



Shonna Sam, AICP
Environmental Planning Manager
PROJECT PLANNER AND DISCIPLINE SPECIALIST



Education

- > Masters of Urban Regional Planning, University of Colorado at Denver, 2003
- > Certificate in Geographic Information Systems, University of Colorado at Denver, 2003
- > BA, Environmental Studies, University of California at Santa Barbara, 1994
- > BA, Geography, University of California at Santa Barbara, 1994
- > SRI Foundation - Section 106, NEPA, and Section 4(f) Training

Professional Registrations

- > American Institute of Certified Planners
- > American Planning Association

Distinguishing Qualifications

- > Registered planner with experience in environmental planning, NEPA documentation, Title VI and environmental justice analysis, Section 106 and Section 4(f) evaluations, cumulative and indirect effects studies, permitting, and geographic information systems (GIS)
- > Experienced in procedural and regulatory requirements of the FHWA, State DOTs, Central Federal Lands Highway Division, and FEMA for NEPA analysis
- > Experience on a variety of land use, roadway, and transit projects

Relevant Experience

Ms. Sam is a registered planner with more than 15 years of experience supporting federal, state, and local agencies with NEPA documentation, land use planning, permitting, mapping, and the preparation of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program applications. She has assisted a variety of projects in the role of task lead, primary author, documentation specialist, quality control, and project management.

Project Experience

NEPA/Transportation Planning

Project Manager; Central 70 Project Reevaluations; Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT); Denver, Colorado; 2018-ongoing: Ms. Sam is preparing two reevaluations of the I-70 East EIS in support of improvements to Central 70, between I-25 and Chambers Road. The Central 70 Project will reconstruct a 10-mile stretch of I-70 between Brighton Boulevard and Chambers Road, add one new Express Lane in each direction, remove the aging 55-year-old viaduct, lower the interstate between Brighton and Colorado boulevards, and place a 4-acre park over a portion of the lowered interstate.

Task Lead; I-70 Floyd Hill to Veterans Memorial Tunnels Improvements Project; CDOT; Clear Creek County, Colorado; 2018-ongoing: Ms. Sam is assisting with the development of this Tier 2 environmental process, associated with the I-70 Mountain Corridor Programmatic EIS. Ms. Sam is conducting the analysis and documentation for the Title VI and Environmental Justice Analysis, Socioeconomic Analysis, and is also providing senior review for technical reports.

Environmental Planner/Primary Author; 16th Street Mall; City and County of Denver, Regional Transportation District, and Federal Transit Administration; 2017-ongoing. Ms. Sam is assisting with the preparation of and EA and FONSI for this fast-paced project to rehabilitate Denver's historic I.M. Pei and Partners designed 16th Street Mall, one of the City's most visited and notable destinations.

Environmental Manager; South River Road EA and FONSI; FEMA; Nebraska; 2018: Ms. Sam prepared an EA and FONSI for this roadway reconstruction project. Primary author of the Purpose and Need, Alternatives Evaluation, Environmental, and Public and Agency Involvement portions of the EA. Managed subconsultants, task leads, and agency scoping and legal notification activities.

Primary Author; CDOT Rest Area Study; CDOT; 2018: Ms. Sam was responsible for documenting CDOT's existing rest area system and preparing recommendations based on CDOT's Rest Area Policy. She also developed an implementation plan that addressed upgrades, transition/closures, and funding considerations.

Task Lead; Red Rock Canyon Path Scoping Report, Bureau of Land Management; Las Vegas, Nevada; 2018: Ms. Sam prepared the initial environmental analysis and scoping documentation for a new trail in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area near Las Vegas.

Environmental Planner; US 34 Planning and Environmental Linkages Study; CDOT, Weld and Larimer Counties, Colorado; 2017-2018. Ms. Sam conducted the Recreation and Title VI and Environmental Justice Analysis for this large corridor PEL study in northern Colorado.

Task Lead; I-25 South Gap EA; Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT); Douglas and El Paso Counties, Colorado; 2017-2018: Task lead for the Title VI and environmental justice and Section 4(f) analysis for this template EA. Included coordination and facilitation of multiple working meetings with FHWA, CDOT, and key stakeholders. Responsibilities extend to the I-25 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study: Colorado Springs Denver South Connection.

Task Lead/Deputy Project Manager; Lincoln South Beltway EA and FONSI; Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT); Lincoln, Nebraska; 2012-2018: Complex reevaluation. Primary responsibility for NEPA documentation, coordination with NDOT, FHWA, and consultant partners, and public involvement, including a public hearing and multiple comment resolution meetings. Additional responsibilities included an indirect and cumulative effects working group, comment response, and preparation of a Section 4(f) De Minimis.

Task Lead; NEPA On-Call Contract; NDOT; 2012-2018: Ms. Sam prepared multiple categorical exclusions for transportation projects throughout the state of Nebraska under this on-call contract. Responsibilities included resource analysis, documentation, comment resolution, QA/QC, senior review, and agency coordination. Ms. Sam works directly with NDOT Environmental staff to review and resolve comments and obtain document approvals.

Environmental Manager; Grant North CE; NDOT; Perkins and Keith Counties, Nebraska; 2017: Ms. Sam served prepared this CE for the proposed resurfacing of 10.93 miles of Nebraska 61 in Perkins and Keith Counties. Ms. Sam's responsibilities included environmental analysis and CE documentation using NDOT's Smart Form. This project has also involved Section 4(f) Resources and coordination with local authorities with regards to properties that have been developed with funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Ms. Sam worked with NDOT to resolved review comments and prepared the document for FHWA approval.

Environmental Manager; Stockville Southwest CE; NDOT; Frontier County, Nebraska; 2017: This project involved the replacement of a bridge on County Road 729 in Furnas County, 11.5 miles north of McCook. The project required a temporary construction easement within Red Willow Wildlife Management area, which qualifies for protection under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act as well Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. In addition to preparing the NEPA documentation for this project, Ms. Sam assisted NDOT with the requirements for Section 4(f) and Section 6(f), including the completion of NDOT's Section 4(f) Exceptions form as well as coordination with the Bureau of Reclamation and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Task Lead; Navajo Lake Road Re-Evaluation; FHWA-CFLHD; Kane County, Utah; 2016: Ms. Sam conducted a Re-Evaluation of a 2010 US Forest Service EA/FONSI for improvements to Navajo Lake Road as part of the FHWA-CFLHD FLAP program. Developed proposed action text, conducted effects analysis, and documented results in technical memorandum. Responsibilities included coordination with biologists and design team to determine extent of changes since the original documentation.

Task Lead; Halona Bridge Replacement EA, FHWA-CFLHD, Oahu, Hawaii; 2014-2016: Ms. Sam prepared the environmental documentation for replacement of the Halona Bridge on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. Documentation includes the preparation of an environmental assessment under Hawaiian Regulation 343 (state equivalent of NEPA) and a categorical exclusion under NEPA.

Primary Author; Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Scenic Loop Road Drive and Parking Area Improvements EA; FHWA-CFLHD; Las Vegas, NV; 2015: Ms. Sam served as a primary author for this EA and FONSI. Primary responsibilities included purpose and need, alternatives evaluation, environmental analysis, document preparation, comment/response, and coordination with BLM environmental specialists.

Environmental Planner; Planning and Environmental Linkages Handbook Update and Training Development; CDOT Headquarters; Environmental Programs Branch; Denver, Colorado; 2014-2015: Ms. Sam worked with the CDOT to update their PEL Handbook and develop a related one-day training course for staff. The updates will incorporate current best practices, MAP-21 policy, information about transitioning from PEL studies to NEPA studies, and information on using the PEL process in long-range planning.

Primary Author; Geotech to Support the Red Rock Canyon Area Scenic Loop Drive Moenkopi Road and Return Route Alignment EA; BLM- FHWA-CFLHD; Las Vegas, Nevada; 2014-2015: Ms. Sam prepared an EA, FONSI and ROD for the geotechnical investigation in support of the Scenic Loop Drive and Parking Areas Improvements Project in the BLM managed Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

Task Lead/Primary Author; Red Rock Canyon Low Water Crossings and Roadways Improvements Project EA; FHWA-Central Federal Lands Highway Division (CFLHD); Las Vegas, Nevada; 2014: Ms. Sam assisted with the delivery of this EA for roadway and flood warning system improvements in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Ms. Sam served as a principal author for the EA and also prepared a Noxious Weeds Management and Restoration Plan. Ms. Sam worked closely with the BLM to ensure the project was consistent with agency natural resource management plans.

Task Lead; Little Sahara Sand Dunes Road CE; FHWA-FLHD; Juab County, Utah; 2014: Ms. Sam led the development of this CE as part of the FHWA-CFLHD FLAP program. Responsibilities included development of the purpose and need and proposed action text, effects analysis, mapping, and documentation.

Task Lead; Twin Tunnels Westbound Expansion Categorical Exclusion; CDOT; Clear Creek County, Colorado; 2014: Ms. Sam served as task manager for technical studies for this fast-paced categorical exclusion. She provided oversight for technical staff conducting wetland, biological resources, regulated materials, visual, noise, and air quality technical memoranda.

Task Lead/Primary Author; New Pueblo Freeway I-25 EIS; CDOT; Pueblo, Colorado; 2002-2014: Ms. Sam assisted with the development of this EIS for improvements along seven miles of I-25 through Pueblo, Colorado. Ms. Sam served as a task lead for the Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) Evaluations, Environmental Justice Analysis, and Cultural Resources documentation and coordination.

Environmental Manager; Valentine East CE; NDOT; Cherry County, Nebraska; 2013: Ms. Sam prepared this CE for proposed improvements to 12.27 miles of N-12 and 0.12 mile of S-16A in Cherry County, Nebraska. The project involved roadway resurfacing and bridge repair within the Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge and near the Niobrara River, which is designated as a Canoe Trail, State Water Resource Class A, and is included in the Wild and Scenic Rivers system. Her responsibilities included Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) Analysis, CE documentation, preparation of agency coordination, and oversight for technical staff conducting wetland, biological resources, and regulated materials TMs. Ms. Sam resolved NDOR review comments and worked directly with the NDOT Environmental Project Manager through FHWA approval of the CE document.

Task Lead; Twin Tunnels EA; CDOT; Clear Creek County, Colorado; 2012-2013: Ms. Sam served as a task lead with responsibility for Title VI compliance and the Environmental Justice Analysis for this transportation

project. Her technical analysis included identification and mapping of minority and low-income populations and community resources using GIS, data from the US Census, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Social Service Agencies, and local jurisdictions. Ms. Sam prepared technical reports and NEPA documentation and advised the public involvement team regarding specialized outreach requirements and methods.

Senior Guidance; Peoria Street/Smith Street Railroad Grade Separation Project; Denver, Colorado; 2011-2012: Ms. Sam provided guidance and senior review of the environmental justice analysis portion of this project. Also assisted with the preparation of the Environmental Justice Technical Memorandum.

Primary Author; US 24 West EA; CDOT; Colorado Springs, Colorado; 2004-2012: Ms. Sam assisted with the NEPA documentation for improvements to a 6-mile corridor in Colorado Springs using context sensitive design practices—including an extensive public involvement effort to engage local governments and project neighbors. Key environmental issues include survey of historic sites, analysis of business and residential displacements, and evaluation of hydrologic and biologic impacts to Fountain Creek. Responsible for the Section 4(f) Evaluation, socio-economic analysis, and technical documentation.

Primary Author; US 6 and Wadsworth EA; CDOT; Lakewood, Colorado; 2007-2010: Ms. Sam assisted with the development of an EA for improvements to the Wadsworth Boulevard/US 6 interchange and roadway. Primary author for environmental justice, cumulative effects, socio-economic resources, hazardous materials, wetlands, and water resources. Assisted with document preparation, public involvement, and comment resolution.

Task Lead; Commuter Rail Maintenance Facility Supplemental EA; Regional Transportation District; Denver and Adams County, Colorado; 2008-2009: Ms. Sam assisted the Regional Transportation District with the environmental analysis for the location of a commuter rail maintenance facility. Responsibilities included, document preparation, agency coordination, and environmental analysis.

Task Lead; South Bridge EA; Glenwood Springs, Colorado; 2007-2008: Ms. Sam assisted the City of Glenwood Springs with the environmental documentation for a project that involves a bridge over the Roaring Fork River. As document coordinator, responsibilities included land use and cumulative effects analysis, facilitating agency scoping meetings, and quality assurance/quality control.

Task Lead/Primary Author; North I-25 Front Range Corridor EIS; CDOT, Colorado; 2006-2008: Ms. Sam assisted CDOT with the environmental documentation for this EIS. Responsible for the socio-economic, environmental justice, farmlands, and cumulative effects analysis. Also lead public involvement efforts for Environmental Justice.

Task Lead/Primary Author; Road and I-70B Interchange Approval and EA; City of Grand Junction, Colorado; 2007 : Ms. Sam assisted the City of Grand Junction with the preparation of a focused EA. Analysis areas included noise monitoring and analysis, land use, social, economic, environmental justice, right-of-way, and cumulative effects.

Primary Author; Lake Mary Road CE; FHWA-CFLHD; Mammoth Lakes, California; 2007: Ms. Sam assumed primary responsibility to the Central Federal Lands for NEPA documentation and Programmatic 4(f) Evaluation for transportation improvements to Lake Mary Road.

Environmental/Land Use Planning

Environmental Planner; FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Applications; Polk County, Florida; 2018: Ms. Sam assisted with the preparation of multiple grant applications for Polk County, Florida.

Environmental Planner; Suncor Energy Pipeline Company; USA; 2014: Ms. Sam assisted the environmental and ministerial permitting team with utility access agreements to support the construction of the Rocky Mountain Crude System Expansion project in Colorado. Responsibilities included coordination with Excel representatives, development of encroachment applications, GIS mapping, and documentation.

Environmental Planner; Cheyenne Prairie Generating Station Environmental Justice Analysis; Cheyenne, Wyoming; 2012: Task lead for the Title VI and environmental justice analysis for this private land development project. The analysis is a required element of the federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration permits issued by the Environmental Protection Agency Regional Offices.

Environmental Planner; Granger Soda Ash Facility Expansion; Sweetwater County, Wyoming; 2012: Ms. Sam served as task lead for the Environmental Justice Analysis for this private land development project. The analysis is a required element of the federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permits issued by EPA Regional Offices.

Environmental Planner; Economic Analysis of Hybrid Vehicles; CDPHE; Denver, Colorado; 2006: Ms. Sam worked with the CDPHE to establish a methodology and conduct a cost/benefit analysis for the inclusion of hybrid vehicles in the State fleet. The end product was a brochure published by the CDPHE - APCD comparing hybrid and conventional vehicles according to numerous cost variables.

Environmental Planner; I-70/E-470 Induced Growth Analysis; City of Aurora and Adams County, Colorado; 2005: Ms. Sam employed the Delphi-Plus technique for evaluating the indirect effects of constructing two new interchanges at various locations along I-70. This evaluation was part of an EA for CDOT.

Land Use Planner; City of Longmont Comprehensive Plan Update; Longmont, Colorado; 2003: Ms. Sam assisted the City of Longmont with the update to the Comprehensive Plan. Project responsibilities included land use mapping, social and economic data collection and analysis, and public involvement.

Land Use Planner; City of Westminster Comprehensive Plan Update, Westminster, Colorado; 2003: Ms. Sam assisted the City of Westminster with the update to their Comprehensive Plan. Project responsibilities included land use mapping, social and economic data collection and analysis, and blight evaluation.

Professional Development

- > Numerous webcasts and conferences in support of AICP Certification Maintenance (requires 32 continuing education units each 2-year reporting period), 2008 - ongoing
- > Title VI and Environmental Justice Training, SRI Foundation, Denver, April 2014
- > Section 106, NEPA, and Section 4(f) Training, SRI Foundation, Denver, May 2014
- > Integrating Freight in the Transportation Planning Process, FHWA NHI Course No. 139006, April 2014
- > NEPA Purpose and Need/Travel Demand Modeling Workshop, FHWA, Denver, 2006

Commendation Quotes

- > *"....the environmental documentation and approval was one of the biggest project risks and concerns... To have reached this major milestone with virtually unanimous public and internal support speaks volumes to your expertise and professional skill! The BLM is very fortunate to have you on our team!"*
Chad Vellinga, BLM (email to environmental team regarding Red Rock Canyon Low Water Crossings and Roads Improvement Project FONSI and Decision Memorandum)
- > *"You are the best! Thanks so much for making the time to attend the meeting this morning...it turned out to be the best possible way to get sign-off on the changes. I'm really excited to get signatures in the next few days."*
Wendy Austin, NDOT (personal email regarding Final EA comment resolution meeting)

- > *"... thank you for the great work on this. We've gone from being concerned about schedule to being ahead again-thank you!"*
Elise Ibendahl, Jacobs North Region Water Resources Solutions Leader (email regarding FEMA EA)
- > *"Over the past several months Shonna has gone out of her way to pitch in on last minute requests, both internal and external, to make sure deliverables have been up to par and submitted on time both for myself as well as others in the group. I can honestly say I wouldn't have been able to get everything sorted out and delivered without Shonna's continual help. Numerous times Shonna shifted gears to make herself available, and I know this has resulted in long days and weekends on several occasions. Her help is sincerely appreciated."*
Brett Weiland, Jacobs Senior Project Manager