



## COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, Colorado 80203

July 31, 2015

Gary D. Hill  
Las Animas County  
200 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Room 110  
Trinidad, CO 81082

**Re: Branson Gravel Pit, Permit No. M-1997-100, Comments Received in Response to 112c  
Amendment Application (Revision No. AM-01)**

Dear Mr. Hill:

The Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (Division) received comments in response to your 112c permit amendment application (Revision No. AM-01) that was filed on June 02, 2015. These comments were received before the public comment period ended on July 23, 2015, and are enclosed for your review.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, by telephone at 303-866-3567, extension 8129, or by email at [amy.eschberger@state.co.us](mailto:amy.eschberger@state.co.us).

Sincerely,

Amy Eschberger  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosure(s): Colorado Parks and Wildlife comment, received 06/23/2015  
Colorado Division of Water Resources comment, received 07/10/2015

CC: Phil Dorenkamp  
Las Animas County  
2000 N. Linden Ave.  
Trinidad, CO 81082

Wally Erickson, DRMS



AMB  
WHE



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Lamar Service Center  
2500 South Main Street  
Lamar, CO 81052  
P 719.336.6600 | F 719.336.6623

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JUN 23 2015

DIVISION OF RECLAMATION  
MINING AND SAFETY

06/15/2015

Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety

Attn: Amy Eschberger

1313 Sherman St., Room 215

Denver, CO 80203

AMB

Re: Notice of 112 Construction Materials Reclamation Permit Amendment Application  
Consideration Las Animas County, Branson Gravel Pit, Permit No. M-1997-100-AM01

Dear Amy Eschberger:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Las Animas County  
Branson Gravel Pit located at the E ½ of the SW ¼ and W ½ of the SE ¼ of Section 7,  
Township 35, Range 57 West.

District Wildlife Manager Brian Marsh recently visited the site on June 15, 2015. The  
majority of this currently undeveloped land consists primarily of mixed grass prairie  
transitioning into Pinion Juniper and scrub oak. Colorado Parks and Wildlife would  
expect to find a variety of small ground-dwelling mammals, ground-nesting birds,  
raptors, pronghorn, mule deer, elk, coyotes, and passerine birds at the site of this  
proposed gravel pit.

This area is not part of any significant migration route or corridor for wildlife. There  
may be occasional passerine birds migrating through the area in the spring and fall.  
Due to the small acreage and high availability of undisturbed habitat adjacent to the  
proposed site, impacts of the gravel pit, as proposed, may be characterized as  
minimal.

It is very unlikely that any state or federally listed threatened or endangered species  
are present at this site.



**AF & Report**



**No Violations**



CPW recommends that the main environmental emphasis of this project be the reclamation of the pit in order to maintain the long-term habitat value of the site, as well as to protect surrounding habitat. CPW recommends a complete reclamation plan, including:

- Reseeding, as soon as possible, any disturbed area using a weed-free shortgrass prairie seed mix consistent with surrounding vegetation.
- Monitoring for growth of noxious weeds throughout the duration of the gravel pit operations. If noxious weeds are detected, CPW recommends immediately eradicating them by spraying or by mechanical removal.
- Reseeding and weed eradication upon completion of gravel pit operations.
- If aquatic habitat results from the completion of this project (e.g. - ponds, wetlands), CPW would be interested in consulting on habitat manipulation to optimize the site's value to wildlife.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposal. If you have any questions or need any additional assistance please contact District Wildlife Manager Brian Marsh at (719) 980-0025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis Black". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Travis" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Black".

Travis Black  
Area Wildlife Manager

Cc: Dan Prenzlows, Regional Manager; Brett Ackerman, Assistant Regional Manager; Brian Marsh, District Wildlife Manager



FR:

COLORADO

Division of Water Resources

Department of Natural Resources

Office of the State Engineer  
1313 Sherman St, Suite 818  
Denver, CO 80203

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DIVISION OF RECLAMATION  
MINING AND SAFETY

Response to Reclamation Permit Amendment Application Consideration

DATE: July 9, 2015  
TO: Amy Eschberger, Environmental Protection Specialist  
CC: Division 2 Office; District 66 Water Commissioner  
FROM: Caleb Foy, P.E.  
RE: Branson Gravel Pit, File No. M-1997-100 *Amø1*  
Operator: Las Animas County  
Contact: Phil Dorenkamp, (719) 846-2931  
Sec. 7, Twp. 35S, Rng. 57W, 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Las Animas County

CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL

- ☒ The proposed operation does not anticipate exposing groundwater. Therefore, exposure of ground water must not occur during or after mining operations. If stormwater is contained on-site, it must infiltrate into the ground or be released to the natural stream system within 72 hours, or all work must cease until a substitute water supply plan, or augmentation plan approved by water court, is obtained. Reclamation plans must ensure water will not be retained onsite for more than 72 hours unless an augmentation plan approved by water court is obtained.

COMMENTS: N/A

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