



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Southeast Regional Office
4255 Sinton Rd
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
P 719.227.5200

October 10, 2024

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

Re: Solberg Pit Site Development Plan

Dear Mrs. Elgin,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the application for the Solberg Pit Site Development Plan 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.

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.

CPW appreciates being given the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact District Wildlife Manager Sarah Watson at 719-439-9636 or sarah.watson@state.co.us should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Jeff Davis, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Parks and Wildlife Commission: Dallas May, Chair · Richard Reading, Vice-Chair · Karen Bailey, Secretary · Jessica Beaulieu
Marie Haskett · Tai Jacober · Jack Murphy · Gabriel Otero · Murphy Robinson · James Jay Tutchton · Eden Vardy



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



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