

# Guide

# CBO BEAD NEPA/EHP Guidebook

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## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Scope

This guidebook provides a structured framework for Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program subgrantees to develop the documentation required for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance and related regulatory mandates. While comprehensive, this guide focuses on projects anticipated to meet the criteria for a Categorical Exclusion (CatEx) (see Section 3.1.1). It details the necessary environmental screening protocols, documentation standards, and inter-agency coordination steps required by the Colorado Broadband Office (CBO) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to evaluate project impacts and establish the appropriate review pathway.

As a supplementary resource to NTIA guidance, this guidebook provides a Colorado-centric framework for Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) compliance. It offers subgrantees a direct roadmap to the state and federal data sources, contacts, and consultation steps necessary to address regional natural and cultural resources.

### 1.2 Best Management Practices (BMPs) & Mitigation Measures

While resource-specific consultation is not always required, avoiding impacts on historic and biological resources reduces permit requirements and streamlines review. For instance, avoiding impacts to waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) may eliminate the need for Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 authorization; however, stormwater permitting would likely still apply depending on the extent of ground disturbance.

When impacts are unavoidable, subgrantees must identify and include BMPs and mitigation measures as formal commitments in the NEPA documentation. Resources for these measures are available in [Supplement A](#) and the [Best Management Practices \(BMP\) and Mitigation Measures](#) Guide. Even in the absence of formal permits, ongoing

agency coordination may yield recommended conservation measures that must be integrated into project design and implementation.

### 1.3 Avoiding Delays

The CBO and NTIA expect the NEPA and EHP process to take approximately 3-6 months, provided no extraordinary circumstances (ECs) are present. To stay on schedule:

- **Identify Impacts Early:** Start desktop review and agency coordination immediately, especially for permits with long lead times.
- **Use Existing Right-of-Way (ROW):** Utilizing existing roadway ROW and previously disturbed areas significantly reduces permitting complexity.
- **Provide Accurate Data:** Ensure your project description includes the full construction footprint (including staging areas, access routes, and temporary easements).

### 1.4 Questions

Questions may be submitted by emailing [advance\\_cbo\\_NEPA@state.co.us](mailto:advance_cbo_NEPA@state.co.us).

### 1.5 Special Case: Low-Earth Orbit (LEO) Satellites

In October 2025, the NTIA issued this guidance regarding NEPA compliance for low-earth orbit (LEO) projects: “NTIA cannot control the outcome of a private owner’s discretionary access to broadband, including how such services are supported on or within private property, so NTIA may determine that NEPA does not apply to the final connection link from the network to these specific locations. However, grantees or subgrantees receiving NTIA funding to construct or improve commercial satellite ground stations, earth stations, or teleports to support last mile service are subject to NEPA and must complete environmental review before initiating any associated ground-disturbing construction activities.” See [BEAD Guidance on NEPA and NHPA for LEO Satellite Service](#) (NTIA 2025).



### 1.5.1 BEAD LEO Subgrantee Requirements

For BEAD-funded LEO satellite projects, NEPA review is only required for construction or improvements to ground stations, earth stations, or teleports. The final connection to private properties does not require NEPA review.

## 2.0 Roles and Responsibilities

### 2.1 Role of Subgrantee

Subgrantees remain responsible for ensuring that all required permits, consultations, and environmental reviews are completed prior to initiating ground-disturbing activities.

### 2.2 Role of CBO and NTIA

For Colorado BEAD projects, the CBO serves as a joint lead agency alongside NTIA and shares responsibility for ensuring compliance with NEPA and related federal EHP requirements in accordance with applicable federal statutes, including [42 United States Code 4336a, et seq.](#) The CBO coordinates environmental review activities within the state to facilitate timely compliance and minimize potential NEPA-related delays during BEAD Program implementation.

#### 2.2.1 Environmental Screening and Assessment Permitting Tracking Tool (ESAPTT)

CBO will use an NTIA compliance tool, the Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool (ESAPTT), throughout the EHP process. ESAPTT is a digital platform designed to support paperless environmental reviews and expedite NEPA approvals for BEAD projects.

The ESAPTT:

- Includes environmental screening questionnaires to identify projects potentially eligible for CatEx.

- Provides permitting-tracking dashboards to monitor and manage environmental permits and state and federal ROW approvals.
- Supports escalation of permitting or environmental compliance challenges to NTIA.

CBO will use subgrantee-submitted project information and grant-specific details such as broadband serviceable locations (BSL), preliminary route maps, and facility locations to populate ESAPTT submissions.

The NTIA requires that CBO submit NEPA documents, permit applications, and other EHP materials via ESAPTT on behalf of subgrantees. All federal consultation documentation (e.g., IPaC species lists, Section 106 correspondence, and agency coordination records) must be included in ESAPTT submissions.

## 3.0 The Big Picture: EHP vs. NEPA

A distinction should be made between the regulatory framework established by NEPA and the project-specific environmental review and compliance activities referred to as EHP.

### 3.1 NEPA

Enacted in 1970, NEPA is a federal law that requires federal actions—including projects that are funded, authorized, or carried out by a federal agency—to comply with its provisions. All BEAD projects must undergo NEPA review and also comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), which requires consideration of potential impacts to historic properties.

#### 3.1.1 NEPA Classes of Action (Tracks)

Initially, each BEAD award will have its own NEPA Project Area. A NEPA Project Area is the geographic area in which project activities could result in environmental effects and within which environmental, biological, and cultural resources are evaluated for NEPA review. For awards covering multiple distinct geographical or jurisdictional

areas, the CBO may recommend multiple NEPA project areas within a single BEAD award to streamline review and avoid delays.

Every NEPA Project Area must go through one of three NEPA Classes of Action (i.e., "tracks") based on its potential impact:

1. **Categorical Exclusions (CatEx):** Actions that do not have a significant environmental effect. Most BEAD projects are expected to fall into this category.
2. **Environmental Assessment (EA):** Required if a project does not qualify for a CatEx. If after additional review, no significant impact is found, a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI) is issued.
3. **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** Required for projects expected to have significant environmental impacts.

The NTIA expects that most BEAD projects will qualify for federally-established categorical exclusions due to their limited environmental impacts and will be processed through an expedited review.

In all cases, the subgrantee is responsible for preparing NEPA documentation, subject to CBO oversight and in coordination with the NTIA. Subgrantees may, and are encouraged to, retain qualified NEPA or environmental consultants to assist in preparing the required documentation.

## 3.2 EHP

EHP is an umbrella term that describes the day-to-day activities required to evaluate and comply with applicable environmental and historic preservation laws, regulations, and executive orders.

### 3.2.1 EHP Requirements

Depending on the location and design of the project, there may be local, state, or federal EHP requirements related to ROW, water resources, protected species, cultural resources, public lands, and other environmental resources within Colorado,

that must be addressed during project review. While these considerations are not always required for NEPA compliance, they may be important for securing permits and approvals following NEPA review.

During the Initial NEPA Review Meeting (see Section 5.5), the CBO, subgrantee, and EHP consultants will evaluate the project to determine its EHP classification: Type 1 (No Impacts), Type 2 (Limited Impacts), or Type 3 (Potential Impacts).

### **3.2.2 EHP Project Types**

#### **3.2.2.1 Type 1 - No EHP Impacts**

Projects that fall under this category have no EHP impacts that require consultation for any portion of the project. The CBO EHP consultant and subgrantee's EHP consultant will discuss documentation requirements, if any.

#### **3.2.2.2 Type 2 - Limited EHP Impacts**

Projects that fall under this category have limited EHP impacts, and those impacts have already been addressed by existing federal or state decisions, including exclusions, program comments, or other exclusionary paths (e.g. nationwide permits, etc). The CBO EHP consultant and subgrantee's EHP consultant will discuss documentation requirements needed to support these exclusions, including concurrence documentation from state and federal partners.

#### **3.2.2.3 Type 3 - Potential EHP Impacts**

Projects that fall under this category have the potential to have environmental and historic preservation impacts and require additional review. The CBO EHP consultant, the subgrantee's EHP consultant, and federal and state partners will work closely to determine the most efficient regulatory path forward for the project. Considerations may include dividing the project into separate NEPA project areas to allow portions of the project to move forward more quickly, network design modifications to minimize EHP impacts, and gathering additional input from state and federal partners. Documentation requirements for these projects will be more extensive.

## 4.0 The Digital Toolkit

The CBO and subgrantees will use NTIA-administered tools throughout the EHP compliance process. Subgrantees and their EHP consultants should familiarize themselves with these tools and procedures to efficiently prepare NEPA and other regulatory documentation.

### 4.1 NTIA Guidance Tools

To assist subgrantees in navigating federal environmental requirements, NTIA offers specialized guidance and tools to support NEPA compliance and streamlined processes for Endangered Species Act consultation and Section 106 consultation under the NHPA at [NEPA Resources: General NEPA Guidance and Tools](#). These resources include standardized templates designed to improve application quality and accelerate the overall approval process.

In 2017, the NTIA's FirstNet prepared five regional [Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements](#) (PEIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of broadband deployment activities nationwide to support NEPA compliance. In July 2024, the NTIA adopted the PEIS to support tiered NEPA reviews for BEAD projects. In 2025, the [CBO reviewed and validated the Colorado chapter of the PEIS](#) to reflect current laws and regulations.

This allows BEAD projects to rely on the analysis already completed for the PEIS, provided that project-specific reviews are conducted.

### 4.2 APPEIT (ArcGIS Pro Tool)

As a first step in understanding the BEAD Program's EHP requirements, subgrantees should review the [NTIA's ArcGIS Pro Permitting and Environmental Information Tool \(APPEIT\) Project Package](#) developed by NTIA to screen project areas for potential environmental and permitting constraints. APPEIT is a GIS-based tool that provides access to publicly available federal and state environmental, cultural, and permitting datasets. APPEIT can help subgrantees and their EHP consultants:

- Identify areas that may require environmental review, agency coordination, or permits.
- Adjust routes and engineering approaches to avoid or minimize impacts to sensitive environmental and cultural resources.
- Incorporate NTIA-recommended mitigation measures and BMPs during project design.

Using APPEIT early in project planning can help subgrantees and their EHP consultants reduce the risk of potential delays or complications under NEPA, NHPA, ESA compliance, and other regulatory reviews. APPEIT provides a useful starting point for identifying environmental and regulatory considerations; however, it does not capture all resources or requirements (e.g., certain cultural or Tribal considerations). Subgrantees may still need to complete additional site-specific review and agency coordination as needed.

### 4.3 IPaC (USFWS ESA Screening Tool)

While the [Colorado Geospatial Portal](#) and APPEIT include the locations of critical habitat for federally threatened and endangered species, subgrantees should also use the [United States Fish and Wildlife Service \(USFWS\) Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\) tool](#) to identify federally listed species and critical habitat within the project area. The tool will generate an official species list and identify critical habitat that may be present in or near the project area. This output is required for ESA compliance and must be included in NEPA documentation.

Within IPaC, subgrantees may use ‘Determination Keys’ for ESA reviews for some BEAD projects. These are step-by-step tools that help evaluate whether a project may affect a listed species. If a Determination Key applies and the project meets its criteria, it can provide an official effect determination. If no Determination Key is available, or if the tool cannot fully resolve the effects, subgrantees will need to

coordinate directly with the appropriate Colorado USFWS Ecological Services Field Office.

## 4.4 Other GIS Mapping Tools

Additional tools for identifying resources and other considerations include Colorado websites, such as [the CBO Mapping Hub](#), the [Colorado Geospatial Portal](#), and the [Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division \(HMWMD\) Map Portal](#). These tools can also provide the base layers required for maps that must be submitted with the CatEx.

## 5.0 The Step-by-Step NEPA Compliance Process

Before starting this step-by-step NEPA Compliance Process, a project's certified network design and project description must be formally approved. A CBO grant manager will send an approval via Salesforce, signaling authorization to begin the NEPA Process.

### 5.1 Step 1: Submit EHP & Permitting Questionnaires to CBO

Subgrantees must complete the following documents and email them to [advance\\_CBO\\_NEPA@state.co.us](mailto:advance_CBO_NEPA@state.co.us).

1. **Colorado BEAD Project Description and EHP Screening Questionnaire** ([Attachment 1](#)). The questionnaire is based in part on information required by NTIA and is intended to identify potential ECs and applicable best management practices (BMPs) to support the NEPA review process.
2. **Colorado BEAD Permitting Questionnaire** ([Attachment 8](#)). The Preliminary Permit Application Volume and Readiness Description assists the CBO in anticipating permitting timelines, any federal consultations, and resource needs.



## 5.2 Step 2: Begin Internal Environmental Review

Subgrantees should provide the CBO-approved network design, project description, and applicable NEPA/EHP guidance to their EHP consultant to initiate environmental review.

## 5.3 Step 3: Request SHPO File Review

The subgrantee's consulting archaeologist must request a Class I file search through the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). File search results may take 4 weeks or more to be returned. Therefore, to inform the Initial NEPA Review Meeting, your consultant may conduct a preliminary (but incomplete) review using the [COMPASS database](#). Access to this system is restricted to SHPO-qualified consultants, who will use the database to identify documented historic and cultural resources within the project area. While a 0.25-mile buffer is standard for most reviews, expanded study areas of up to 1.0 mile may be required based on SHPO consultation or the presence of federal lands.

Once received, the SHPO file search results should be sent from the subgrantee's consultant directly to [andrew.mueller@hdrinc.com](mailto:andrew.mueller@hdrinc.com), the SHPO qualified archeologist for the CBO's EHP consultant. These restricted files may only be shared between qualified archaeologists; please do not include other recipients on this correspondence.

## 5.4 Step 4: Prepare Documents for Initial Review Meeting

Subgrantees should prepare a presentation with maps and figures for use during the meeting to facilitate an efficient review. Please upload completed documents to the portal and alert your grant manager once finished.

The subgrantee should be prepared to present and describe:

- The location of the project and limits of disturbance.



- Environmental and cultural resources within the project area and the Area of Potential Effect (APE).
- Tribal interests and agency coordination conducted to date.
- Proposed construction methods and timing.
- Anticipated federal, state, and local permits.
- Other relevant planned deployment activities.

See [Attachment 4](#) for a sample virtual kickoff meeting agenda.

## 5.5 Step 5: Schedule Initial NEPA Review Meeting

Once the subgrantee has completed an initial review, the subgrantee should schedule an initial NEPA review meeting with the CBO [via this calendar link](#).

The CBO has created a Google Appointment Calendar to give subgrantees more control and flexibility in choosing a meeting time that works best for the subgrantee and their consultants. All subgrantees are required to use the [CBO NEPA Google Appointment Calendar](#) to book the Initial NEPA Review Meeting.

**\*Meetings must be scheduled a minimum of 2 weeks after documents are submitted.**

## 5.6 Step 6: Conduct the Initial NEPA Review Meeting

At the initial NEPA Review Meeting, the CBO, the subgrantee, and the EHP consultants will review the project scope and design, potential for EHP impacts, and next steps in the EHP review process.

During the meeting, the CBO, the subgrantee, EHP consultants, and state and federal permitting partners (if appropriate) will:

- Review project description, design, and limits of disturbance.



- Identify environmental and cultural resource constraints.
- Discuss potential ECs.
- Review opportunities for streamlining review pathways.
- Identify avoidance and minimization measures.
- Identify required permits, coordination, and next steps.

At this meeting, the team will finalize the determination of EHP Project Type (see [Section 3.2.2](#)) and initiate the specific workflow and coordination requirements outlined below.

### **5.6.1 Type 1 - No EHP Impacts**

The CBO EHP consultant and subgrantee's EHP consultant will discuss documentation requirements, if any.

### **5.6.2 Type 2 - Limited EHP Impacts**

The CBO EHP consultant and subgrantee's EHP consultant will discuss documentation requirements needed to support these exclusions, including concurrence documentation from federal partners.

### **5.6.3 Type 3 - Potential EHP Impacts**

Documentation requirements for these projects will be more extensive. The CBO EHP consultant, subgrantee's EHP consultant and federal and state partners will work closely at a future meeting to determine the most efficient path forward for the project.

## **5.7 Step 7: Prepare & Submit Documentation**

The subgrantee's EHP consultant will prepare required documentation based on the EHP project type. The subgrantee should upload all materials to Salesforce and notify the CBO by emailing [advance\\_CBO\\_NEPA@state.co.us](mailto:advance_CBO_NEPA@state.co.us) once the submission is complete.



Depending on the project type, the CBO's EHP consultant may direct the subgrantee to:

- Complete the CatEx Worksheet ([Attachment 5](#)).
- Conduct field surveys (biological, cultural, aquatic).
- Perform additional agency coordination or consultation.

## **5.8 Step 8: Validate Project Documentation and Submit via ESAPTT**

The CBO and the CBO EHP consultant will review all submitted documentation for completeness and compliance. Upon satisfactory review, the CBO will submit the NEPA package to the NTIA via ESAPTT on behalf of the subgrantee.

If revisions are required, the CBO will coordinate with the subgrantee to address comments.

## **5.9 Step 9: Obtain NEPA Clearance**

The CBO will convey the NTIA's NEPA decision document by providing a Notice to Proceed to subgrantees. Ground-disturbing activities may not begin until NEPA approval has been issued and written authorization is provided by the CBO.

# **6.0 Environmental, Cultural, and Land Use Compliance Guidelines**

Depending on project location and design, various local, state, or federal EHP requirements may apply, including but not limited to regulations related to water and cultural resources, ROW, and protected species. While some of these requirements fall outside the direct scope of NEPA, compliance with them is necessary for securing required permits and approvals following the NEPA process.

The following sections provide information regarding the laws, processes, and tools subgrantees can use to identify resources, anticipate impacts, and support environmental review and permitting. This information should be used to develop comprehensive applicant project descriptions.

## **6.1 Water Resources and Wetlands**

### **6.1.1 Regulatory Framework**

The regulations outlined below require authorization prior to activities that discharge dredged or fill material into jurisdictional waters or otherwise alter regulated waterways.

#### **6.1.1.1 Clean Water Act (CWA) and Rivers and Harbors Act**

Section 404 of the CWA regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into WOTUS and is administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act applies to work in, over, or under traditionally navigable WOTUS.

In Colorado, BEAD projects most commonly trigger CWA Section 404 review when trenching, plowing, or culvert installation results in the discharge of dredged or fill material into jurisdictional WOTUS, including certain perennial streams, adjacent wetlands, and some intermittent tributaries. Crossings of ephemeral drainages, irrigation ditches, and roadside conveyances may not be federally jurisdictional depending on site-specific conditions and connectivity. Where ground disturbance extends beyond the existing maintained roadway prism or previously disturbed areas, early desktop review and, if required, a field delineation of potential wetlands and stream channels is recommended to determine federal jurisdiction and applicability of Section 404 and/or Colorado's Regulation 87 requirements (outlined below).

#### **6.1.1.2 Colorado's Regulation 87 (Colorado Dredge and Fill Program)**

Waters that do not qualify as WOTUS but meet the definition of "state waters" under Colorado law may be regulated under Regulation 87, administered by the Colorado's



Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) Water Quality Control Division. Regulation 87 establishes state-level permitting for impacts to waters and wetlands no longer under federal jurisdiction.

#### **6.1.1.3 Colorado Discharge Permit System**

Projects with a total land disturbance of one acre or greater require coverage under the Colorado Discharge Permit System General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity.

#### **6.1.1.4 Dewatering and Groundwater**

Surface water provides the majority of the state's water supply; only about 18 percent of groundwater is used for Colorado's water supply needs. Projects involving groundwater dewatering, trench dewatering discharge, or redirection of flows may require coordination with the Colorado Division of Water Resources and/or CDPHE depending on discharge characteristics.

### **6.1.2 Desktop Review & Mapping Resources**

#### **6.1.2.1 Clean Water Act and Colorado's Regulation 87**

A desktop review of [APPEIT](#), the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory interactive map ([Wetlands Mapper](#)), and the [Colorado Wetland Information Center Wetlands Mapper](#) allow subgrantees to view water resources in or adjacent to project areas and preliminarily assess potential impacts. However, these mapped datasets are screening-level resources only and do not replace a field-based aquatic resource delineation conducted in accordance with applicable federal and state methodologies. A formal delineation may be required to determine jurisdictional status under Section 404 of the CWA and/or applicability of Colorado's Regulation 87 prior to permitting.

#### **6.1.2.2 Dewatering and Groundwater**

Applicants should evaluate whether the project is located within a Source Water Protection Area or Wellhead Protection Area. Subgrantees may refer to the [Colorado Groundwater Atlas](#) and [Division of Water Resource](#) data portals.

### 6.1.2.3 Irrigation Districts

Irrigation ditches, canals, and associated infrastructure are common throughout Colorado and may be present within or adjacent to BEAD project areas. Subgrantees must identify irrigation features during project planning and coordinate with the appropriate ditch company, irrigation district, or water provider where project activities may cross, parallel, or otherwise affect these facilities. Coordination may be required to obtain crossing agreements, access permissions, or other approvals prior to construction.

Irrigation ditches and canals may also be considered “state waters” under Colorado law and could be subject to regulation under Regulation 87 (Colorado Dredge and Fill Program), depending on site-specific conditions.

Irrigation infrastructure may also qualify as historic properties under Section 106 of the NHPA, particularly those associated with early agricultural development or are part of larger historic districts. As such, irrigation ditches and canals should be evaluated during the cultural resources review to determine whether they are listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP.

## 6.2 Floodplains

### 6.2.1 Regulatory Framework

#### 6.2.1.1 National Flood Insurance Act

The National Flood Insurance Act established the National Flood Insurance Program that is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Executive Order 11988, in furtherance of the National Flood Insurance Act, as well as NEPA and the Flood Disaster Protection Act, directs agencies to determine if a proposed action occurs within a floodplain. If an action is permitted within a floodplain, agencies must take floodplain management into account when formulating or evaluating water and land use plans for these actions.

Project areas located within a mapped Special Flood Hazard Area, including the regulated floodway or 100-year floodplain, require review and approval by the local floodplain administrator. Construction in these areas typically requires a Floodplain Development Permit.

Because BEAD projects involve federal funding, compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) may also be required. This order directs federal agencies to avoid floodplain impacts where practicable and to minimize harm when avoidance is not feasible.

### **6.2.2 Desktop Review & Mapping Resources**

Subgrantees can find floodplain locations on Flood Insurance Rate Maps in [APPEIT](#), the [FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps via the Flood Map Service Center](#), and the [Colorado Hazard Mapping & Risk MAP Portal](#). The [Colorado Water Conservation Board](#) can assist in preparing for major flood events in Colorado, including coordination and providing flood-related information as necessary, but it does not issue local floodplain permits.

## **6.3 Biological Resources and Wildlife**

### **6.3.1 Regulatory Framework**

#### **6.3.1.1 Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)**

Section 7 of the ESA requires federal agencies to consult with the USFWS to evaluate the effects of federal actions on federally listed threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitat. Species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act may require separate compliance reviews if project activities could result in disturbance of migratory birds, bald or golden eagles, or active nests.

#### **6.3.1.2 Colorado Revised Statutes § 33-2-105**

In Colorado, state-listed threatened and endangered wildlife species are designated pursuant to C.R.S. § 33-2-105 and administered by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW).



Additionally, CPW may have state regulations that would be relevant to proposed activities that impact state-listed species, big game migration corridors and seasonal corridors, raptor nesting sites, and designated wildlife protection areas such as State Wildlife Areas and State Game Refuges.

Early coordination with CPW is recommended where impacts are anticipated, as State wildlife authorization processes may require review of project design, construction methods, and avoidance and minimization measures.

Subgrantees must include documentation of CPW coordination and any agreed-upon conservation measures in the applicable NEPA documentation.

### 6.3.1.3 CDPHE Environmental Authorizations and Permits

Subgrantees will also need to coordinate with CDPHE, which administers many state-level authorizations and permits applicable to broadband infrastructure projects.

Depending on project location and design, required authorizations and permits may include, but are not limited to:

- [Noxious Weed Management](#) Compliance (Colorado Noxious Weed Act), typically implemented at the county level.
- [Regulation 87—Colorado Dredge and Fill Program](#) (House Bill 24-1379), state dredge and fill permitting program to regulate discharges of dredged or fill material into state waters no longer covered by federal CWA jurisdiction.
- [Dewatering General Permit Program](#), for discharge of source water from remediation activities.
- [Construction Stormwater Discharge Permit](#), which authorizes the discharge of stormwater associated with construction activities.
- [Municipal separate storm sewer system \(MS4\) Permits](#) for discharges of urban stormwater into streams, rivers, and lakes.



### 6.3.2 Desktop Review & Mapping Resources

Subgrantees should coordinate with the CPW, and review available data through [CODEX](#) (Colorado Data Explorer), maintained by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP), to identify state-listed species occurrences, mapped habitats, conservation areas, and other sensitive wildlife resources that may occur within or adjacent to the NEPA project area.

CNHP data and CPW Species Activity Mapping tools may be used to support desktop screening; however, coordination with CPW may be necessary where projects could result in impacts to state-listed species, high priority habitats, or big game seasonal ranges. Early coordination with CPW is recommended where impacts are anticipated, as state wildlife authorization processes may require review of project design, construction methods, and avoidance and minimization measures.

An IPaC-generated species list and, where applicable, a consistency letter or determination document will state the anticipated effect determination (e.g., No Effect, May Affect-Not Likely to Adversely Affect, or May Affect-Likely to Adversely Affect) and identify conservation measures or commitments that must be implemented. The effect determination indicates whether further coordination or formal consultation with USFWS is required.

Subgrantees must include all IPaC-generated documentation (species list, consistency letter, determination outcomes, and conservation commitments) with the applicable NEPA documentation. Coordination should occur with the appropriate Colorado USFWS Ecological Services Field Office, as applicable. Subgrantees should reference the [NTIA Guide to Streamlined ESA Compliance](#).



## 6.4 Cultural Resources

### 6.4.1 Regulatory Framework

#### 6.4.1.1 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

Section 106 of the NHPA requires subgrantees of federal funds to identify historic properties (archaeological sites, historic buildings and structures) that may be adversely affected by their project and to avoid, minimize, or mitigate effects. BEAD subgrantees must have a qualified consultant prepare and perform the cultural resources review and coordination.

The Colorado SHPO provides a list of qualified consultants ([Historic Preservation Contractors](#)), a form for consultants to become qualified or to update qualification ([Colorado Historic Preservation Contractor's Listing](#)), and a link to resources for consultants ([Compliance](#)). The Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) manages data on cultural and historic resources and only SHPO-qualified consultants are allowed access to OAHP data and OAHP's online database ([COMPASS](#)).

#### 6.4.1.2 National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)

Historic properties are defined as any district, site, object, building, or structure that is included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), including aboveground buildings and structures and belowground archaeological sites.

### 6.4.2 Desktop Review & Mapping Resources

#### 6.4.2.1 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) has created an accelerated alternative to the standard Section 106 consultation process for broadband projects, including BEAD. For more information regarding the ACHP's guidelines for broadband projects, refer to the The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Program Comment for Federal Communications Projects and the Amendment to the Program Comment for Communications Projects on Federal Lands and Property in [Attachment 6](#).

CBO, in coordination with its cultural resource specialists, will determine whether the Program Comment is applicable prior to submittal to SHPO. If the Program Comment is determined not to apply, the project will follow the standard Section 106 review process and SHPO coordination requirements.

#### 6.4.2.2 National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)

The APPEIT includes a layer of currently listed [NRHP](#) properties based on data from the NPS. The APPEIT data is incomplete and doesn't include data on NRHP-eligible resources, which is managed at the state level.

## 6.5 Tribal Resources

### 6.5.1 Regulatory Framework & Resources

Section 106 of the NHPA also requires that federal agencies consult with Tribal nations when a project may affect sites of cultural significance to Native American communities.

After receiving the project area map and Area of Potential Effect (APE), CBO will enter information into ESAPTT, which serves as notification to the NTIA, which determines whether the project is located on or crosses Tribal lands. NTIA will inform CBO and the subgrantee whether a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer will act in lieu of SHPO or whether the Tribe will participate in the Section 106 review on the same basis as SHPO and advise the subgrantee on how to proceed. If applicable, subgrantees must submit Tribal Resolution(s) to Consent to deploy infrastructure on Tribal lands, consistent with requirements in the [NTIA BEAD Provisional Grantee Onboarding Guide](#).

For projects not on Tribal lands, NTIA will initiate government-to-government consultation with Tribes based on the project description, maps, and locational data uploaded to ESAPTT. Responses from Tribes who want to comment or be involved in consultation for specific projects will be uploaded back to ESAPTT. CBO will monitor these responses and provide additional information requested by Tribes and seek comments on the project.

## 6.6 Land Ownership and Right-of-Way Access

### 6.6.1 Regulatory Framework

#### 6.6.1.1 Federal Lands Policy and Management Act

The Federal Lands Policy and Management Act assigns the Secretary of the Interior the responsibility of establishing guidelines for ROW boundaries and uses on federal lands. To access federal land, subgrantees must obtain 1) a ROW grant, 2) a special use authorization, or 3) an easement from the applicable land management agency.

Federal lands in Colorado commonly include those administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), National Park Service (NPS), USFWS, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and the USACE. Each agency maintains its own regulations, application procedures, cost recovery requirements, and timelines.

For projects crossing lands managed by the BLM or USFS, subgrantees generally submit [Standard Form 299](#) (Application for Transportation and Utility Systems and Facilities on Federal Lands). Additional supporting documentation may include detailed construction plans, restoration plans, biological resource surveys, and cultural resource inventories.

Subgrantees should initiate early coordination with the appropriate federal field office (e.g., BLM Field Office, USFS Ranger District) where projects cross federal lands in Colorado, as federal ROW processing timelines can be extensive.

#### 6.6.1.2 Colorado State Land Board

State trust lands in Colorado are managed by the [Colorado State Land Board](#). The State Land Board is directed to “produce reasonable and consistent income over time, and to recognize that economic productivity and sound stewardship of such lands includes protecting and enhancing the beauty, natural values, open space, and wildlife habitat thereof” (Colorado Constitution Amendment 16).

Subgrantees must obtain a lease or ROW agreement, as applicable, with the State Land Board prior to any ground disturbance, access, or development. Trust lands are

closed to all entry or use without written permission from the State Land Board. The State Land Board is also required by the state constitution to comply with all local land use regulations, and subgrantees' use of state land will be subject to any pertinent local county governments, including 1041 Permit regulations where applicable.

#### **6.6.1.3 Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)**

Work in state transportation ROW boundaries may require authorization from the CDOT. CDOT administers utility and special use permits for installation of fiber optic lines, conduit, poles, vaults, access roads, and related infrastructure within state highway ROW.

#### **6.6.1.4 Local Regulations**

Subgrantees must review local regulations and ordinances for each NEPA project area location. Municipalities and counties may have different procedures for requesting access to ROW, and certain areas may have unusual conditions, such as special flood hazard areas or local wildlife or habitat protection ordinances.

Subgrantees must also evaluate whether local land use approvals, zoning clearances, design review, building permits, traffic control permits, or floodplain development permits are required. Additional coordination may be necessary for projects located within open space areas, conservation easements, or scenic corridors.

The following local permits and approvals may be required:

- Land use approvals
- Zoning clearances
- Design review
- Building permits
- Traffic control permits



- Floodplain development permits

It is also important that subgrantees consider any possible impacts on community resources and public facilities, including schools, churches, parks, and emergency services. Notice and coordination with these facilities near project areas is recommended and may be required under certain circumstances. This will be especially important for Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs), and coordination with CBO is advised.

### **6.6.2 Desktop Review & Mapping Resources**

BEAD project applicants must identify land ownership and jurisdiction within NEPA project areas. In addition to APPEIT, subgrantees can use the interactive map at [USA Federal Lands](#) to identify federally managed land and determine which agency is responsible for managing those lands.

If access to or crossing federal lands is required to complete a project, subgrantees should coordinate with the appropriate managing agency to obtain a ROW permit or Special Use Authorization. In July 2024, federal agencies met to provide guidance about navigating the NEPA process for BEAD Program subgrantees. A second summit was held in January 2026 and presented updates to ROW permitting procedures and points of contact. The full list of 2024 and 2026 presentations can be found at the [Federal Interagency Broadband Permitting Summit](#) page on the NTIA website. Subgrantees should review the applicable agency presentation materials for submission procedures.

#### **6.6.2.1 Colorado State Land Board**

Applicants are responsible for independently verifying whether a proposed alignment crosses State Trust Lands or associated easements using the CBO Spatial Data Portal, [Colorado Ownership, Management, and Protection dataset](#), County assessor GIS portals, and [State Land Board GIS data](#).

In addition, the Colorado State Land Board manages ROW on state trust lands in a manner that minimizes encumbrances while preserving long-term real estate value, protecting natural values, allowing multiple uses and achieving appropriate returns. The State Land Board's [GIS Map Server](#) can be used to locate state trust land.

#### 6.6.2.2 CDOT

Most broadband installations within CDOT ROW require submission of a [CDOT Utility and Special Use Permit](#) along with project plans and, where applicable, a Traffic Control Plan. Subgrantees should coordinate early with the appropriate CDOT Region Utilities Office to confirm permitting requirements, plan submittal expectations, bonding requirements, restoration standards, and potential pavement moratorium restrictions. Subgrantees must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with applicable federal and state environmental regulations as part of the CDOT Utility and Special Use Permit application package. Expected turnaround times for complete applications can take up to 45 days, depending on project complexity and region.

#### 6.6.2.3 Local

Because local requirements vary across Colorado jurisdictions, early coordination with municipal or county planning, public works, and permitting staff is strongly encouraged. Refer to the municipality or township's website for more information about obtaining necessary local permits.

## 6.7 Soils and Farmland

### 6.7.1 Regulatory Framework

#### 6.7.1.1 Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)

The [FPPA](#) intends to reduce the amount of farmland converted to non-agricultural use; it defines farmland in two ways: as prime and unique farmland and as farmland of statewide or local importance. If a project may irreversibly convert farmland, whether directly or indirectly, subgrantees must complete and submit a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form ([AD-1066](#)) to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) during the NEPA process. Some linear



utility projects located within existing roadway ROW may qualify for exemption; however, applicants must coordinate with NRCS to confirm applicability.

### **6.7.2 Desktop Review & Mapping Resources**

Subgrantees can upload a project area to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's [Web Soil Survey](#), which generates a report that identifies and describes the type of soil and any characteristics of that soil type. Soil types and characteristics should be considered for impacts such as erosion, compaction, rutting, and topsoil mixing. Impacts may be avoided or minimized through implementation of BMPs, erosion and sediment control plans, and compliance with the CDPHE Construction Stormwater General Permit where disturbance exceeds one acre.

## **6.8 Geology**

### **6.8.1 Regulatory Framework**

Colorado is separated into three physiographic regions. Eastern Colorado is within the Interior Plains Region (Great Plains Province), central Colorado is within the Rocky Mountain System (Southern Rocky Mountains, Wyoming Basin, and Middle Rocky Mountains Provinces), and western Colorado is within the Intermontane Plateaus Region (Colorado Plateaus Province). Differences in these regions may help subgrantees anticipate certain challenges or impacts.

Colorado's major geologic hazards of concern are earthquakes, landslides, and land subsidence. The Dotsero Volcanic Center in central Colorado was active between 3,800 and 5,500 years ago and therefore is not currently a hazard in the state. Earthquakes are most likely to be a hazard in the west and northwest portions of the state and landslides are most common on the western side of the state, particularly along the Rocky Mountains. Land subsidence in Colorado is most often due to collapsible soils, mine subsidence, and karst topography.

BEAD projects that occur within previously disturbed roadway corridors or other disturbed areas typically present lower geologic risk. However, alignments crossing

steep slopes, undeveloped terrain, or mining districts (historic and modern) should incorporate a desktop geologic hazard review early in project planning to avoid redesign, safety issues, or schedule delays.

### **6.8.2 Desktop Review and Mapping Resources**

The Colorado Geological Survey has a repository of geology mapping, including a landslide inventory that may be useful to subgrantees ([Colorado Geological Survey | GIS Data and Web Map Portal](#)).

## **6.9 Hazardous Waste and Contamination**

### **6.9.1 Regulatory Framework**

Projects completed as part of the BEAD Program are not expected to generate hazardous waste. However, waste may be encountered during construction due to groundwater conveyance of contaminated water and soil. Contaminated water and soil from sites like landfills or redeveloped brownfields may pose a risk to workers. Contact with contaminated materials can cause skin irritation, lung and heart issues, cancer, and birth defects. If contamination is encountered, work may need to pause pending characterization and proper disposal in accordance with state and federal regulations.

### **6.9.2 Desktop Review and Mapping Resources**

Subgrantees can view a list of Colorado's contaminated sites at the [Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division Map Portal and Records Search Tool](#).

Additionally, the [Environmental Protection Agency's EnviroAtlas](#) contains environmental data, including contaminated water sources that may be encountered during project construction.

## **6.10 Visual Resources**

### **6.10.1 Regulatory Framework & Resources**

Visual resources in Colorado include parks and recreation areas, state and national scenic byways, historic districts and properties, and BLM Visual Resources



Management areas. Projects should avoid or minimize impacts on visual resources in or adjacent to the project area, in accordance with NEPA and NHPA. Visual resource evaluation should be coordinated with the development of the APE under Section 106 when historic properties are present. When avoidance is not practicable, subgrantees should implement appropriate BMPs, design modifications, and mitigation measures to minimize visual impacts to the extent feasible.

## 6.11 Airspace and Airports

### 6.11.1 Regulatory Framework & Resources

Subgrantees should consider whether projects involving structures more than 200 feet in height will impact airspace and airport operations. To determine whether the structure is a hazard, the Federal Aviation Administration may conduct an Obstruction Evaluation/Airport Airspace Analysis and file a [FAA Form 7460-1](#). Refer to the FAA's [Obstruction Evaluation/Airport Airspace Analysis](#) for more information.

Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S) Title 41 regulates airports and potential hazards to airports and air space; additionally, local municipalities may have zoning and regulations that require consideration. Military airspace is also present near military installations throughout Colorado and may require special consideration including review by the Department of Defense (DoD) Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse. Refer to [DoD Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse](#) for more information.

## Supplement A: NEPA Guidebook Reference Table

| Topic  | Explanation  | Reference   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>General BEAD Guidance and Tools</b>                                 |  |   |
| General Terms and Conditions for NTIA BEAD Program Funds               | Outlines the requirements subgrantees must follow  | <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2026-02/BEAD_GTCs_Nov_18_2025.pdf">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2026-02/BEAD_GTCs_Nov_18_2025.pdf</a>   |
| NEPA Resources: General NEPA Guidance and Tools                        | NTIA - Guidance on NTIA National Environmental Policy Act Compliance                                     | <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/NTIA_NEPA_Procedures_June_2025.pdf">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/NTIA_NEPA_Procedures_June_2025.pdf</a>   |
| BEAD Guidance on NEPA and NHPA for LEO Satellite Service               | Provides guidance specific to projects using LEO satellite infrastructure                                | <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-10/NTIA_BEAD_LEO_Guidance_Oct_2025.pdf">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-10/NTIA_BEAD_LEO_Guidance_Oct_2025.pdf</a>   |
| Presentations from the Federal Interagency Broadband Permitting Summit | Presentation and Session Recording Links:<br>Phoenix, AZ July 23 - 24, 2024<br>Virtual, January 29, 2026 | <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/events/latest-events/federal-interagency-broadband-permitting-summit-hosted-blm-and-ntia">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/events/latest-events/federal-interagency-broadband-permitting-summit-hosted-blm-and-ntia</a> |
| NTIA's Best Management Practices and Mitigation Measures               | This guide provides examples of best management practices  | <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/EHP_NTIA_BMPs_and_Mitigation_Measures_2025.pdf">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/EHP_NTIA_BMPs_and_Mitigation_Measures_2025.pdf</a>                             |



| Topic  | Explanation  | Reference   |
|--|--|---|
|  | (BMPs) and mitigation measures to help grant recipients (subgrantees) avoid or minimize potential impacts during the construction, deployment, and operation of NTIA funded broadband projects |   |
| Noxious Weed Management in Colorado                  | Contains Noxious Weed Management Strategies and Resources  | <a href="https://ag.colorado.gov/conservation/noxious-weed/s/noxious-weed-management-in-colorado">https://ag.colorado.gov/conservation/noxious-weed/s/noxious-weed-management-in-colorado</a> |
| <b>Permits</b>                                       |  |   |
| CDPHE Regulation 87 Colorado Dredge and Fill Program | Regulate discharges of dredge or fill material into state waters   | <a href="https://cdphe.colorado.gov/dredge-and-fill">https://cdphe.colorado.gov/dredge-and-fill</a>   |
| CDPHE Section 401 Water Quality Certification        | Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act for projects or actions applicable to the provisions of the Colorado 401 Certification Regulation (No. 82: 5 CCR 1002-82)                           | <a href="https://cdphe.colorado.gov/401-Certification">https://cdphe.colorado.gov/401-Certification</a>   |



| Topic  | Explanation  | Reference   |
|--|--|---|
|  | Section 401 is generally incorporated into the nationwide permit program and would only be triggered under special conditions listed above, or if an individual permit is triggered for impacts over 0.50 acre |   |
| CDPHE Dewatering General Permit Program        | For discharge of source water from remediation activities  | <a href="https://cdphe.colorado.gov/dewatering-general-permit-program">https://cdphe.colorado.gov/dewatering-general-permit-program</a> |
| CDPHE Construction Stormwater Discharge Permit | COR400000 Construction Stormwater Discharge Permits required for the discharge of stormwater associated with construction activities   | <a href="https://cdphe.colorado.gov/cor400000-stormwater-discharge">https://cdphe.colorado.gov/cor400000-stormwater-discharge</a>       |
| CDPHE MS4 Permits                              | Municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permits are issued for discharges of   | <a href="https://cdphe.colorado.gov/wq-municipal-ms4-general-permits">https://cdphe.colorado.gov/wq-municipal-ms4-general-permits</a>   |



| Topic  | Explanation  | Reference   |
|--|--|---|
|  | urban stormwater into streams, rivers, and lakes   |   |
| CDOT Utility and Special Use Permit                        | Guidance and forms on requesting a permit for work within state highway ROW                            | <a href="#">Utility &amp; Special Use Program – Colorado Department of Transportation</a>   |
| <b>NEPA Documentation</b>                                  |  |   |
| Tiered Environmental Assessment (EA) Guidance and Template | EA Template developed by NTIA  | <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/technical-assistance/NTIA_Tiered_EA_Guidance_and_Template">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/technical-assistance/NTIA_Tiered_EA_Guidance_and_Template</a>   |
| NEPA Resources: General NEPA Guidance and Tools.           | NTIA guidance documents  | <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/broadband-equity-access-and-deployment-bead-program#generalnepa">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/broadband-equity-access-and-deployment-bead-program#generalnepa</a> |
| <b>Land Use and ROW Authorizations</b>                     |  |   |
| Standard Form 299  | A generic form that subgrantees must submit to each federal department whose lands they need to access | <a href="https://www.gsa.gov/system/files/2024-05/SF299-23.pdf">https://www.gsa.gov/system/files/2024-05/SF299-23.pdf</a>   |



| Topic                                       | Explanation   | Reference   |
|---|---|---|
| Federal Highway Administration presentation | Presentation on the submission of ROW use authorization permits | <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/FHWA_NTIA-BLM_Federal_Interagency_Broadband_Permitting_Summit_Slides.pdf">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/FHWA_NTIA-BLM_Federal_Interagency_Broadband_Permitting_Summit_Slides.pdf</a>                     |
| USFS presentation                           | Presentation on the submission of ROW use authorization permits | <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/Forest_Service_NTIA-BLM_Federal_Interagency_Broadband_Permitting_Summit_Slides.pdf">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/Forest_Service_NTIA-BLM_Federal_Interagency_Broadband_Permitting_Summit_Slides.pdf</a> |
| USFWS presentation                          | Presentation on the submission of ROW use authorization permits | <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/FWS_NTIA-BLM_Federal_Interagency_Broadband_Permitting_Summit_Slides.pdf">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/FWS_NTIA-BLM_Federal_Interagency_Broadband_Permitting_Summit_Slides.pdf</a>                       |
| NPS presentation                            | Presentation on the submission of ROW use authorization permits | <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/NPS_NTIA-BLM_Federal_Interagency_Broadband_Permitting_Summit_Slides.pdf">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/NPS_NTIA-BLM_Federal_Interagency_Broadband_Permitting_Summit_Slides.pdf</a>                       |
| USACE presentation                          | Presentation on the submission of ROW use authorization permits | <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/USACE_NTIA-BLM_Federal_Interagency_Broadband_Permitting_Summit_Slides.pdf">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/USACE_NTIA-BLM_Federal_Interagency_Broadband_Permitting_Summit_Slides.pdf</a>                   |

## GIS and Mapping Resources

|        |  |   |
|--------|--|---|
| APPEIT | A tool that subgrantees can use to identify resources in or adjacent to project areas; subgrantees can | <a href="https://nbam.ntia.gov/content/37fa42c6313e4bdb9d8a9c05d2624891/about">https://nbam.ntia.gov/content/37fa42c6313e4bdb9d8a9c05d2624891/about</a> |
|--------|--|---|



| Topic                      | Explanation   | Reference   |
|----------------------------|---|---|
|                            | access the tool during project planning to avoid impacts  |   |
| GIS Map Server             | Use to locate state trust land  | <a href="https://slb.colorado.gov/maps">https://slb.colorado.gov/maps</a>                     |
| CBO Mapping Hub            | A variety of data & mapping resources from CBO such as dashboards, maps and open data for download  | <a href="https://broadbandhub.colorado.gov/#data">https://broadbandhub.colorado.gov/#data</a> |
| Colorado Geospatial Portal | Geospatial datasets, including land ownership, transportation, hydrography, administrative boundaries, natural resources, and environmental data layers | <a href="https://geodata.colorado.gov/">https://geodata.colorado.gov/</a>                     |
| HMWMD Map Portal           | The Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division designed the HMWMD Map Portal and Records Search Tool to  | <a href="https://cdphe.colorado.gov/hm/gis-data">https://cdphe.colorado.gov/hm/gis-data</a>   |



| Topic                                       | Explanation  | Reference   |
|---|--|---|
|   | provide an easy way to find facilities and their HMWMD records   |   |
| HMWMD Map Portal and Records Search Tool    | Online database providing information on environmental use restrictions, hazardous materials incidents, superfund sites, and other related hazardous materials information | <a href="https://cdphe.colorado.gov/hm/gis-data">https://cdphe.colorado.gov/hm/gis-data</a>   |
| CNHP Noxious Weed Inventory                 | Resource to identify location of noxious weeds   | <a href="https://cnhp.colostate.edu/projects/noxious-weed-inventory/">https://cnhp.colostate.edu/projects/noxious-weed-inventory/</a> |
| Environmental Protection Agency EnviroAtlas | GIS resources showing information on hazardous waste sites—subgrantees may use the tool to determine the presence of such sites within or near their projects              | <a href="https://enviroatlas.epa.gov/enviroatlas/interactive-map/">https://enviroatlas.epa.gov/enviroatlas/interactive-map/</a>       |



| Topic   | Explanation  | Reference   |
|---|--|---|
| Colorado State Land Board                           | Contains ROW information and a link to the State Land Board's GIS Map Server   | <a href="https://slb.colorado.gov/lease/rights-of-way">https://slb.colorado.gov/lease/rights-of-way</a>   |
| USFWS National Wetlands Inventory interactive map   | GIS tool showing riverine and wetland locations—subgrantees may use the tool to determine whether their projects may cross wetlands              | <a href="https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory/wetlands-mapper">https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory/wetlands-mapper</a> |
| Colorado Wetland Information Center Wetlands Mapper | GIS tool showing wetland and waterbody locations—subgrantees may use the tool to determine whether their projects may cross wetlands/waterbodies | <a href="https://cnhp.colostate.edu/cwic/tools/mapper/">https://cnhp.colostate.edu/cwic/tools/mapper/</a>   |
| FEMA Flood Map Service Center                       | Maps showing flood hazard layers—subgrantees may search by address to determine whether their projects fall within a floodplain                  | <a href="https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home">https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home</a>   |



| Topic  | Explanation   | Reference   |
|--|---|---|
| Colorado Hazard Mapping & Risk MAP Portal              | Maps showing flood hazard layers—subgrantees may search by address to determine whether their projects fall within a floodplain   | <a href="https://coloradohazardmapping.com/">https://coloradohazardmapping.com/</a>   |
| USA Federal Lands                                      | GIS tool showing federal lands managed by six federal agencies that may involve environmental and permitting requirements   | <a href="https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=5e92f2e0930848faa40480bcb4fdc44e">https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=5e92f2e0930848faa40480bcb4fdc44e</a>                               |
| Colorado Ownership, Management, and Protection dataset | GIS tool showing open spaces, natural areas, parks and conservation easements within Colorado   | <a href="https://cnhp.colostate.edu/projects/comap/">https://cnhp.colostate.edu/projects/comap/</a>   |
| USACE Waterway Networks                                | GIS tool showing navigable waterways and channels in and around the US - subgrantees may use the tool to determine if their projects may be subject to USACE jurisdiction | <a href="https://geospatial-usace.opendata.arcgis.com/maps/ace7645d305647448a84492a3b909d48/about">https://geospatial-usace.opendata.arcgis.com/maps/ace7645d305647448a84492a3b909d48/about</a> |



| Topic  | Explanation   | Reference   |
|--|---|---|
| Colorado Geological Survey   GIS Data and Web Map Portal | Database of Colorado geological maps and GIS data including landslide inventory | <a href="https://coloradogeologicalsurvey.org/geology/gis-data-map-portal/">https://coloradogeologicalsurvey.org/geology/gis-data-map-portal/</a> |

## Biological Resources

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| USFWS <a href="#">IPaC</a> tool            | Use to identify the potential presence of protected species or critical habitat that may be present in or near the project area                    | <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/</a>   |
| CODEX: Colorado Conservation Data Explorer | CODEX provides spatial data on sensitive species occurrences, conservation areas, wetlands, and other natural resource information within Colorado | <a href="https://codex.cnhp.colostate.edu/">https://codex.cnhp.colostate.edu/</a>   |
| CPW Species Activity Mapping               | Sensitive species range, important wildlife habitats, big game seasonal ranges   | <a href="https://geodata.colorado.gov/maps/CPW::cpwspeciesdata/about">https://geodata.colorado.gov/maps/CPW::cpwspeciesdata/about</a> |

## Historic, Archaeological, and Cultural Resources



| Topic         | Explanation  | Reference   |
|---------------|--|---|
| Colorado SHPO | Online list of current cultural resource consultants who have applied to the state and meet federal and state qualifications to survey and record cultural resources in Colorado. Subgrantees may refer to the list to find cultural resource consultants in their geographic area | <a href="https://www.historycolorado.org/historic-preservation-contractors">https://www.historycolorado.org/historic-preservation-contractors</a>   |
| Colorado SHPO | Online form for cultural resource contractors to apply to the list or make modifications to the list of qualified cultural resource consultants  | <a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeVgeO3HtAY3ylfEio4Mo-pb8bgTs6zRzsnoOUvhVS7J1ldQ/viewform">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeVgeO3HtAY3ylfEio4Mo-pb8bgTs6zRzsnoOUvhVS7J1ldQ/viewform</a> |
| Colorado OAHP | Guidance and forms from Colorado OAHP for cultural resource work in Colorado; includes resources for   | <a href="https://sites.google.com/state.co.us/oahp-resource-center/compliance">https://sites.google.com/state.co.us/oahp-resource-center/compliance</a>   |



| Topic         | Explanation  | Reference   |
|---------------|--|---|
|               | Colorado SHPO consultation process   |   |
| Colorado OAHP | Compass is a GIS tool providing data on recorded cultural resources, including precontact and historical sites and historic properties, and surveys within the state of Colorado; note that access is restricted to authorized users, and users must submit an online application and pay a fee to use Compass | <a href="https://gis.colorado.gov/compass_oahp/">https://gis.colorado.gov/compass_oahp/</a>   |
| NRHP Map      | GIS tool showing historic properties and historic districts listed on the NRHP; subgrantees may use the tool to determine the presence of such resources within or near their  | <a href="https://www.nps.gov/maps/full.html?mapId=7ad17cc9-b808-4ff8-a2f9-a99909164466">https://www.nps.gov/maps/full.html?mapId=7ad17cc9-b808-4ff8-a2f9-a99909164466</a> |



| Topic                                     | Explanation   | Reference   |
|---|---|---|
|   | potential projects, and potential impacts would require evaluation  |   |
| NHPA Section 106 Streamlining             | Guidance on applying the ACHP Program Comment to broadband projects as a streamlining measure, including a flowchart showing the steps in the process | <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/The_Advisory_Council_on_Historic_Preservation.pdf">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/The_Advisory_Council_on_Historic_Preservation.pdf</a>   |
| NHPA Section 106 Streamlining             | The ACHP Program Comment for broadband projects, which is meant to accelerate Section 106 reviews for broadband projects                              | <a href="https://www.achp.gov/sites/default/files/program_comments/2024-04/Communications%20Project%20PC%20amendment%20-%2020240313%20letterhead_SIGNED.pdf">https://www.achp.gov/sites/default/files/program_comments/2024-04/Communications%20Project%20PC%20amendment%20-%2020240313%20letterhead_SIGNED.pdf</a>                     |
| Tower Construction Notification to Tribes | Guidance regarding the FCC Tower Construction Notification System, used to notify federally recognized tribes about tower construction projects       | <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/NTIA_Tribal_Notification_FCC_Tower_Construction_Notification_NTIA-BLM_Permitting_Summit_Slides.pdf">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/NTIA_Tribal_Notification_FCC_Tower_Construction_Notification_NTIA-BLM_Permitting_Summit_Slides.pdf</a> |



| Topic                                   | Explanation   | Reference   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Other Resources</b>                  |   |   |
| Web Soil Survey                         | NRCS database that identifies and describes the type of soil and any characteristics of that soil type in an area             | <a href="https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/">https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/</a>   |
| Farmland Protection Policy Act          | Information about the FPPA  | <a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/land/cropland/farmland-protection-policy-act">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/land/cropland/farmland-protection-policy-act</a> |
| Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form  | Subgrantees must complete and submit this form if a project may irreversibly convert farmland, whether directly or indirectly | <a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/ad-1006.pdf">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/ad-1006.pdf</a>   |
| Colorado Groundwater Atlas              | Repository of information on groundwater systems in Colorado  | <a href="https://coloradogeologicalsurvey.org/water/colorado-groundwater-atlas/">https://coloradogeologicalsurvey.org/water/colorado-groundwater-atlas/</a>   |
| Division of Water Resources Data Portal | Data portal providing information on water resources in Colorado  | <a href="https://dwr.colorado.gov/services/data-information">https://dwr.colorado.gov/services/data-information</a>   |



| Topic   | Explanation   | Reference   |
|---|---|---|
| Federal Aviation Administration - Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration | Form submitted for construction near airports   | <a href="https://www.faa.gov/forms/index.cfm/go/document.information/documentid/186273">https://www.faa.gov/forms/index.cfm/go/document.information/documentid/186273</a> |
| Obstruction Evaluation/Airport Airspace Analysis                                | FAA guidance for structures to determine potential impacts to airspace and airport operations                       | <a href="https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/oe3a/main/#/home">https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/oe3a/main/#/home</a>   |
| Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse               | Provides information on potential required review for projects near military installations                          | <a href="https://www.dodclearinghouse.osd.mil/">https://www.dodclearinghouse.osd.mil/</a>   |
| Colorado Water Conservation Board Flood Preparedness & Response                 | Website describing services provided by the state of Colorado assist in flood hazard damage mitigation and recovery | <a href="https://cwcb.colorado.gov/flood-preparedness-response">https://cwcb.colorado.gov/flood-preparedness-response</a>   |



## Supplement B: Acronyms and Abbreviations

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| ACHP   | Advisory Council on Historic Preservation                |
| APE    | Area of Potential Effects                                |
| APPEIT | ArcGIS Pro Permitting and Environmental Information Tool |
| BEAD   | Broadband Equity Access and Deployment                   |
| BLM    | Bureau of Land Management                                |
| BMP    | Best Management Practice                                 |
| BSL    | Broadband Service Location                               |
| CAI    | Community Anchor Institution                             |
| CatEx  | Categorical Exclusion                                    |
| CBO    | Colorado Broadband Office                                |
| CDOT   | Colorado Department of Transportation                    |
| CDPHE  | Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment     |
| CNHP   | Colorado Natural Heritage Program                        |
| CODEX  | Colorado Data Explorer                                   |
| CPW    | Colorado Parks and Wildlife                              |
| CWA    | Clean Water Act  |
| DoD    | Department of Defense                                    |
| EA     | Environmental Assessment                                 |
| ECs    | Extraordinary Circumstances                              |
| EHP    | Environmental/Historic Preservation                      |
| EIS    | Environmental Impact Statement                           |
| ESA    | Endangered Species Act                                   |
| ESAPTT | Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool     |
| FCC    | Federal Communications Commission                        |



|          |  |
|----------|--|
| FEMA     | Federal Emergency Management Act                           |
| FirstNet | First Responder Network Authority                          |
| FPPA     | Farmland Protection Policy Act                             |
| GIS      | Geographic Information System                              |
| HMWMD    | Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division          |
| IPaC     | Information for Planning and Consultation                  |
| LEO      | Low-Earth Orbit  |
| MS4      | Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System                      |
| NEPA     | National Environmental Policy Act                          |
| NHPA     | National Historic Preservation Act                         |
| NPS      | National Park Service                                      |
| NRCS     | Natural Resources Conservation Service                     |
| NRHP     | National Register of Historic Places                       |
| NTIA     | National Telecommunications and Information Administration |
| OAHP     | Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation            |
| PEIS     | Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement                |
| ROW      | Right-of-Way   |
| SHPO     | State Historic Preservation Office                         |
| U.S.     | United States  |
| USACE    | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers                               |
| USFWS    | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service                             |
| USFS     | U.S. Forest Service  |
| WOTUS    | Waters of the United States                                |



## Attachment 1: Colorado BEAD Project Description and EHP Screening Questionnaire

Please download the [Colorado BEAD Project Description and EHP Screening Questionnaire](#). Once completed email the form to [advance\\_cbo\\_NEPA@state.co.us](mailto:advance_cbo_NEPA@state.co.us).



## Attachment 2: List of Categorical Exclusions (CatEx)

Review the [list of Categorical Exclusions](#) designed to accelerate BEAD broadband deployment by bypassing the need for full Environmental Assessments (EA) or Impact Statements (EIS).



## Attachment 3: EHP Process Flowchart





## Attachment 4: Sample EHP Virtual Kickoff Meeting Agenda

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Project: Subgrantee, Name, CBO Project Number(s)

Subject: Virtual Kick Off Meeting

Date: TBD

Location: Teams or Google Meet (one hour in length)

Attendees: CBO Team, Subgrantee Team

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1. Introductions
  - a. CBO office
  - b. CBO consultants (HDR, KPMG)
  - c. Subgrantee Team, including consultants
2. CBO BEAD Program Goals and Objectives (CBO)
3. Project Presentation (Subgrantee Team) - (copy Section 3 to add additional projects)
  - a. Project description
  - b. Maps showing: NEPA project area, proposed route, land ownership, environmental & cultural resources
  - c. Need for right-of-way, easements, etc. (permanent & temporary)
  - d. Proposed construction methods (including proposed staging and access roads, if needed)
  - e. Anticipated permits (federal, state, local)
  - f. Milestone schedule
4. Any Extraordinary Circumstances present?
5. Likely NEPA Pathway (CatEx, EA or EIS)
6. Field work or data needs?
7. Q&A
8. Action Items and Next Steps



## Attachment 5: BEAD EHP Categorical Exclusion Worksheet

If applicable, please download the [Colorado BEAD EHP Categorical Exclusion Worksheet](#). Once completed email the form to [advance\\_cbo\\_NEPA@state.co.us](mailto:advance_cbo_NEPA@state.co.us).

Please note: Determination of whether or not this worksheet is necessary will occur in [Step 6](#) of the NEPA Compliance Process.



## Attachment 6: Section 106 Program Comment Information

Review the [Amendment to the Program Comment for Communications Projects on Federal Lands and Property](#) and the [Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Program Comment for Federal Communications Projects Flowchart](#).



## Attachment 7: NTIA Section 106 Program Comment Documentation Form

The [Program Comment for Federal Communications Projects NTIA Section 106 Documentation Form](#) allows grant recipients to utilize the Program Comment for Communications Projects (effective Jan 1, 2024-Dec 31, 2030) to expedite historic preservation reviews for broadband projects, including BEAD. It streamlines Section 106 by enabling qualified professionals to document exemptions, avoiding traditional, lengthy consultation procedures.



## Attachment 8: Colorado BEAD Permitting Questionnaire

The [Colorado BEAD Permitting Questionnaire](#) assists the CBO in anticipating permitting timelines, any federal consultations, and resource needs.



## Attachment 9: Federal Permitting Presentations to Review

### Federal Interagency Broadband Permitting Summit - January 2026

This [virtual summit](#) updated broadband project stakeholders on the latest changes to federal permitting rules since the NTIA/BLM Federal Interagency Broadband Permitting Summit held in 2024.

The [agenda](#) has links to all presentations and panel discussions.

### Federal Interagency Broadband Permitting Summit Hosted by BLM and NTIA - July 2024

The [in-person summit](#) provided key permitting updates from representatives across several federal agencies, including:

- Land & Resource Management: BLM, US Forest Service, NPS, Fish and Wildlife, and Bureau of Reclamation.
- Infrastructure & Utilities: USACE, FHWA, and the Rural Utilities Service.
- Advisory & Specialist Groups: FPISC, BIA, ACHP, and the Appraisal and Valuation Services Office.

The NTIA also reviewed NEPA compliance requirements specifically for BEAD and other IFA grant programs.

The [agenda](#) has links to all presentations.