



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Northeast Regional Office
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Denver, CO 80216
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RECEIVED

JUL 24 2017

**DIVISION OF RECLAMATION
MINING AND SAFETY**

July 24, 2017

Michael Cunningham
Division of Reclamation, Mining, & Safety
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, Colorado 80203

RE: Fairplay Au Pit (M-1991-037) conversion - Fairplay Colorado.

Dear Michael,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) appreciates you organizing the meeting that occurred on July 10th, 2017 at the Fairplay Au Pit. This opportunity allowed our staff to thoroughly assess any current and future potential impacts to both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife and water quality associated with this mine and its operations.

CPW has the following comments:

- CPW would expect to find elk, deer, moose, bears, coyotes, fox, small ground-dwelling mammals, raptors, and passerine birds at the site of the proposed mining permit. CPW would also expect to find naturally reproducing brown trout and brook trout with some stocked rainbow trout in the Middle Fork of the South Platte River adjacent to and downstream of the mine site.
- CPW staff noticed a lined water containment pit with steep walls that holds fresh water pumped directly from the Middle Fork of the South Platte River. Staff is concerned that animals such as moose, elk, and deer could become trapped in the supply pond. CPW recommends a form of enclosure fence suitable to exclude these animals out of any present or future lined ponds associated with this mine.
- CPW is requesting that all current and future sedimentation ponds be lined to prevent wash water and sediment from leaching into ground and surface water.
- CPW is requesting that all water supply lines deliver water to settling ponds at an elevation greater than the pond's water surface maximum elevation to prevent wash water from back flowing into the Middle Fork of the South Platte River or the Platte City Ditch.
- CPW staff has concerns regarding the existing tailings pile that is adjacent to the Middle Fork of the South Platte River. We are requesting the opportunity to consult with the applicant to improve river form and function, floodplain connectivity, riparian health, water quality, and the risk of tailings entering the Middle Fork. After consulting with Water Quality and Aquatic Toxicology experts and with our



- experiences with water and sediment toxicity from other placer mines, CPW has significant concerns regarding water quality impacts from the mining operations that occur at the Fairplay Au Mine. We are requesting an additional meeting between the applicant, DRMS and CPW to address these concerns while protecting water quality and aquatic resources.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Leslie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Leslie
Northeast Regional Manager

cc: M. Lamb, T. Stoltzfus, K. Kehmeier, J. Spohn, M. Kondratieff, file