

# STATE OF COLORADO

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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**DATE:** January 9, 2009

**TO:** Judy DeHaven

**FROM:** Steven M. Wallace *SM Wallace*

**SUBJECT:** Paleontological assessment for project NH 0242-040, US 24 West: Manitou Springs to I-25

Attached is a copy of the paleontological assessment report, "Paleontological Technical Report: CDOT Project NH 0242-040, US Highway 24 West Corridor, Manitou Springs to Interstate 25, El Paso County, Colorado", submitted December 31, 2008 by Dr. Paul Murphey and David Daitch for Centennial Archaeology, Inc.. I have read the report and found it acceptable. In their report, Murphey and Daitch recommended paleontological clearance for the US 24 West Environmental Assessment [EA] corridor, with the stipulation that "[w]hen the project design plans are finalized, the CDOT Staff Paleontologist should examine them and determine the extent of impact to the bedrock units in the southwest quadrant of US 24 and 31<sup>st</sup> Street, and the scope of paleontological monitoring, if any, which is required." I concur with their recommendation.

The paleontological impacts mitigation plan for the US 24 West EA corridor should include paleontological monitoring during construction if and wherever final design plans for any future construction project(s) permitted by approval of this EA indicate there will be significant impacts to paleontological sensitivity Class 3, 4, and 5 bedrock outcrop at the existing high road cuts in the southwest quadrant of US 24 and 31<sup>st</sup> Street. If my examination of final plan, profile, and cross-section sheets and any subsurface geologic data that might be part of any final plans set(s) for any future construction project(s) permitted by approval of this EA indicates that there will be significant impacts to Class 3, 4, and 5 bedrock outcrop at the above location, I will write a revision of Subsection 107.23 of the Standard Specifications (Archaeological and Paleontological Discoveries) identifying the paleontological monitoring corridor(s) for attachment to the construction project specifications.

Based on the Region's agreement with the above-described mitigation stipulation, I am recommending paleontological clearance for the proposed US 24 West: Manitou Springs to I-25 EA corridor. If previously unrecorded paleontological resources are uncovered during project construction in any corridor not identified in any revision to Subsection 107.23 of the Standard Specifications or in the corridor identified in any revision but not being actively monitored at the time of fossil discovery, I should be notified immediately.

SMW:smw  
cc: CF, Wallace