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May 18, 2017

Nina Ruiz
Project Manager
El Paso County Planning & Community Development Department
2880 International Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80910

Subject: PPRTA / Forest Lakes Vacation Replat (VR-17-003)

Dear Nina,

The Planning Division of the Community Services Department has reviewed the PPRTA/Forest Lakes Metropolitan District Vacation and Replat application and has the following comments of behalf of El Paso County Parks.

The El Paso County Parks Master Plan (2013) shows no open space, park facilities, or trails intersected by or within the project area. The project site is located at the intersection of West Baptist Road, Forest Lakes Drive, and Hay Creek Road. The existing Forest Lake Secondary Regional Trail is located approximately 150 feet east of the site, along the east side of Forest Lakes Drive. The proposed Willow Springs Internal Park Trail is located approximately 1,100 feet east of the property, while the existing New Santa Fe Regional Trail and proposed Baptist Road Bicycle Route and both located approximately 2,400 feet to the east of the site.

The subject property is located within the Forest Lakes Candidate Open Space. Natural resource values within the Forest Lakes area are concentrated around wildlife habitat, primarily for the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (a federally-threatened species), as well as herbaceous, grassland, and riparian vegetation. This project may have a positive impact to this area, due to the abandonment and restoration of the former Forest Lakes Drive right-of-way to a more natural state.

These comments are being provided administratively, as this application does not require Park Advisory Board consideration.

Sincerely,

Ross A. Williams
Park Planner
Planning Division
Community Services Department
rosswilliams@elpasoco.com

Cc: dsdcomments@elpasoco.com
Elaine Kleckner



