

COLORADO FOREST HIGHWAY 80, GUANELLA PASS ROAD

Park County Road 62
Clear Creek County Road 381
Forest Development Road 118
Grant to Georgetown
Pike and Arapaho National Forests
Park and Clear Creek Counties, Colorado

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Submitted Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4332 (2) (c)
And 49 U.S.C. 303 by the
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
Central Federal Lands Highway Division

Cooperating Agencies

Colorado Division of Wildlife U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Colorado Department of Transportation U.S. Forest Service

Additional information may be obtained from:
Mr. Richard J. Cushing (HFHD-16)
Environmental Planning Engineer
Federal Highway Administration
555 Zang Street, Room 259
Lakewood, CO 80228
Phone: (303) 716-2138

Larry C. Smith, P.E.
Division Engineer
Central Federal Lands Highway Division

Date

**METRIC TO ENGLISH/ENGLISH TO METRIC
CONVERSION FACTORS (APPROXIMATE)**

When You Know:	Multiply by:	To Find:
meters	3.281	feet
feet	0.3048	meters
kilometers	0.621	miles
miles	1.609	kilometers
hectares	2.471	acres
acres	0.405	hectares
metric tons	1.1025	tons
tons	0.907	metric tons
kilograms	2.2046	pounds
pounds	0.4536	kilograms
µg/L	8.346×10^{-9}	lbs/gal
lbs/gal	1.198×10^8	µg/L
km/h	0.6214	mph
mph	1.6093	km/h
liters	0.2642	gallons
gallons	3.785	liters
millimeters	0.03937	inches
inches	25.400	millimeters

The stationing in the following discussions and figures relates to the horizontal distance in meters from the intersection of US Highway 285 and Guanella Pass Road. Stationing is expressed as kilometers plus meters. The intersection is station 1+000. For example, the summit is approximately 21 kilometers, or 21,000 meters, from the US Highway 285 and Guanella Pass Road intersection, and the corresponding station is 22+000 (1+000 plus 21+000). Slopes are expressed as rise:run.

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

3R	Resurfacing, Restoration, Rehabilitation	MSE	Mechanically Stabilized Earth
AADT	Annual Average Daily Traffic	MSL	Mean Sea Level
AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials	N/A	Not Applicable or Not Available
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act	NaCl	Sodium Chloride
ADT	Average Daily Traffic	NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
AMD	Acid Mine Drainage	NF	National Forest
APE	Area of Potential Effect	NOI	Notice of Intent
AST	Above-ground Storage Tank	NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials		
BA	Biological Assessment	NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
BE	Biological Evaluation	NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
BMPs	Best Management Practices	OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration or Act
BR	Biology Report		
CDOT	Colorado Department of Transportation	PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
CDOW	Colorado Division of Wildlife	PLH	Public Lands Highway
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment	ppm	parts per million
		PSE	Plans, Specifications, and Estimates
CFLHD	Central Federal Lands Highway Division	RIM	Recreation Information Management
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	ROD	Record of Decision
Cl	Chlorine	ROW	Right-of-Way
CMS	(Scenic and Historic Byway) Corridor Management Strategy	RVD	Recreation Visitor Days
		SADT	Seasonal Average Daily Traffic
CNHP	Colorado Natural Heritage Program	SBC	(Guanella Pass) Scenic Byway Committee
CWA	Clean Water Act	SDEIS	Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement
dB(A)	Decibels (A-weighted)		
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement	SEE	Social, Economic, and Environment
DOI	Department of the Interior	SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement	SS	Sensitive Species
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	SWMP	Storm Water Management Plan
ESA	Endangered Species Act	T&E	Threatened and Endangered
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement	TCP	Traditional Cultural Property
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency	TES	Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration	TRR	Tumbling River Ranch
FS	Forest Service	µg/L	micrograms/Liter
GASRGL	Georgetown, Argentine, Snake River Wagon Road, Green Lake Wagon Road	UCCWA	Upper Clear Creek Watershed Association
		USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
GSPNHLD	Georgetown-Silver Plume National Historic Landmark District	USC	United States Code
		USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
IO	Isolated Occurance	USGS	United States Geological Survey
ISA	Initial Site Assessment	USPHS	United States Public Health Service
km/h	kilometers per hour	vpd	Vehicles per day
LEO	Law Enforcement Officer	VQO	Visual Quality Objectives
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tank	WEPP	Water Erosion Prediction Project
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level	WQCC	Water Quality Control Commission
MgCl ₂	Magnesium Chloride	WQCD	Water Quality Control Division
MIS	Management Indicator Species	WET	Wetland Evaluation Technique
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement		
mph	miles per hour		

ABSTRACT

This Final Environmental Impact Statement provides a detailed evaluation of alternatives proposed for improvements to Colorado Forest Highway 80, Guanella Pass Road (also known as Park County Road 62, Clear Creek County Road 381, and Forest Development Road 118). Guanella Pass Road begins in Grant, Colorado and extends 38.2 kilometers (23.6 miles) north to the Town of Georgetown, Colorado.

This document evaluates six alternatives for the Guanella Pass Road project – five from the alternatives evaluated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and one (the Preferred Alternative) from the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared for this project. The Preferred Alternative incorporates design features consistent with a road given the functional classification of “rural local road.” The design speed for the road ranges from 30 to 50 km/h (20 to 30 mph). The Preferred Alternative is designed to accommodate a Class C recreation vehicle with a wheelbase of 5.2 meters (17 feet). This design speed and the size of the design vehicle permit a curvilinear alignment that closely follows the existing roadway. The proposed roadway width (travel lanes and shoulders) for the Preferred Alternative will be 6.6 meters (22 feet). The surface types used for the Preferred Alternative will be asphalt pavement with chip seal, macadam, and gravel with a dust suppressant.

Several road management strategies are needed for the Preferred Alternative to be a viable alternative. These strategies require the participation of Clear Creek County, Park County, the Town of Georgetown, and the Forest Service in policy decisions and enforcement for several of the design considerations.

This Final Environmental Impact Statement describes the Preferred Alternative and the other five alternatives considered. This document evaluates and documents the social, economic, and environmental impacts that may be created by each of the alternatives. Impacts that may result from the alternatives are described, along with appropriate mitigation measures.

Comments concerning this document should be sent to:

Mr. Richard Cushing
Environmental Planning Engineer
Federal Highway Administration
Central Federal Lands Highway Division (HFHD-16)
555 Zang Street, Suite 259
Lakewood, Colorado 80228
Telephone: 303-716-2138

Copies of this FEIS and technical reports are available for review at the following locations:

Arapaho National Forest
Forest Supervisor's Office
240 West Prospect Street
Fort Collins, Colorado

Pike National Forest
Forest Supervisor's Office
1920 Valley Drive
Pueblo, Colorado

Arapaho National Forest (2 copies)
Clear Creek Ranger District
101 Chicago Creek
Idaho Springs, Colorado

Pike National Forest
South Platte Ranger District
19316 Goddard Ranch Court
Morrison, Colorado

Federal Highway Administration
Central Federal Lands Highway Division
555 Zang Street
Lakewood, Colorado

US Forest Service
Region 2
740 Simms Street
Golden, Colorado

Tomay Memorial Library (2 copies)
604 6th Street
Georgetown, Colorado

Park County Library -Fairplay
418 Main Street
Fairplay, Colorado

Clear Creek County (2 copies)
405 Argentine Street
Georgetown, Colorado

Park County Library - Bailey
(2 copies)
350 Bulldogger Road
Bailey, Colorado

Denver Public Library
10 West 14th Avenue
Denver, Colorado

Park County Clerk and Recorder
501 Main Street
Fairplay, Colorado