



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Area 14
4255 Sinton Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
P 719.227.5200 | F 719.227.5297

April 19, 2019

Nina Ruiz, Project Manager
El Paso County Dev. Services Department
2880 International Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80910-6107

Re: Hale Sand Expansion in El Paso County

Dear Mrs. Ruiz,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the application for the Hale Sand, Site Development Plan in Peyton Colorado.

After reviewing the maps and documents for the proposed expansion, 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.

Also of importance of 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 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.



We appreciate being given the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact District Wildlife Manager, Sarah Watson, should you have any questions or require additional information at 719-227-5282 or via email at sarah.watson@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank McGee".

Frank McGee
Area Wildlife Manager

Cc: Sarah Watson, DWM
SE Regional File
Area 14 file