

3.0

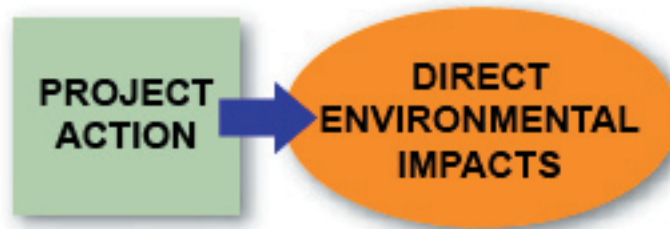
**AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT,  
IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

*After completing a thorough environmental analysis, three primary issues emerged:*

- Impacts to wetlands on the eastern portion of the corridor*
- Right-of-Way impacts on the urbanized western portion of the corridor*
- Effect of traffic noise*

*All three of these issues can be mitigated as described in this chapter.*





# 3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION

## Introduction

The study area for this Environmental Assessment (EA) is centered on Woodmen Road, extending from Interstate 25 (I-25) to US Highway 24 (US 24) through the City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County. The study limits for each resource (geographic boundaries of the environmental analysis for each resource) are defined in each section of this chapter and are based on the nature and characteristics of that resource. Each section presents a discussion of the particular resource from west to east and, in terms of character, from urban to rural.

## Summary of Resources

This chapter presents the existing environment for the human, natural, and cultural resources found within the study area. A number of issues were considered in detail and are presented as sections in this chapter (see “Organization of Chapter”).

Following a discussion of the existing environment for each resource, an analysis of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to each resource as a result of the No Action Alternative and Proposed Action are presented. Commitments to mitigate adverse impacts are also presented.

*Impacts:* Direct impacts of both alternatives evaluated in this EA are those that occur at the same time and place as the Proposed Action. As part of the development of the Proposed Action, environmental impacts were avoided when possible by excluding certain actions or parts of actions. In cases where complete avoidance of an environmental impact was not feasible, design solutions were developed to limit the impact. Indirect or proximate impacts, such as noise and visual impacts, were considered to determine whether they would impair the use or enjoyment of the facilities analyzed. Resources that were evaluated but determined not to result in direct or indirect negative project impacts include topics listed in Section 3.11, *Other Resources*.

### Organization of Chapter

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### Mitigation Measure

A mitigation measure is a solution to an environmental problem. Mitigation measures can include a variety of project changes that would decrease pollution emissions, alter construction impacts, or avoid impacts by adjusting the alternative.



*Cumulative Impacts:*

Each resource section in Chapter 3 includes a discussion of cumulative impacts or effects. A cumulative effect or impact is an impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions. To evaluate the cumulative effects of the Proposed Action, each resource studied for this EA was analyzed and compared to information provided in the *Sustaining Nature and Community in the Pikes Peak Region: A Sourcebook for Analyzing Regional Cumulative Effects*.

Land use adjacent to the Woodmen Road Corridor has intensified rapidly over the last forty years and is continuing to do so. This is due to:

- economic forces and demand for new housing, office, and retail centers;
- designation by the City and County master plans of growth areas; and
- the availability of land that can accommodate growth and does not present constraints because of steep terrain.



These factors contribute to the recent growth and approved development that will be built in the foreseeable future. Residential and commercial development will change many rural areas of the region to urban-and suburban land uses. This trend is expected to continue, and can be seen clearly in Figure 3.0-1, and for the Woodmen Road area, Table 1-1.

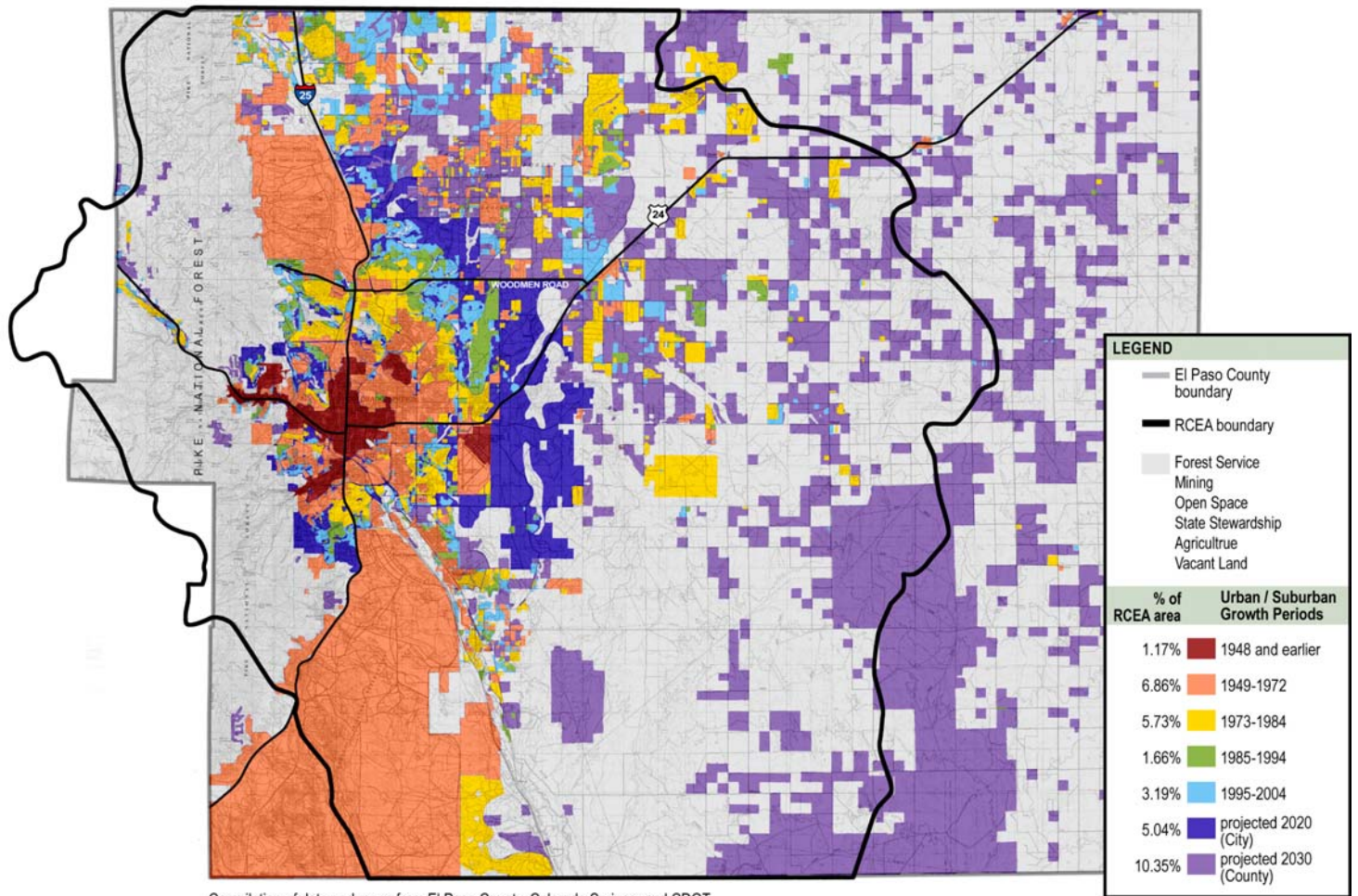


Figure 3.0-1 shows how residential and commercial development has changed, and is expected to change, the region's rural areas to urban and suburban land uses.

*Mitigation:* The NEPA process is intended to help public officials make decisions based on an understanding of the environmental consequences. This understanding helps to identify actions that can protect, restore, and enhance the environment. Mitigation measures and Best Management Practices that minimize or avoid adverse impacts as a result of the Proposed Action are identified.

