

## **Technical Report: Paleontological Resources**

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### **PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

On November 12, 2002, the CDOT Staff Paleontologist conducted an on-the-ground reconnaissance for paleontological resources for the area potentially disturbed by the project. The geologic units present in this area are, from youngest to oldest, the Holocene Piney Creek Alluvium, the late Pleistocene Broadway Alluvium, and the Late Cretaceous Pierre Shale. Piney Creek Alluvium and Broadway Alluvium exposures were not examined in the field.

The only Pierre Shale exposure within the proposed project footprint that merited on-the-ground reconnaissance for paleontological resources was located along the floodplain and in the cutbanks of Fountain Creek north of the existing SH 16 bridge.

Two fossils were found along the west bank of Fountain Creek, just north and south of the trail crossing of the creek at the west end of Bandle Drive; a poorly preserved baculite (extinct squid relative) specimen and a moderately well preserved inoceramid clam specimen. These fossils were not found to be rare, unique or well-preserved. Additionally they were not representative of a rare or unique depositional environment.

The paleontological clearance is included in Chapter 10.0 of the EA, Agency Correspondence.

### **PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES IMPACTS**

#### **No-Action and Proposed Action Alternatives**

There are no known paleontological resources in the area potentially disturbed by the project, therefore, neither the No-Action Alternative nor the Proposed Action would impact known paleontological resources. The Proposed Action would not likely impact presently buried paleontological resources.

### **PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES MITIGATION**

No mitigation stipulations are recommended by the CDOT staff paleontologist.

If paleontological resources are uncovered during construction, the CDOT Staff Paleontologist will be notified immediately to identify the resources and assess their significance and make further recommendations. Potentially destructive activities will cease until notified by the staff paleontologist that activities can resume.

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