Statute 33 [(Title 33, Article 2, C.R.S. (2007)], the Colorado Wildlife Commission issues regulations and develops management programs implemented by CPW for wildlife species not federally listed as threatened or endangered. This includes maintaining a list of state threatened and endangered species. CPW also maintains a list of species of concern, but these are not protected under Colorado wildlife statutes concerning nongame and endangered species conservation [(Title 33, Article 2, C.R.S. (2007)]. Although

Statute 33 prohibits the take, possession, and sale of a state-listed species, it does not include protection of their habitat.

3.6.1 Methods

Assessment of current habitats included a review of existing information available from CPW (2015), the Natural Diversity Information System (NDIS) (CPW 2024), and the Service (2024), as well as a site visit to identify and address any potential issues associated with direct impacts from construction of the proposed addition. The following sections discuss threatened, endangered, and candidate species as well as sensitive or rare species, migratory birds, and large game that may be found within the study area.

3.6.2 Federal- and State-listed Species and Colorado Species of Concern

3.6.2.1 Affected Environment

The Service lists several threatened and endangered species with potential habitat in the study area, or potentially affected by projects in Gilpin County (Table 1). State special status species include species that are not protected under ESA but are listed by the CPW as threatened, endangered, or of concern in Colorado, as required by State Statute 33, or Tier 1 species in the Colorado State Wildlife Action Plan (CPW 2015). State species are included in Table 1 if habitat is present in the study area.

Table 1. Federal threatened, endangered, and candidate species or state listed species potentially found in Gilpin County.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status*	Habitat	Potential for Effects within study area
Mammals				
Canada lynx	*Lynx canadensis*	FT, SE	Spruce/fir forests (upland woodland)	No effect – no habitat
Gray wolf	*Canis lupus*	Exp.	Wolves being highly adaptable can occur in a wide range of habitats, such as temperate forests, mountains, and grasslands. Lone dispersing wolves may be present throughout Colorado.	No effect: the 0.04-acre loss of aspen woodland habitat would not adversely affect the gray wolf
Little brown myotis	*Myotis lucifigus*	Tier 1	Variety of habitats and can roost in rural settings including structures	No likely effect on individuals or populations; 0.04 acre of impact on aspen woodland habitat, which may serve as a small roosting site.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status*	Habitat	Potential for Effects within study area
North American Wolverine	*Gulo gulo luscus*	SE	High elevations and areas with enough winter precipitation to maintain persistent snow late into the warm season.	No effect – no habitat
Townsend's big-eared bat	*Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens*	SC	Woodlands with rocky outcrops	No likely effect on individuals or populations; 0.04-acre of impact on aspen woodland habitat, rocky outcrops would not be affected by project
Birds				
Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	SC	Trees and cliffs, rivers, large lakes; forages in rivers and lakes	No effect; impacted aspen woodland provides no substantial habitat for wintering bald eagles
Mexican Spotted Owl	*Strix occidentalis lucida*	FT, ST	Old-growth or mature forests that possess complex structural components	No effect – no habitat
Piping plover**	*Charadrius melodus*	FT	Sandy lakeshore beaches and river sandbars	No effect; no habitat and no depletions anticipated
Whooping Crane**	*Grus americana*	FE	Mudflats around reservoirs and in agricultural areas	No effect; no habitat and no depletions anticipated
Fish				
Greenback cutthroat trout	*Oncorhynchus clarki stomias*	FT, SC	Cold, clear, oxygenated streams of moderate gradient	No effect – no habitat
Pallid sturgeon**	*Scaphirhynchus albus*	E	Large, turbid, free-flowing rivers with a strong current and gravel or sandy substrate	No effect; no habitat and no depletions anticipated

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status*	Habitat	Potential for Effects within study area
Insects				
Monarch butterfly	*Danaus plexippus*	FC	Dependent on milkweeds (*Asclepiadoideae*) as host plants and forage on blooming flowers; a summer resident; relies on an abundance of flowering plants	No effect; milkweed host plants are not present;
Plants				
Western prairie fringed orchis	*Platanthera praeclara*	FT	Mesic and wet prairies, sedge meadows	No effect; no habitat and no depletions anticipated

FT – Federally Threatened, FE – Federally endangered, FC – Federal candidate species, ST – State threatened, SE- State endangered, SC -State species of concern; Tier 1 – State species of greatest conservation need
**Water depletions in the South Platte River may affect the species and/or critical habitat in downstream reaches in other counties or states
Source: Service 2024b; CPW 2015

3.6.2.2 Environmental Consequences

The proposed project would not directly affect the Canada lynx, North American wolverine, Mexican spotted owl, and greenback cutthroat trout because of the lack of habitat in the study area (Table 1). Although the gray wolf is found in a variety of habitats, the small stand of aspen woodland would not provide essential foraging or denning habitat, and the Project would have no effect on gray wolf populations. The permanent impact on 0.04 acre of aspen woodland habitat would likely have no adverse effect on individuals or populations of the little brown myotis and Townsend's big-eared bat, which may forage or roost in the area. The new building may provide additional roosting sites for the two bat species. The monarch butterfly, bald eagle, and species potentially affected by South Platte basin depletions are discussed below.

Monarch butterfly - The monarch butterfly is a candidate species and is not yet listed or proposed for listing. There are generally no regulatory requirements for candidate species; however, agencies are encouraged to take advantage of any opportunity they may have to conserve the species. No milkweed, the monarch's host plant, were observed in the study area during the 2024 site visit. This species may occasionally travel through the study area but is not likely to lay eggs because host plants are lacking.

Piping plover, whooping crane, pallid sturgeon, and western prairie fringed orchid - The piping plover, whooping crane, pallid sturgeon, and western prairie fringed orchid are species that are affected by depletions to the Platte River system. The Project would not result in depletions to the South Platte River. The Proposed Action does not include activities that deplete water in the South Platte River, such as diverting water from a stream or developing new water supplies.

Bald Eagle - The study area is mapped as bald eagle winter range (CPW 2024). Construction would permanently impact 0.04 acre of vegetated bald eagle winter range. This negligible

impact on an aspen woodland would have no effect because the small stand of aspen woodland that would be removed does not provide foraging or roosting habitat or other essential habitat for bald eagles

3.6.2.3 Mitigation

Because there are no measurable or only slight negligible effects, mitigation for threatened and endangered species or State species of concern is not needed or proposed.

3.6.3 Large Game

3.6.3.1 Affected Environment

Elk and mule deer overall range and winter range (CPW 2024) cover the extent of the study area and much of the area surrounding the study area. No winter concentration areas or severe winter range for large game species were identified within the study area. Moose have been observed crossing the property occasionally by the TFPD staff, and the Project is within moose overall and summer ranges. The study area would also cover overall range for black bear and mountain lion.

Winter range is an area of land necessary for winter survival of large game species (CPW 2024). Severe winter range is defined as "winter range where 90 percent of the individuals are located when the annual snowpack is at its maximum and/or temperatures are at a minimum in the two worst winters out of ten" (CPW 2024). A winter concentration area is defined as "that part of the winter range where densities are at least 200 percent greater than the surrounding winter range density" (CPW 2024).

3.6.3.2 Environmental Consequences

The Proposed Action would have no effect on large game individuals or populations. The proposed building addition is in an area used frequently by humans and has surrounding development. Large game ranges are quite extensive, and the negligible impact on the aspen woodland adjacent to an existing building would not adversely affect large game. The proposed Project would not prevent large game from moving freely, although the noise and activity of construction may cause individuals to avoid the area.

3.6.3.3 Mitigation

No mitigation measures are proposed for large game for the Proposed Action.

3.6.4 Raptors and Migratory Birds

3.6.4.1 Affected Environment

The study area is already mostly developed. The small aspen woodland and surrounding pine forest provide some nesting and foraging habitat for various migratory birds. The individual trees in the aspen woodland are small to medium sized and are not suitable for raptor nests.

3.6.4.2 Environmental Consequences

The Proposed Action would permanently impact 0.04 acre of aspen woodland. No nests were observed during the 2024 site visit. Most of the project impacts would be in areas that have

been previously disturbed, and no effects on migratory birds are anticipated. The proximity of the study area to existing development and SH 119 lessens the quality of habitat, especially for bird species sensitive to development. The Proposed Action would not adversely affect individual or populations of migratory birds.

3.6.4.1 Mitigation

The following mitigation measures are proposed to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the effects on migratory birds:

- All vegetation would be removed from the construction right-of-way outside of the breeding season to avoid destroying any potentially active nests.
- If vegetation removal outside of the breeding season is not feasible, preconstruction surveys for active migratory bird nests would be performed to confirm active nests are not present.
- If an active nest is identified within or near the study area, activities that would directly impact the nest, or that would encroach close enough to cause adult birds to abandon the nest during the breeding season, would be restricted. Monitoring would ensure that the birds do not abandon the nest during construction.

3.7 Vegetation

3.7.1 Affected Environment

Much of the study area has been developed with the existing historical buildings, roads, parking areas, and driveways (Figure 7). A small 0.04-acre aspen woodland occurs within the proposed building footprint. Beyond the existing building and paved circular driveway, a mixed pine forest (lodgepole and ponderosa) occurs.

3.7.2 Environmental Consequences

The Proposed Action would permanently impact 0.04 acre of aspen woodland. Most construction activity and staging would occur in the existing parking areas or the paved circular driveway. There may be temporary effects on the edge of the pine forest, but no trees are expected to be removed. The effects on vegetation would be negligible.

3.7.3 Mitigation

Because of the negligible effect on aspen woodland, mitigation is not proposed. The limits of construction would be delineated so that impacts on vegetation outside of the construction zone do not occur.

3.8 Water Quality Issues

3.8.1 Affected Environment

No water bodies occur within the study area. The closest water body to the study area is Ellsworth Creek, which is about 0.12 mile to the southeast and 160 ft lower in elevation.

3.8.2 Environmental Consequences

The proposed project would not have adverse effects on water quality. No temporary or long-term impacts to water quality in Ellsworth Creek from construction would occur because of the distance between the study area and the creek.

3.8.3 Mitigation

The following avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures would be implemented for water quality:

- A storm water management plan would be implemented.
- Petroleum products, chemicals, toxic substances or hazardous materials would be handled properly to avoid ground water contamination.
- The project would be required to go through all Gilpin County approvals for erosion and sediment control, dust permits, dewatering, excavation, and revegetation.
- Best management practices including the installation of silt fencing to delineate the limits of construction would be used.

3.9 Socioeconomic/Environmental Justice Issues

3.9.1 Affected Environment

The Timberline Fire Station 3 is within a rural area of Gilpin County. TFPD serves both Gilpin and Boulder counties in between the towns of Nederland to the north and Central City and Black Hawk to the south. In the 2020 census, the total population of Gilpin County was 5,808, the population of Nederland, CO was 1,471 people, Black Hawk had a total population of 127, and Central City had a total population of 779 (U.S. Census Bureau 2020). About 380 people (6.5 percent) of Gilpin County, which includes Black Hawk and Central City, are Hispanic or Latino. 1.5 percent are Black or African American, and 1.7 percent are Asian. About 6.4 percent of people in Gilpin County live in poverty. The EPA EJSCREEN Community Report did not produce any results.

3.9.2 Environmental Consequences

The Proposed Action is proposed to improve firefighting capacity and first responder services to TFPD's service area and would be a benefit to the rural community. All members of the rural community would benefit equally from the Proposed Action, and no minority or low income populations would suffer disproportionately high and/or adverse effects as a result of the proposed Project or from the location of the new fire station addition.

3.9.3 Mitigation

No mitigation for socioeconomics or environmental justice is proposed.

3.10 Air Quality

3.10.1 Affected Environment

The Clean Air Act of 1970 (42 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 7401), and its amendments, established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to protect public health and regulate the emissions of hazardous air pollutants. The EPA has set NAAQS for six pollutants, commonly referred to as criteria pollutants, which are carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), ozone (O_3), particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}), lead (Pb), and sulfur dioxide (SO_2). CDPHE has adopted the national standards, and in 2016 established a state standard for SO_2. The national and state standards are included in Table 2.

Table 2. National and State Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Pollutant	Averaging Time	National Standard		State Standard
		Primary	Secondary	
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	8 hours	9 ppm	-	-
	1 hour	35 ppm	-	-
Lead (Pb)[(1)]	Rolling 3-month average	0.15 µg/m^3	0.15 µg/m^3	-
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	1 hour	100 ppb	-	-
	1 year	53 ppb[(2)]	53 ppb[(2)]	-
Ozone (O_3)	8 hours	0.070 ppm[(3)]	0.070 ppm[(3)]	-
Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	24 hours	150 µg/m^3	150 µg/m^3	-
Fine Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$)	1 year	12.0 µg/m^3	15 µg/m^3	-
	24 hours	35 µg/m^3	35 µg/m^3	-
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)	1 hour	75 ppb	-	-
	3 hours	-	0.5 ppm[(4)]	0.267 ppm

ppm = parts per million; ppb = parts per billion; µg/m^3 = micrograms per cubic meter

[(1)] In areas designated nonattainment for the Pb standards prior to the promulgation of the current (2008) standards, and for which implementation plans to attain or maintain the current (2008) standards have not been submitted and approved, the previous standards (1.5 µg/m^3 as a calendar quarter average) also remain in effect.

[(2)] The level of the annual NO_2 standard is 0.053 ppm. It is shown here in terms of ppb for the purposes of clearer comparison to the 1-hour standard level.

[(3)] Final rule signed October 1, 2015, and effective December 28, 2015. The previous (2008) O_3 standards additionally remain in effect in some areas. Revocation of the previous (2008) O_3 standards and transitioning to the current (2015) standards will be addressed in the implementation rule for the current standards.

[(4)] The previous SO_2 standards (0.14 ppm 24-hour and 0.03 ppm annual) will additionally remain in effect in certain areas: (a) any area for which it is not yet 1 year since the effective date of designation under the current (2010) standards, and (b) any area for which an implementation plan providing for attainment of the current (2010) standard has not been submitted and approved and which is designated nonattainment under the previous SO_2 standards or is not meeting the requirements of a State Implementation Plan (SIP) call under the previous SO_2 standards (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 50.4(3)). A SIP call is an EPA action requiring a state to resubmit all or part of its SIP to demonstrate attainment of the required NAAQS.

Source: EPA 2024b

Areas that meet the NAAQS and state standard are classified as attainment areas, while areas that exceed the NAAQS or state standard are classified as nonattainment. Areas can be attainment or nonattainment for one or more of the six criteria pollutants. Areas designated as nonattainment are required to prepare implementation plans for attaining the standard for each pollutant. Once the nonattainment area has met the NAAQS over the averaging times, a maintenance plan is prepared to ensure future compliance with the standard. The CDPHE Air

Pollution Control Division (APCD) oversees air quality policies and develops the statewide implementation plans for all areas that currently violate or have violated federal or state standards.

Current air quality in the study area complies with federal and state air quality standards. Concentrations of EPA-monitored air pollutants in the study area are below federal and state air quality standards, and all portions of Gilpin County are attainment areas for all designated pollutants (Figure 8) (CDPHE 2023). The study area falls under the 50 to 80 percentile range for ozone, which is a common range for Colorado (EPA 2024a).

The most common sources of pollutants in and adjacent to the study area are from mobile sources (on-road and off-road vehicle emissions), fugitive dust, and stationary sources (soot from fireplaces and woodstoves). More densely populated areas nearby, including Nederland, Central City, and Black Hawk, would likely have poorer air quality than the study area primarily due to the additional vehicle emissions and stationary sources.

3.10.2 Environmental Consequences

During construction, the Proposed Action would result in temporary air quality effects as a result of increased fugitive dust and emissions from construction equipment and vehicles. These include emissions resulting from earthmoving and use of heavy equipment, as well as any land clearing or ground excavation. Emissions can vary substantially from day to day, depending on the level of activity, the specific operations, and the prevailing weather. No long-term effect on air quality would occur from the Proposed Action.

3.10.3 Mitigation

The following mitigation measures would be implemented to mitigate effects on air quality:

- Standard dust control practices, such as watering, would be developed and implemented to minimize particulate and dust emissions from construction work sites, as specified in the fugitive dust control plan.
- The contractor would ensure construction equipment (especially diesel equipment) meets opacity standards for operating emissions.
- The contractor would comply with all Gilpin County and State of Colorado air quality regulations and would be responsible for obtaining all air quality permits, if needed.

3.11 Transportation

3.11.1 Affected Environment

Timberline Fire Station 3 is adjacent to SH 119. Access to the parking area for the fire station is directly from SH 119. Observatory Place bisects TFPD's property and provides access to a parking area, the rear of the fire station via a paved circular driveway, and to nearby residences. Currently, about 5 to 10 employees park at the existing station Monday through Friday. Some vehicles park in front of the existing building and others park in the parking area north of Observatory Place.

3.11.2 Environmental Consequences

During construction, traffic along SH 119 would be minimally affected by equipment needed for construction. Access of the construction equipment would be from SH 119, but once on site, most construction equipment would remain on site until construction was completed. Construction worker vehicles (5 to 10) would access the site daily and would be a negligible effect on traffic. Excavated material would be hauled from the site. These trucks would travel on SH 119 to the disposal site(s). Engineering drawings will be prepared, and excavation volumes will be estimated after additional coordination with Gilpin County, which would help determine the number of trucks that would be on the highway. Because construction vehicles would be contained on the site, traffic control is not expected to be necessary for construction.

3.11.3 Mitigation

If determined necessary after additional coordination with Gilpin County, a traffic control plan would be submitted to the County by the contractor.

3.12 Noise

3.12.1 Affected Environment

Noise is measured in decibels (dB) scaled to approximate the hearing capability of the human ear (dBA). Common sound levels are 35 dBA to 45 dBA for a quiet, peaceful setting; 60 to 65 dBA for normal city noise; and 85 dBA to 90 dBA for heavy equipment. As a result of the Noise Control Act of 1972, the EPA developed acceptable noise levels under various conditions that would protect public health and welfare with an adequate margin of safety. The EPA identified outdoor day/night average noise levels less than or equal to 55 dBA as sufficient to protect public health and welfare in residential areas and other places where quiet is a basis for use (EPA 1979). Although the EPA guideline of 55 dBA is not an enforceable regulation, it is a commonly accepted target noise level for environmental noise studies.

The study area is in a rural mountain setting adjacent to a state highway. Traffic noise from SH 119 could be in the range of 65 and 80 dBA and can be heard from the study area. Higher traffic volumes on the highway would add more noise to the project site.

3.12.2 Environmental Consequences

The proposed project would not have any long-term noise effects. Construction would result in temporary noise effects. Loaders and excavators would be the primary construction equipment and within 50 ft, the noise would be 79 to 81 dBA. The decibels decrease with greater distance from the source. Construction for the Proposed Action is expected to last 6 to 8 months resulting in a minor effect on the nearest residences from increased noise. Gilpin County does not have a noise ordinance but recommends construction between the hours of 7 am and 7 pm, which would limit noise impacts on nearby residences.

3.12.3 Mitigation

The following mitigation measure would be implemented to mitigate effects on noise:

- Construction equipment used by contractors would function as designed and would conform to applicable noise emission standards.
- Access to construction areas would be restricted so that the public would not be close to loud equipment.
- Construction would occur between 7 am and 7 pm.

3.13 Environmental Risk

3.13.1 Affected Environment

Prior to TFPD taking possession of the property, the NOAA commissioned a Hazardous Materials Survey & Lead Paint Risk Assessment for the Fritz Peak Observatory (EA 2019). This assessment focused on three existing buildings, including what is now Fire Station 3. Lead-bases paint, asbestos, and other regulated substances were assessed. An assessment for hazardous materials on the remaining property outside of the buildings was not conducted. During the 2024 site visit, no obvious hazardous material was observed in the footprint of the proposed building addition.

3.13.2 Environmental Consequences

The proposed Project would have no effect on the existing buildings, and no hazardous materials were noted at the proposed building addition site during the 2024 site visit. The Proposed Action would not affect hazardous materials, and there are no risks from hazardous materials to the proposed building addition.

3.13.3 Mitigation

Mitigation is not needed or proposed for the Proposed Action for hazardous materials.

4 Summary of Mitigation

Mitigation, avoidance, and minimization measures for different resources are summarized in Table 3. Best management practices and other measures that would help to avoid and minimize impacts on resources are described under the resources sections to which they apply. Effects are not predicted on many resources, and mitigation is not proposed.

Table 3. Mitigation measures for affected resources.

Resource	Mitigation Measure
Air Quality	• Standard dust control practices, such as watering, would be developed and implemented to minimize particulate and dust emissions from construction work sites, as specified in the fugitive dust control plan. • The contractor would ensure construction equipment (especially diesel equipment) meets opacity standards for operating emissions. • The contractor would comply with all Gilpin County and State of Colorado air quality regulations and would be responsible for obtaining all air quality permits, if needed
Biological Resources (raptors and migratory birds)	• Vegetation would be removed from the construction right-of-way outside of the breeding season to avoid destroying any potentially active nests; If vegetation removal outside of the breeding season is not feasible, preconstruction surveys for active migratory bird nests would be performed during the active breeding season (typically from March to August); If an active nest is identified within or near the study area, activities that would directly impact the nest, or that would encroach close enough to cause adult birds to abandon the nest during the breeding season, would be restricted; areas temporarily disturbed by construction that are currently vegetated would be revegetated as soon as possible after construction with native species similar to the surrounding area
Noise	• Construction equipment used by contractors would function as designed and would conform to applicable noise emission standards. • Access to construction areas would be restricted so that the public would not be close to loud equipment. • Construction would only occur between 7 am and 7 pm
Visual Resources	• Water would be applied during construction to control airborne fugitive dust

5 Coordination, Consultation and Correspondence

5.1 Scoping

TFPD issued public notices when it acquired the Fritz Peak Observatory. Because of the negligible effects anticipated from the Proposed Action, no public scoping was conducted.

5.2 Agency Coordination

Letters requesting input on the proposed project were sent to the following agencies and Native American Tribes (Appendix F):

- Apache Tribe of Oklahoma – letter and email sent September 12, 2024

- Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma– letter and email sent September 12, 2024
- Comanche Nation, Oklahoma– letter and email sent September 12, 2024
- Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana– letter and email sent September 12, 2024
- Northern Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming – letter and email sent September 12, 2024
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian reservation, Montana – letter and email sent September 12, 2024
- Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation– file search requested on September 12, 2024
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife – email and letter sent September 25, 2024

A response from Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma, Comanche Nation, Oklahoma, the Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana, Northern Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming, or Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, Montana was not received. Documentation from SHPO is in Appendix E. IPaC review for ESA compliance was conducted on September 20, 2024 (see Appendix F)

TFPD has had the following coordination with Gilpin County:

- On October 18th, 2022, through Resolution LM-22-2, Gilpin County designated the property as a local historic landmark.
- On July 2, 2024, the Gilpin County Commissioners approved Resolution BOA-24-4, which was a setback variance for the proposed building addition.
- On July 2, 2024, TFPD and the Project architect met with Charles Abbot (Gilpin County plan reviewer) to discuss the proposed plans and ensure the architectural documents were ready for submittal.
- On August 27, 2024, TFPD submitted permit number BLDG-24-74 for the addition.
- On September 30, 2024, TFPD received initial feedback from Gilpin County requesting additional information. TFPD is working toward completing the additional information and checklist. Mr. Abbot noted “I do not see any major issues, as the heights, areas, fire separations... are all in code limits. The overall design is as we discussed and will be allowed.”

5.3 Required Permits and Approvals

The following is a list of permits that may be needed for the project:

- TFPD would apply for an Access Permit from CDOT
- A Gilpin County building permit accompanied by a contemporary survey would be required.
- The project would be required to go through all Gilpin County approvals for erosion and sediment control, dust permits, dewatering, excavation, and revegetation.
- The contractor would comply with all Gilpin County and State of Colorado air quality regulations and would be responsible for obtaining all air quality permits, if needed.
- A traffic control plan would be submitted to Gilpin County by the contractor, if needed.
- A storm water management plan would be implemented.

Based on the current design of the project and site conditions, it was determined that no Section 404 permit from the Corps would be necessary because there would not be any placement of fill or dredged material in a wetland or other water of the U.S.

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7 List of Preparers

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8 Exhibits

Figure 1. Project Location**.**

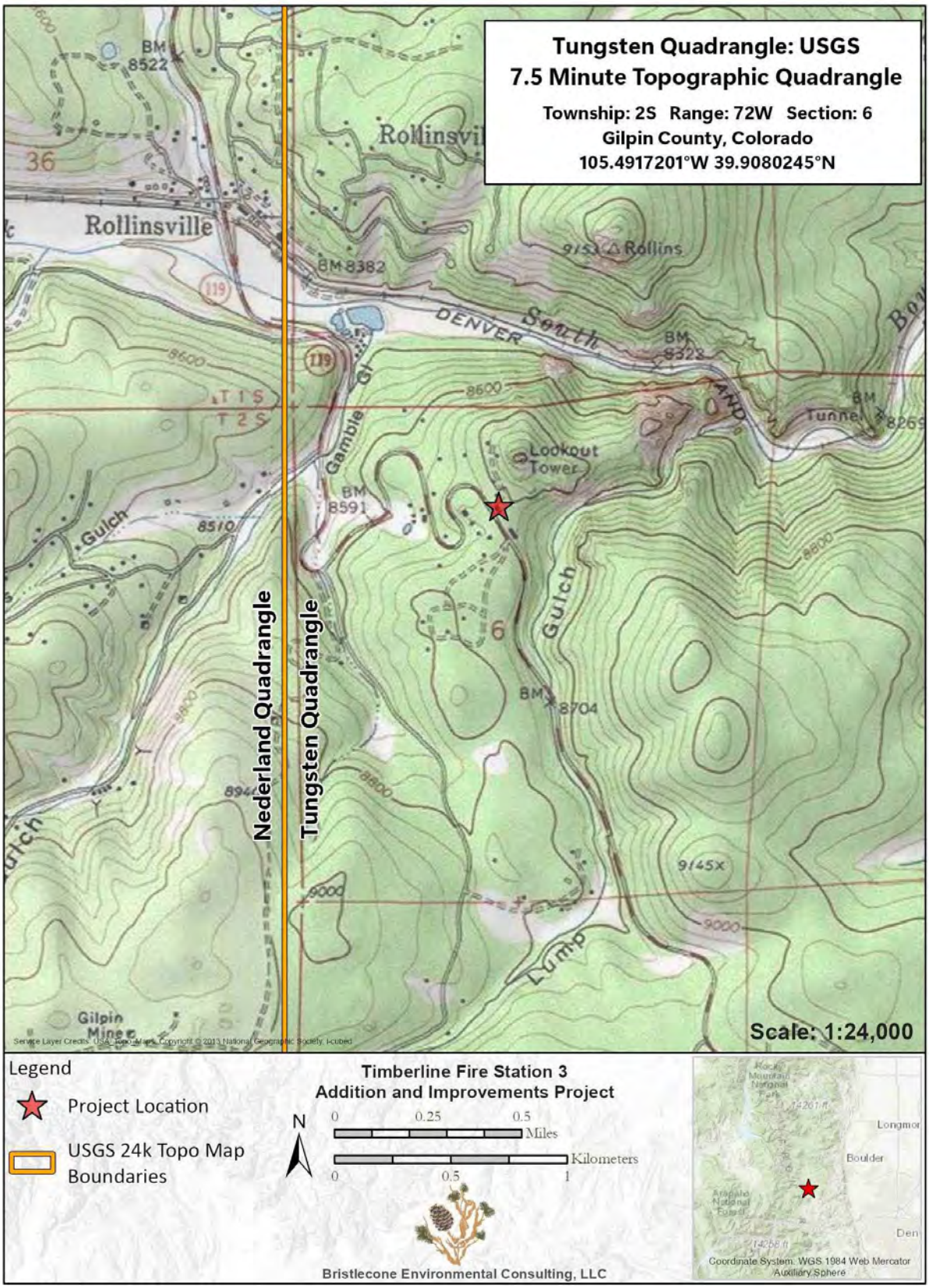

Figure 2. Vicinity Map.

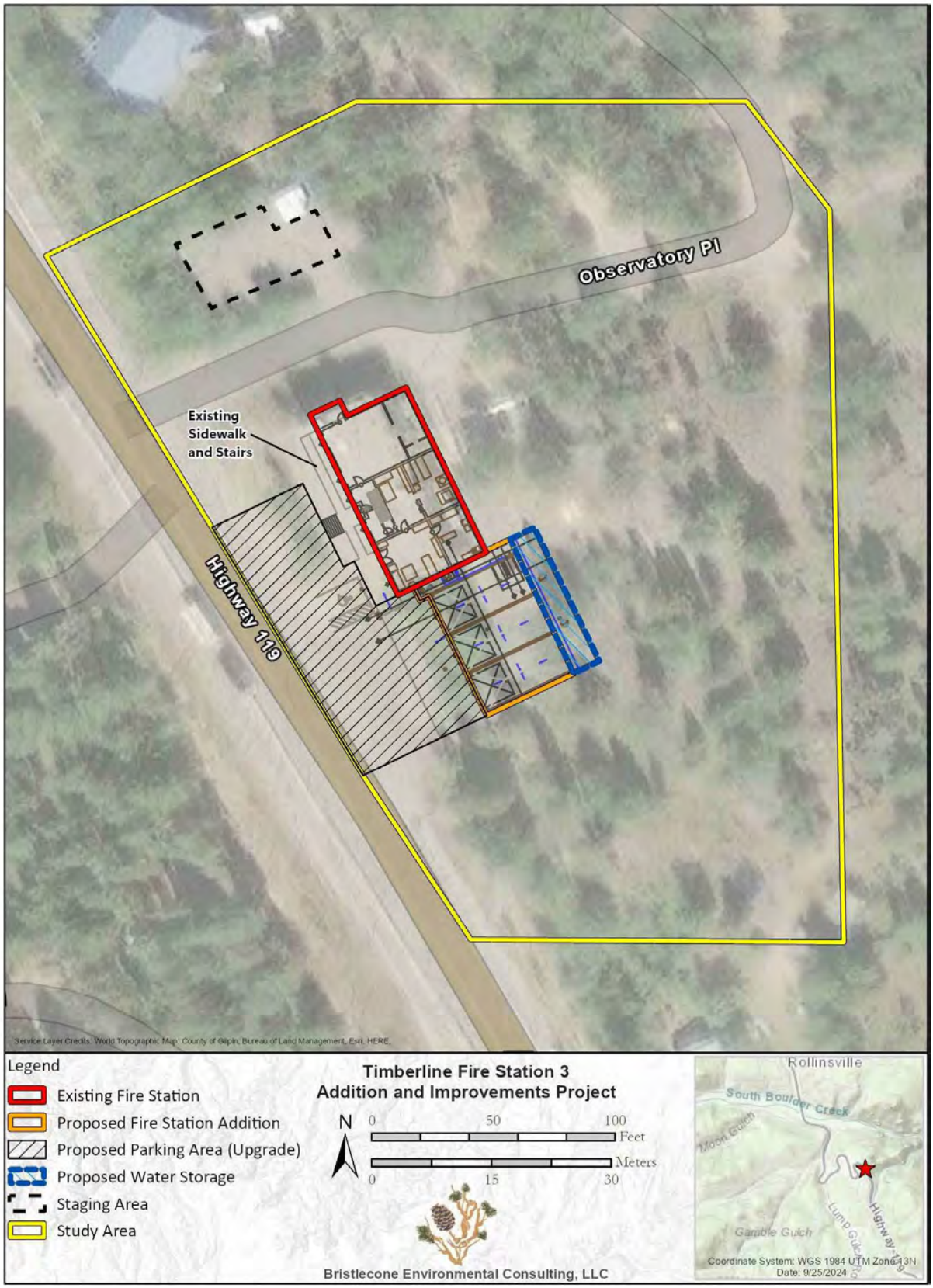

Figure 3. Proposed Action Site Plan and Study Area**.**

Figure 4. Existing Timberline Fire Station 3 (formerly the Fritz Peak Observatory). SH 119 is on the lower right side of photo and Observatory Place is on the left.

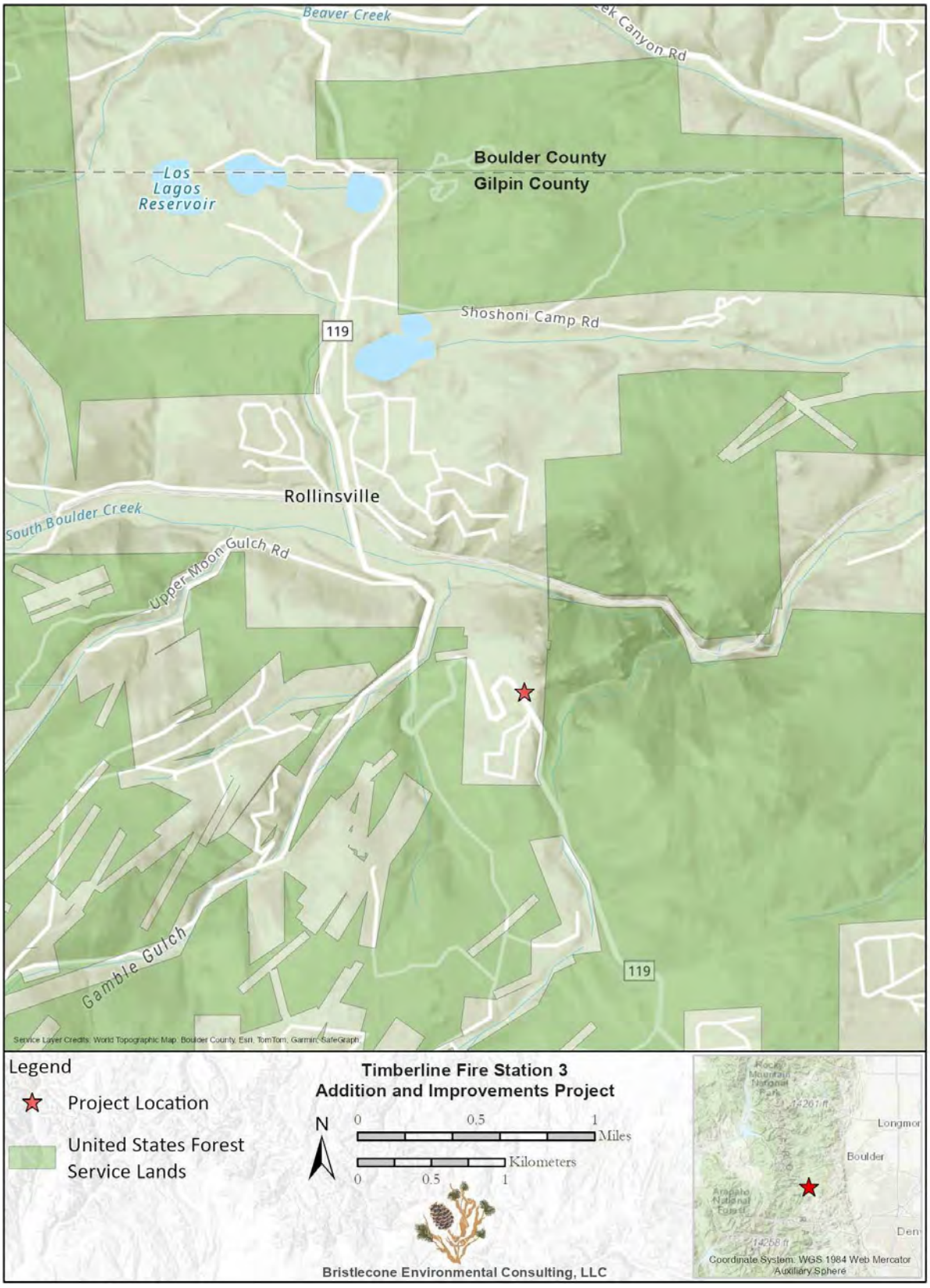

Figure 5. Land Ownership.

Figure 6. FEMA Floodplains and NWI-mapped wetlands. Cowardin codes available at: NWI Wetlands and Deepwater Map Code Diagram (fws.gov)

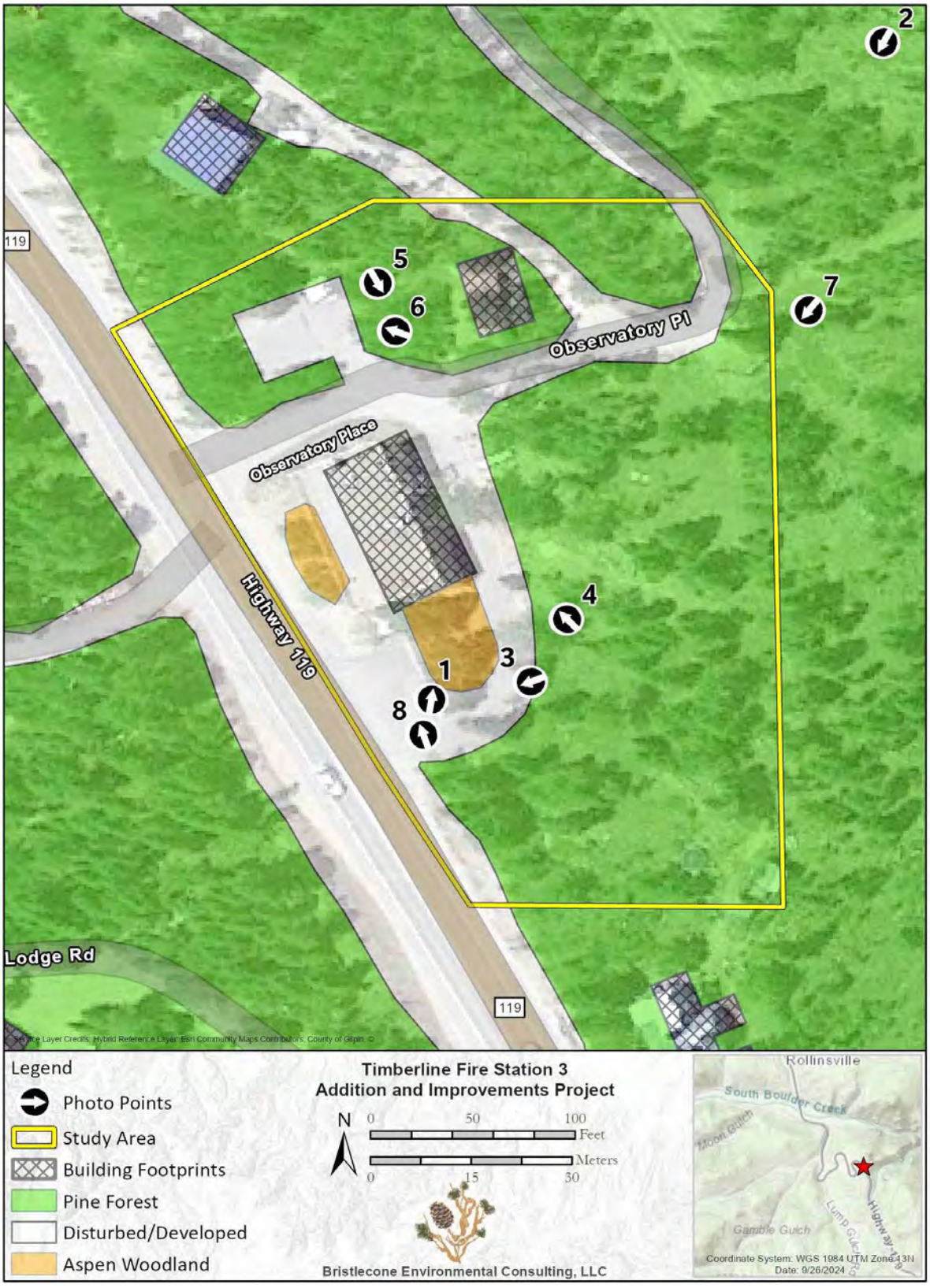

Figure 7. Existing Conditions and habitat types. Photo 2 is from the observation deck off of the aerial image.

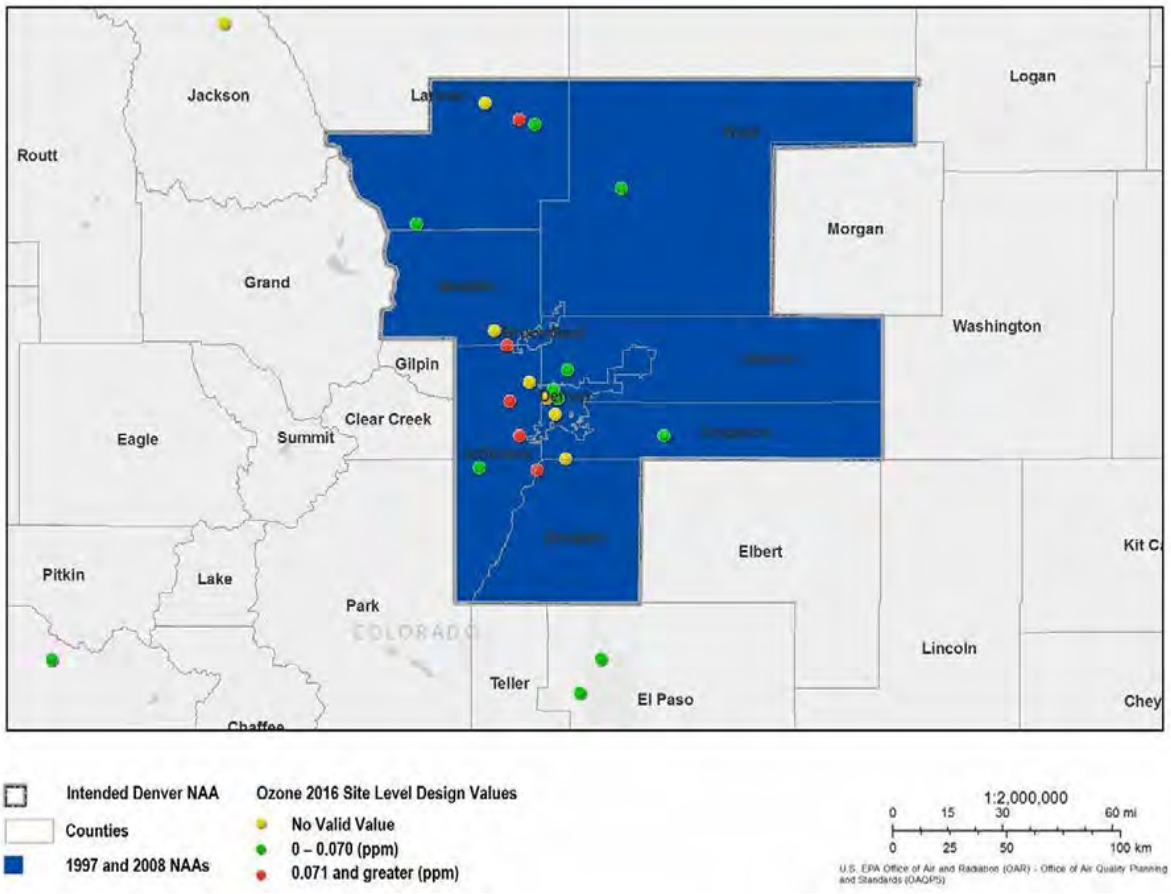

Figure 8. Denver Metro/North Front Range 2015 Ozone NAAQS Nonattainment Area. (map reproduced from CO_120d TSD_201117 (epa.gov)). Blue shading is nonattainment area and gray shading is an attainment area.

9 Appendices

Appendix A. Architectural Drawings of the Proposed Action

TIMBERLINE FIRE DEPARTMENT ADDITION

19126 HWY 119
BLACK HAWK, CO 80422

DATE	ISSUE
07/24/2024	PRELIMINARY

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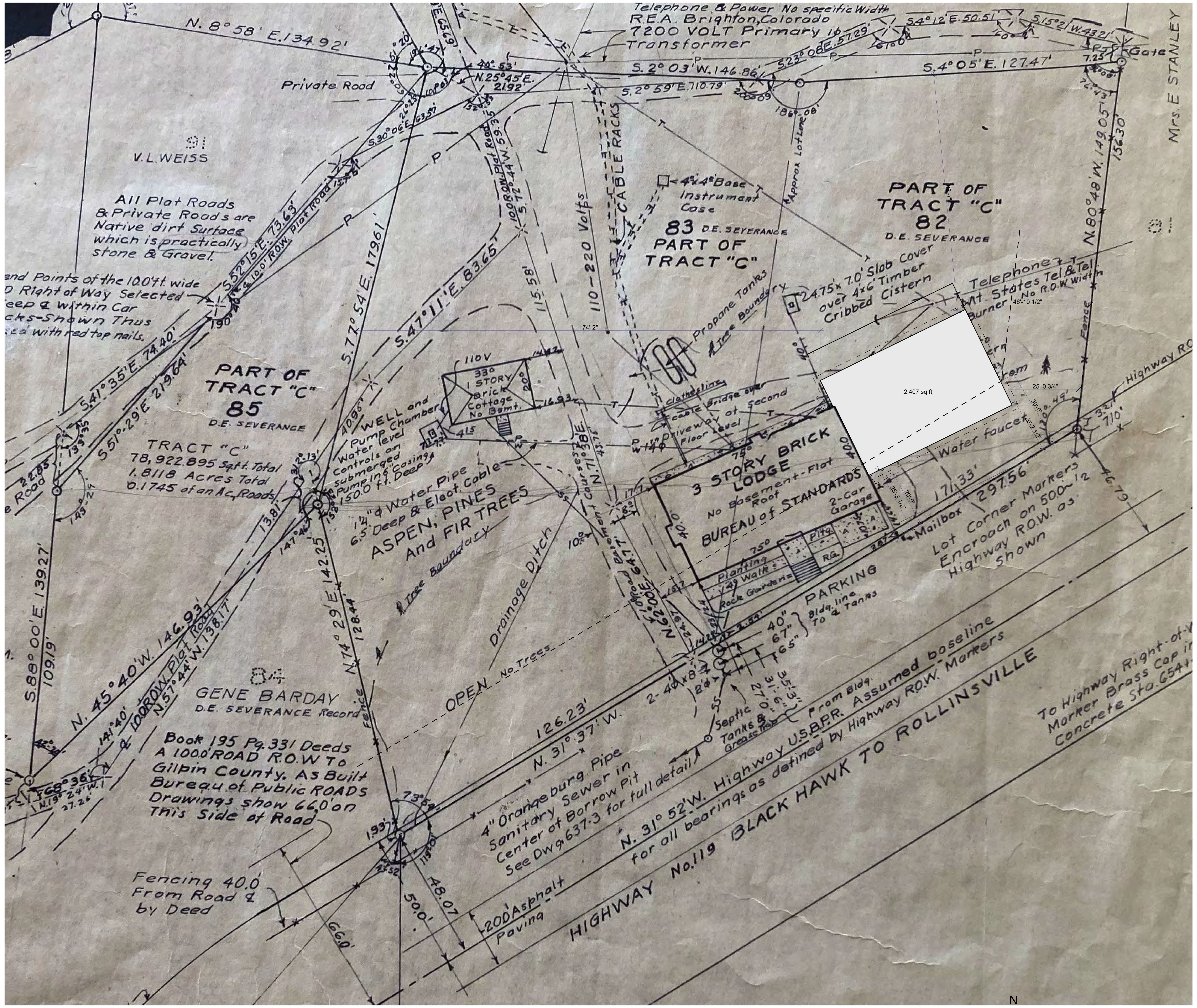
COVER SHEET

A0.0



1 SITE PLAN
SCALE: 1" = 20'

0 10' 20' 40'

N

TIMBERLINE FIRE DEPARTMENT ADDITION

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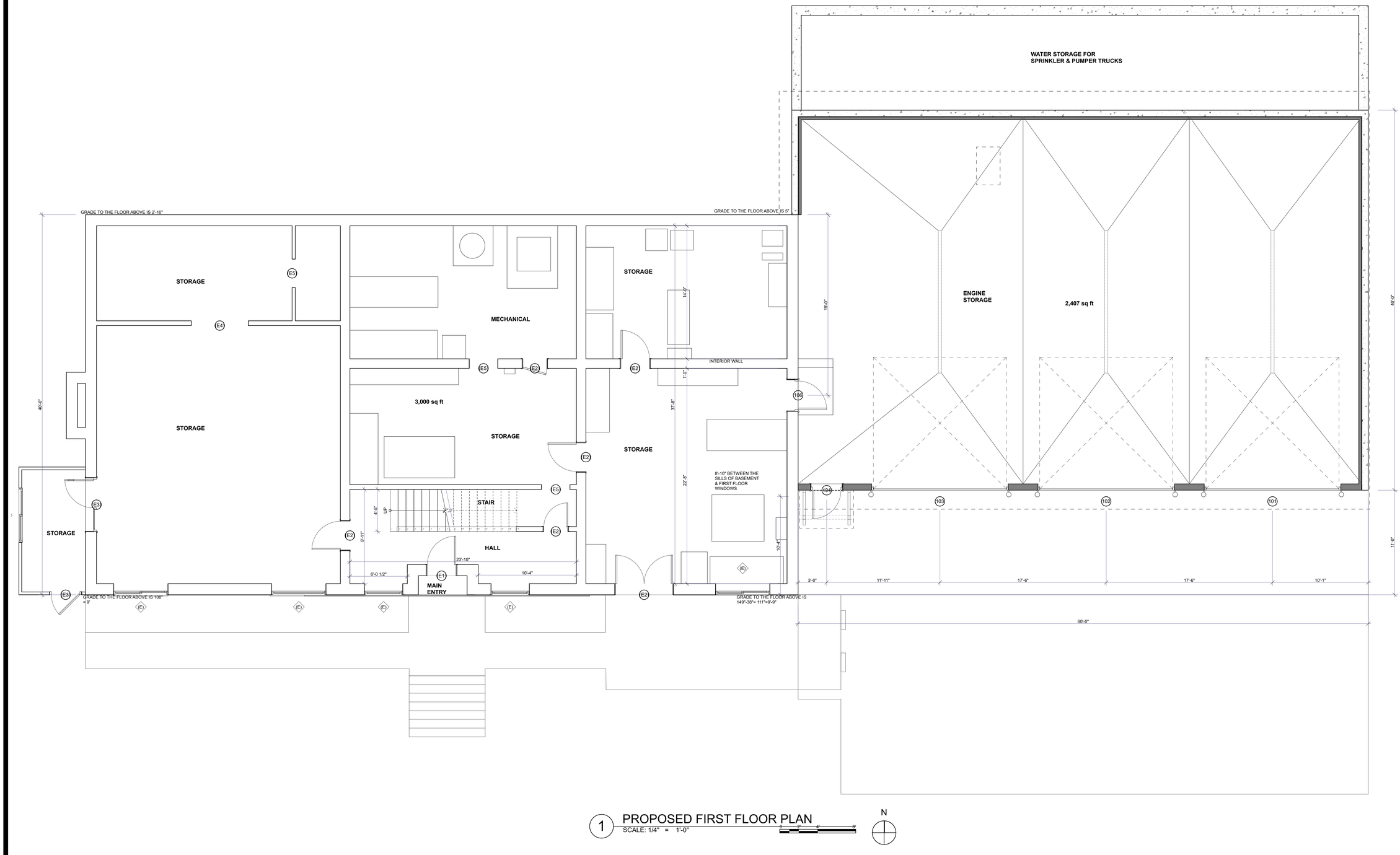
SITE PLAN

A1.0



1 PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

0 2' 4' 8'

N

TIMBERLINE FIRE DEPARTMENT ADDITION

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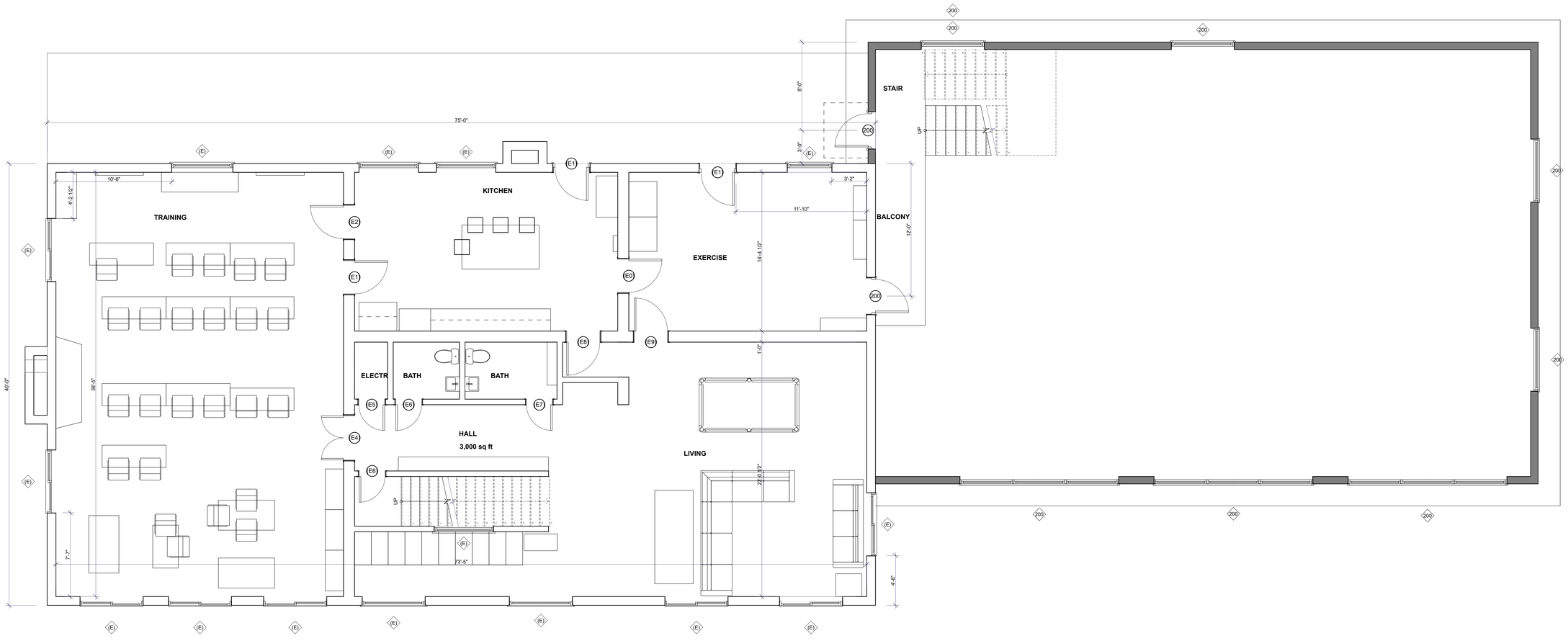
PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR PLAN

A2.0



FIRST FLOOR

1 SECOND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

N

TIMBERLINE FIRE DEPARTMENT ADDITION

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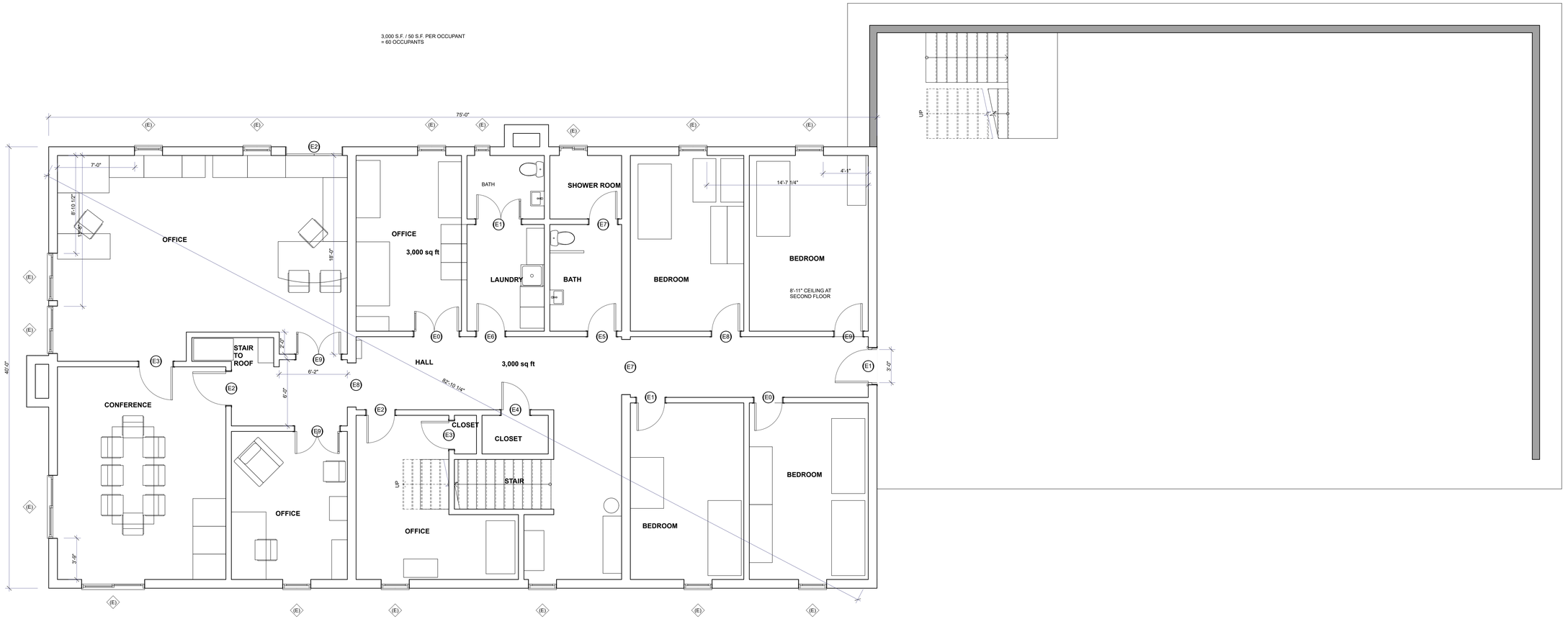
SECOND FLOOR PLAN

A2.1

3,000 S.F. / 50 S.F. PER OCCUPANT
= 60 OCCUPANTS



SECOND FLOOR

IF THE OCCUPANCY IS MORE THAN 50 2 EXITST MUST BE PROVIDED. EXITS FOR A NON SPRINKLERED BUILDING NEED TO BE A MIN. OF 1/2 THE DISTANCE OF THE DIAGONAL ACROSS THE BUILDING. 41'-5"

1 THIRD FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

N

TIMBERLINE FIRE DEPARTMENT ADDITION

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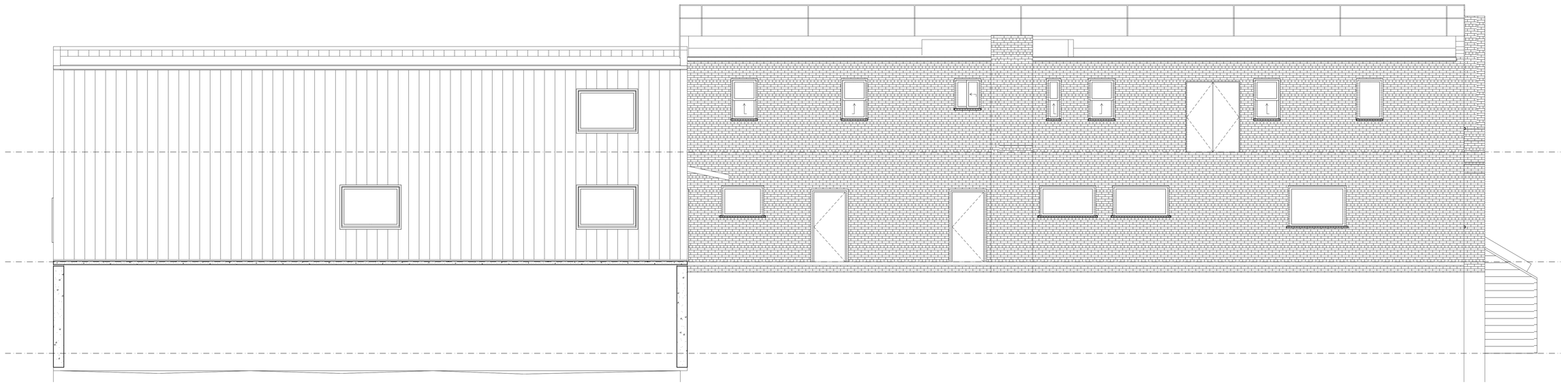
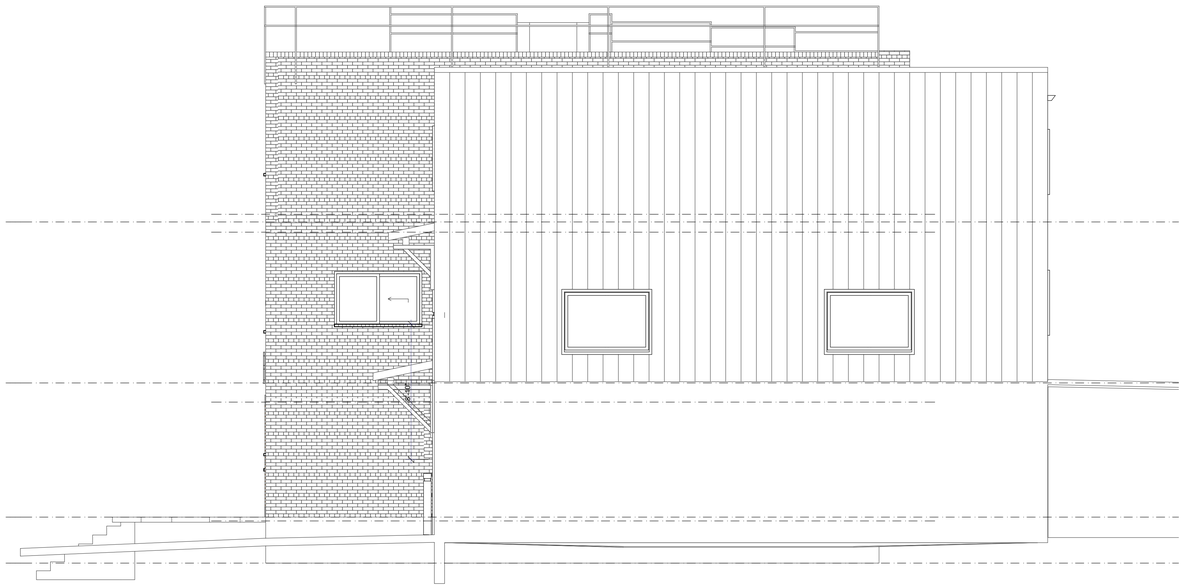
THIRD FLOOR PLAN

A2.2



1 NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



2 EAST ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

TIMBERLINE FIRE DEPARTMENT ADDITION

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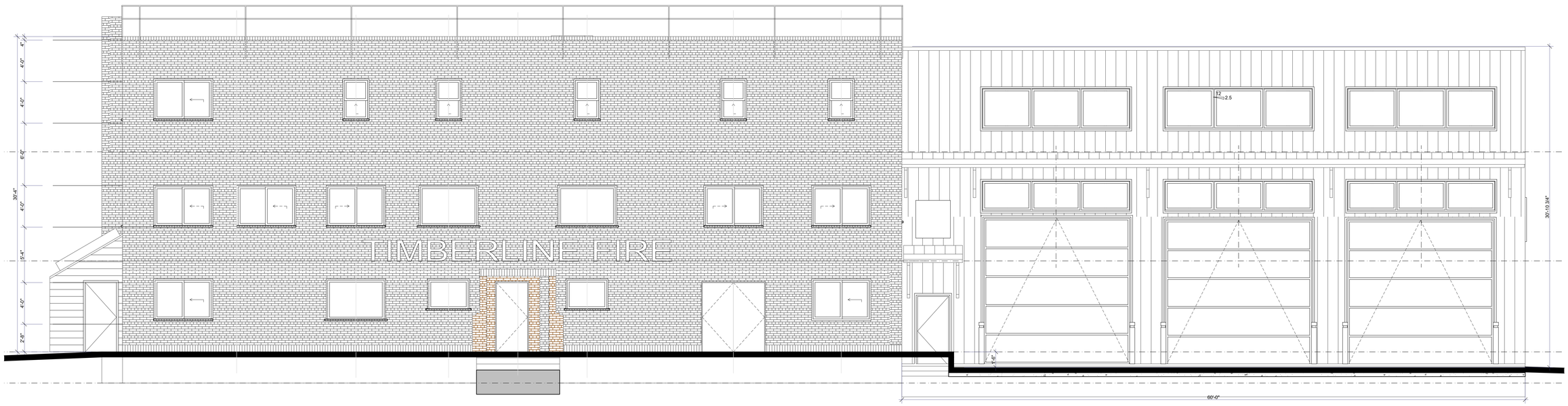
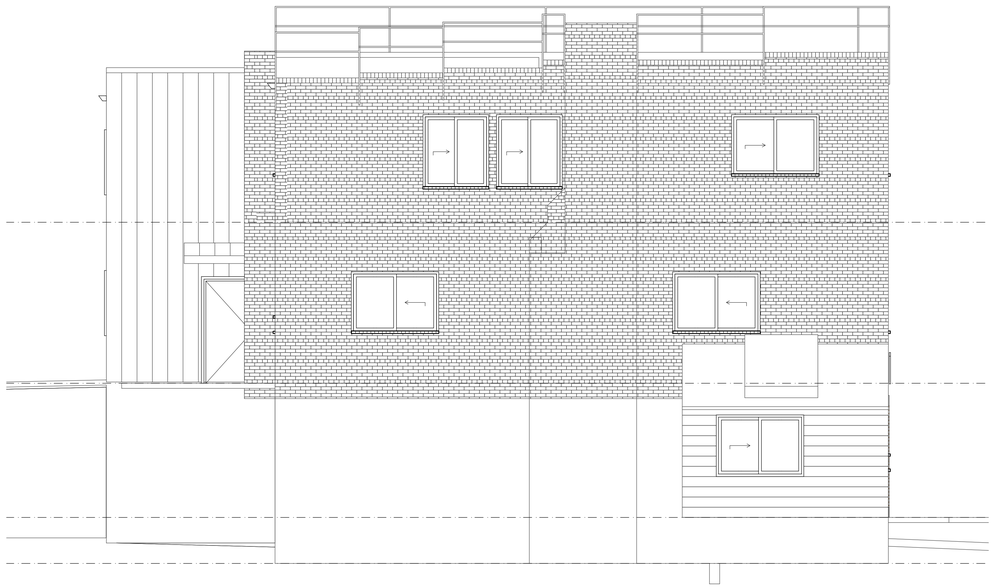
ELEVATIONS

A3.0



1 SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



2 WEST ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

TIMBERLINE FIRE DEPARTMENT ADDITION

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ELEVATIONS

A3.1

Appendix B. September 11, 2024 Photo Log

Photo 1. View of aspen stand and the proposed building addition site.

Photo 2. View of Fire Station 3 from the observation deck.

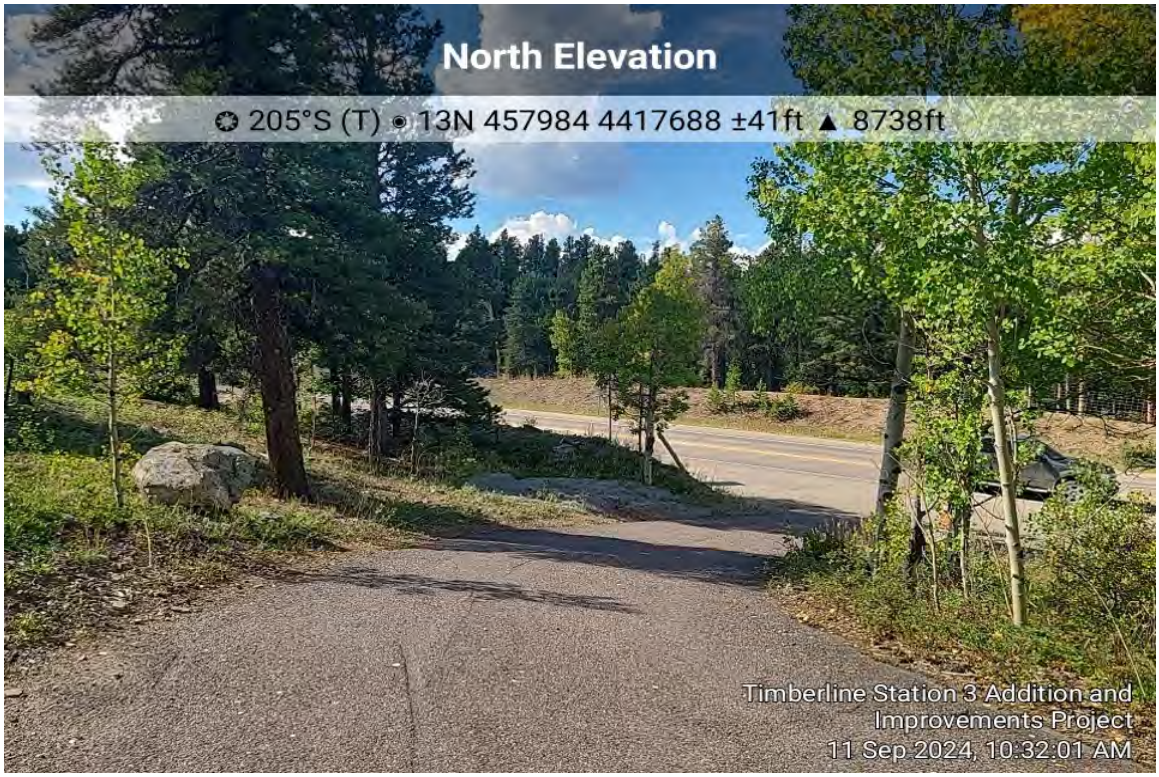

Photo 3. Southern end of the circular driveway facing towards SH 119.

Photo 4. Portion of circular driveway and aspen woodland that would be impacted by the proposed building addition.

Photo 5. North end of the Fire Station and circular driveway that would provide construction access.

Photo 6. Paved parking area and proposed staging area.

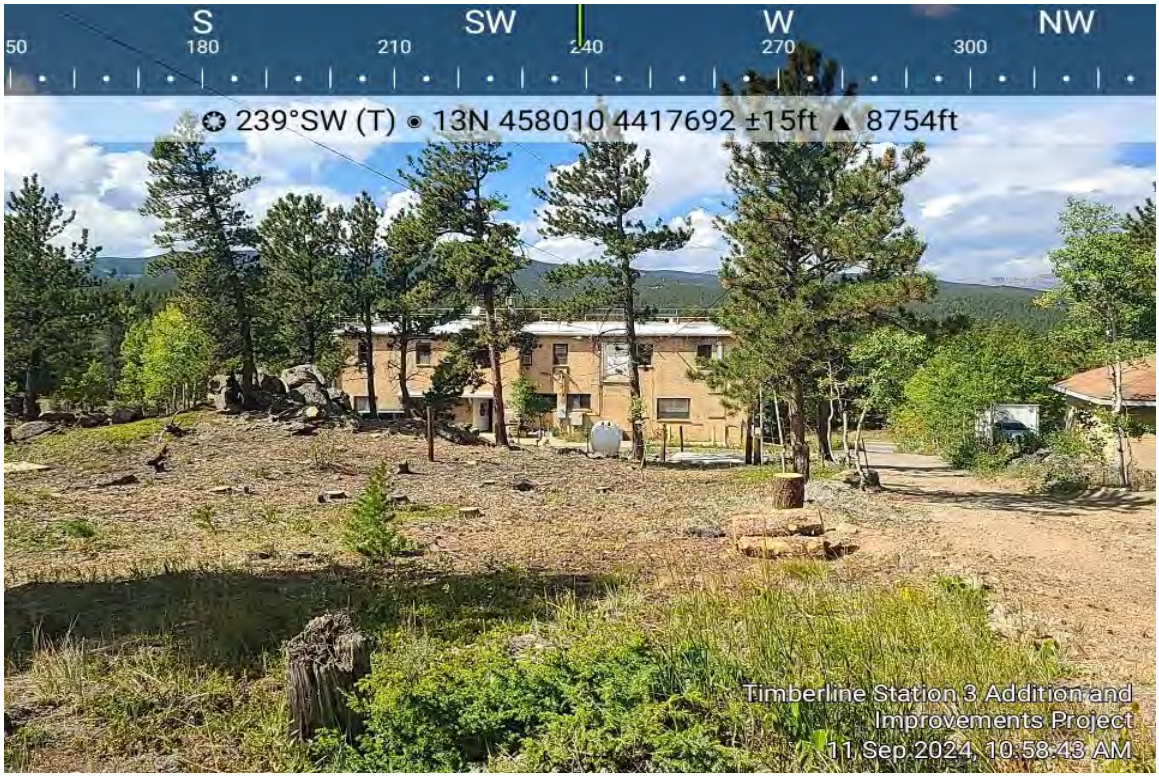

Photo 7. Rear of the Fire Station and disturbed area where additional staging would be, if needed.

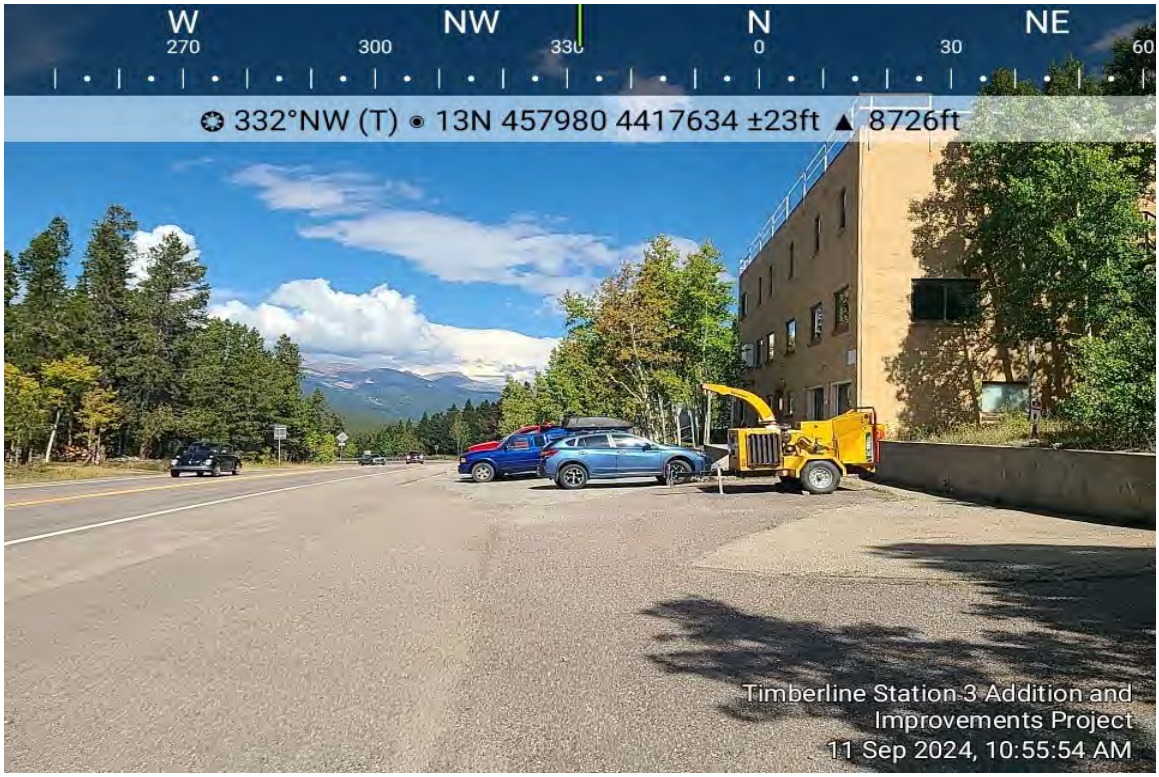

Photo 8. Front parking area and SH 119.

Appendix C. Custom Soil Resource Report for Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest Area, Colorado, Parts of Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Grand, Park and Larimer Counties Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project

United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS

Natural Resources Conservation Service

A product of the National Cooperative Soil Survey, a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local participants

Custom Soil Resource Report for Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest Area, Colorado, Parts of Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Grand, Park and Larimer Counties

Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project

September 26, 2024

Preface

Soil surveys contain information that affects land use planning in survey areas. They highlight soil limitations that affect various land uses and provide information about the properties of the soils in the survey areas. Soil surveys are designed for many different users, including farmers, ranchers, foresters, agronomists, urban planners, community officials, engineers, developers, builders, and home buyers. Also, conservationists, teachers, students, and specialists in recreation, waste disposal, and pollution control can use the surveys to help them understand, protect, or enhance the environment.

Various land use regulations of Federal, State, and local governments may impose special restrictions on land use or land treatment. Soil surveys identify soil properties that are used in making various land use or land treatment decisions. The information is intended to help the land users identify and reduce the effects of soil limitations on various land uses. The landowner or user is responsible for identifying and complying with existing laws and regulations.

Although soil survey information can be used for general farm, local, and wider area planning, onsite investigation is needed to supplement this information in some cases. Examples include soil quality assessments (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/health/) and certain conservation and engineering applications. For more detailed information, contact your local USDA Service Center (https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs) or your NRCS State Soil Scientist (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/contactus/?cid=nrcs142p2_053951).

Great differences in soil properties can occur within short distances. Some soils are seasonally wet or subject to flooding. Some are too unstable to be used as a foundation for buildings or roads. Clayey or wet soils are poorly suited to use as septic tank absorption fields. A high water table makes a soil poorly suited to basements or underground installations.

The National Cooperative Soil Survey is a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local agencies. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has leadership for the Federal part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey.

Information about soils is updated periodically. Updated information is available through the NRCS Web Soil Survey, the site for official soil survey information.

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alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Contents

How Soil Surveys Are Made

Soil surveys are made to provide information about the soils and miscellaneous areas in a specific area. They include a description of the soils and miscellaneous areas and their location on the landscape and tables that show soil properties and limitations affecting various uses. Soil scientists observed the steepness, length, and shape of the slopes; the general pattern of drainage; the kinds of crops and native plants; and the kinds of bedrock. They observed and described many soil profiles. A soil profile is the sequence of natural layers, or horizons, in a soil. The profile extends from the surface down into the unconsolidated material in which the soil formed or from the surface down to bedrock. The unconsolidated material is devoid of roots and other living organisms and has not been changed by other biological activity.

Currently, soils are mapped according to the boundaries of major land resource areas (MLRAs). MLRAs are geographically associated land resource units that share common characteristics related to physiography, geology, climate, water resources, soils, biological resources, and land uses (USDA, 2006). Soil survey areas typically consist of parts of one or more MLRA.

The soils and miscellaneous areas in a survey area occur in an orderly pattern that is related to the geology, landforms, relief, climate, and natural vegetation of the area. Each kind of soil and miscellaneous area is associated with a particular kind of landform or with a segment of the landform. By observing the soils and miscellaneous areas in the survey area and relating their position to specific segments of the landform, a soil scientist develops a concept, or model, of how they were formed. Thus, during mapping, this model enables the soil scientist to predict with a considerable degree of accuracy the kind of soil or miscellaneous area at a specific location on the landscape.

Commonly, individual soils on the landscape merge into one another as their characteristics gradually change. To construct an accurate soil map, however, soil scientists must determine the boundaries between the soils. They can observe only a limited number of soil profiles. Nevertheless, these observations, supplemented by an understanding of the soil-vegetation-landscape relationship, are sufficient to verify predictions of the kinds of soil in an area and to determine the boundaries.

Soil scientists recorded the characteristics of the soil profiles that they studied. They noted soil color, texture, size and shape of soil aggregates, kind and amount of rock fragments, distribution of plant roots, reaction, and other features that enable them to identify soils. After describing the soils in the survey area and determining their properties, the soil scientists assigned the soils to taxonomic classes (units). Taxonomic classes are concepts. Each taxonomic class has a set of soil characteristics with precisely defined limits. The classes are used as a basis for comparison to classify soils systematically. Soil taxonomy, the system of taxonomic classification used in the United States, is based mainly on the kind and character of soil properties and the arrangement of horizons within the profile. After the soil

scientists classified and named the soils in the survey area, they compared the individual soils with similar soils in the same taxonomic class in other areas so that they could confirm data and assemble additional data based on experience and research.

The objective of soil mapping is not to delineate pure map unit components; the objective is to separate the landscape into landforms or landform segments that have similar use and management requirements. Each map unit is defined by a unique combination of soil components and/or miscellaneous areas in predictable proportions. Some components may be highly contrasting to the other components of the map unit. The presence of minor components in a map unit in no way diminishes the usefulness or accuracy of the data. The delineation of such landforms and landform segments on the map provides sufficient information for the development of resource plans. If intensive use of small areas is planned, onsite investigation is needed to define and locate the soils and miscellaneous areas.

Soil scientists make many field observations in the process of producing a soil map. The frequency of observation is dependent upon several factors, including scale of mapping, intensity of mapping, design of map units, complexity of the landscape, and experience of the soil scientist. Observations are made to test and refine the soil-landscape model and predictions and to verify the classification of the soils at specific locations. Once the soil-landscape model is refined, a significantly smaller number of measurements of individual soil properties are made and recorded. These measurements may include field measurements, such as those for color, depth to bedrock, and texture, and laboratory measurements, such as those for content of sand, silt, clay, salt, and other components. Properties of each soil typically vary from one point to another across the landscape.

Observations for map unit components are aggregated to develop ranges of characteristics for the components. The aggregated values are presented. Direct measurements do not exist for every property presented for every map unit component. Values for some properties are estimated from combinations of other properties.

While a soil survey is in progress, samples of some of the soils in the area generally are collected for laboratory analyses and for engineering tests. Soil scientists interpret the data from these analyses and tests as well as the field-observed characteristics and the soil properties to determine the expected behavior of the soils under different uses. Interpretations for all of the soils are field tested through observation of the soils in different uses and under different levels of management. Some interpretations are modified to fit local conditions, and some new interpretations are developed to meet local needs. Data are assembled from other sources, such as research information, production records, and field experience of specialists. For example, data on crop yields under defined levels of management are assembled from farm records and from field or plot experiments on the same kinds of soil.

Predictions about soil behavior are based not only on soil properties but also on such variables as climate and biological activity. Soil conditions are predictable over long periods of time, but they are not predictable from year to year. For example, soil scientists can predict with a fairly high degree of accuracy that a given soil will have a high water table within certain depths in most years, but they cannot predict that a high water table will always be at a specific level in the soil on a specific date.

After soil scientists located and identified the significant natural bodies of soil in the survey area, they drew the boundaries of these bodies on aerial photographs and

identified each as a specific map unit. Aerial photographs show trees, buildings, fields, roads, and rivers, all of which help in locating boundaries accurately.

Soil Map

The soil map section includes the soil map for the defined area of interest, a list of soil map units on the map and extent of each map unit, and cartographic symbols displayed on the map. Also presented are various metadata about data used to produce the map, and a description of each soil map unit.

Custom Soil Resource Report
Soil Map (Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project)

Map Scale: 1:767 if printed on A portrait (8.5" x 11") sheet.

N

Meters: 0 10 20 40 60

Feet: 0 35 70 140 210

Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 13N WGS84

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)
- Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils
- Soil Map Unit Polygons
- Soil Map Unit Lines
- Soil Map Unit Points

Special Point Features
- Blowout
- Borrow Pit
- Clay Spot
- Closed Depression
- Gravel Pit
- Gravelly Spot
- Landfill
- Lava Flow
- Marsh or swamp
- Mine or Quarry
- Miscellaneous Water
- Perennial Water
- Rock Outcrop
- Saline Spot
- Sandy Spot
- Severely Eroded Spot
- Sinkhole
- Slide or Slip
- Sodic Spot
- Spoil Area
- Stony Spot
- Very Stony Spot
- Wet Spot
- Other
- Special Line Features

Water Features
- Streams and Canals

Transportation
- Rails
- Interstate Highways
- US Routes
- Major Roads
- Local Roads

Background
- Aerial Photography

MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.

Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.

Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey URL:
Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest Area, Colorado, Parts of Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Grand, Park and Larimer Counties
Survey Area Data: Version 11, Aug 24, 2023

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Aug 25, 2021—Sep 5, 2021

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background

MAP LEGEND

MAP INFORMATION

imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

Map Unit Legend (Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project)

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
2703B	Cypher-Ratake families complex, 5 to 40 percent slopes	1.9	100.0%
Totals for Area of Interest		**1.9**	**100.0%**

Map Unit Descriptions (Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project)

The map units delineated on the detailed soil maps in a soil survey represent the soils or miscellaneous areas in the survey area. The map unit descriptions, along with the maps, can be used to determine the composition and properties of a unit.

A map unit delineation on a soil map represents an area dominated by one or more major kinds of soil or miscellaneous areas. A map unit is identified and named according to the taxonomic classification of the dominant soils. Within a taxonomic class there are precisely defined limits for the properties of the soils. On the landscape, however, the soils are natural phenomena, and they have the characteristic variability of all natural phenomena. Thus, the range of some observed properties may extend beyond the limits defined for a taxonomic class. Areas of soils of a single taxonomic class rarely, if ever, can be mapped without including areas of other taxonomic classes. Consequently, every map unit is made up of the soils or miscellaneous areas for which it is named and some minor components that belong to taxonomic classes other than those of the major soils.

Most minor soils have properties similar to those of the dominant soil or soils in the map unit, and thus they do not affect use and management. These are called noncontrasting, or similar, components. They may or may not be mentioned in a particular map unit description. Other minor components, however, have properties and behavioral characteristics divergent enough to affect use or to require different management. These are called contrasting, or dissimilar, components. They generally are in small areas and could not be mapped separately because of the scale used. Some small areas of strongly contrasting soils or miscellaneous areas are identified by a special symbol on the maps. If included in the database for a given area, the contrasting minor components are identified in the map unit descriptions along with some characteristics of each. A few areas of minor components may not have been observed, and consequently they are not mentioned in the descriptions, especially where the pattern was so complex that it was impractical to make enough observations to identify all the soils and miscellaneous areas on the landscape.

The presence of minor components in a map unit in no way diminishes the usefulness or accuracy of the data. The objective of mapping is not to delineate pure taxonomic classes but rather to separate the landscape into landforms or landform segments that have similar use and management requirements. The delineation of such segments on the map provides sufficient information for the development of resource plans. If intensive use of small areas is planned, however, onsite investigation is needed to define and locate the soils and miscellaneous areas.

An identifying symbol precedes the map unit name in the map unit descriptions. Each description includes general facts about the unit and gives important soil properties and qualities.

Soils that have profiles that are almost alike make up a *soil series*. Except for differences in texture of the surface layer, all the soils of a series have major horizons that are similar in composition, thickness, and arrangement.

Soils of one series can differ in texture of the surface layer, slope, stoniness, salinity, degree of erosion, and other characteristics that affect their use. On the basis of such differences, a soil series is divided into *soil phases*. Most of the areas shown on the detailed soil maps are phases of soil series. The name of a soil phase commonly indicates a feature that affects use or management. For example, Alpha silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is a phase of the Alpha series.

Some map units are made up of two or more major soils or miscellaneous areas. These map units are complexes, associations, or undifferentiated groups.

A *complex* consists of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas in such an intricate pattern or in such small areas that they cannot be shown separately on the maps. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar in all areas. Alpha-Beta complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes, is an example.

An *association* is made up of two or more geographically associated soils or miscellaneous areas that are shown as one unit on the maps. Because of present or anticipated uses of the map units in the survey area, it was not considered practical or necessary to map the soils or miscellaneous areas separately. The pattern and relative proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar. Alpha-Beta association, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

An *undifferentiated group* is made up of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas that could be mapped individually but are mapped as one unit because similar interpretations can be made for use and management. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas in a mapped area are not uniform. An area can be made up of only one of the major soils or miscellaneous areas, or it can be made up of all of them. Alpha and Beta soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

Some surveys include *miscellaneous areas*. Such areas have little or no soil material and support little or no vegetation. Rock outcrop is an example.

Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest Area, Colorado, Parts of Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Grand, Park and Larimer Counties

2703B—Cypher-Ratake families complex, 5 to 40 percent slopes

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: tlxk
Elevation: 6,500 to 8,500 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 16 to 25 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 45 to 48 degrees F
Frost-free period: 70 to 90 days
Farmland classification: Not prime farmland

Map Unit Composition

Cypher family and similar soils: 40 percent
Ratake family and similar soils: 35 percent
Minor components: 25 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of Cypher Family

Setting

Landform: Mountain slopes
Parent material: Residuum and/or slope alluvium derived from igneous and metamorphic rock

Typical profile

A - 0 to 4 inches: very gravelly coarse sandy loam
Bw - 4 to 10 inches: very gravelly coarse sandy loam
R - 10 to 20 inches: bedrock

Properties and qualities

Slope: 5 to 40 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: 4 to 20 inches to lithic bedrock
Drainage class: Somewhat excessively drained
Runoff class: Low
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Very low to moderately low (0.00 to 0.01 in/hr)
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Very low (about 0.6 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified
Hydrologic Soil Group: D
Other vegetative classification: Ponderosa pine/antelope bitterbrush (PIPO/PUTR2) (C1120)
Hydric soil rating: No

Description of Ratake Family

Setting

Landform: Mountain slopes

Parent material: Colluvium and/or residuum derived from igneous and metamorphic rock

Typical profile

A - 0 to 8 inches: very gravelly sandy loam
Bw - 8 to 18 inches: very gravelly sandy loam
Cr - 18 to 28 inches: bedrock

Properties and qualities

Slope: 5 to 40 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: 10 to 20 inches to paralithic bedrock
Drainage class: Somewhat excessively drained
Runoff class: Medium
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Very low to moderately low (0.00 to 0.06 in/hr)
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Very low (about 1.2 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified
Hydrologic Soil Group: D
Other vegetative classification: Ponderosa pine/true mountain mahogany (PIPO/CEMO2) (C1107), Ponderosa pine-Rocky mountain juniper/true mountain mahogany (PIPO-JUSC2/CEMO2) (C1115)
Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Argiustolls

Percent of map unit: 10 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Haplustalfs

Percent of map unit: 8 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Rock outcrop

Percent of map unit: 7 percent
Hydric soil rating: Unranked

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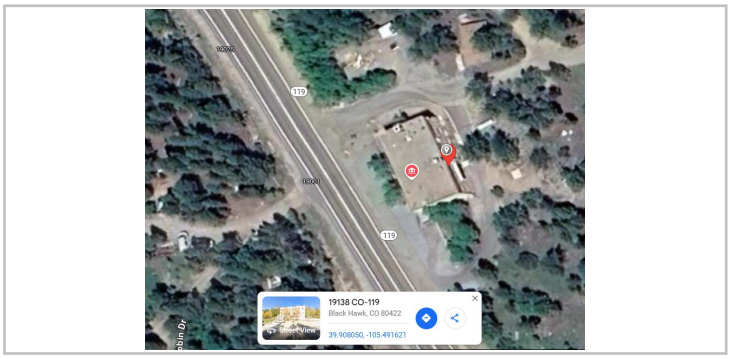
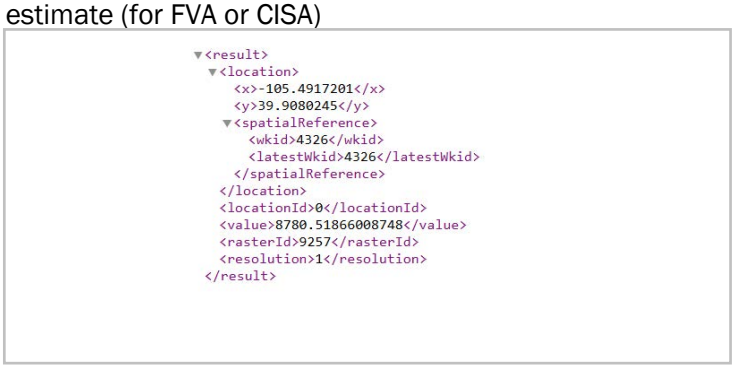
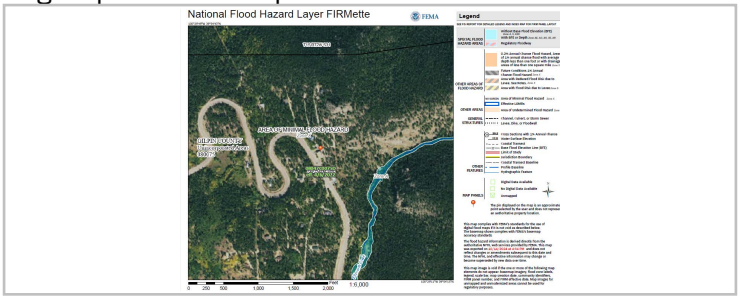
Appendix D. FFRMS Floodplain Determination Worksheet

FFRMS Floodplain Determination: Worksheet

This is a worksheet to assist in the FFRMS floodplain determination process. The spaces below follow the steps identified in this job aid. The case studies provide examples of how to use the table.

Basic Project Information	
Name and Organization of Person Completing the Form:	Leigh Rouse, Bristlecone Environmental Consulting, LLC
Federal Agency (if different from above):	USDA Rural Development
Project Name:	Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project
Project Type:	New building
Critical or Non-Critical Action:	Non-critical
Coastal or Riverine:	Riverine
Select FFRMS Flood Determination Approach (CISA, FVA, 0.2PFA):	FVA

Steps with Images	**Recorded Answers**
1. Identify and record the site latitude/longitude 	39.908050 deg. N -105.491621 deg. W
Skip to step 7 if using 0.2PFA 2. Round the elevation(s) down for the most conservative estimate (for FVA or CISA) 	8,780 feet above sea level

Steps with Images	Recorded Answers
3. Locate the floodplain zone and BFE if within the Special Flood Hazard Area, or nearest floodplain zone and BFE if action is outside, and round to the value that results in the largest potential floodplain. 	Zone: Project in Zone X (area of minimal flood hazard) Ellsworth Creek in Zone A (special flood hazard area) BFE: estimated for Ellsworth Creek to be 8620 ft above sea level BFE + 2 ft for Ellsworth Creek estimated to be 8622 ft above sea level.
4. Note action characteristics such as service life, criticality, risk tolerance (low, medium, high), and any other hazards of concern (flash floods, erosion).	No concerns
5. a. Determine the FFRMS flood elevation based on FVA (if applicable).	8622 ft
b. Determine the FFRMS flood elevation based on simplified CISA (if applicable).	Not applicable
6. Compare the answer in step 2 to step 5 and determine if the site is in the FFRMS floodplain.	8622ft < 8780ft. (Not in the FFRMS floodplain)
7. **For 0.2PFA only**, locate the site in the flood map and determine if it is in 0.2 percent-annual-chance hazard area (if applicable).	Not applicable

Appendix E. Timberline Fire Station 3 - Cultural Resources OAHP file Search Timberline

September 27, 2024

Leigh Rouse
Bristlecone Consulting
2856 W. 24th Avenue
Denver, CO 80211
Email: lrouse@bristleconeconsulting.com

E-mail submittal

RE: Timberline Fire Station 3 - Cultural Resources OAHP File Search Results

Dear Ms. Rouse:

The Timberline Fire Protection District (District) plans to construct a parking lot and add an engine house to the historic Timberline Fire Protection District building, historically known as the Fritz Peak Observatory (FPO) in Blackhawk, Gilpin County, Colorado (Project). The District currently holds a History Colorado State Historical Fund grant for proposed work on the building and is coordinating with the State Historical Fund on the structural modifications for the Project. Bristlecone Consulting, the District's consultant assisting them with environmental clearances for the Project, contracted AK Pioneer Consulting, LLC (AKPC) to complete a file search at the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) to determine if other known resources may be affected. This letter report documents previously recorded cultural resources near the Project. The report supports Gilpin County's goals and policies for the "protection and preservation of the County's architecture, culture, and heritage" (Gilpin County, Ordinance 19-01 Historic Preservation Ordinance 19-01 Historic Preservation, (gilpincounty.colorado.gov)).

The Project is in Township 2 South, Range 72 West, Section 06, at 19126 CO-119, on the southeast corner of the intersection of Colorado Highway 119 and Observatory Place (**Figure 1**). South Boulder Creek is approximately 0.37 miles to the north of the Project. The limits of ground disturbance define the area of potential effects (APE) for archaeology for the Project, which is approximately 1.86 acres.

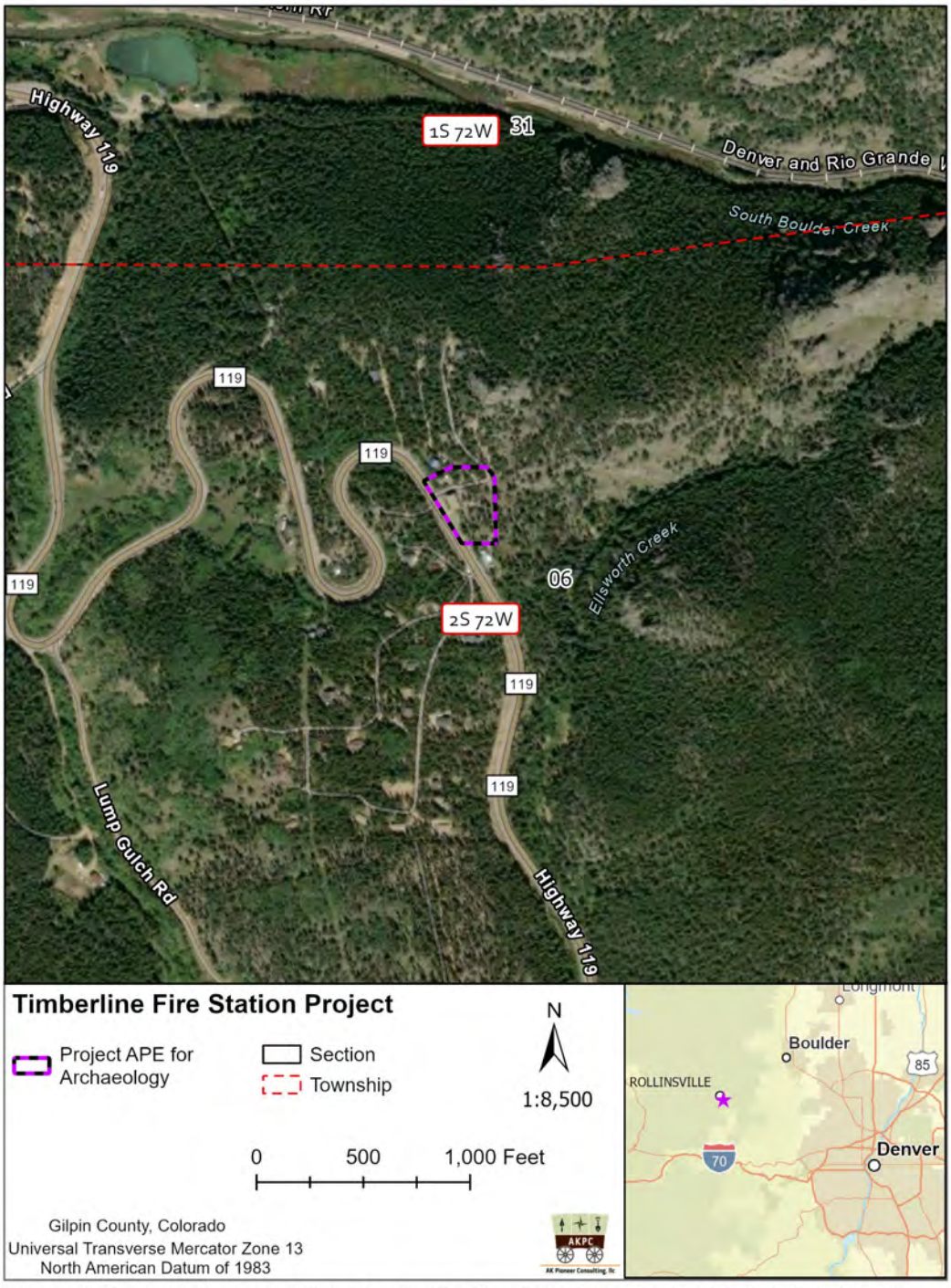


Figure 1. Project location map.

File Search Results

AKPC reviewed the OAHP's Compass database to determine previous cultural resource inventories and sites within one mile of the Project. According to data received from the OAHP on September 24, 2024 (File Search No. 26506), 19 inventories have been completed, and 46 cultural resources have been recorded within one mile of the Project APE (**Table 1** and **Table 2**). Inventories were completed for highways, wetlands, roads, fuel reduction, tree treatment, mining, a pipeline, and historic properties. Five previous inventories and two cultural resources intersect the Project APE. The entire APE has been previously surveyed. The inventories and intersecting sites are illustrated on **Figure 2**.

Two cultural resources intersect the Project APE (5GL.2394 and 5GL.2419). Site 5GL.2419 is the Fritz Peak Observatory and encompasses site 5GL.2394, which consists of the observatory and cottage but does not include the stairs, metal building, and platform leading to Little Dutch Peak. Both sites are officially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A for their contribution to "…our knowledge and understanding of oceanic and atmospheric environments. In particular, to ozone depletion and climate change" (Aaron 2020). The FPO was designated a Gilpin County Historic Landmark on October 18, 2022 (County of Gilpin 2022).

The FPO (5GL.2419) was originally built in 1946-1947 by Horace and Dorothy Severance as a restaurant and tourist lodge called Severance Lodge. A cottage was built slightly to the northeast of the lodge as a residence for the owners. In 1954, the National Bureau of Standards constructed an observation platform on Little Dutch Peak northeast of the lodge. Researchers from the University of Colorado began using the observation platform to study the aurora borealis around 1958. The Environmental Science Services Administration acquired the Severance Lodge and cottage and established the FPO in 1965, using the lodge as the observatory building. The FPO was used chiefly as a laboratory to research the Earth's atmosphere. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) was established in 1970, and the Aeronomy Laboratory Fritz Peak Observatory became part of the NOAA. During the 1990s, the laboratory was used to study air pollution, but by 1999, NOAA research projects at the FPO were halted. Dr. Clive Burnett, a professor from Florida Atlantic University, used the facility to study the upper atmosphere beginning in 1977 and collected data for 33 years. After all operations ceased at the FPO, the government spent many years decommissioning the site. In 2021 it was finally offered to other government, then state, then county agencies. The Timberline Fire Protection District took ownership of the property in March 2022 (Aaron 2020; Ireland 2021a and 2021b; NOAA CSL 2022).

Table 1. Previous inventories within one mile of the Project. Intersecting inventories are highlighted.

Survey ID	Project Name	Acreage	Date Completed
GL.CH.NR1	Junction SH 279 to Boulder County Line (SR 0119(28))[Original and Addendum]	178	08/26/2004

Survey ID	Project Name	Acreage	Date Completed
GL.CH.NR2	Junction of State Highway 46-North (SR 0119(30))	138	08/26/2004
GL.CH.NR4	Archaeological Survey of a Proposed Wetland South of Rollinsville (SR 0119(29))	5	08/27/2004
GL.CH.NR6	Archaeological Clearance, Project No. SR 0119 (28), Gilpin County, Colorado	112.62	02/08/2008
GL.FS.NR6	A Cultural Resource Inventory of an Access Road in Gilpin County, Colorado	1.21	05/15/2003
GL.FS.NR8	Cultural Resource Survey Report: Lump Gulch Fuelbreak Demonstration Area	4.5	08/30/2004
GL.FS.NR26	Negative Results Cultural Resource Inventory for the Bull Rut Placer Project, Boulder Ranger District, Gilpin County, Colorado (R2007021001059)	52	03/05/2008
GL.FS.NR35	Negative Results Cultural Resource Inventory for the May Encroachment, Boulder Ranger District, Gilpin County, Colorado (R2014021001200)	0.0005	7/12/2017
GL.FS.R17	A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for the Mad Dog Mining Project, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests, Gilpin County	50	07/18/2002
GL.FS.R26	A Cultural Resource Survey of the I Am Placer Project, Gilpin County, Colorado (MI-91-BD-256-CE)	11.3	11/04/2003
GL.FS.R29	Limited Results Cultural Resource Inventory for the Orthner Small Tracts Act Project, Boulder Ranger District, Gilpin County, Colorado (R2007021001014)	20	03/05/2008
MC.CH.NR51	South Of Rollinsville (CXSR 60-0119-09)	51	08/26/2004
MC.CH.R207	An Intensive Cultural Resources Inventory for Beetle Kill Tree Treatments Along Highways in Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin and Jackson Counties, Colorado (CDOT Project C R300-198, Region 3 Beetle Kill Tree Removal, Phase II)	723.41	6/26/2023
MC.FS.R402	A Class II Cultural Resource Inventory for the Lump Gulch Fuel Reduction Project Boulder Ranger District, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests, Boulder and Gilpin Counties, Colorado	989	11/10/2009

Survey ID	Project Name	Acreage	Date Completed
MC.FS.R497	Cultural Resource Inventory for the Nugget Gulch Mine Safety Closures 2011, Boulder Ranger District, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests, Boulder and Gilpin Counties, Colorado	15	03/14/2012
MC.FS.R540	Cultural Resource Inventory for the Roadside Hazard Tree Areas Project, in the Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest, Boulder, Gilpin, Grand and Larimer Counties	3232	10/28/2014
MC.FS.R610	Cultural Resource Inventory for the Tungsten to Bobtail Natural Gas Pipeline Project Gilpin and Boulder Counties, Colorado and Addendum (R2020021001006)	99.944	No data available
MC.SHF.R208	Documentation of Historic Properties Along the Gilpin Tunnel Rail Corridor, Boulder and Gilpin Counties (SHF 2007-02-049)	No data available	06/25/2015
MC.SHF.R209	Documentation of Historic Properties in the Gilpin Tunnel District, Boulder and Gilpin Counties (SHF 2007-02-049)	No data available	06/26/2015

Table 2. Cultural resources within one mile of the Project. Intersecting resources are highlighted.

Site Number	Site Name/Type	OAHP NRHP Eligibility Status	In Project Area (Yes/No)
5GL.19	Tunnel No 30, Sphinx Head	Field not eligible	No
5GL.23	Rollinsville	Field not eligible	No
5GL.60	Rollinsville Depot	Field not eligible	No
5GL.339	Manchester/Nugget	Officially not eligible	No
5GL.556	Historic Cabin	Officially not eligible	No
5GL.712	Klinkenbeard	Officially not eligible	No
5GL.1679	Prospect Pit	Field not eligible	No
5GL.1680	Prospect Pits	Field not eligible	No
5GL.1681	Prospect Pit	Field not eligible	No

Site Number	Site Name/Type	OAHP NRHP Eligibility Status	In Project Area (Yes/No)
5GL.1682	Prospect Pits	Field not eligible	No
5GL.1683	Prospect Pit	Field not eligible	No
5GL.1684	Prospect Pits	Field not eligible	No
5GL.1755	Rollinsville Garage	Field not eligible	No
5GL.1756	James L Pinkus Cabin	Field not eligible	No
5GL.1757	Silver Lode Surface Works	Determined not eligible	No
5GL.1760	Romans Residence	Field not eligible	No
5GL.1761	Rees Building	Field not eligible	No
5GL.1762	Marvin Residence	Field not eligible	No
5GL.1763	Rollins Pass Mercantile Company	Field not eligible	No
5GL.1764	Brown Grocery Store	Officially not eligible	No
5GL.1765	Toll Gate Barn ~ The Stage Stop Inn	Determined not eligible	No
5GL.1767	Rollinsville Post Office	Field not eligible	No
5GL.1768	The Pirate's Den	Field not eligible	No
5GL.1769	Blanka Pinkus Cabin	Field not eligible	No
5GL.1770	McPhee & McGinnity Company Clubhouse	Staff - officially eligible	No
5GL.1774	Rollinsville Assay Office	Staff - officially eligible	No
5GL.1775	Rollins Mining Company Cabin 2	Field not eligible	No
5GL.1776	J.D. McCollum Cabin	Determined not eligible	No
5GL.1777	Cooper Residence	Field not eligible	No
5GL.1832	Stackow Cabin/Warbide Lode	Officially not eligible	No
5GL.1898	Prospect Pit	Field not eligible	No
5GL.1899	Prospect Pits	Field not eligible	No
5GL.1900	Prospect Pit	Field not eligible	No
5GL.1901	Prospect Pits	Field not eligible	No
5GL.1902	Prospect Pits	Field not eligible	No

Site Number	Site Name/Type	OAHP NRHP Eligibility Status	In Project Area (Yes/No)
5GL.1942	Historic Artifact Scatter	Officially not eligible	No
5GL.1949	Prospect Pits	Officially not eligible	No
5GL.2077.1	Historic Road Segment	Officially not eligible	No
5GL.2078.1	Historic Ditch Segment	Officially not eligible	No
5GL.2079	Prospect Pits	Officially not eligible	No
5GL.2085	Historic Isolated Find	Field not eligible	No
5GL.2086	Historic Isolated Find	Field not eligible	No
5GL.2228	Thorn Lake School	No assessment given on form	No
5GL.2389	No data available	106 - officially eligible	No
5GL.2394	Fritz Peak Observatory/Timberline Fire Station 3	106 - officially eligible	Yes
5GL.2419	Severance Lodge~ Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)~ Earth System Research Laboratory (ESLR)~ Chemical Science Division (CSD)~Fritz Peak Observatory	Staff - officially eligible	Yes

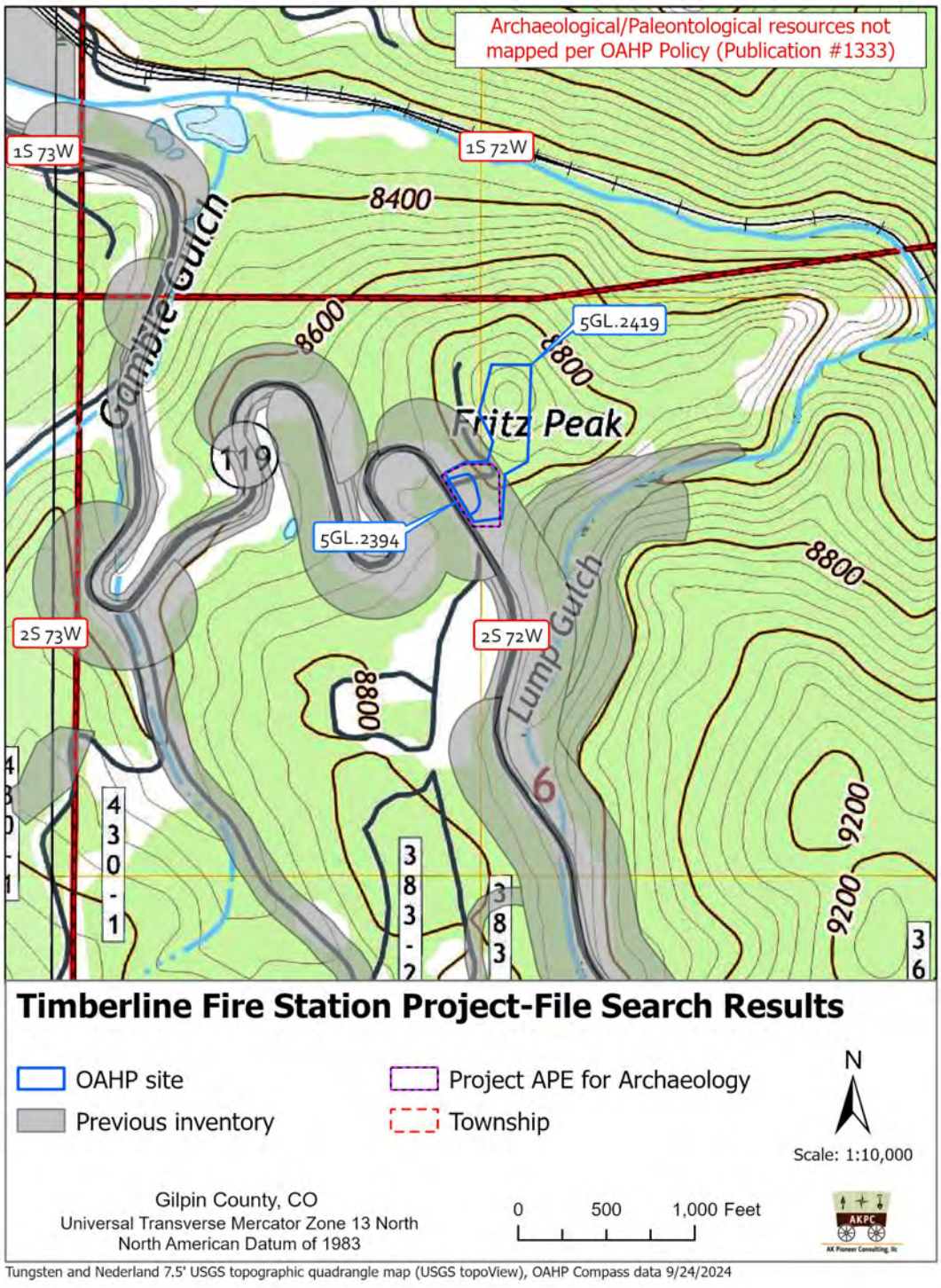


Figure 2. File search results map.

Summary and Recommendations

The entire Project APE has been previously inventoried for cultural resources. No archaeological resources were found within the APE during those inventories. The Fritz Peak Observatory (5GL.2419) is within the Project APE. The District is coordinating with the State Historical Fund for proposed work on the FPO building. AKPC recommends no additional work.

To support Gilpin County goals and policies, AKPC recommends following processes and procedures outlined in an Inadvertent Discovery Plan or similar should unanticipated resources be discovered during construction and other ground-disturbing activities. An archaeologist should be consulted for cultural remains (not human), and a paleontologist should be consulted for fossil remains discovered during ground-disturbing activities. If suspected human skeletal remains are discovered, the Gilpin County Coroner and Sheriff should be notified immediately.

Please contact us at 720-318-9220 for any questions or concerns regarding this review.

Regards,

AK Pioneer Consulting, LLC

Kimberly Bailey, MA, RPA
Principal Investigator

References Cited

Aaron, Jayne

2020 *The Evaluation of the Fritz Peak Observatory for Listing in the National Register of Historic Places.* Report on file at the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

County of Gilpin

2022 *"Resolution Approving the Historic Designation for the Fritz Peak Observatory Main Building, Cottage and the Stairs with Platform Leading to Little Dutch Peak,"* Resolution LM-22-2, Before the Board of County Commissioners, 18 October.

Gilpincounty.colorado.gov

2020 Gilpin County Historic Preservation Ordinance. Electronic document, Ordinance 19-01 Historic Preservation, accessed 24 September 2024.

Ireland, Don

2021a "Iconic Fritz Peak Observatory research lab – Shooting green laser beams into Gilpin's night skies – Part 1 of 2," *Weekly Register-Call* (Black Hawk, CO), 8 July, p. 12-13.

2021b "Fritz Peak Observatory – Shining star of Gilpin's past, only heaven knows the future – Part 2 of 2," *Weekly Register-Call* (Black Hawk, CO), 15 July, p. 12-13.

NOAA Chemical Sciences Laboratory (NOAA CSL)

2022 News & Events. "Timberline Fire Protection District Acquires the Fritz Peak Observatory." Electronic document, https://www.csl.noaa.gov/news/2022/348_0330.html, accessed 26 September 2024.

Appendix F. Correspondence to and from federal and state agencies and Native American tribes

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Colorado Ecological Services Field Office
Denver Federal Center
P.O. Box 25486
Denver, CO 80225-0486
Phone: (303) 236-4773 Fax: (303) 236-4005

In Reply Refer To: 09/20/2024 23:00:02 UTC
Project Code: 2024-0147468
Project Name: Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)

(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Colorado Ecological Services Field Office
Denver Federal Center
P.O. Box 25486
Denver, CO 80225-0486
(303) 236-4773

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0147468
Project Name: Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project
Project Type: Federal Grant / Loan Related
Project Description: A 2,400 sq ft building addition for expanded fire fighting capacity, adjacent to State Highway 119 in Gilpin County, to be constructed in 2025

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@39.907923600000004,-105.49130230375192,14z

Counties: Gilpin County, Colorado

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 9 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Note that 2 of these species should be considered only under certain conditions.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries[1], as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Canada Lynx *Lynx canadensis* Population: Wherever Found in Contiguous U.S. There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3652	Threatened
Gray Wolf *Canis lupus* Population: CO No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4488	Experimental Population, Non-Essential

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Mexican Spotted Owl *Strix occidentalis lucida* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8196	Threatened
Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered. There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: ▪ Project includes water-related activities and/or use in the N. Platte, S. Platte, and Laramie River Basins which may affect listed species in Nebraska. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039	Threatened
Whooping Crane *Grus americana* Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	Endangered

FISHES

NAME	STATUS
Greenback Cutthroat Trout *Oncorhynchus clarkii stomias* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2775	Threatened
Pallid Sturgeon *Scaphirhynchus albus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: ▪ Project includes water-related activities and/or use in the N. Platte, S. Platte, and Laramie River Basins which may affect listed species in Nebraska. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7162	Endangered

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Western Prairie Fringed Orchid *Platanthera praeclara* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1669	Threatened

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Private Entity
Name: Leigh Rouse
Address: 2856 W. 24th Avenue
City: Denver
State: CO
Zip: 80211
Email lrouse@bristleconeconsulting.com
Phone: 3037268421

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Department of Agriculture

BRISTLECONE
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

September 25,2024

Lexi Hamous-Miller
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216

Subject: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Rural Development (RD) Rural Housing Service (RHS)
Congressionally Directed Spending Grant Recipient Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project
Gilpin County, Colorado

Dear Ms. Hamous-Miller:

Timberline Fire Protection District (TFPD) was awarded a Congressionally Directed Spending Grant that will be administered by the USDA Rural Development (RD), Rural Housing Service (RHS) for the Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project (Project).

In 2022, TFPD acquired the Fritz Peak Observatory and associated properties located in Gilpin County, Colorado (Figure 1). The existing building is along State Highway 119 and is surrounded by pine forests with aspen stands near the building (Photo 1). TFPD has converted the building into a training and administration facility and is proposing to construct an addition adjacent to the existing building for permanent storage of fire trucks and other equipment that the facility currently lacks. The proposed addition would be 2,400 square feet and would include three bays for an additional fire truck, a wildland apparatus, and an ambulance or utility vehicle. The proposed building would be about 30 feet high and would match the character of the existing building. A 30-gallon water storage cistern for firefighting would be at the rear of the proposed building addition

The gravel parking area in front of the existing and proposed building would be paved as part of the project. Staging areas for construction would occur in a TFPD-owned parking area to the north of the existing building and across Observatory Place (Figure 2). If additional staging is necessary, disturbed areas behind the existing building and accessed from Observatory Place would be used.

With increasing temperatures and longer drought periods, the intensity and size of wildfires have been increasing in Colorado over recent decades. Areas vulnerable to catastrophic fires occur throughout the forested rural areas of Gilpin County. Areas along the Union Pacific Central Corridor rail line and Moffat Tunnel that run through the Tolland Valley and along South Boulder Creek are especially vulnerable. With multiple trains carrying hazardous materials daily through the Tolland Valley, wildfires are a major concern to residents. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve TFPD's capacity to fight wildfires in TFPD's response area by providing a 2,400 square foot building addition with three storage bays for fire trucks and other emergency equipment and having a designated 30,000-gallon water storage cistern. Because this Project has been awarded a Congressionally Directed Spending Grant, TFPD is preparing an Environmental Report for the USDA.

Bristlecone Environmental Consulting, LLC
2856 W. 24th Avenue, Denver, CO 80211
303-726-8421

State special status species include species that are not protected under Endangered Species Act but are listed by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife as threatened, endangered, or of concern in Colorado, as required by State Statute 33, or Tier 1 species in the Wildlife Action Plan (CPW 2015) with potential habitat in the area.

Table 1. Federal threatened, endangered, and candidate species or state listed species potentially found in Gilpin County.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status*	Habitat	Potential for Effects within project area
Mammals				
Canada lynx	*Lynx canadensis*	FT, SE	Spruce/fir forests (upland woodland)	No effect – no habitat
Gray wolf	*Canis lupus*	Exp.	Wolves being highly adaptable can occur in a wide range of habitats, such as temperate forests, mountains, and grasslands. Lone dispersing wolves may be present throughout Colorado.	No effect: the 0.03-acre loss of aspen woodland habitat would not adversely affect the wolf
Little brown myotis	*Myotis lucifigus*	Tier 1	Variety of habitats and can roost in rural settings including structures	Negligible effect; 0.03 acre of impact on aspen woodland habitat, which may serve as roosting habitat.
North American wolverine	*Gulo gulo luscus*	SE	High elevations and areas with enough winter precipitation to maintain persistent snow late into the warm season.	No effect – no habitat
Townsend's big-eared bat	*Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens*	SC	Woodlands with rocky outcrops	Negligible effect; 0.03 acre of impact on aspen woodland habitat, rocky outcrops would not be affected by project
Birds				
Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	SC	Trees and cliffs, rivers, large lakes; forages in rivers and lakes	Negligible effect; 0.00 acre of effect on winter range
Mexican Spotted Owl	*Strix occidentalis lucida*	FT, ST	Old-growth or mature forests that possess complex structural components	No effect – no habitat
Piping plover**	*Charadrius melodus*	FT	Sandy lakeshore beaches and river sandbars	No effect; no habitat and no depletions anticipated

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status*	Habitat	Potential for Effects within project area
Whooping Crane**	*Grus americana*	FE	Mudflats around reservoirs and in agricultural areas	No effect; no habitat and no depletions anticipated
Fish				
Greenback cutthroat trout	*Oncorhynchus clarki stomias*	FT, SC	Cold, clear, oxygenated streams of moderate gradient	No effect – no habitat
Pallid sturgeon**	*Scaphirhynchus albus*	E	Large, turbid, free-flowing rivers with a strong current and gravel or sandy substrate	No effect; no habitat and no depletions anticipated
Insects				
Monarch butterfly	*Danaus plexippus*	FC	Dependent on milkweeds (*Asclepiadoideae*) as host plants and forage on blooming flowers; a summer resident; relies on an abundance of flowering plants	No effect; milkweed host plants are not present;
Plants				
Western prairie fringed orchis	*Platanthera praeclara*	FT	Mesic and wet prairies, sedge meadows	No habitat and no depletions anticipated

FT – Federally Threatened, FE – Federally endangered, FC – Federal candidate species, ST – State threatened, SE- State endangered, SC -State species of concern; Tier 1 – State species of greatest conservation need

**Water depletions in the South Platte River may affect the species and/or critical habitat in downstream reaches in other counties or states

No direct impacts are anticipated on species in Table 1 or big game species including American elk, mule deer, or moose from the proposed project. Most project impacts would be in already disturbed areas. One small 0.03-acre aspen woodland stand would be eliminated for construction of the new building addition. Please let me know if you have any input on project effects or ways to avoid and minimize adverse effects on wildlife.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please call me at 303-726-8421

Sincerely,

Leigh Rouse

Leigh Rouse
Senior Ecologist/Wetland Scientist
Bristlecone Environmental Consulting, LLC
Enclosures

Figure 1. Project Location

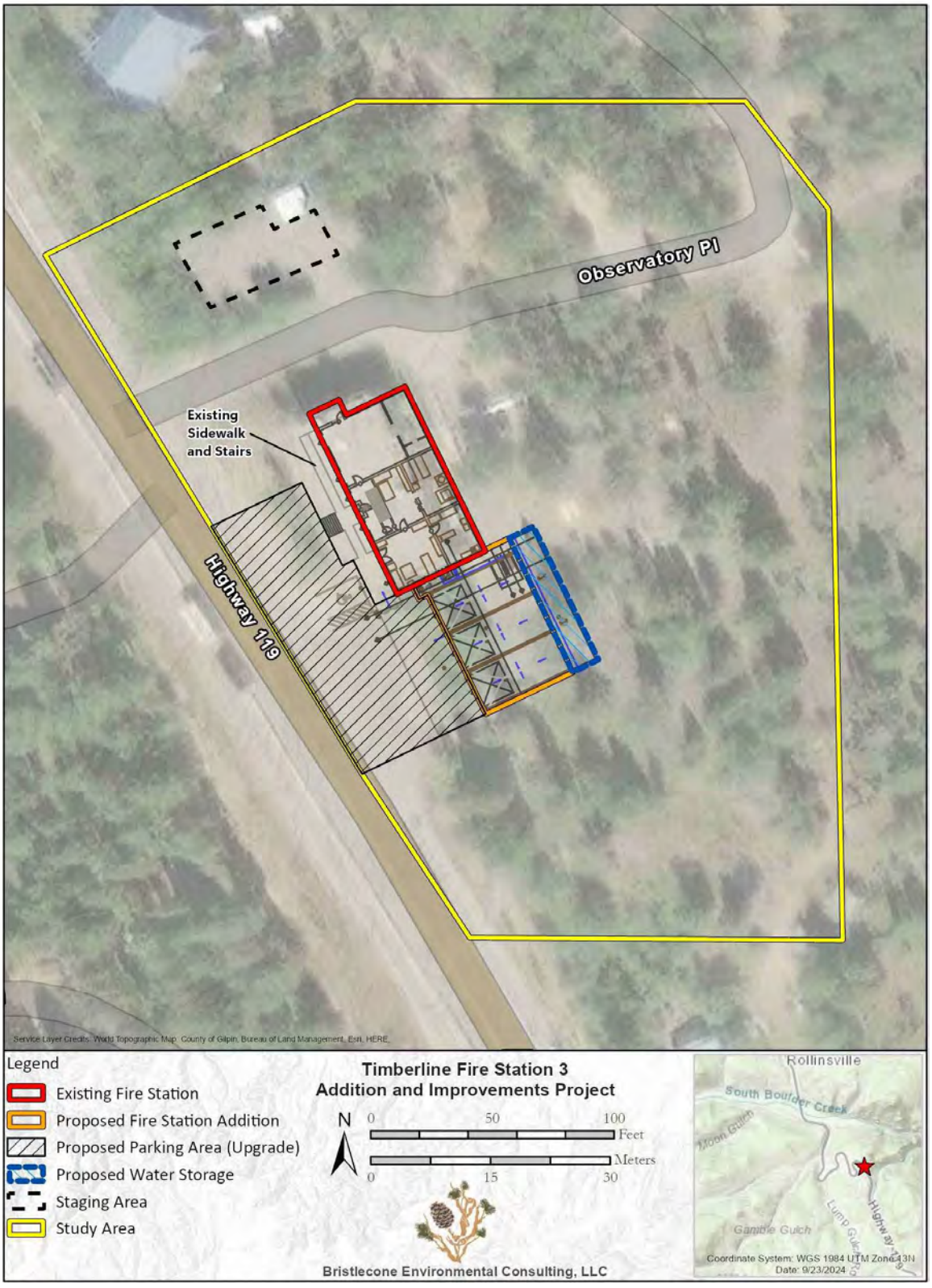


Figure 2. Project area and fire station addition and parking area.

Photo 1. Existing Timberline Fire Station 3 (formerly the Fritz Peak Observatory). SH 119 is on the right side of photo and Observatory Place is on the left.

BRISTLECONE
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

September 12, 2024

Chairman Matthew Tselee
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O Box 1330
Anadarko, OK 73005

Subject: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Rural Development (RD) Rural Housing Service (RHS)
Congressionally Directed Spending Grant Recipient THPO Section 106 Initiation
Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project
Black Hawk, Gilpin County, Colorado

Dear Chairman Matthew Tselee:

Timberline Fire Protection District (TFPD) was awarded a Congressionally Directed Spending Grant that will be administered by the USDA Rural Development (RD), Rural Housing Service (RHS) under its Community Facilities Program for the Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project (Project). This Project will not be using the NPA.[1]

In 2022, TFPD acquired the Fritz Peak Observatory and associated properties located in Gilpin County, Colorado (Figure 1). TFPD has converted the building into a training and administration facility and is proposing to construct an addition adjacent to the existing building for permanent storage of fire trucks and other equipment that the facility currently lacks. The proposed addition would be 2,400 square feet and would include three bays for an additional fire truck, a wildland apparatus, and an ambulance or utility vehicle. The proposed building would be about 30 feet high and would match the character of the existing building. Water storage for firefighting would be at the rear of the proposed building. The gravel parking area in front of the existing and proposed building would be paved as part of the project. Staging areas for construction would occur in a TFPD-owned parking area to the north of the existing building and across Observatory Place (Figure 2). If additional staging is necessary, disturbed areas behind the existing building and accessed from Observatory Place would be used.

Areas vulnerable to catastrophic fires occur throughout the forested rural areas of Gilpin County. Areas along the Union Pacific Central Corridor rail line and Moffat Tunnel that run through the Tolland Valley and along South Boulder Creek are especially vulnerable. With multiple trains carrying hazardous materials daily through the Tolland Valley, the proposed project would improve

[1] *Nationwide Programmatic Agreement among the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Programs, National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, Tribal Signatories, and The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for Sequencing Section 106* (NPA).

Bristlecone Environmental Consulting, LLC
2856 W. 24th Avenue, Denver, CO 80211
303-726-8421

TFPD's capacity to fight catastrophic fires in the area by increasing the number of available fire trucks and other equipment and providing stored water.

Because this Project has been awarded a Congressionally Directed Spending Grant, it is an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 306108, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800.

RHS defines the area of potential effect (APE), as an area that includes all Project construction and excavation activity required to construct, modify, improve, or maintain any facilities; any right-of-way or easement areas necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project; all areas used for excavation of borrow material and habitat creation; all construction staging areas, access routes, utilities, spoil areas, and stockpiling areas. Impacts that come from the undertaking at the same time and place with no intervening causes, are considered "direct" regardless of its specific type (e.g., whether it is visual, physical, auditory, etc.). "Indirect" effects to historic properties are those caused by the undertaking that are later in time or farther removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable. Based on this definition, TFPD proposes that the APE for the referenced project consists of the proposed addition, the parking area that would be paved, the staging areas, and access roads used for construction as shown on the enclosed map. The geographic scope of the APE will not be final until a determination is made by RHS pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(1). The APE does not include any tribal lands as defined pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.16(x).

Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(4), and 7 CFR § 1970.5(b)(2) of the regulations, "Environmental Policies and Procedures" (7 CFR Part 1970), RHS has issued a blanket delegation for its applicants to initiate and proceed through Section 106 review if there is agreement.

In delegating this authority, RHS is advocating for the direct interaction between its Community Facilities Program applicants and Indian tribes. RHS believes this interaction, prior to direct agency involvement, will support and encourage the consideration of impacts to historic properties of importance to Indian tribes earlier in project planning.

TFPD is notifying you about the referenced project because of the possible interest of the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma in Gilpin County, Colorado. Should the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma elect to participate in Section 106 review of the referenced project, please notify me in writing via letter or email as soon as possible at the following addresses – Leigh Rouse at 2856 W. 24th Avenue, Denver, CO 80211 or lrouse@bristleconeconsulting.com.

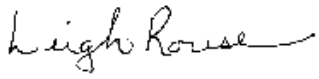
Please include with your affirmative response, a description of any specific historic properties or important tribal resources in the APE and your recommendations about the level of effort needed to identify additional historic properties which might be affected by the referenced project. TFPF will respect the confidentiality of the information which you provide to the fullest extent possible.

If at any time you wish to share your interests, recommendations and concerns directly with RHS, as the agency responsible for conducting Section 106 review, or to request that RHS participate directly in Section 106 review, please notify me at once, preferably via email. However, you may

contact RHS directly. If you wish to do so, please submit your request to Derry Xu at Derry.Xu@usda.gov.

Please submit your response **electronically** by 10/14/2024. RHS will proceed to the next step in Section 106 review if you fail to provide a timely response. Should you have any questions or require additional information you may contact me at the mailing address and email provided above.

Sincerely,



Leigh Rouse
Senior Ecologist/Wetland Scientist
Bristlecone Environmental Consulting, LLC

Enclosures

CC: Paul Ondr, Fire Chief, TFPD
Jennifer Hinderman, TFPD
Derry Xu, State Environmental Specialist, RD, USDA

Figure 1. Project Location

Figure 2. Area of Potential Effect and proposed fire station addition and parking area.

BRISTLECONE
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September 12, 2024

Mr. Max Bear
Tribal Historical Preservation Officer
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma
700 Black Kettle Blvd.
Concho, OK 73022

Subject: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Rural Development (RD) Rural Housing Service (RHS)
Congressionally Directed Spending Grant Recipient THPO Section 106 Initiation
Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project
Black Hawk, Gilpin County, Colorado

Dear Mr. Max Bear:

Timberline Fire Protection District (TFPD) was awarded a Congressionally Directed Spending Grant that will be administered by the USDA Rural Development (RD), Rural Housing Service (RHS) under its Community Facilities Program for the Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project (Project). This Project will not be using the NPA.[1]

In 2022, TFPD acquired the Fritz Peak Observatory and associated properties located in Gilpin County, Colorado (Figure 1). TFPD has converted the building into a training and administration facility and is proposing to construct an addition adjacent to the existing building for permanent storage of fire trucks and other equipment that the facility currently lacks. The proposed addition would be 2,400 square feet and would include three bays for an additional fire truck, a wildland apparatus, and an ambulance or utility vehicle. The proposed building would be about 30 feet high and would match the character of the existing building. Water storage for firefighting would be at the rear of the proposed building. The gravel parking area in front of the existing and proposed building would be paved as part of the project. Staging areas for construction would occur in a TFPD-owned parking area to the north of the existing building and across Observatory Place (Figure 2). If additional staging is necessary, disturbed areas behind the existing building and accessed from Observatory Place would be used.

Areas vulnerable to catastrophic fires occur throughout the forested rural areas of Gilpin County. Areas along the Union Pacific Central Corridor rail line and Moffat Tunnel that run through the Tolland Valley and along South Boulder Creek are especially vulnerable. With multiple trains carrying hazardous materials daily through the Tolland Valley, the proposed project would improve

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303-726-8421

TFPD's capacity to fight catastrophic fires in the area by increasing the number of available fire trucks and other equipment and providing stored water.

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Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(4), and 7 CFR § 1970.5(b)(2) of the regulations, "Environmental Policies and Procedures" (7 CFR Part 1970), RHS has issued a blanket delegation for its applicants to initiate and proceed through Section 106 review if there is agreement.

In delegating this authority, RHS is advocating for the direct interaction between its Community Facilities Program applicants and Indian tribes. RHS believes this interaction, prior to direct agency involvement, will support and encourage the consideration of impacts to historic properties of importance to Indian tribes earlier in project planning.

TFPD is notifying you about the referenced project because of the possible interest of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma in Gilpin County, Colorado. Should the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma elect to participate in Section 106 review of the referenced project, please notify me in writing via letter or email as soon as possible at the following addresses – Leigh Rouse at 2856 W. 24th Avenue, Denver, CO 80211 or lrouse@bristleconeconsulting.com.

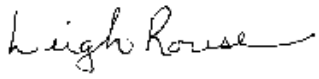
Please include with your affirmative response, a description of any specific historic properties or important tribal resources in the APE and your recommendations about the level of effort needed to identify additional historic properties which might be affected by the referenced project. TFPF will respect the confidentiality of the information which you provide to the fullest extent possible.

If at any time you wish to share your interests, recommendations and concerns directly with RHS, as the agency responsible for conducting Section 106 review, or to request that RHS participate directly in Section 106 review, please notify me at once, preferably via email. However, you may

contact RHS directly. If you wish to do so, please submit your request to Derry Xu at Derry.Xu@usda.gov.

Please submit your response **electronically** by 10/14/2024. RHS will proceed to the next step in Section 106 review if you fail to provide a timely response. Should you have any questions or require additional information you may contact me at the mailing address and email provided above.

Sincerely,



Leigh Rouse
Senior Ecologist/Wetland Scientist
Bristlecone Environmental Consulting, LLC

Enclosures

CC: Paul Ondr, Fire Chief, TFPD
Jennifer Hinderman, TFPD
Derry Xu, State Environmental Specialist, RD, USDA

Figure 1. Project Location

Figure 2. Area of Potential Effect and proposed fire station addition and parking area.

BRISTLECONE
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

September 12, 2024

Ms. Martina Minthorn
Tribal Historical Preservation Officer
Comanche Nation, Oklahoma
6 Sw
Lawton, OK 73502

Subject: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Rural Development (RD) Rural Housing Service (RHS)
Congressionally Directed Spending Grant Recipient THPO Section 106 Initiation
Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project
Black Hawk, Gilpin County, Colorado

Dear Ms. Martina Minthorn:

Timberline Fire Protection District (TFPD) was awarded a Congressionally Directed Spending Grant that will be administered by the USDA Rural Development (RD), Rural Housing Service (RHS) under its Community Facilities Program for the Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project (Project). This Project will not be using the NPA.[1]

In 2022, TFPD acquired the Fritz Peak Observatory and associated properties located in Gilpin County, Colorado (Figure 1). TFPD has converted the building into a training and administration facility and is proposing to construct an addition adjacent to the existing building for permanent storage of fire trucks and other equipment that the facility currently lacks. The proposed addition would be 2,400 square feet and would include three bays for an additional fire truck, a wildland apparatus, and an ambulance or utility vehicle. The proposed building would be about 30 feet high and would match the character of the existing building. Water storage for firefighting would be at the rear of the proposed building. The gravel parking area in front of the existing and proposed building would be paved as part of the project. Staging areas for construction would occur in a TFPD-owned parking area to the north of the existing building and across Observatory Place (Figure 2). If additional staging is necessary, disturbed areas behind the existing building and accessed from Observatory Place would be used.

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2856 W. 24th Avenue, Denver, CO 80211
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TFPD's capacity to fight catastrophic fires in the area by increasing the number of available fire trucks and other equipment and providing stored water.

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Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(4), and 7 CFR § 1970.5(b)(2) of the regulations, "Environmental Policies and Procedures" (7 CFR Part 1970), RHS has issued a blanket delegation for its applicants to initiate and proceed through Section 106 review if there is agreement.

In delegating this authority, RHS is advocating for the direct interaction between its Community Facilities Program applicants and Indian tribes. RHS believes this interaction, prior to direct agency involvement, will support and encourage the consideration of impacts to historic properties of importance to Indian tribes earlier in project planning.

TFPD is notifying you about the referenced project because of the possible interest of the Comanche Nation, Oklahoma in Gilpin County, Colorado. Should the Comanche Nation, Oklahoma elect to participate in Section 106 review of the referenced project, please notify me in writing via letter or email as soon as possible at the following addresses – Leigh Rouse at 2856 W. 24th Avenue, Denver, CO 80211 or lrouse@bristleconeconsulting.com.

Please include with your affirmative response, a description of any specific historic properties or important tribal resources in the APE and your recommendations about the level of effort needed to identify additional historic properties which might be affected by the referenced project. TFPF will respect the confidentiality of the information which you provide to the fullest extent possible.

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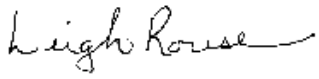

Leigh Rouse
Senior Ecologist/Wetland Scientist
Bristlecone Environmental Consulting, LLC

Enclosures

CC: Paul Ondr, Fire Chief, TFPD
Jennifer Hinderman, TFPD
Derry Xu, State Environmental Specialist, RD, USDA

Figure 1. Project Location

Figure 2. Area of Potential Effect and proposed fire station addition and parking area.

BRISTLECONE
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September 12, 2024

Mr. Michael Blackwolf
Tribal Historical Preservation Officer
Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana
656 Agency Main Street
Harlem, MT 59526

Subject: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Rural Development (RD) Rural Housing Service (RHS)
Congressionally Directed Spending Grant Recipient THPO Section 106 Initiation
Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project
Black Hawk, Gilpin County, Colorado

Dear Mr. Michael Blackwolf:

Timberline Fire Protection District (TFPD) was awarded a Congressionally Directed Spending Grant that will be administered by the USDA Rural Development (RD), Rural Housing Service (RHS) under its Community Facilities Program for the Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project (Project). This Project will not be using the NPA.[1]

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TFPD's capacity to fight catastrophic fires in the area by increasing the number of available fire trucks and other equipment and providing stored water.

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TFPD is notifying you about the referenced project because of the possible interest of the Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana in Gilpin County, Colorado. Should the Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana elect to participate in Section 106 review of the referenced project, please notify me in writing via letter or email as soon as possible at the following addresses – Leigh Rouse at 2856 W. 24th Avenue, Denver, CO 80211 or lrouse@bristleconeconsulting.com.

Please include with your affirmative response, a description of any specific historic properties or important tribal resources in the APE and your recommendations about the level of effort needed to identify additional historic properties which might be affected by the referenced project. TFPF will respect the confidentiality of the information which you provide to the fullest extent possible.

If at any time you wish to share your interests, recommendations and concerns directly with RHS, as the agency responsible for conducting Section 106 review, or to request that RHS participate

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Please submit your response **electronically** by 10/14/2024. RHS will proceed to the next step in Section 106 review if you fail to provide a timely response. Should you have any questions or require additional information you may contact me at the mailing address and email provided above.

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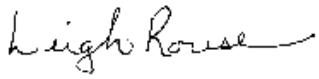

Leigh Rouse
Senior Ecologist/Wetland Scientist
Bristlecone Environmental Consulting, LLC

Enclosures

CC: Paul Ondr, Fire Chief, TFPD
Jennifer Hinderman, TFPD
Derry Xu, State Environmental Specialist, RD, USDA

Figure 1. Project Location

Figure 2. Area of Potential Effect and proposed fire station addition and parking area.

BRISTLECONE
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September 12, 2024

Mr. Ben Ridgley
Tribal Historical Preservation Officer
Northern Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming
P.O. Box 67
St. Stevens, Wyoming 82524

Subject: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Rural Development (RD) Rural Housing Service (RHS)
Congressionally Directed Spending Grant Recipient THPO Section 106 Initiation
Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project
Black Hawk, Gilpin County, Colorado

Dear Mr. Ben Ridgley:

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TFPD is notifying you about the referenced project because of the possible interest of the Northern Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming in Gilpin County, Colorado. Should the Northern Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming elect to participate in Section 106 review of the referenced project, please notify me in writing via letter or email as soon as possible at the following addresses – Leigh Rouse at 2856 W. 24th Avenue, Denver, CO 80211 or lrouse@bristleconeconsulting.com.

Please include with your affirmative response, a description of any specific historic properties or important tribal resources in the APE and your recommendations about the level of effort needed to identify additional historic properties which might be affected by the referenced project. TFPF will respect the confidentiality of the information which you provide to the fullest extent possible.

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Please submit your response **electronically** by 10/14/2024. RHS will proceed to the next step in Section 106 review if you fail to provide a timely response. Should you have any questions or require additional information you may contact me at the mailing address and email provided above.

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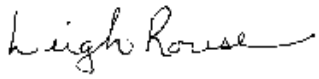

Leigh Rouse
Senior Ecologist/Wetland Scientist
Bristlecone Environmental Consulting, LLC

Enclosures

CC: Paul Ondr, Fire Chief, TFPD
Jennifer Hinderman, TFPD
Derry Xu, State Environmental Specialist, RD, USDA

Figure 1. Project Location

Figure 2. Area of Potential Effect and proposed fire station addition and parking area.

BRISTLECONE
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

September 12, 2024

Ms. Teanna Limpy
Tribal Historical Preservation Officer
Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the
Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, Montana
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Subject: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Rural Development (RD) Rural Housing Service (RHS)
Congressionally Directed Spending Grant Recipient THPO Section 106 Initiation
Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project
Black Hawk, Gilpin County, Colorado

Dear Ms. Teanna Limpy:

Timberline Fire Protection District (TFPD) was awarded a Congressionally Directed Spending Grant that will be administered by the USDA Rural Development (RD), Rural Housing Service (RHS) under its Community Facilities Program for the Timberline Fire Station 3 Addition and Improvements Project (Project). This Project will not be using the NPA.[1]

In 2022, TFPD acquired the Fritz Peak Observatory and associated properties located in Gilpin County, Colorado (Figure 1). TFPD has converted the building into a training and administration facility and is proposing to construct an addition adjacent to the existing building for permanent storage of fire trucks and other equipment that the facility currently lacks. The proposed addition would be 2,400 square feet and would include three bays for an additional fire truck, a wildland apparatus, and an ambulance or utility vehicle. The proposed building would be about 30 feet high and would match the character of the existing building. Water storage for firefighting would be at the rear of the proposed building. The gravel parking area in front of the existing and proposed building would be paved as part of the project. Staging areas for construction would occur in a TFPD-owned parking area to the north of the existing building and across Observatory Place (Figure 2). If additional staging is necessary, disturbed areas behind the existing building and accessed from Observatory Place would be used.

Areas vulnerable to catastrophic fires occur throughout the forested rural areas of Gilpin County. Areas along the Union Pacific Central Corridor rail line and Moffat Tunnel that run through the Tolland Valley and along South Boulder Creek are especially vulnerable. With multiple trains carrying hazardous materials daily through the Tolland Valley, the proposed project would improve

[1] *Nationwide Programmatic Agreement among the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Programs, National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, Tribal Signatories, and The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for Sequencing Section 106* (NPA).

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TFPD's capacity to fight catastrophic fires in the area by increasing the number of available fire trucks and other equipment and providing stored water.

Because this Project has been awarded a Congressionally Directed Spending Grant, it is an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 306108, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800.

RHS defines the area of potential effect (APE), as an area that includes all Project construction and excavation activity required to construct, modify, improve, or maintain any facilities; any right-of-way or easement areas necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project; all areas used for excavation of borrow material and habitat creation; all construction staging areas, access routes, utilities, spoil areas, and stockpiling areas. Impacts that come from the undertaking at the same time and place with no intervening causes, are considered "direct" regardless of its specific type (e.g., whether it is visual, physical, auditory, etc.). "Indirect" effects to historic properties are those caused by the undertaking that are later in time or farther removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable. Based on this definition, TFPD proposes that the APE for the referenced project consists of the proposed addition, the parking area that would be paved, the staging areas, and access roads used for construction as shown on the enclosed map. The geographic scope of the APE will not be final until a determination is made by RHS pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(1). The APE does not include any tribal lands as defined pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.16(x).

Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(4), and 7 CFR § 1970.5(b)(2) of the regulations, "Environmental Policies and Procedures" (7 CFR Part 1970), RHS has issued a blanket delegation for its applicants to initiate and proceed through Section 106 review if there is agreement.

In delegating this authority, RHS is advocating for the direct interaction between its Community Facilities Program applicants and Indian tribes. RHS believes this interaction, prior to direct agency involvement, will support and encourage the consideration of impacts to historic properties of importance to Indian tribes earlier in project planning.

TFPD is notifying you about the referenced project because of the possible interest of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, Montana in Gilpin County, Colorado. Should the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, Montana elect to participate in Section 106 review of the referenced project, please notify me in writing via letter or email as soon as possible at the following addresses – Leigh Rouse at 2856 W. 24th Avenue, Denver, CO 80211 or lrouse@bristleconeconsulting.com.

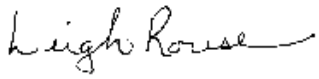
Please include with your affirmative response, a description of any specific historic properties or important tribal resources in the APE and your recommendations about the level of effort needed to identify additional historic properties which might be affected by the referenced project. TFPF will respect the confidentiality of the information which you provide to the fullest extent possible.

If at any time you wish to share your interests, recommendations and concerns directly with RHS, as the agency responsible for conducting Section 106 review, or to request that RHS participate

directly in Section 106 review, please notify me at once, preferably via email. However, you may contact RHS directly. If you wish to do so, please submit your request to Derry Xu at Derry.Xu@usda.gov.

Please submit your response **electronically** by 10/14/2024. RHS will proceed to the next step in Section 106 review if you fail to provide a timely response. Should you have any questions or require additional information you may contact me at the mailing address and email provided above.

Sincerely,



Leigh Rouse
Senior Ecologist/Wetland Scientist
Bristlecone Environmental Consulting, LLC

Enclosures

CC: Paul Ondr, Fire Chief, TFPD
Jennifer Hinderman, TFPD
Derry Xu, State Environmental Specialist, RD, USDA

Figure 1. Project Location

Figure 2. Area of Potential Effect and proposed fire station addition and parking area.