



STATE OF  
COLORADO

Ebert - DNR, Jared <jared.ebert@state.co.us>

## Lamb Lakes, DRMS Permit Application M-2018-039

Maureen DeCoursey <mdecoursey@gmail.com>  
To: "Ebert - DNR, Jared" <jared.ebert@state.co.us>

Fri, Sep 7, 2018 at 12:56 PM

Hello;

I would like to register my objections regarding the permit application M-2018-039. I live close to the are and use it on a regular basis. My address is 316 West Street Fort Collins, CO 80521.

Specifically, my objections to the have to do with the following

- 1) Not suitable for a parcel adjacent to a school, residential housing and official open space (noise, dust, etc)
- 2) Environmental and ecosystem values not addressed including important habitat for residential and migrating birds and animals of all kinds that use the riparian corridor of the nearby Poudre River;
- 3) Lining of the ponds would reduce groundwater flow into the river, thereby reducing instream flows
- 4) Large gravel and sand mining operations and lined ponds already exist immediately upstream - if this operation is approved it would create a half-mile stretch of industrial mining operations that would bisect City/County Open Space management areas along the Poudre River and create an incompatible industrial zone.
- 5) The application does not mention the regular and often high use by neighborhood residents fora variety of recreational and mental health purposes (running/walking, resting in a quiet tranquil place next to water, a place to walk dogs off leash (More that 50,000 dogs in the city now), and other purposes not met by official open space and natural areas (Please let me know if you would like photos - can send if requested.)
- 6) This is a growth management zone slated to be incorporated within the city limits soon. Industrial mining operations are not compatible with the higher density growth planned for the area.
- 7) I believe the highest and best use of this land is an easy compromise that would provide water storage for the applicant (Weld County Water District) and consider the needs and aspirations of the surrounding community.

Thank you very much, Please contact me for photos of it you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Maureen DeCoursey

On Thu, Aug 9, 2018 at 11:01 AM, Ebert - DNR, Jared <jared.ebert@state.co.us> wrote:

Hello Maureen,

You can send comments to me via e-mail or you may submit a written comment to my attention at the address provided on my signature block. In the subject line please indicate the application number (M-2018-039, Lamb Lakes). You can download the document from laserfiche. After you open a specific document, click the "PDF" button and it will allow you to download it to look at offline.

I am not sure what you mean regarding "snail mail" comments, would you mind clarifying?

I definitely understand your concerns but I would ask that you keep in mind that DRMS and this application process has no jurisdiction or legal right to dictate or address impacts to public access to these parcels. Public access rights are retained by the specific landowners to these parcels. Land use issues are also not specifically under our jurisdiction, the County Land Use Planning and Zoning department oversees these decisions. If the post mine land use of developed water resources as proposed is not allowed by the County, the applicant will need to address that. I would recommend you contact Larimer County about the land use decisions regarding this property.

Thanks,

Jared

On Thu, Aug 9, 2018 at 10:18 AM, Maureen DeCoursey <mdecoursey@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Jared,

Thanks for getting me through your system. I was able to read the application in full, however I get knocked out every few minutes as it seems to lose connection and has to reload.

Is there a way to download the application so you can read it offline?

Also with respect to sending in comments: can this be done via email? If so, please send best address. Also is there someone at your office we need to address snail mail comments to? Or just use the generic office address as listed in your contact information? I assume for any comments, we should put something in the subject field or on the enveloped that says Attn: comments for permit # XXXX, or something to that effect?

Finally, it looks to me like public access, informal as it is right now, will end if this goes through. There is no mention of existing recreation or open space values at all, nor potential ones, which are a big deal up here since we've experienced explosive development and population growth in the last decade. The wildlife, riparian, lacustrine and other values seem to be underestimated as well. It seems like some income from sand and gravel mining for one party, plus a minor amount of lined water storage (which can have its own public health problems) is not the highest, best or most sustainable use of the lakes and the land around them. It only makes short term economic sense, while the local community will pay the highest price.

As such, I am wondering if you might know of any models in the state or elsewhere where various these needs, values and desires were integrated into one project? There's an opportunity to do just that here. A local company could make some money, the water districts would get some storage, the lakes would remain healthy ecosystems and the community would gain a beautiful and treasured open space inside the city limits to walk their dogs off leash, run, hike, play with their kids and maybe even teach them how to swim in the sweltering summer heat. This is what happens there now. This site is unique and irreplaceable.

I will check with our planning and open space departments to see where they stand on it, but if any examples comes to mind please pass them on.

Thanks for your help!

Maureen

On Wed, Aug 8, 2018 at 12:57 PM, Ebert - DNR, Jared <[jared.ebert@state.co.us](mailto:jared.ebert@state.co.us)> wrote:

Hello Ms. Decoursey,

I called and left you a voice message. The application you are calling about is application number M-2018-039. The applicant is required to publish a notice regarding the application in a newspaper of general circulation in the area of the proposed operation for once a week for four consecutive weeks. The public comment period closes twenty (20) calendar days after the last date of newspaper publication.

The applicant attempted to have the publication begin on Monday July 30th with the last date of publication on August 20th. So if my calculations are correct, the close of the public comment period should be on the 9th of September. However, I need proof of publication from the applicant to verify the dates of publication. Depending on the paper, that can take a little time to obtain.

The application material is available on our website under the "Reports and Data" tab. Click on "Imaged Document Data" on the left hand side of the website:

<http://mining.state.co.us/Reports/Pages/default.aspx>

Feel free to give me a call if you would like some help finding the application material. There is instructions on the website but they can be a little confusing.

I hope that helps, please feel free to contact me with questions.

Thanks,

Jared

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**Jared Ebert**

**Environmental Protection Specialist III**



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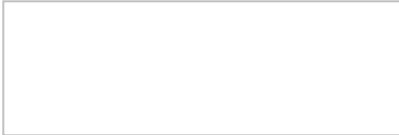
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Maureen DeCoursey  
Director, DeCoursey and Associates  
Skype: mo3460

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**Environmental Protection Specialist III**



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