



COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

August 27, 2014

Western Slope Aggregates, Inc.
Sean Mello
P.O. Box 1319
Carbondale, CO 81623

RE: Blue Pit, Permit No. M- 1981-207, Comments Regarding 112c-1 Amendment Application (AM1)

Dear Mr. Mello,

On August 8, 2014 the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) received comments regarding the above referenced application from the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR).

Please inform the Division of how the Applicant will respond to the jurisdictional issues presented by Colorado Division of Water Resources.

If you require additional information, have questions or concerns, please contact me at the DRMS Grand Junction Field Office.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Mitchell

Environmental Protection Specialist
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
101 South 3rd, Suite 301
Grand Junction, CO 81501
Phone: (970) 242-5025
Fax: (970) 241-1516

Enc. DWR comments dated August 8, 2014





COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Glenwood Springs Area Office
0088 Wildlife Way
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

August 25, 2014

Stephanie J. Mitchell
Environmental Protection Specialist
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

RECEIVED
AUG 26 2014
GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE
DIVISION OF
RECLAMATION MINING & SAFETY

RE: Blue Pit Permit Amendment Application - Western Slope Aggregates, Inc.

Dear Mrs. Mitchell,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has reviewed the materials submitted for the proposed expansion to the Blue Pit located northwest of Carbondale, CO. The expansion area will eventually comprise approximately 60 acres of land presently used for agricultural hay production and cattle grazing. This property is currently mapped by CPW as mule deer winter, severe winter, and winter concentration range, black bear fall concentration area, and turkey overall range.

In general, CPW agrees with the assertion from the applicant's Wildlife Resources Report that there will not be major impacts to wildlife, although there will be unavoidable impacts to many small mammal and songbird species that will be displaced as a result of mining activities. After reviewing the planning materials, CPW staff has prepared the following comments and recommendations to further mitigate these unavoidable impacts as a result of the project.

1. Utilize bear proof dumpsters for any trash or garbage generated on the worksite. Garbage containers should be emptied on a daily basis to avoid creating attractants for bears and other wildlife species.
2. Existing hay fields on the property do provide forage for mule deer and elk during winter months. During heavy snowfall years, this forage is less accessible given the low growing nature of the grasses and forbs present.
 - a. Consider adding sagebrush species to the final seed mix for reclamation of rangeland/wildlife habitat areas not being returned to agricultural production.
3. Establish company guidelines to prohibit workers from bringing dogs onsite.
4. Utilize effective BMPs to maintain microbial activity in topsoil and reduce wind and water erosion during storage for final reclamation.



5. Install escape ramps or maintain at least one bank with a 3H:1V slope in any open pits that are expected to fill with water. This will ensure that any animals entering these pits can escape.
6. Limit the timeframes of heavy construction activities to the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to minimize disturbances to wildlife on adjacent properties.

Coupled with the proposed expansion of the Cerise gravel pit to the west, there will be significant industrial activity in this region over the next several years. The inclusion of these BMPs will be imperative to effectively minimize impacts to the wildlife resource.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife appreciates the opportunity to comment on this project. If there are any questions or need for additional information don't hesitate to contact Land Use Specialist, Taylor Elm at (970) 947-2971 or District Wildlife Manager, Matt Yamashita at (970) 947-2931.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Perry Will', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Perry Will, Area Wildlife Manager

Cc. Matt Yamashita, District Wildlife Manager
Taylor Elm, Land Use Specialist
File