



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
134 Union Boulevard, Suite 670
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

In Reply Refer to:
FWS/IR05/IR07/COFO

TAILS: 06E24000-2020-TA-0084

November 10, 2020

Mr. Grant Dewey
Executive Director
Western Museum of Mining and Industry
225 North Gate Boulevard
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80921

Subject: ESA Consultation for Museum Events at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry, El Paso County, Colorado

Dear Mr. Dewey:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received your email on October 23, 2020, for the Western Museum of Mining and Industry's proposed events on their property in El Paso County, Colorado. Your email requested concurrence with your determination that the proposed project would not result in incidental take of the federally threatened Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) and its critical habitat. These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C 1531 *et. seq.*).

The proposed action involves the continued hosting of museum events on the 28-acre campus at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry. Outdoor events will use the existing roads and picnic areas that are present on the site. The proposed project will not result in additional ground disturbances, and no roads or structures will be constructed. Temporary fencing will be used to restrict event activities from entering the adjacent areas along Smith Creek, which contains habitat for the Preble's mouse.

Based on the information provided in your email and the site maps that you provided, the Service agrees with your determination that the proposed project would not result in incidental take of the Preble's mouse and its critical habitat.

**INTERIOR REGION 5
MISSOURI BASIN**

KANSAS, MONTANA*, NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA,
SOUTH DAKOTA

*PARTIAL

**INTERIOR REGION 7
UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN**

COLORADO, NEW MEXICO, UTAH, WYOMING

We appreciate your efforts to ensure the conservation of threatened and endangered species. If you have questions or comments related to this project, please contact Leslie Ellwood of this office at 303-236-4747.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Liisa M. Schmoele". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Liisa Schmoele
Assistant Field Supervisor
Colorado Field Office – Lakewood

Reference: Projects\Western Museum of Mining_Clearance Letter_FWS concur