

April 23, 2021

To: Jordan Swisher, Brue Baukol Capital Partners (Brue Baukol)
From: Heidi Gerstung and Julia Snieder, ERO Resources Corporation (ERO)
RE: Redtail Ridge – 2021 Wildlife Use Assessment

Brue Baukol is planning the proposed Redtail Ridge development in Boulder and Broomfield Counties, Colorado (Figure 1; project area). As part of planning for the project, Brue Baukol requested that ERO complete a survey for wildlife use in the project area (Figures 2a through 2d). ERO conducted a wildlife use transect survey on April 2, 2021 (2021 survey). During the 2021 survey, ERO walked transects throughout the project area to identify tracks, scat, and other signs of wildlife use in the project area including searching for potential den sites. Additionally, ERO conducted a follow-up site visit on April 18, 2021 to make additional notes on wildlife use in the area. The wildlife tracks and signs found during the 2021 survey and follow-up site visit are shown on Figures 2a through 2d and are described in more detail below.

Methods

ERO conducted a pedestrian survey during the 2021 survey along transects spaced 50 meters apart and oriented from east to west across the project area. Three to four biologists walked parallel transect lines, maintaining constant communications and veering off the transect center line as needed. ERO recorded wildlife tracks, scat, and signs such as hair or bones on an aerial map. The 2021 survey was conducted several days after a snowstorm to ensure that the ground was wet enough to show tracks and to ensure that enough time had passed for wildlife in the project area to leave tracks. When tracks and signs were found, ERO identified the species and documented the location of the observations on aerial maps (Figures 2a through 2d). Representative photos of the project area are in the attached Photo Log, and photo points are shown on Figures 2a through 2d.

Survey Results

Coyote

Species Background

In Colorado, coyotes (*Canis latrans*) are classified as a game species (Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) 2021a). Landowners may kill coyotes on their land if coyotes threaten their

Denver
1842 Clarkson St.
Denver, CO 80218
303.830.1188

Durango
1015 ½ Main Avenue
Durango, CO 81301
970.422.2136

Hotchkiss
P.O. Box 932
161 South 2nd St.
Hotchkiss, CO 81419
970.872.3020

Idaho
4001 East Main Street
Emmett, ID 83617
208.365.7684

property or livestock. While coyotes have adapted to survive in human-disturbed environments, coyotes in urban environments will choose to spend their time in natural or seminatural habitat patches within their home ranges and avoid the most developed areas (Poessel et al. 2016). Litters of four to seven young are born from March to May and raised by both parents in dens (NatureServe 2021a). Dens are located in enlarged burrows of other mammals or burrows dug by the female, with the opening often oriented toward the south. Dens may also be aboveground, in places such as at the base of a tree under low overhanging branches, in hollow logs, in rock crevices, or under buildings (Hallett et al. 1985). In urban areas, coyotes will use culverts as den sites (Grubbs and Krausman 2009).

Potential Habitat and Effects

During the 2021 survey, ERO recorded numerous sets of coyote tracks and scat in the project area (Photos 1 through 3; Figures 2a through 2d). Tracks were concentrated along berms and at the tops of ditches where coyotes were better able to see their surroundings. ERO also found several livestock carcasses in the project area that were being scavenged by ravens and were surrounded by coyote tracks (Photo 4; Figures 2a through 2c). These cattle carcasses provide foraging opportunities for scavengers such as coyotes and birds of prey.

During the 2021 survey, ERO also sighted a single coyote three separate times (Figures 2a through 2d). The coyote observed by ERO appeared to be in ill health and exhibited extensive signs of mange, which led ERO to believe it was the same coyote sighted multiple times. Healthy coyotes are active at dawn and dusk, but coyotes infected by sarcoptic mange are more likely to be active during the day and show less fear of humans; this may explain why ERO observed the coyote numerous times during the 2021 survey. Some research suggests that coyotes with mange are more likely to consume food from anthropogenic sources and have higher instances of conflict with humans (Murray et al. 2015). The coyote was spotted twice on the prairie dog colony in the southern portion of the project area and may have been hunting prairie dogs before it was disturbed by surveyors.

While on-site, Harris Kocher Smith (HKS) personnel mentioned to ERO they had observed a pair of coyotes in the project area and believed a den site may be located on the property (HKS, pers. comm 2021). ERO did not find a den site during the 2021 survey.

Red Fox

Species Background

Red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) are common in Colorado, especially in open woodlands, pasturelands, riparian areas, and agricultural lands. Red foxes adapt well to urban areas and are often found on the margins of urbanized areas (CPW 2021b). Offspring in litters of 1 to 10 are born in April to May and disperse in the fall (NatureServe 2021b). Fox dens are

located in burrows, under logs, under buildings, or in culverts and are often found on steep south-facing slopes (Goldyn et al. 2003).

Potential Habitat and Effects

The project area provides potential habitat for the red fox, but no tracks or signs of red foxes were observed during the 2021 survey. During burrowing owl surveys previously conducted in 2020 in the project area, ERO observed a few young red fox cubs and an adult red fox taking cover in a culvert in the central portion of the project area along Disk Drive (Figure 2a). ERO examined all culverts in the project area during the 2021 survey and did not find signs of foxes, any fox dens, or signs of denning in these locations. The red foxes seen in 2020 may have experienced mortality due to mange, were killed by other predators, or may have been displaced by coyotes.

Raccoon

Species Background

Raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) thrive in urban areas and can become a nuisance species if anthropogenic food sources are available. Historically, raccoons were only found along riparian corridors on the eastern plains but have now expanded their range into areas with permanent human settlement, irrigated agriculture, and shelterbelts (CPW 2021c).

Potential Habitat and Effects

During the 2021 survey, ERO found raccoon tracks in the mud surrounding standing water on the western edge of the project area near a culvert (Figure 2a). Other water sources in the project area, such as the ponds and the stream in the southeast corner, provide additional suitable habitat for raccoons.

Prairie Dog

Species Background

ERO submitted a prairie dog management plan to Brue Baukol in January 2021 with detailed information on prairie dog species information and recommendations on managing prairie dogs in the project area (ERO 2021a).

Potential Habitat and Effects

During the 2021 survey, the aboveground prairie dog activity in the project area was extremely limited when compared to the amount of activity observed during the 2020 burrowing owl surveys. While some females may have been below ground tending to pups during the 2021 survey, it is also possible that the prairie dog colonies experienced a plague event between May 2020 and April 2021; this would explain the vastly reduced numbers of

prairie dogs observed in the project area during the 2021 survey. Plague events can reduce juvenile abundance by 96 percent and adult abundance by 95 percent (Pauli et al. 2006).

Other Wildlife

The project area is within the CPW-mapped overall range of black bear, mule deer, white-tailed deer, white-tailed jackrabbit, olive-backed pocket mouse, Preble's meadow jumping mouse (along Rock Creek), and a number of bat species (CPW 2020). Additionally, the project area is located within CPW a black bear-human conflict area, mule deer resident population area, mule deer summer range, and white-tailed deer concentration area (CPW 2020). None of these species or signs of these species were observed during the 2021 survey.

Other wildlife observed during the 2021 survey included fox squirrels and cottontail rabbits. Many of the trees around the ponds in the western portion of the project area showed extensive damage to branches from fox squirrels and wood rats (Photo 5). During the 2021 survey, ERO also made note of birds observed and active nesting including a great horned owl nest and two active red-tailed hawk nests (Figures 2a, 2c, and 2d). ERO previously conducted a raptor survey of the project area in 2020 and submitted the results with recommendations to Brue Baukol (ERO 2021b). While three active raptor nests were found during the 2021 survey, ERO did not conduct a full nest survey during the 2021 survey and additional migratory bird nesting occurs in the project area.

Recommendations

There are no established buffers or legal protections for coyotes, red foxes, raccoons, squirrels, or rabbits. These animals are extremely adapted to urban environments and are good at avoiding human encounters.

ERO recommends taking measures to mitigate potential future wildlife-human conflict by:

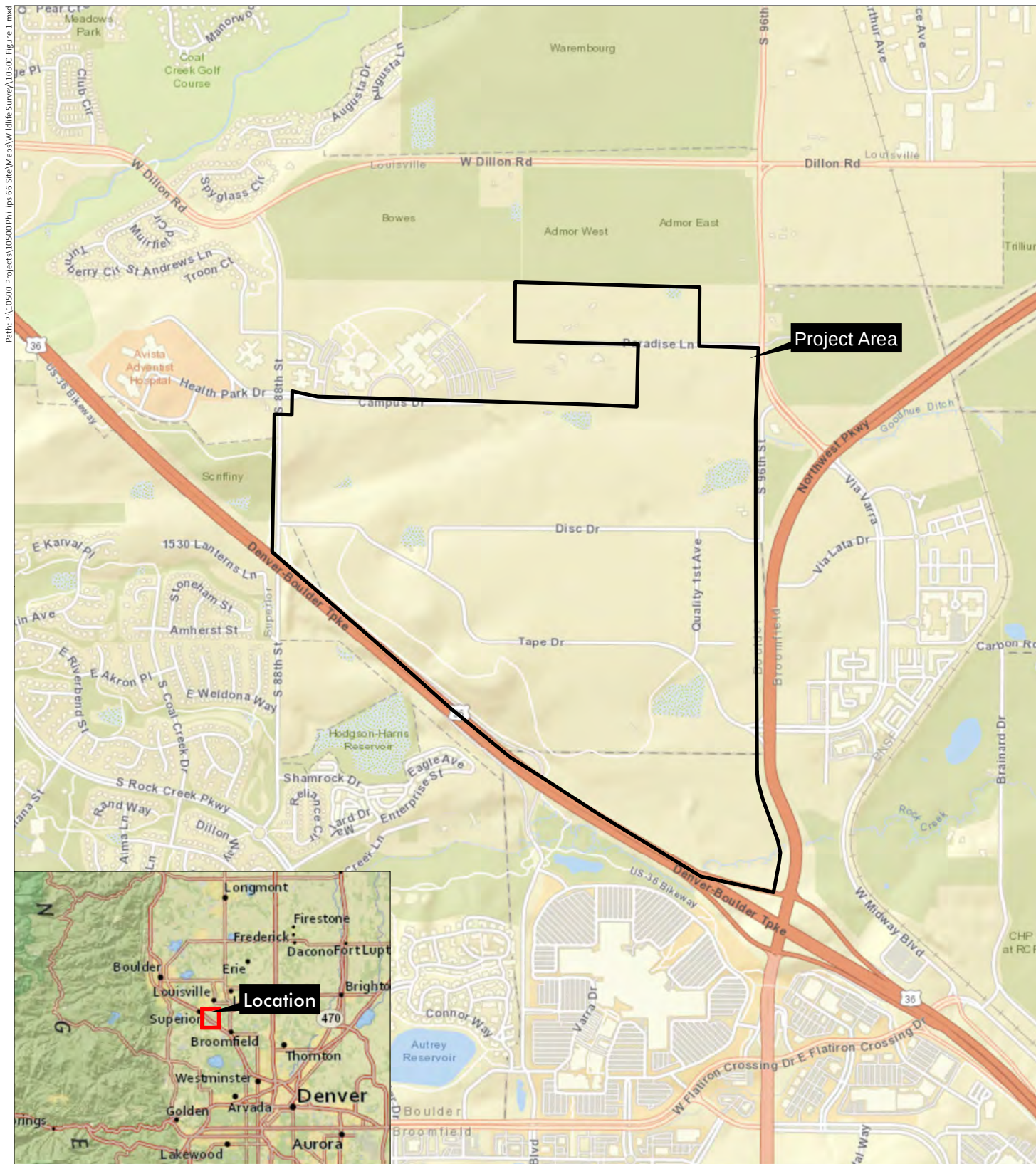
- Installing signs to educate future occupants on how to interact appropriately with wildlife.
- Encouraging people to keep dogs on-leash in the project area for their protection and to prevent harassment of wildlife.
- Installing secure trash containment in containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Incorporating native grasses, shrubs, and trees into the development to provide existing wildlife with habitat for reproduction, foraging, and protection from predators.

For additional information on prairie dog recommendations and other measures to protect migratory birds, refer to the previously provided memos.

References

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- Poessel, S.A., S.W. Breck, and E.M. Gese. 2016. Spatial ecology of coyotes in the Denver metropolitan area: influence of the urban matrix. *Journal of Mammalogy* 97:1414–1427.

Attachments: Figure 1; Figures 2a through 2d; Photo Log



Redtail Ridge 2021 Wildlife Use Assessment

Sections 20, 21, 28, and 29, T1S, R69W; 6th PM

UTM NAD 83: Zone 13N; 488402mE, 4421737mN

Longitude 105.135760°W, Latitude 39.945675°N

USGS Louisville, CO Quadrangle

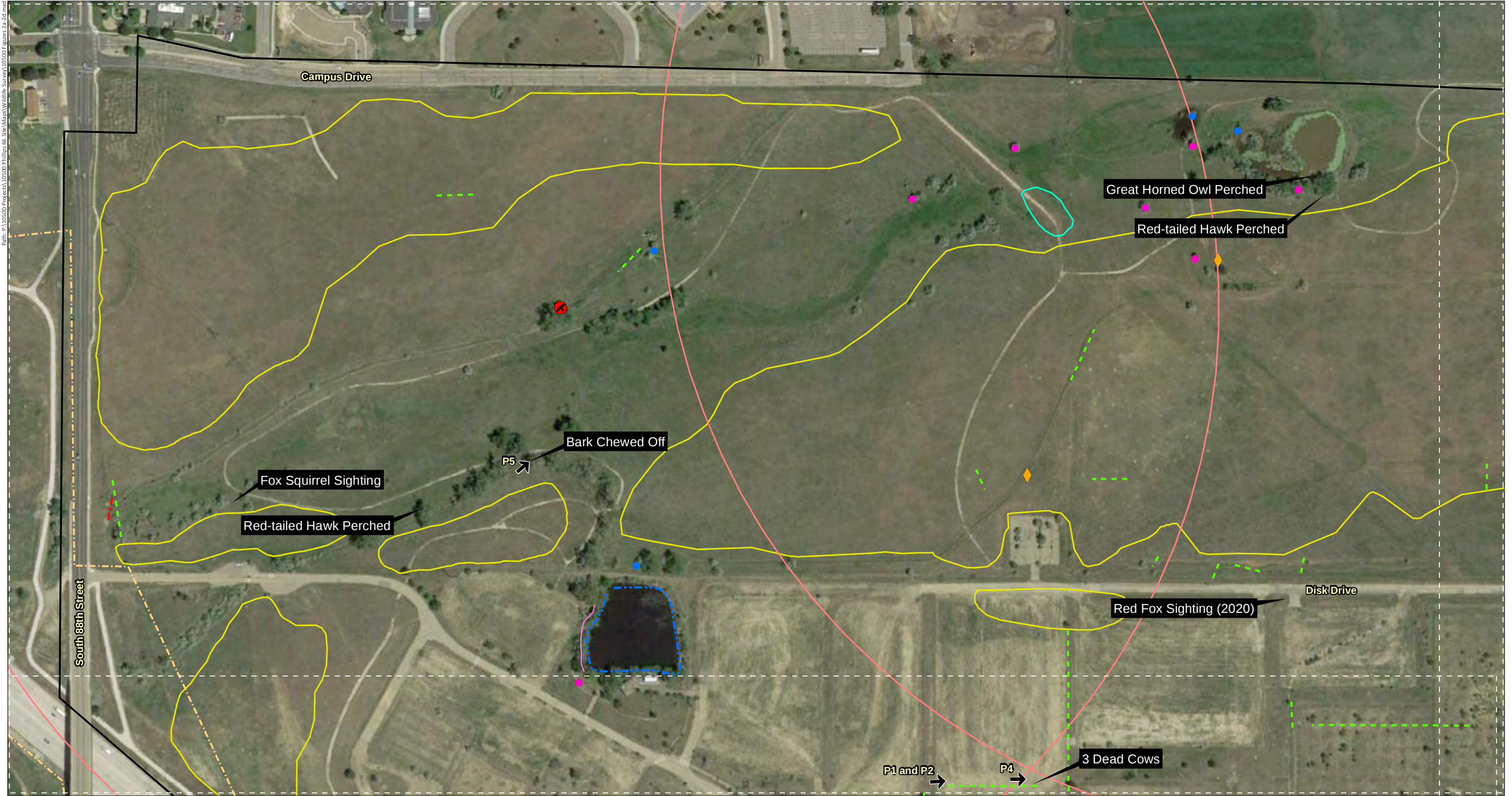
Boulder and Broomfield Counties, Colorado

Figure 1
Vicinity Map

Prepared for: Brue Baukol
Capital Partners
File: 10500 Figure 1.mxd (GS)
April 21, 2021

ERO
ERO Resources Corp.

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Redtail Ridge Wildlife Use Transect Survey

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| ◆ Coyote Scat | ● Nest Box | ○ Goose Scat | --- Goose Tracks | □ Red-tailed Hawk Nest 1/3-Mile Buffer |
| ⊗ Active Great Horned Owl Nest | ● Small Nest | ○ Possible Killdeer Nesting Area | --- Raccoon Tracks | □ Great Horned Owl Nest 300-Foot Buffer |
| ⊗ Active Red-tailed Hawk Nest | ● Stick Nest | → Coyote Sighting | — Wildlife Trail | ○ Prairie Dog Burrows |
| ● Black-billed Magpie Nest | → Photo Point | --- Coyote Tracks | □ Project Area | |

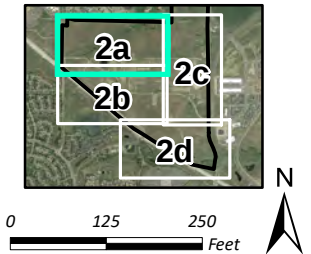
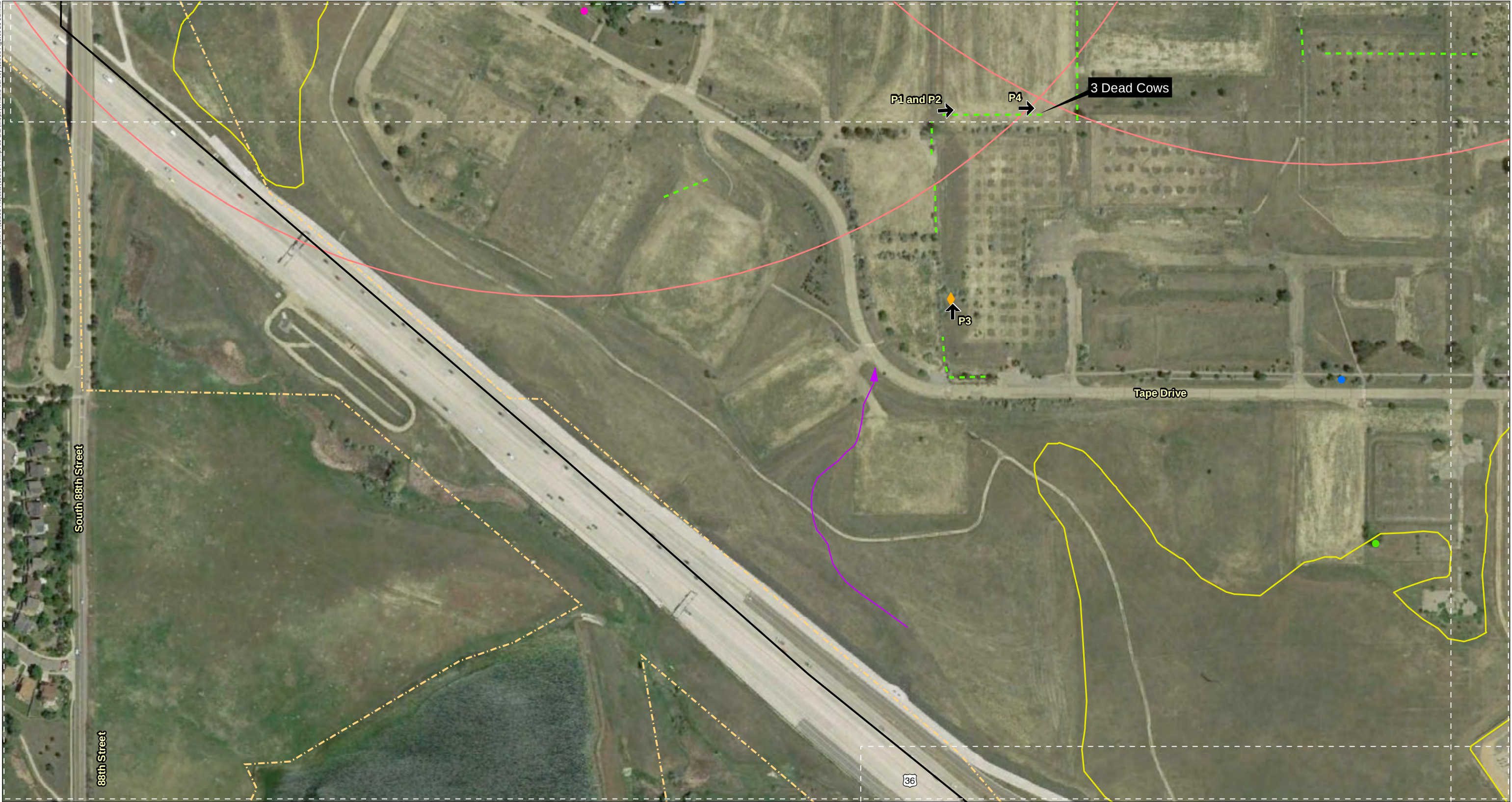


Figure 2a
Survey Observations

Prepared for: Brue Baukol
File: 10500 Figures 2a-2d.mxd (GS)
April 23, 2021



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Redtail Ridge Wildlife Use Transect Survey

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|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| ◆ Coyote Scat | ● Nest Box | 🐾 Goose Scat | --- Goose Tracks | 📏 Red-tailed Hawk Nest 1/3-Mile Buffer |
| 🦉 Active Great Horned Owl Nest | ● Small Nest | 🐾 Possible Killdeer Nesting Area | --- Raccoon Tracks | 📏 Great Horned Owl Nest 300-Foot Buffer |
| 🦉 Active Red-tailed Hawk Nest | ● Stick Nest | ➡ Coyote Sighting | — Wildlife Trail | 🐾 Prairie Dog Burrows |
| ● Black-billed Magpie Nest | ➡ Photo Point | --- Coyote Tracks | 📏 Project Area | |

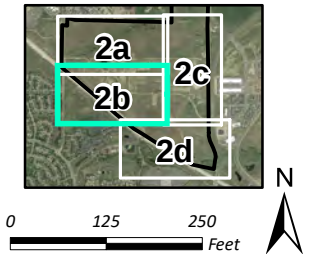
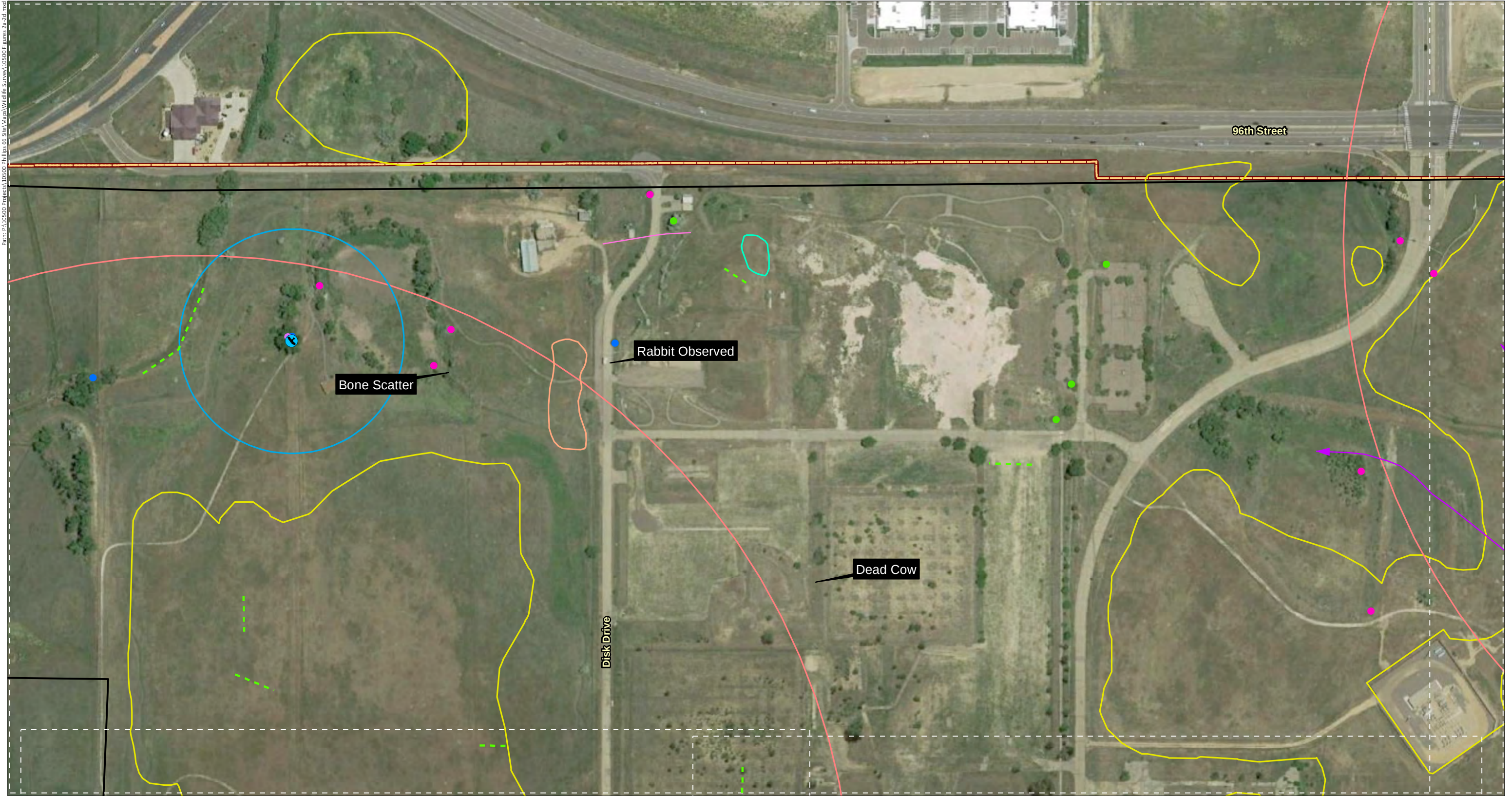


Figure 2b
Survey Observations

Prepared for: Brue Baukol
File: 10500 Figures 2a-2d.mxd (GS)
April 23, 2021



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Redtail Ridge Wildlife Use Transect Survey

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|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| ◆ Coyote Scat | ● Nest Box | 🐾 Goose Scat | --- Goose Tracks | 📏 Red-tailed Hawk Nest 1/3-Mile Buffer |
| 🦉 Active Great Horned Owl Nest | ● Small Nest | 🐾 Possible Killdeer Nesting Area | --- Raccoon Tracks | 📏 Great Horned Owl Nest 300-Foot Buffer |
| 🦅 Active Red-tailed Hawk Nest | ● Stick Nest | ➡ Coyote Sighting | — Wildlife Trail | 🐾 Prairie Dog Burrows |
| ● Black-billed Magpie Nest | ➡ Photo Point | --- Coyote Tracks | 📏 Project Area | |

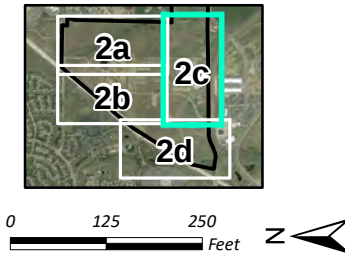


Figure 2c
Survey Observations

Prepared for: Brue Baukol
File: 10500 Figures 2a-2d.mxd (GS)
April 23, 2021



 Coyote Scat
 Nest Box
 Goose Scat
 Goose Tracks
 Active Great Horned Owl Nest
 Small Nest
 Possible Killdeer Nesting Area
 Raccoon Tracks
 Active Red-tailed Hawk Nest
 Stick Nest
 Coyote Sighting
 Wildlife Trail
 Black-billed Magpie Nest
 Photo Point
 Coyote Tracks
 Project Area

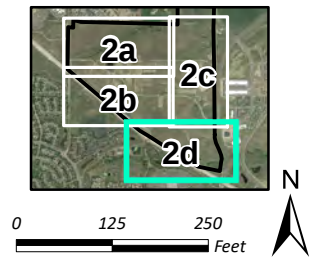
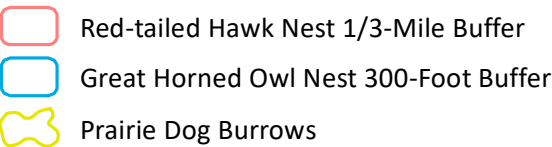


Figure 2d
Survey Observations

Prepared for: Brue Baukol
File: 10500 Figures 2a-2d.mxd (GS)
April 23, 2021



PHOTO LOG
REDTAIL RIDGE WILDLIFE USE SURVEY
APRIL 2, 2021



Photo 1 - Coyote tracks observed within the project area.



Photo 2 - Coyote tracks observed within the project area.

PHOTO LOG
REDTAIL RIDGE WILDLIFE USE SURVEY
APRIL 2, 2021



Photo 3 - Coyote scat observed within the project area.



Photo 4 - Dead cows found within the project area. View is to the east.



Photo 5 - Chewed branch observed within the project area.