



Pre-construction Nesting Bird Survey

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Peanut 3403 Pad construction
Date of Survey: April 26, 2023

1. Scope

Pre-construction nesting bird surveys will be conducted for migratory birds if hazing or exclusion mitigations were not conducted. The surveys will be done for the construction footprint of the location disturbance area. The survey area for active bird nests will include areas where vegetation removal and disturbance is necessary. When an active nest of a protected species is detected, a buffer area will be designated until the nestlings have fledged. In addition, survey coverage will include a search for active nests within a buffer zone of 100 feet directly adjacent to project boundaries. Any active nest of a protected species detected within the project footprint or its adjacent buffer will receive a protective buffer radius around the nest tree or ground nest as per COGCC rule 1202.a.(8). Nesting Bird Surveys will be conducted prior to the commencement of pad construction between April 1 and August 31.

2. Location information

- A. Peanut Fed 3403 Pad – NE 1/4 NW 1/4 SECTION 34, T10N R59W 6TH PM, WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

3. Survey Procedure

- A. The survey monitoring methodology for the planned disturbance area and 100 foot buffer includes 2 surveys, one at dawn and one at dusk, to be conducted within a week prior to any vegetation removal. Survey consists of walking survey around the 100 foot project buffer and concentric 100 foot interior routes and sit and scope observation from a location to allow complete visual coverage of the project disturbance area.
- B. These surveys were conducted on April 26th, 2023 from 6:30-8:30 am and from 6:00-7:50 pm.

4. Survey Results

A. Survey 1 Observations: Dawn 4/26/23

Cloudy, no wind, intermittent drizzle, 46 degrees. The location of the pad is in undisturbed rangeland. There was very low-level vegetation, grasses and cactus on the surface. Location had no shrubs, bushes or trees.

1. The walking survey was conducted. Several birds observed on the walk. 2 unidentified sparrow-like birds were seen flying through the area. Many Horned Larks (20) flew around the area of the pad briefly stopping on the pad area and appeared to be feeding and flying off again. Many Horned Larks were seen around the buffer and on the pad. During the

buffer walk and the interior walk rings, all of the locations the birds were spending time or flew from were investigated and no nests observed.

2. When the Sit and Scope was conducted for 60 minutes the Horned Larks continued to feed in the area. A Western Meadowlark was seen perched on a yucca plant just off of the pad area. Various other small sparrow-like birds were observed, but none in the project area.

B. Survey 2 Observations: Dusk 4/26/23

Sunny with a few clouds, 3-5 mph wind from the southwest, 68 degrees.

1. The walking survey was conducted. Birds observed on the buffer walk and the interior routes. More than 20 of the birds identified were Horned Larks. All of the locations birds spent time or flew out of were investigated and no nest was observed.
2. When the Sit and Scope was conducted for 60 minutes, small birds and a raptor were observed in the distance, but none in the project area. The Horned Larks continued feeding in the project area.