



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Southeast Region, Area 14
4255 Sinton Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
P 719.227.5200 | F 719.227.5223

May 16, 2017

Elliott R. Russell
Environmental Protection Specialist
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman St. Room 215
Denver, CO. 80203

Re: Forrest Mining Project, File No. M-2017-012

Dear Mr. Russell,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is in receipt of the above referenced permit application and is familiar with the site located at or near Section 12, Township 12S, Range 71W, 6th Principal Meridian in Teller County. CPW staff offers the following comments for your consideration.

The mission of CPW is to perpetuate the wildlife resource of the state, to provide a quality state park system, and to provide enjoyable and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire current and future generations to serve as active stewards of Colorado's natural resources. Our goal in responding to land use proposals such as this is to provide complete, consistent, and timely information to all entities who request comments on matters within our statutory authority.

CPW suggests care be taken during mining to avoid excess erosion or disturbance of more land than necessary to accomplish the project. We also suggest the area be reasonably reclaimed following mining. We recommend reusing the original top soil that is removed from the surface by placing it back in its original location after mining is completed. Once the original top soil is in place, we recommend planting the disturbed areas with native vegetation that matches the native vegetation already present in the surrounding area.

CPW recommends the development and implementation of a noxious weed control plan for the site. It is recommended that all disturbed soils in the area be monitored for noxious weeds and noxious weeds should be actively controlled until native plant revegetation and reclamation is achieved. It is recommended that all areas disturbed by the development be revegetated with native plant species.



If fill material will be used in the project, CPW recommends using a native fill material that would be conducive to growing native vegetation. Non-native vegetation can out-compete native vegetation and thus degrade valuable wildlife habitat.

CPW also recommends that at each trench a gradual slope be in place leading out. This would allow any wildlife that happens to fall in the trenches to escape with ease.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this permit application. If you have any questions or require additional information please contact District Wildlife Manager Tim Kroening at 719-227-5281 or via e-mail tim.kroening@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank McGee".

Frank McGee
Area Wildlife Manager

Cc: Tim Kroening DWM
SE Regional File
Area 14 File