



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Southeast Region
4255 Sinton Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
P 719.227.5200 | F 719.227.5223

April 18, 2016

Amy Eschberger
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
Environmental Protection Specialist
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Notice of 112 Construction Materials Reclamation Permit Application Consideration
Transit Mix Concrete Co., Hitch Rack Ranch Quarry, File No, M-2016-010

Dear Ms. Eschberger:

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is in receipt of the above referenced quarry lease application and is familiar with the site. Transit Mix Concrete has already met with CPW and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) about the proposed quarry. Based on the location of the proposed quarry, both CPW and USFWS instructed Transit Mix Concrete to perform surveys for the federally and state threatened Mexican spotted owl, since it is known habitat for the species.

CPW notices that the mining operation is set to take place around Little Turkey Creek. All wetland areas should be buffered a minimum of 100 feet from the outside edge of the creek. Any development, surface disturbance, and outbuildings should be discouraged except where necessary for mining operations. Additionally, hydrological flows that support wetlands should remain undisturbed and not impeded.

Natural vegetation should not be altered unless for purposes necessary to the mining operation. Native grasses and forbs should be maintained and mowing strongly discouraged except as required around the immediate areas of buildings and mining operations.

The control of noxious weeds is the responsibility of the landowner. Noxious weeds shall be actively controlled using methods such as mowing and spraying. Species specific control measures should be used when pesticides are felt necessary for the control of noxious weeds. All equipment that is entering the site from a different location should be cleaned of all soil and vegetation to help prevent the spread of noxious weeds.

If any fencing is to be used, wildlife friendly fencing should be utilized. CPW will provide information on wildlife friendly fencing upon request.





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Due to the presence of black bears on the property, CPW recommends that the operators of the facility invest in bear-proof trash containers if trash is going to be present on the facility. Trash containers should be stored in a garage or in a solid locked storage shed until the morning of trash collection during those months when bears are most active (April - November).

Feeding of big game species is illegal in Colorado. This includes putting out salt blocks, hay, grain, or other items to attract big game. The use of bird feeders should be strongly discouraged from April through November to avoid conflicts with black bears.

Once mining is complete, all reclamation efforts could have potentially significant value to wildlife. To maximize this benefit, CPW recommends that the mining site be returned to the same condition as prior to being mined. Planting of trees and shrubs attractive to wildlife is encouraged. Reseeding of grasses and forbs over large areas should be a mix of warm and cool season plants that are palatable and attractive to wildlife. All vegetation used in reclamation should be species that are native to Colorado and present in the region. For further consultation, contact CPW.

CPW appreciates being given the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact District Wildlife Manager, Cody Wigner, should you have any questions or require additional information at 719-227-5287 or via email at cody.wigner@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

Frank McGee
Area Wildlife Manager

Cc: SE Region File
Area 14 File
Cody Wigner, DWM

