



COLORADO

**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

May 3, 2016

Ms. Laurie L. Erwin
Town of La Veta
111 W. Moore Ave.
P.O. Box 174
La Veta, Co 81055

**Re: La Veta Town Gravel Pit, Permit No. M-2016-018,
110 Construction Materials Reclamation Permit Application Package
Second Adequacy Review**

Dear Ms. Erwin:

The Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety (Division) has reviewed your submittal which was received on April 25, 2016, in which you provided responses to the Divisions' adequacy review letter dated April 12, 2016. Subsequently the Division received your April 27, 2016, correspondence clarifying the Reclamation Plan and the Reclamation Plan Map. Responses are fully adequate for the following comments: 1, through 22; and the Division has provided a new comment, which is comment 23.

General Comments and Questions:

23) Please see the attached comment from Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

The decision deadline on this application is May 6, 2016. It appears that all adequacy items have been addressed. The Division will make a decision on the permit application under separate cover.

If you need additional information please contact me at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, by telephone at 303-866-3567, extension 8131, or by email at Tyler.ODonnell@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

Tyler O'Donnell
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosure: Comments from Colorado Parks and Wildlife

cc: Wally Erickson, DRMS



**COLORADO****Parks and Wildlife**

Department of Natural Resources

Pueblo Service Center - Area 11
600 Reservoir Road
Pueblo, CO 81005
P 719.561.5300 | F 719.561.5321**RECEIVED****APR 28 2016**DIVISION OF RECLAMATION
MINING AND SAFETY

April 28, 2016

Tyler V. O'Donnell
CO Division of Reclamation Mining & Safety
1313 Sherman St. Room 215
Denver, CO 80203Mike Trujillo, Area Wildlife Manager
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
600 Pueblo Reservoir Road
Pueblo, CO 81005RE: Notice of 110 Construction Materials Reclamation Permit Application Consideration Town
of La Veta, La Veta Town Gravel Pit, File No. M-2016-018

Dear Mr. O'Donnell:

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the proposed application to conduct surface extraction of construction materials, (sand, gravel, road base) for the town of La Veta located NW of La Veta and further described by the following legal description; Section 7, Township 29S, Range 68W, NE1/4SE1/4, Huerfano County, CO.

As requested District Wildlife Manager Mike Brown reviewed the application and maps and conducted a site visit on 04/21/2016. Furthermore, Colorado Parks & Wildlife biologists were also consulted on the project.

The proposed 9.75 acre surface mining operation is located on private land within a short grass prairie type of habitat in close proximity to U.S. Hwy. 160. The dominant grass species consist of grama, and western wheatgrass. Additional sub-dominant grasses include buffalo grass, squirrel tail, and side oats grama. The proposed mining location is located in an area with a high degree of wildlife diversity.

The following list of species may be found throughout the area: Elk, Mule Deer, Pronghorn, Black Bear, Mountain Lion, Coyote, Swift Fox, Bobcat, Cottontail Rabbit, Jack Rabbit, Red Fox, Red-Tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, American Kestrel.



The impacts from the proposed surface material mining of sand and gravel may be characterized as minimal with no significant impacts. The proposed mining activity should have little long term effects on resident species due to the quality of habitat being impacted. To our knowledge there are no known threatened or endangered species in the exact area of the proposed mining activity. Additionally, the project will not affect any aquatic species or wetlands. During the site visit to the mine location, no raptor nests and or prairie dog towns were observed within the immediate vicinity.

In areas where ground disturbing activities are anticipated, CPW recommends reclamation with native grass and/or plant species. Proper reclamation, from a wildlife perspective, involves both soil stabilization and ground cover establishment. Reclamation seed mixes should be suited for on-site soil types and mirror both existing and native plant communities. Specific seed mixtures may be specified and or obtained by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA).

A thorough noxious weed control program is also essential in proper reclamation to prevent disturbed areas from being invaded by non-native vegetation that can be detrimental to existing wildlife habitat. This may be achieved via a noxious weed management plan.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue. Please feel free to contact our office at 719-561-5300, if you have any questions or comments regarding this or any other wildlife matter.

Sincerely,



Michael Trujillo
Area Wildlife Manager
Colorado Parks and Wildlife

**COLORADO****Parks and Wildlife**

Department of Natural Resources

Pueblo Service Center - Area 11
600 Reservoir Road
Pueblo, CO 81005
P 719.561.5300 | F 719.561.5321

RECEIVED

APR 28 2016

DIVISION OF RECLAMATION
MINING AND SAFETY

FAX TRANSMITTAL

DATE: 4-28-16TIME: 9:35

FROM: AREA 11 SERVICE CENTER
FAX NUMBER (719) 561-5321
PHONE NUMBER (719) 561-5300

TO: Tyler V. O'DonnellFROM: Mike TrejilloPAGES: 3

COMMENTS:

Land Use Comments for LaVeta Gravel Pit
File No M-2016-018

