

STATE OF  
COLORADO

Eschberger - DNR, Amy &lt;amy.eschberger@state.co.us&gt;

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**Transit Mix Concrete Company application for Reclamation Permit, Hitch Rack Ranch Quarry (# M2016010)**2 messages

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**Flaharty, Weldon W.** <Weldon.Flaharty@parsons.com>  
To: "Amy.Eschberger@state.co.us" <Amy.Eschberger@state.co.us>

Tue, Apr 12, 2016 at 3:36 PM

Dear Ms. Amy Eschberger:  
I am re-submitting the attached letter to include my telephone number.

Yours in wildlife conservation,

Weldon W. Flaharty  
Chairman, Pikes Peak Chapter, Mule Deer Foundation  
Board Member, Colorado State Chapter, Mule Deer Foundation  
Life Member, Mule Deer Foundation  
Life Member, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Member, numerous other conservation organizations

The mission of the Mule Deer Foundation is to ensure the conservation of Mule Deer, Black-tailed Deer, and their habitat.



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**Eschberger - DNR, Amy** <amy.eschberger@state.co.us>  
To: "Flaharty, Weldon W." <Weldon.Flaharty@parsons.com>  
Cc: Wally Erickson - DNR <wally.erickson@state.co.us>

Thu, Apr 14, 2016 at 8:47 AM

Dear Mr. Flaharty,

I have received your timely objection and will add it to the permit file. I appreciate your participation in the application review process for the proposed Hitch Rack Ranch Quarry (Permit No. M-2016-010).

Thanks,

Amy Eschberger  
Environmental Protection Specialist

**COLORADO**Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

P 303.866.3567 x8129 | F 303.832.8106 | C 303.945.9014  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203  
[Amy.Eschberger@state.co.us](mailto:Amy.Eschberger@state.co.us) | <http://www.mining.state.co.us>

[Quoted text hidden]

Weldon W. Flaharty (719-527-1572)  
1005 Glenrock Dr.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80926

April 4, 2016

Ms. Amy Eschberger  
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety  
1313 Sherman St, Room 215  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Re: Transit Mix Concrete Company application for Reclamation Permit, Hitch Rack Ranch Quarry (# M2016010)

Dear Ms. Eschberger:

As an active Wildlife Conservationist I am opposed to another large-scale aggregate mining operation in the State Highway 115 corridor. I request the application for a new permit and/or the extension of an existing permit be denied, due to the devastating impact the proposed quarry will have on our precious and vulnerable wildlife.

The proposed quarry location is an area rich in susceptible wildlife. It is inhabited by a large diversity of and in some cases high density of wildlife:

- Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has identified the proposed quarry location as a primary elk residence and migration area. The proposed quarry lies between a large concentration of elk on Federal lands to the west and winter range on Fort Carson to the east. The attached map was downloaded from CPW's Hunting Atlas. The red arrow shows the elk migration pattern. The proposed quarry will have a very negative impact on elk survivability if eastern migration to winter feeding grounds and western migration to summer calving grounds is disrupted.
- The US Fish and Wildlife Service has listed the immediate area as a Critical Potential Conservation Habitat for the Mexican Spotted Owl; which has been documented.
- Wild Turkeys, which are highly intolerant to industrial operations such as mining, are highly abundant in the area; which is contrary to the applicant's statement that "turkeys are not common in the mining area."
- The proposed quarry site is adjacent to and contiguous with the Aiken Canyon Preserve which is managed by the Nature Conservancy of Colorado; who also oppose the quarry permit. This area is identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program as a B2-Very High Significance site.
- Several area intermittent streams are known to be important movement corridors for wide-ranging wildlife species such as, elk, mule deer, black bear, and mountain lions. The proposed quarry plan does not appear to provide an adequate buffer of these corridors by these sensitive species.
- More than 100 species of birds have been documented in the area.

The addition of a fourth quarry to the existing three in-service quarries in this area will be devastating to wildlife. The recognition of questionable statements by the applicant in regards to wildlife is unacceptable. The denial of a new permit and/or the extension of an existing permit is the only acceptable conclusion in regards to wildlife.

Yours in wildlife conservation,

Weldon W. Flaharty  
Chairman, Pikes Peak Chapter, Mule Deer Foundation  
Board Member, Colorado State Chapter, Mule Deer Foundation  
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