

## REDTAIL RANCH

### FINAL PLAT

#### LETTER OF INTENT – FINAL PLAT

DECEMBER 2018

**PROPERTY OWNER & DEVELOPER:**

Michael Ludwig  
4255 Arrowhead Dr.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80908

**CONSULTANT:**

N.E.S. Inc.  
619 North Cascade Avenue,  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

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**REQUEST**

Michael Ludwig is requesting approval of the following applications:

1. A Final Plat for Redtail Ranch, consisting of 12 lots (63.35 ac.), two tracts (.43 ac.), and public ROW (4.082 ac.) on approximately 67.9 acres.

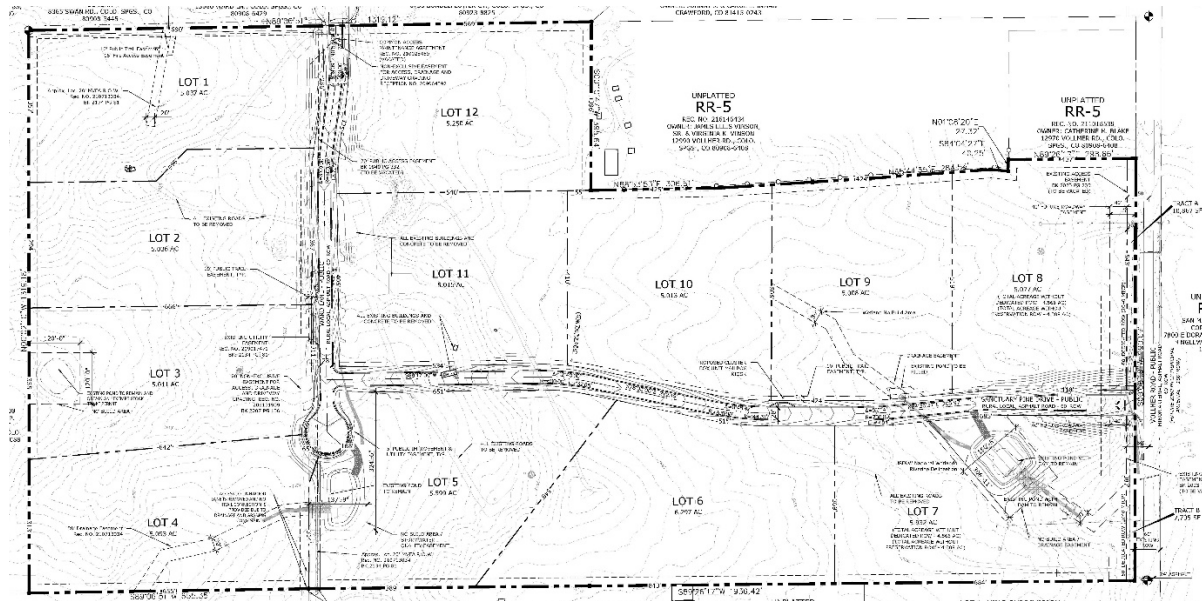
**SITE DESCRIPTION**

Redtail Ranch consists of 4 parcels located northwest of Vollmer Road and Shoup Road in Black Forest with a total of 67.9 acres. The surrounding properties consist of single-family lots approximately 5-acres in size. Over recent years the site has been cleared of trees destroyed in the Black Forest Fire, 2013. A patch of trees remains near the center of the site. The 1,182-acre Sanctuary in the Pines to the east is approved for a development of 390 lots (2.5-acre minimum). The proposed Sanctuary Pine Drive aligns with the Sanctuary Pine Drive on the east side of Vollmer.



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project proposes 12 single family lots, of a minimum 5-acres in size. The lots have a 25-foot building setback on all sides. Lots 7 and 8 include a 90-foot preservation ROW along Vollmer Road and a 50-foot dedicated ROW located within the preservation ROW to accommodate the future planned widening of Vollmer Road to a minor arterial. The proposed streets are a continuation of an existing road – Ward Lane (dirt road), and an approved but not yet constructed road – Sanctuary Pine Drive. The proposed roads are a rural local road and will be built per County standards as a 60-foot asphalt ROW. Lot 4 is accessed off of the cul-de-sac. The lot widths and acreages vary to accommodate easements, topography and existing natural features.



## WILDFIRE

The Wildfire Hazard Evaluation Report addresses the various wildfire fuel types and the potential hazards of this site and provides recommendations to mitigate and avoid future fire hazards. The majority of the subdivision is composed of grassland including woody fuel components (masticated limbs, etc.). The woody fuel is pressed into the soils and is not readily available for rapid combustion. Limited grass and surface fuels exist on the site since the Black Forest Fire that burned the majority of the trees on the site and limited growth has occurred. While the threat of wildland fire could never be completely eliminated the overall wildfire hazard of the property is considered as low. The Report provides wildfire mitigation measures to reduce the potential loss and spread of wildfire.

## SOILS & GEOLOGY HAZARDS/CONSTRAINTS

The Geology and Soils Report provided by RMG, outlines potential Geologic Hazards and Constraints as defined in the Engineering Criteria Manual. Constraints identified and discussed in Section 7 of the Report consist of Potentially Expansive Soils, Radon which is generally considered high in most of Colorado, Flooding and Surface Drainage, potentially Shallow Ground Water, and Erosion. All of these constraints can be properly mitigated or avoided through standard construction practices. No significant hazards or constraints were identified and “no build areas” are not necessary in regards to geology and soils. Bedrock was encountered throughout the site through the test borings; however, none of the bedrock is considered steeply dipping bedrock which would require preservation/no build areas.

### DRAINAGE & PONDS

The site contains four existing stock ponds on proposed lots 3, 5, 7 and southern portion of lot 9 partially in the roadway. A natural drainage transverses the southeast corner of lot 4. The ponds and drainage will be addressed as follows:

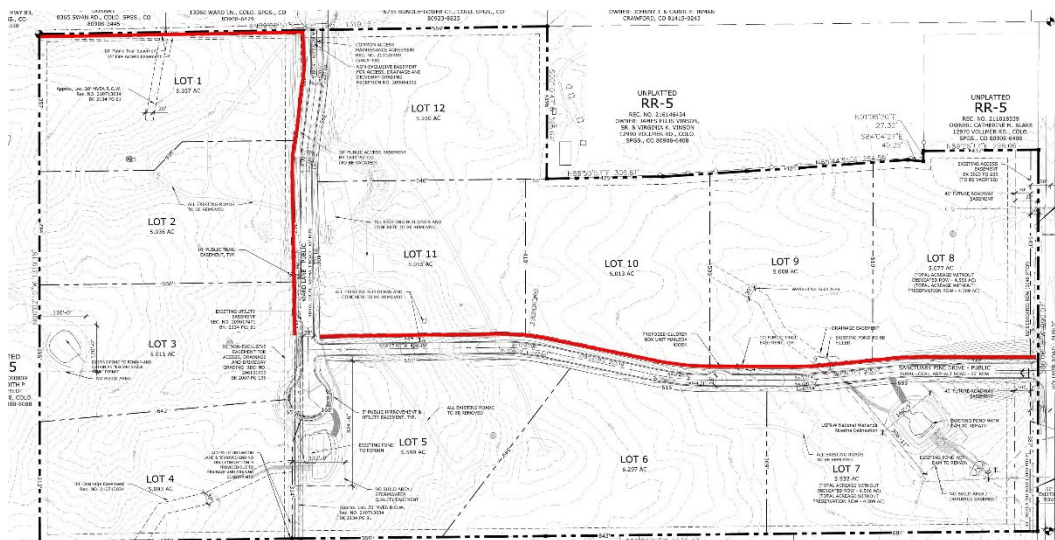
- **Lot 5 Pond and Lot 4 Drainage:** The existing pond will be partially filled and formalized as a Stormwater Quality Pond to meet County Standards. The 30' drainage easement is to remain as natural drainage and to accommodate any overflow of the Pond. The Stormwater Quality Pond will be maintained by the Homeowners Association.
- **Lot 3 Pond:** The existing stock pond on Lot 3 is to remain and an Exempt Stock Pond Permit is to be obtained. The existing dam will be improved to prevent overflow of the pond. The pond will be owned and maintained by the owner of Lot 3.
- **Lot 7 Pond:** The existing pond on lot 7 will be formalized as a Stormwater Quality Pond to meet County Standards. The Stormwater Quality Pond will be maintained by the Homeowners Association.
- **Pond partially on lot 9 and the Roadway:** This pond will be removed and filled in.

### WATER & WASTEWATER

Water will be provided by individual wells on each lot and Wastewater will be provided through individual On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems. Existing systems may remain or will be removed and disposed of according to EPC Environmental Health requirements. Four existing wells and five septic fields are identified on the property. Water will be provided through twelve private wells accessing either the Dawson or Denver aquifers. A water decree was entered on July 18, 2018 allowing utilization of the Denver Basin aquifer. Existing septic systems will remain or be removed and mitigated properly. New systems are recommended and permits are to be obtained by the individual lot owners.

### TRAILS & CONNECTIVITY

Through coordination with the Black Forest Trails Association (BFTA), including a tour of the property identifying possible locations, a 10' trail access easement is proposed. The trail runs along the north side of lot 1, south along the west side of Ward Lane, and along the north side of Sanctuary Pine Drive and provides a connection to the Pineries Open Space on the east side of Vollmer. The trail easement overlaps the MVEA utility easement and has been confirmed as an acceptable location by MVEA. The BFTA will be responsible for maintenance of the trail.



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**PROJECT JUSTIFICATION – FINAL PLAT**

The Final Plat is consistent with the approval criteria set forth in Section 7.2.1.D.3.f of the LDC as follows:

- 1. The subdivision is in conformance with the goals, objectives, and policies of the Master Plan; El Paso County, Colorado Land Development Code Rules Governing Divisions of Land – Chapter 7-Page 9 Effective 05/2016;**

EL PASO COUNTY POLICY PLAN

*Policy 6.4.3*

*Allow rural residential development in those areas with sufficient "carrying capacity" including roadway capacity, water supply, septic suitability, educational facilities and organized structural fire protection.*

*Policy 6.4.4*

*Encourage new rural residential subdivisions to be located within or contiguous with existing rural residential areas or to be incorporated as a buffer between higher density and undevelopable areas.*

BLACK FOREST PRESERVATION PLAN

*3. Residential*

*Goal 3.A - Promote a residential environment which perpetuates the rural-residential character of the Black Forest Planning Area.*

*Policy 3.1 - Continue the promotion of residential subdivisions with an overall average minimum lot area of 5 acres in the Timbered Area and other designated portions of the planning area. The minimum lot size for five-acre overall density areas should be at least 2.5 acres in most instances.*

*6. Transportation*

*Policy 6.6 Reserve adequate rights-of-way for roads indicated as potential major transportation corridors.*

This development is consistent with the intent of the County Policy Plan and the Black Forest Preservation Plan and the surrounding developments. The development maintains the Residential Rural designation of the RR-5 zone while providing consistency in the area. The site is located within the Timbered Area of the Black Forest Preservation Plan and is consistent with the description and intent of the area.

*"Residential densities within this planning unit (Timbered Area) should be strictly held to an overall average of one dwelling unit per 5 acres. Individual well and septic systems will be utilized."*

- 2. The subdivision is in substantial conformance with the approved preliminary plan;**

The stated purpose of the Code is to preserve and improve the public health, safety and general welfare of the citizens and businesses of El Paso County. The proposed 5-acre single family lots meet the requirements of the RR-5 zone and the proposed Preliminary Plan. Consistent with the surrounding properties that range in size from 4.45-acres to 8.68-acres, many of which are 5-acres single family lots.

- 3. The subdivision is consistent with the subdivision design standards and regulations and meets all planning, engineering, and surveying requirements of the County for maps, data, surveys, analyses, studies, reports, plans, designs, documents, and other supporting materials;**  
The subdivision design standards and additional engineering requirements are met including minimum lot size, setbacks, and building height.
- 4. A sufficient water supply has been acquired in terms of quantity, quality, and dependability for the type of subdivision proposed, as determined in accordance with the standards set forth in the water supply standards [C.R.S. §30-28-133(6)(a)] and the requirements of Chapter 8 of this Code;**  
A sufficient water supply is available as demonstrated in the Water Resources and Wastewater Treatment Report. Water will be supplied via wells.
- 5. A public sewage disposal system has been established and, if other methods of sewage disposal are proposed, the system complies with State and local laws and regulations, [C.R.S. §30-28-133(6)(b)] and the requirements of Chapter 8 of this Code;**  
Sewage disposal is via on-site wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) and is addressed in the Water Resources and Wastewater Treatment Report.
- 6. All areas of the proposed subdivision which may involve soil or topographical conditions presenting hazards or requiring special precautions have been identified and that the proposed subdivision is compatible with such conditions [C.R.S. §30-28-133(6)(c)];**  
These matters are addressed in the Soils and Geology Report provided by RMG. RMG determined that the proposed development is feasible and the potential for uncontrolled fill is not considered a geologic hazard. Where the uncontrolled fill is unavoidable, mitigation measures are proposed.
- 7. Adequate drainage improvements are proposed that comply with State Statute [C.R.S. §30-28-133(3)(c)(VIII)] and the requirements of this Code and the ECM;**  
These matters are addressed in the Drainage Report provided by Classic Consulting. Lot 5 and Lot 7 contain existing drainage ponds and easements have been added to accommodate these ponds. Lot 4 contains an existing drainage easement (Walker Place Drainage Easement) which is to remain. The Stock Pond on Lot 3 is to remain and an Exempt Stock Pond Permit is to be acquired and the pond is to be owned and maintained by the owner of Lot 3. The Stormwater Quality Ponds are to be maintained by an HOA.
- 8. Legal and physical access is provided to all parcels by public rights-of-way or recorded easement, acceptable to the County in compliance with this Code and the ECM;**  
All lots will be accessible by new public streets that comply with the LDC and ECM. Street names have been approved by El Paso–Teller County 911 Authority.
- 9. Necessary services, including police and fire protection, recreation, utilities, and transportation systems, are or will be made available to serve the proposed subdivision;**  
The site will be served by well and septic. Mountain View Electric and Black Hills Energy will provide electric and natural gas services as stated in the Will Serve letters included in this submittal. The property will be served by the U.S. Postal Service, a kiosk per the USPS standards is located between Lots 9 & 10.

**10. The subdivision provides evidence to show that the proposed methods for fire protection comply with Chapter 6 of this Code;**

The site is within the Black Forest Fire Protection District. Through discussions with the District a 15' fire access easement is identified along northern edge of Lot 1 to provide emergency ingress and egress. Access easement to Linnwood was discussed but is not feasible due to the Drainage Pond and necessary County Criteria to formalize the existing pond. The Wildfire Hazard Evaluation Report addresses the various wildfire fuel types and the potential hazards of this site and provides recommendations to mitigate and avoid future fire hazards.

**11. Off-site impacts were evaluated and related off-site improvements are roughly proportional and will mitigate the impacts of the subdivision in accordance with applicable requirements of Chapter 8;**

This subdivision extends Ward Road into the property and provides a direct public, paved access road to Vollmer Road. Required improvements along Vollmer Road are also being provided to allow for this new intersection to function safely. This new intersection provides a secondary access for all the Ward Road residents.

**12. Adequate public facilities or infrastructure, or cash-in-lieu, for impacts reasonably related to the proposed subdivision have been constructed or are financially guaranteed through the SIA so the impacts of the subdivision will be adequately mitigated;**

This subdivision provides on-site public, paved roads for all proposed lots and detention/stormwater quality as required. All public facilities are included in the financial assurance provided with platting.

**13. The subdivision meets other applicable sections of Chapter 6 and 8; and El Paso County, Colorado Land Development Code Rules Governing Divisions of Land – Chapter 7-Page 10 Effective 05/2016**  
The proposed subdivision meets the applicable sections of the Code.

**14. The extraction of any known commercial mining deposit shall not be impeded by this subdivision [C.R.S. §§34-1-302(1), et seq.]**

No known commercial mining deposits exist.

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