



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ecological Services
755 Parfet Street, Suite 361
Lakewood, Colorado 80215

IN REPLY REFER TO:

ES/CO: ES/Species/Plants/
Spiranthes diluvialis/
Survey Reports
Mail Stop 65412 LK

FEB 06 2001

Thomas Ryon
Greystone Environmental Consultants, Inc.
5231 South Quebec Street
Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111

Dear Mr. Ryon:

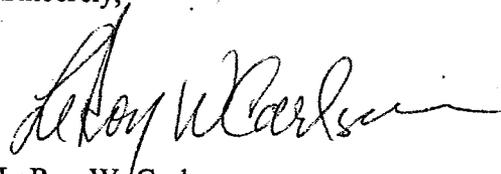
Based on the authority conferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the Service reviewed the Ute ladies'-tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) survey report for The Platte River Authority's proposed project on a portion of the Western Area Power Administration's Fort Collins Area transmission line in Larimer County, Colorado. As described in your report, The Platte River Authority proposes to add a second 230kV transmission line to an existing double line. The proposed project also involves rebuilding and upgrading existing 115kV wood pole lines to double-circuit lines designed for 230kV in two locations: between the Laporte Tap and the Poudre Substation; and between the Poudre River Substation and the Richard's Lake Substation. The proposed project involves the following creek crossings and their associated tributaries where applicable:

Rawhide Creek	Township 10 North, Range 69 West, Section 2
	Township 10 North, Range 68 West, Section 6
Boxelder Creek	Township 10 North, Range 69 West, Sections 3, 4, 16, 17
Park Creek	Township 10 North, Range 69 West, Section 29
Owl Canyon Creek	Township 9 North, Range 69 West, Section 5
Cache la Poudre River	Township 8 North, Range 69 West, Section 33
	Township 7 North, Range 69 West, Section 18
Cache la Poudre River	Township 8 North, Range 68 West, Section 18
on City of Fort Collins Natural	

The Service finds the survey report acceptable and agrees that suitable habitat for *S. diluvialis* is not present in the areas surveyed. Therefore, the Service concurs with the determination that the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect the continued existence of the orchid.

We appreciate your submitting this report to our office for review and comment. If the Service can be of further assistance, please contact Jan McKee at (303) 275-2370.

Sincerely,



LeRoy W. Carlson
Colorado Field Supervisor

cc: U.S. Army COE; Littleton, CO (Attn.: Terry McKee)
Reading File
Project File

Reference: JPM*T&E\ORCHID\2001\SDGRY0201.001.wpd