Pikes Peak Region:
Analyzing Regional Cumulative Effects

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SUSTAINING NATURE AND COMMUNITY
IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION

A Sourcebook for Analyzing
Regional Cumulative Effects

Colorado Department of Transportation
Van pool
Major Benefits

- Builds consensus early
- Creates consistent cumulative impact approach
- Establishes consistent data analysis
- Enhances NEPA decision-making
- Documents trends and environ details
- Links Planning w/ NEPA
RCEA Goals

- Establish **consistent context** for assessing project impacts
- Explore opportunities for **resource sustainability**
- Coordinate **mitigation** actions to achieve better results
RCEA Goals cont’d

- “One stop shopping”
- Comprehensive
- Reader friendly
Major Challenges

- Paved the path: no existing guidance; leading edge;
- Relied too much on experts to prepare documentation
Destination 2025

• Long Range Transportation Plan
  – $2.2 billion
  – 2002-2025
  – Multi-modal w/ 4 major projects
Figure 1-1. Four major transportation improvement projects provided the impetus for conducting a regional look at cumulative effects.
Process

• Contractor/Consultant

• Delphi Technique/Panels
  – Native American consultation
Major Projects

- Interstate 25
- Powers Boulevard
- Woodmen Road
- South Metro Accessibility
Process cont’d

- Identify what resources or communities
- Determine temporal/geographic boundaries.
- Consult and analyze for past, present or future effects.
- Identify baseline for each resource and community and its health.
Indicators

• Landscape Patterns
• Water Quality & Quantity
• Air Quality
• Transportation Patterns
• Noise
• Visual Resources
Figure 1-4. The spatial limits of the study area were determined by defining the geographic extent of the affected resources.
Mitigation

• Policy level
  – Regional perspective/Local government
  – Big picture/influence

• Project level
  – Synergistic approach
  – DOT contribution
  – Holistic Value
Details

• Timeframe
• Costs
• Players
The Point Is?

- Treat four active projects in same area as related.
- Share traffic data, air quality, demographic models as the “mothership”.
- Build on project Resource agency agreements.
- Understand the priority ranking and funding.
- Share public outreach data and feedback.
- Create Master “dashboard” for project status.
• How can we improve the quality of our NEPA documents and streamline the process—at the same time?
“RCEA”

How to order:
www.I25environment.com
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