



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Southeast Region - Area 14
4255 Sinton Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
P 719.227.5200 | F 719.227.5264

Ryan Howser
El Paso County Dev. Services Department
2880 International Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80910-6107

Re: Solberg Pit Special Use Amendment

Dear Mr. Howser,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the application for the Solberg Pit Special Use Amendment in Peyton Colorado.

After reviewing the maps and documents for the proposed amendment, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) does not foresee significant impacts to wildlife, wildlife habitat, or aquatic resources. The proposed area of mineral development is characterized by short grass prairie. Native short grass prairies are highly valued for their ability to support obligate species. In El Paso County, native short grass prairies are critical habitat for Swift Fox and Pronghorn. It would be very important that any disturbed soil in this area be replanted in native grasses as soon as possible to minimize loss of top soil and the introduction of invasive noxious weeds. We would recommend using NRCS seeding guidelines for reclamation of any ground disturbance. Reclamation is extremely important; CPW has found that areas that have already been mined have not been reclaimed. At this time there are approximately 130 impacted acres that have not been reclaimed, this will make future revegetation projects difficult.

CPW recommends the revegetation of disturbed soils and the control of noxious weed species through the development of a noxious weed management plan prior to initiating construction activities. The Colorado Weed Management Association provides the booklet "Noxious Weeds of Colorado" that provides information on identification and management of noxious weeds in Colorado. CPW prefers that native vegetation be retained on site during the operational lifespan of the project, both as habitat for wildlife and to ensure successful reclamation of the project area. Proper reclamation, from a wildlife perspective, involves not only stabilizing the soil and establishing ground cover, but also fostering plant communities with a diversity of species and plant types- grasses, woody plants, and broadleaf forbs, which will fully serve the nutritional needs of wildlife.

Once again, we appreciate being given the opportunity to comment on the Solberg Pit Special Use Amendment. Please feel free to contact our office at 719-227-5250 should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Kroening". The signature is stylized with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Tim Kroening
Area Wildlife Manager
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Area 14 - Colorado Springs