



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

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

August 12, 2020

El Paso County
ATTN: Kari Parsons
2880 International Circle,
Colorado Springs, CO 80910

Re: Grandview Reserve Sketch Plan

Dear Ms. Parsons,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has reviewed the plans for the Grandview Reserve Sketch Plan in El Paso County, Colorado in the northwest corner of the intersection of Elbert Road and Colorado Highway 24. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is in receipt of the above referenced permit application and is familiar with the site. CPW offers the following comments for your consideration.

CPW recommends crossing any riparian corridors and streams at a perpendicular angle, in order to reduce impacts to natural resources, as well as spanning the corridors with structures located outside the riparian and stream zone. During construction, stream crossing by construction vehicles should be avoided. CPW requests that any new service roads that are proposed for construction in conjunction with the project avoid crossing creeks or stream beds to avoid impacts to wildlife and habitat. If any new access or maintenance roads will be constructed that cross stream habitat, CPW would like to be consulted on best management practices and options for construction to minimize impacts. A construction design for any new or reconstructed riparian crossing that actively minimizes barriers to fish passage at all water levels and mitigates any existing barriers where possible would minimize the negative impact of the project on native fish species.

CPW recommends a 100 foot buffer zone be permanently placed around the creeks and ponds. If a trail is constructed near the creek or ponds, it should be a minimum of 100 feet from the edge. This buffer zone will offer wildlife utilizing the creek and ponds less disturbance by development and decrease the likelihood of human and wildlife encounters. The existing native riparian vegetation around the creeks, the ponds and in the drainage ways should be kept intact for wildlife habitat and to increase ground stabilization.

Trails would provide excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing. However, if trails are placed too close to areas utilized by wildlife it creates disturbances resulting in reduced wildlife



viewing opportunities. CPW recommends constructing trails on the outer edges of open space areas. This minimizes wildlife disturbance and creates increased wildlife viewing opportunities. Trails near creeks and drainage areas should cross perpendicular rather than run parallel to these critical wildlife habitat areas. Crossings should occur in areas that have the least usage by wildlife in order to have minimal impacts on wildlife.

CPW recommends the development and implementation of a noxious weed control plan for the site. All disturbed soils should be monitored for noxious weeds and noxious weeds should be actively controlled until native plant revegetation and reclamation is achieved. Care should be taken to avoid the spread of noxious weeds, and all construction equipment should be cleaned prior to leaving the site. A noxious weed management plan should be developed prior to any disturbance of the site. ACPW recommends that all landscaping in the developed area should be comprised of native species. Using native species with high food and cover values in an open space area is beneficial to wildlife. This can encourage wildlife to concentrate in areas that minimize human conflicts and optimize wildlife watching opportunities. Native plant species can also provide an aesthetically pleasing landscape that requires little maintenance, and are frequently more drought-tolerant than non-native species

CPW also recommends that all areas of disturbance and exposed soils above the ordinary high water mark be re-vegetated with a native seed mix. This will contribute to the replacement of lost riparian vegetation values and minimize establishment of noxious weeds. The placement of willow sprigs or bare root stock should also be considered along the banks, especially in those areas which have been disturbed. We recommend planting of vegetation along the bank to help reduce and control erosion and contribute to bank stability over the long term. The site should be monitored for a period of at least two growing seasons. Any stands of noxious weeds that become established should be controlled with appropriate mechanical and/or chemical methods suitable for the proposed location. CPW recommends using a clean fill material, if needed, that would be conducive to growing native vegetation that will help stabilize the banks. Non-native vegetation can overrun native vegetation and can become problematic. A seed mixture of native grasses is also recommended to provide a good support system in the soil.

We appreciate being given the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact District Wildlife Manager, Aaron Berscheid, should you have any questions or require additional information at 719-439-9601 or via email at aaron.berscheid@state.co.us

Sincerely,



Frank McGee
Area Wildlife Manager

Cc: SE regional files
Area 14 files
Aaron Berscheid, DWM