

FAX TRANSMITTAL

To: GABE SEVIGNY
El Paso County Planning & Community
Development Department

From: Patty Woodard

Fax: 719-520-6695

Pages: 6 (including cover page)

Phone: 719-439-2010

Date: 03/16/2019

Re: U-19-001

CC:

- Urgent**
 For Review
 Please Comment
 Please Reply
 Please Recycle

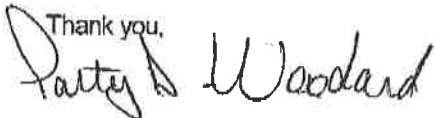
● **Comments:**

Gabe,

Per our telephone conversation, attached please find our comments regarding File # U-19-001, the proposed Approval of Location-Colorado Parks and Wildlife Ramah Shooting Range petition.

If there are any questions, please contact me at (719) 439-2010.

Thank you,



Patty Woodard

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Rodger and Patty Woodard
33004 E. US Highway 24
Calhan, CO 80808
(719) 541-2309 ~ woodardrp@aol.com

March 11, 2019

Gabe Sevigny
El Paso County Planning & Community Development Department
2880 International Circle, Suite 110
Colorado Springs, CO 80910-3127

Re: U-19-001 Approval of Location-Colorado Parks and Wildlife Shooting Range

Dear Mr. Sevigny,

I appreciate you taking the time to speak with me by phone today regarding the Approval of Location process. As an adjoining landowner to the Ramah State Wildlife Area (SWA), any decisions made by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and your office directly impacts our property in particular.

Enclosed please find a completed Approval of Location form expressing our opposition to the petition by CPW for approval of an outdoor shooting range at the Ramah SWA. Also enclosed is a letter dated December 6, 2018, addressed to CPW Area Wildlife Manager, Frank McGee, in which we set forth our concerns regarding the proposed unattended outdoor shooting range.

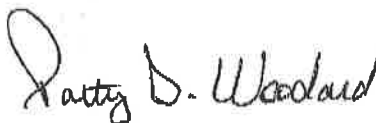
In reviewing the Approval of Location petition, we respectfully request that you take into consideration the concerns and issues addressed in our December 6, 2018, letter to CPW. The proposed shooting range at the SWA is not compatible with the surrounding area, poses a threat to the habitat and wildlife, and impacts the serenity current recreational users appreciate about the property. In addition, the approval of an outdoor shooting range will negatively impact the value of all neighboring properties.

We appreciate your time and ask that you fully consider the adverse effects an unattended shooting range will have on the adjacent properties, the safety of other recreational users, and the natural environment.

Sincerely,



Rodger L. Woodard



Patty D. Woodard

Cc: Mark Waller

enclosures



COMMISSIONERS:
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LONGINOS GONZALEZ, JR. (VICE-CHAIR)

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STAN VANDERWERF
CAMI BREMER

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
CRAIG DOSSEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 11, 2019

This letter is to inform you of the following petition which has been submitted to El Paso County:

U-19-001

SEVIGNY

APPROVAL OF LOCATION
Colorado Parks and Wildlife Ramah Shooting Range

A request by Colorado Parks and Wildlife for approval of location to allow for an outdoor shooting range. The property is zoned A-35 (Agricultural) and is located approximately .5 miles north of the Highway 24 and North Yoder Road Intersection. (Parcel Nos. 11000-00-032, 11000-00-020, 11000-00-023, 11000-00-033, 11000-00-071, and 11000-00-081)(Commissioner District No. 2)(Gabe Sevigny)

For	X Against	No Opinion
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Comments:
Please find attached the following two letters addressing our concerns with the Approval of Location request:

1. Letter dated March 11, 2019 to Gabe Sevigny, El Paso County Planning & Community Development Department
2. Letter dated December 6, 2018 to Frank McGee, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Area Manager.

(FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, PLEASE ATTACH ANOTHER SHEET.)

- This item is scheduled to be heard by the El Paso County Planning Commission on March 19, 2019. The meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. and will be conducted in the Second Floor Hearing Room of the Pikes Peak Regional Development Center, 2880 International Circle, Colorado Springs.
- The date and order when this item will be considered can be obtained by calling the Planning and Community Development Department or through El Paso County's Web site (www.elpasoco.com).
- The online submittal portal can be found at: www.epcdevplanreview.com
- The Staff Report for this Agenda item can be found at: <https://planningdevelopment.elpasoco.com/el-paso-county-planning-commission/planning-commission-2019-hearings/>

Your response will be a matter of public record and available to the applicant prior to the hearing. You are welcome to appear in person at the hearing to further express your opinion on this petition. If we can be of any assistance, please call (719) 520-6300.

Sincerely,

Gabe Sevigny, Planner II

Your Name: Rodger and Patty Woodard

(printed)

Address: 33004 E US Hwy 24, Calhan, CO 80808

Property Location: Schedule Number: 1100000158

Phone: Rodger: (719) 439-2011
Patty: (719) 439-2010

2880 INTERNATIONAL CIRCLE, SUITE 110
PHONE: (719) 520-6300



COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80910-3127
FAX: (719) 520-6695

WWW.ELPASOCO.COM

El Paso County Parcel Information

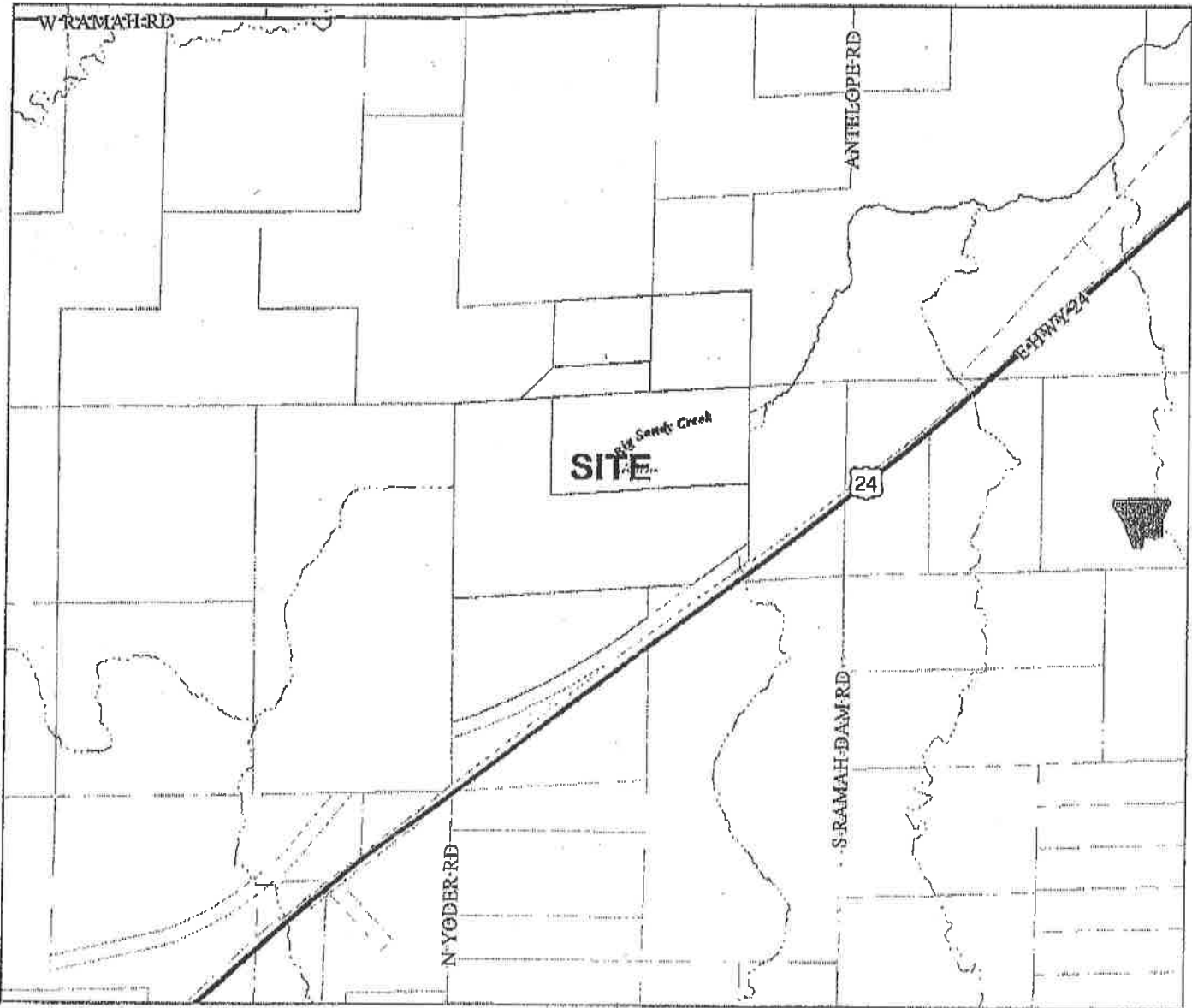
File Name:

Zone Map No.

Date:

PARCEL	NAME
1100000033	DOUBLE EL SOIL CONSERVATION DIST
1100000032	STATE OF COLORADO
1100000081	STATE OF COLORADO
1100000023	DOUBLE EL SOIL CONSERVATION DIST
1100000071	STATE OF COLORADO
1100000020	DOUBLE EL SOIL CONSERVATION DIST

ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	ZIPLUS
PO BOX 215	SIMLA	CO	80835	0215
6060 BROADWAY	DENVER	CO	80216	1029
6060 BROADWAY	DENVER	CO	80216	1029
PO BOX 215	SIMLA	CO	80835	0215
6060 BROADWAY	DENVER	CO	80216	1029
PO BOX 215	SIMLA	CO	80835	0215



Please report any parcel discrepancies to:
 El Paso County Assessor
 1673 W. Garden of the Gods Rd.
 Colorado Springs, CO 80907
 (719) 520-6600



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Rodger and Patty Woodard
33004 E. US Highway 24
Calhan, CO 80808
(719) 541-2309 ~ woodardrp@aol.com

December 6, 2018

Frank McGee
Area Wildlife Manager
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources, Area 14
4255 Sinton Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Dear Mr. McGee,

As an adjoining landowner to the Ramah State Wildlife Area (SWA), we are writing to express our concerns over the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) proposal to create a public shooting range on the SWA.

We have resided and grazed our cattle on the property adjacent to the SWA since 1984. In fact, we travel through the SWA every day to access our property. Thus, any policy decision made by CPW with respect to the SWA impacts our property in particular. Throughout those years, regardless of whether there is water in the dam or not, we have observed and experienced how the public presently utilizes the location. Just to name a few, those uses have included fishing, hunting, bird watching, horseback riding, running, hiking, and dog walking. Unfortunately, this also means that we have observed and experienced how the public utilizes the SWA in an irresponsible manner, including drinking to excess, littering, drug trafficking and other crimes, and as their own impromptu shooting range. As a result, we have several concerns with the CPW's current proposal.

Over the past thirty years, we have observed deer, antelope, elk (a couple of times), porcupines, raccoons, badgers, turkeys, doves, cranes, geese, owls, numerous other birds, and even a bob cat recently. The SWA is the habitat for this wildlife, and a shooting range, along with the increased volume of traffic that comes with such a proposal, would negatively impact the environment by driving the wildlife out of the area, defeating the purpose of preserving the SWA as just that—an area for wildlife to reside in a part of the state continually threatened by encroaching urban development. The possibility also exists that inviting the public to utilize a shooting range on this property would increase illegal poaching, along with disrupting the natural ecosystem enjoyed by Colorado's wildlife.

Another significant area of concern is the fact CPW has indicated the shooting ranging will be unattended. Such lack of supervision increases the risk for mischief, misuse, and potential destruction of property not only to the SWA, but also to neighboring properties. For example, in a particularly dry year, such as the most recent summer of 2018, an unattended shooting range would pose a potential risk of starting a wildfire if use of such shooting range is not carefully supervised and proper precautions taken to ensure public safety. If CPW proceeds with its proposal to

construct a shooting range on the SWA, then we would also ask that said construction include adequate signage and other information and materials necessary to educate the public with respect to gun safety and the best practices for ensuring protection of the surrounding environment.


Further, all of the properties contiguous to the SWA, including our own, are used for domestic livestock grazing. Regardless of the direction the shooting range is positioned, there is a real threat of injury to livestock. If an irresponsible user of the shooting range chose to take up practice on a nearby live target, such as a cow grazing in a neighboring field, such actions would harm the bottom line of neighboring ranchers like ourselves.

Lastly, it should go without saying that the noise distractions from the increased level of traffic and fire arm discharge would be unwelcome and annoying not only to us as residents of the area, but also to other members of the public who come to the SWA to enjoy recreational activities in the peace and quiet offered by nature. We know from experience that gun shots reverberate along the low-lying land that borders Big Sandy Creek. The sounds from a shooting range could become truly disruptive to our everyday lives and to those other recreational users of the SWA. In addition, increased traffic within the SWA will contribute to further deterioration of the roads, which are continually rough from potholes and ruts due to the lack of any form of regular maintenance.

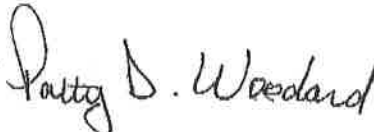
Unfortunately, we are not available to attend the open house meeting on December 7th. However, we would welcome the opportunity to personally discuss our concerns at any time. Rodger can be contacted at (719) 439-2011 or Patty can be reached at (719) 439-2010.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Rodger L. Woodard



Patty D. Woodard