

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215 Denver, CO 80203

September 11, 2018

Bill Schenderlein Blue Earth Solutions, LLC. P.O. Box 2427 Fort Collins, Colorado 80522

RE: Lamb Lakes, 112c DRMS Permit Application No. M-2018-039 Adequacy Review No. 1

Dear Mr. Schenderlein:

The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (DRMS or Division) received the above referenced application on July 25, 2018. The application was deemed complete for review on July 26, 2018. The Division has received objections to the application and in accordance with Rule 1.4.9 has scheduled a hearing before the Mined Land Reclamation Board (MLRB or Board) during the November 14 and 15, 2018 MLRB meeting for consideration of the application. The Division has tentatively set a date for a pre-hearing conference for October 26, 2018. The location and time of the Pre-hearing conference will be provided to you as soon as possible. The Division is required to issue a recommendation to approve, approve with conditions or to deny the application to the Board no later than October 23, 2018. The following items will need to be addressed to the Division's satisfaction prior to the October 23, 2018 recommendation date:

# Rule 6.4.3 – Exhibit C – Pre-mining and Mining Plan Map(s) of Affected Lands

- 1. Exhibit C-5 shows topographic lines to depict the topography of the affected land. However, these lines are not labeled so the direction and rate of slope are not clear. Please revise this map to include adequate labeling of the contour lines so the direction and rate of slope can be ascertained.
- 2. Please revise Exhibit C-6 to clearly depict and label the Fort Collins Irrigation Canal Ditch and the Larimer and Weld Irrigation Ditch discussed on page 16 of Exhibit G.

# Rule 6.4.4 – Exhibit D – Mining Plan

3. The mining plan indicates soil has been placed over most of the site and that topsoil and overburden may be temporarily stockpiled. In accordance with Rule 6.4.4(f)(i) please indicate the thickness and type of overburden to be removed. Please indicate the thickness of topsoil to be removed.



## Rule 6.4.5 – Exhibit E – Reclamation Plan

4. Please clarify the reclamation sequence regarding pit dewatering and slurry wall construction. Will the slurry wall be installed around each cell prior to pit dewatering?

# Rule 6.4.7 – Exhibit G – Water Information

- 5. The application indicates future reclamation activities will not produce additional significant affects to the groundwater table on properties surrounding the Lamb Lakes site and that no additional impacts to the Cache La Poudre River and the two identified irrigation canals are anticipated. However, pit dewatering can lower the groundwater table adjacent to the site and could negatively impact adjacent well users and cause increased losses from adjacent irrigation canals. Please demonstrate how the proposed pit dewatering will not negatively impact the surrounding well users and cause losses to the adjacent irrigation canals.
- 6. The application indicates it is anticipated groundwater mounding and shadowing will occur resulting from the installation of the slurry wall. Please provide an analysis predicting the anticipated rise of the groundwater table resulting from groundwater mounding and the extent groundwater could mound off-site. Also provide and analysis predicting the extent and level of groundwater shadowing. Depending on the extent and amount of groundwater mounding and shadowing a more preventative mitigation plan may need to be devised. DRMS strongly recommends the applicant consider installing a perimeter drain to facilitate groundwater flow around the site during the construction of the slurry wall.
- 7. The applicant indicates specific alluvial groundwater conditions at the site are not available. In order to evaluate and monitor the impacts to the groundwater levels up-gradient, down-gradient and adjacent to the site, a baseline water monitoring plan and operational water monitoring plan will need to be devised. Please submit a groundwater level monitoring plan to include at a minimum:
  - a. Location of water monitoring wells. Please supply a map that accurately locates all proposed groundwater sample points.
  - b. Monitoring well specification and completion information. If new wells will be installed, well completion information will need to be submitted after they are installed.
  - c. Method of sampling and frequency of sampling. The Division will require quarterly sampling at a minimum.
  - d. Reporting frequency to DRMS. The Division will require the operator to submit the water monitoring data each year with the annual report.
  - e. Trigger level for notification to DRMS and possible mitigation implementation. DRMS typically requires a permittee to notify the Division of a 2 foot change (rise or fall) of the seasonal high and low water level. Mitigation measures may then be implemented if necessary.

- f. A commitment to supply the baseline water level results to the Division prior to the installation of the slurry wall and/or pit dewatering. The Division will required at least five quarters of baseline water level sampling.
- 8. Please identify all known aquifers.
- 9. DRMS received a comment letter from the Colorado Division of Water Resources dated August 7, 2018. Based on this comment letter, The approved substitute water supply plan does not cover depletions associated with water removed in the mined product, or water used for any other purpose at the site, such as for dust control or slurry wall construction. No material may be mined below the groundwater table (including in a dewatered state) and no groundwater may be used for any purpose at the site other than evaporation until the applicant has obtained a substitute water supply plan that covers such use(s). Please commit to obtaining a substitute water supply plan that covers such uses prior to mining below the groundwater table.
- 10. Please provide an estimate of the project water requirements including flow rates and annual volumes for the development, mining and reclamation phases of the project other than those described in the Substitute Water Supply Plan associated with the exposure of groundwater. Please indicate the projected amount from each of the sources of water to supply the project water requirements for the operation.

# Rule 6.4.9 – Exhibit I – Soils Information

11. The Division recognizes the soils information presented in Exhibit I is historic and given the mining that has occurred at the site is not representative of the current conditions. The applicant proposed to replace four to six inches of topsoil over the reclaimed area. What is the rational/justification for this replacement depth?

# Rule 6.4.10 – Exhibit J – Vegetation Information

12. Please provide quantitative estimates of cover and height for the principle species of vegetation currently established at the site.

# Rule 6.4.12 – Exhibit L – Reclamation Costs

The Division has reviewed the reclamation cost estimate submitted by the applicant and will accept the estimate as submitted.

# Rule 6.4.19 – Exhibit S – Permanent Man-made Structures

- 13. For each structure located within two hundred (200) feet of the affected land, the applicant may either:
  - a. provide a notarized agreement between the applicant and the person(s) having an interest in the structure, that the applicant is to provide compensation for any damage to the structure; or

- b. where such an agreement cannot be reached, the applicant shall provide an appropriate engineering evaluation that demonstrates that such structure shall not be damaged by activities occurring at the mining operation; or.
- c. where such structure is a utility, the Applicant may supply a notarized letter, on utility letterhead, from the owner(s) of the utility that the mining and reclamation activities, as proposed, will have "no negative effect" on their utility.

Please submit evidence a structure damage agreement was sought for each of the structure owners. As indicated above, if such an agreement cannot be reached you must provide an appropriate engineering evaluation.

# **Rule 1.6.2 – Notice Requirements**

- 14. Please submit the proof of publication of the required notice in accordance with Rule 1.6.2(1)(d) and Rule 1.6.5.
- 15. Please submit documentation a copy of the notice required in Rule 1.6.2(1)(d) was mailed or personally served immediately after the first publication of the notice to all Owners of Record of the surface and mineral rights of the affected land; and the Owners of Record of all land surface within 200 feet of the boundary of the affected land.

# **Public Comment/Objections, Agency Comments**

The Division has received the enclosed written objections from the following people in accordance with Rule 1.7.1(2)(a) within the public comment period:

First Name	Last Name
Susan	Amador
Ben	Pfeffer
Hayes	Seubert
Hilary	White
Cosmo	Catalano
Maya	Ortega
Cheryl	Distaso
Amy	Fleshman
Maureen	DeCoursey

The Division has received the enclosed comments/objections from the following people who have not submitted all of the information required by Rule 1.7.1(2)(a):

First Name	Last Name
Ward	Sutton
Gina	Blickenstaff
Daniel	Covey
Sandy	Jordan
Mark	Vandever

The Division has received the enclose comments from the following agencies:

- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Colorado Division of Water Resources
- History Colorado
- United States Army Corps of Engineers

16. Please review and respond to these comments and objections.

As indicated above, the Division is required to issue a recommendation to the Board regarding the application by October 23, 2018. If you need additional time to address the Division's concerns you must request an extension of the decision date. This application is set for consideration by the MLRB on November 14, 2018. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at (303) 866-3567, extension 8120.

Sincerely,

Jared Ebert

**Environmental Protection Specialist III** 

# **Enclosures:**

- 1. Objections received within the comment period in accordance with Rule 1.7.1(2)(a)
- 2. Objections/comments received not in accordance with Rule 1.7.1(2)(a).
- 3. Agency Comments:
  - a. Colorado Division of Water Resources, August 7, 2018
  - b. United States Army Corps of Engineers, August 13, 2018
  - c. Colorado Parks and Wildlife, August 16, 2018
  - d. History Colorado, August 24, 2018

EC: Eric Reckentine, North Weld County Water District <a href="mailto:ericr@NWCWD.org">ericr@NWCWD.org</a> Richard Raines, Tri-Districts, <a href="mailto:rraines@scwtp.org">rraines@scwtp.org</a>

# Comments Received Within Public Comment Period In accordance with Rule 1.7.1(2)(a) Lamb Lakes M-2018-039



# application number M-2018-039 Lamb Lakes

Susan Amador <mijastudios@gmail.com> To: jared.ebert@state.co.us

Fri, Aug 10, 2018 at 9:43 AM

Hello Mr. Eberts,

I'm writing about the proposal for Lamb Lakes (application number M-2018-039) in Fort Collins. Further study is warranted to determine the ramifications it's important role providing runoff drainage for higher elevations to the immediate south of the ponds. The waters have a well documented role in handling flood water into the Poudre River. The project could be disastrous for our community. Further, wildlife could be seriously affected by the prevention of access.

I've thought the area could better serve the community of Ft. Collins as an open space, for limited recreation (incredible wildlife and bird diversity and sitings) and possible off-leash dog area. Please consider these aspects of Lamb Lakes.

Thank you, Susan Amador





# Application number M-2018-039, Lamb Lakes

Raisin' Roots <raisinroots@gmail.com>
To: jared.ebert@state.co.us

Sun, Aug 12, 2018 at 11:28 AM

Mr. Ebert,

I am writing concerning what our neighborhood and community knows as "The Lakes" next to the historic Poudre River bike and walking path, located just west of Shields Street in Fort Collins, CO. We understand there is a proposal to construct an impenetrable fence, drain and mine the ponds, and line them for water storage. This would effectively remove this area from our community's use. Although informal, this is a hub of activity and neighborhood socializing year round. Many residents can be found swimming on hot days, exercising, running and training dogs, or enjoying a beautiful sunset walk right here in Fort Collins.

As a farmer, I personally have an appreciation for the diversity for wildlife that makes its home in our backyard. Ecological diversity is a massive boon to my farm and many other farmers' well being as the native population of birds, snakes, and small mammals is allowed to regenerate and have relatively sovereign habitat.

On top of this, a similar project as described already exists less than one mile to the west. It is a barren place where the echo of generators bounces off of rusted Caterpillar machinery. I urge you to reconsider the future of this land in question, as it is greatly valued by our community in its current form.

Thank you, Ben Pfeffer Raisin' Roots Farm

Ben Pfeffer cell: (443) 863-0677

Raisin' Roots Farm 2229 W. Vine Dr Fort Collins CO 80521

www.raisinroots.com instagram.com/raisinrootsfarm/ facebook.com/raisinroots



# Application # M-2018-039 in NW Fort Collins

Hayes Seubert <hayesseubert@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Hayes Seubert <hayesseubert@yahoo.com>
To: "Ebert - DNR, Jared" <jared.ebert@state.co.us>

Tue, Aug 21, 2018 at 5:22 PM

To a Mr. Ebert,

Environmental Protection Specialist Bureau of Reclamation, Mines, and Safety

Dear Mr. Ebert,

I am writing to you this evening in an interest of public interface in regards to the permit # m2018039 in North West Fort Collins, West of Shields and North of Vine.

No doubt you have begun to receive message from the public detailing the frequent sense of utility and happiness that users of the property in this location experience at this location. As a specialist with the state I'm sure you are at least somewhat aware of the situation that currently exists between and among these property boundaries, and i'm sure you would agree that its quite a unique and special situation. For nearly five or six years now I have been aware of the footpaths and small trails system that users have adopted here and I have spent substantial amounts of time enjoying this area alongside thousands of other residents of Fort Collins. There is little signage relevant to the City of Fort Collins in this area, other than several waste removal/leash law requirements that are posted near most entrances to the area. Furthermore, the trails and footpaths seem to be completely unmaintained and are used almost exclusively social use by pedestrians and dogs, perhaps the occasional deer. There are no waste bins, gates, structures to speak of, including across the property boundary adjacent to the Poudre River that has been consistently labeled "No Trespassing" via posted signs that seem to appear and disappear as quickly as they are posted.

The point of this description is to depict to you how raw and unmaintained this place seems to be, yet it provides absolutely issue free, daily use by hundreds of nearby residents on a typical week. I don't believe any funds have been set aside through the city, taxes or otherwise, for maintenance or in order to display proper signage in the area. These 'No Trespassing' signs seem to be the only effort at disrupting the current situation and limiting use at least to the boundary south of the flooded gravel pits adjacent to the Poudre Trail/River. Over the years it has become obvious to me that these signs are consistently ignored and often removed, and users continue to trespass, seemingly knowingly.

This is akin to no other situation I've ever experience on public lands here in Fort Collins. Issues with Access to Public Lands are a hot topic as of late. I believe you, Mr. Ebert, are charged with a unique situation and challenging circumstances that MUST weigh into the decision with permit # m2018039.

I fear that construction of a fence might worsen the vandalism and disregard for posted signage and create a potentially worse situation for the property owners, adjacent landowners, and members of the public that have enjoyed this area for so many years.

I urge you to consider this message, as well as other messages you may receive regarding this proposed development. I ask you not only to consider the wants and will of the public, but the responsibility you have in creating scenarios that may benefit all of us that live in the area, owners or not, citizens of the city all who claim an inherent right to access to not only public but open spaces.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration on this matter Mr. Ebert, the opportunity for voices to be heard by YOU is of unimaginable importance.

Hayes Seubert 849 Aztec Drive Fort Collins, Colorado Google Maps 970-631-7007 hayesseubert@yahoo.com



# **Google Maps**

Find local businesses, view maps and get driving directions in Google Maps.

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

To: Hayes Seubert <hayesseubert@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 7:22 AM

Subject: Re: Application # M-2018-039 in NW Fort Collins

# Good morning,

Would you like your e-mail to be considered a formal objection to the Lamb Lakes application (M-2018-039)? If so, in accordance with Rule 1.7.1(2)(a) you must provide a telephone number. Please see the attached guide for public participation in our application process.

Thank you,

Jared

On Mon, Aug 20, 2018 at 7:21 PM, Hayes Seubert <hayesseubert@yahoo.com> wrote:

| To a Mr. Ebert,

Environmental Protection Specialist Bureau of Reclamation, Mines, and Safety

Dear Mr. Ebert,

I am writing to you this evening in an interest of public interface in regards to the permit # m2018039 in North West Fort Collins, West of Shields and North of Vine.

No doubt you have begun to receive message from the public detailing the frequent sense of utility and happiness that users of the property in this location experience at this location. As a specialist with the state I'm sure you are at least somewhat aware of the situation that currently exists between and among these property boundaries, and i'm sure you would agree that its quite a unique and special situation. For nearly five or six years now I have been aware of the footpaths and small trails system that users have adopted here and I have spent substantial amounts of time enjoying this area alongside thousands of other residents of Fort Collins. There is little signage relevant to the City of Fort Collins in this area, other than several waste removal/leash law requirements that are posted near most entrances to the area. Furthermore, the trails and footpaths seem to be completely unmaintained and are used almost exclusively social use by pedestrians and dogs, perhaps the occasional deer. There are no waste bins, gates, structures to speak of, including across the property boundary adjacent to the Poudre River that has been consistently labeled "No Trespassing" via posted signs that seem to appear and disappear as quickly as they are posted.

The point of this description is to depict to you how raw and unmaintained this place seems to be, yet it provides absolutely issue free, daily use by hundreds of nearby residents on a typical week. I don't believe any funds have been set aside through the city, taxes or otherwise, for maintenance or in order to display proper signage in the area. These 'No Trespassing' signs seem to be the only effort at disrupting the current situation and limiting use at least to the boundary south of the flooded gravel pits adjacent to the Poudre Trail/River. Over the years it has become obvious to me that these signs are consistently ignored and often removed, and users continue to trespass, seemingly knowingly.

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circumstances that MUST weigh into the decision with permit # m2018039.

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I urge you to consider this message, as well as other messages you may receive regarding this proposed development. I ask you not only to consider the wants and will of the public, but the responsibility you have in creating scenarios that may benefit all of us that live in the area, owners or not, citizens of the city all who claim an inherent right to access to not only public but open spaces.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration on this matter Mr. Ebert, the opportunity for voices to be heard by YOU is of unimaginable importance.

Hayes Seubert 849 Aztec Drive Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

Jared Ebert **Environmental Protection Specialist III** 



P 303.866.3567 ext. 8120 | F 303.832.8106 | 1313 Sherman St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203 jared.ebert@state.co.us | mining.state.co.us



# In reference to Proposal M-2018-039, Lamb lakes

Hilary White <a href="mailto:hbwhite2005@yahoo.com">hbwhite2005@yahoo.com</a> To: "Ebert - DNR, Jared" <jared.ebert@state.co.us> Thu, Aug 23, 2018 at 4:23 PM

Absolutely.

Hilary White 1001 W Mountain Ave Fort Collins CO 80521 203-645-9430

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

On Thursday, August 23, 2018, 3:06 PM, Ebert - DNR, Jared <jared.ebert@state.co.us> wrote:

Hello Hilary White,

Would you like your e-mail to be considered a formal objection to the Lamb Lakes application (M-2018-039)? If so, in accordance with Rule 1.7.1(2)(a) you must provide a mailing address and a telephone number. Please see the attached guide for public participation in our application process.

Thank you,

Jared

On Thu, Aug 23, 2018 at 2:40 PM, Hilary White <a href="https://www.ebwhite2005@yahoo.com">hbwhite2005@yahoo.com</a> wrote:

Dear Mr. Ebert,

I'm writing you in reference to proposal M-2018-039 Lamb lakes in Fort Collins.

I am strongly against this proposal. The area of land that is proposed to be turned into a gravel pit is a true gem of Fort Collins. This land is in between an elementary school that has trails and fantastic views of the ponds with mountains behind, and the paved bike path. Just looking out at these beautiful ponds surrounded by trees and frequented by red winged blackbirds, foxes, ducks and herons, is a special experience. The thought of this beautiful area, that hundreds of people enjoy daily from the surrounding walking paths and bike paths, could be destroyed, is terrible. I have walked my dogs here daily for 6 years, and along with many other walkers, I consider this area one of my most treasured places in our City.

I feel the project would also create noise pollution to the nearby homes, elementary school, and to the adjoining natural areas. As Fort Collins grows, I feel that this area should be kept in its natural state as much as possible, so the residents of Fort Collins can enjoy viewing these natural areas. Cutting all the trees down, installing chain link fencing, bringing in heavy equipment and draining the ponds would be a tremendous eyesore next to our rec path and trails and would essentially ruin the natural experience of the adjoining areas, in my opinion. And all of this would achieve nothing except to get more gravel out, and then leave the area as an eyesore for years to come. I feel Fort Collins needs to preserve the small amount of beautiful natural places that it still has.

Thank you, Hilary White

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

# Jared Ebert

# **Environmental Protection Specialist III**



P 303.866.3567 ext. 8120 | F 303.832.8106 |

1313 Sherman St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203

jared.ebert@state.co.us | mining.state.co.us



# application number M-2018-039 Lamb Lakes

Cosmo Catalano III <cosmo.catalano@gmail.com> To: jared.ebert@state.co.us Mon, Sep 3, 2018 at 3:03 PM

Dear Mr Ebert,

I'm writing to you today as a resident of northwest Fort Collins to express my objections to application number M-2018-039 Lamb Lakes. While similar work has clearly taken place in the past at the Lamb Lake site, the area is simply no longer suitable for the operations in the proposed project..

Nearby operations west of Taft Hill Road may seem similar, but on the ground there are massive, obvious differences between the two areas: the surrounding landscape west of Taft is open, dusty meadow, under soaring metal powerline towers. There are neighborhoods in the distance, but they are sprawling, low-density, single-family homes, and sheltered by the hillside and heavy vegetation. It's a sufficiently rural character for mining and water operations to take place without massive disruption, either to nearby residents, or users of the recreational Poudre Trail.

Once you travel east of Taft Hill Road on that trail, though there is a definite change—the power lines fork off to the South, and light fencing and trees line the right-of-way on both sides. Undeveloped pasture rises on hillsides beyond the project area. The rooftops of dense neighborhoods—Granada Heights and Hanna Farm—become visible in the distance. The proposed project site literally borders the Fort Collins City Limits.

While a Martin Marietta asphalt plant is also to the East of Taft Hill, its primary industrial operations are well off the Poudre Trail to the north, even further outside the City Limits than the Taft Hill ponds. Users are sheltered from the noise by large earthen embankments and a substantial amount of undeveloped space.

This proposed project site area is additionally ringed with preserved, protected open space, proving Fort Collins residents with as much calm and quiet as possible in such a dense region. In addition to the Poudre Trail Corridor, the Lincoln Middle School athletic fields are adjacent to the site, the Poudre River itself runs right by, and North Shields Ponds Natural Area is just across—all would be significantly impacted by the noise, exhaust, dust and other undesirable outcomes of work at the proposed area.

Simply put, the proposed project area—less than two miles from the heart of the fourth largest city in Colorado, along a very heavily used recreational path, surrounded by preserved, undeveloped open space, and less than two-tenths of a mile from densely-populated neighborhoods—is a terrible fit for this type of operation. The disruption it would cause easily overwhelms any supposed benefits it may bring. I strongly urge you not to approve this application

Sincerely,

Cosmo Catalano 228 Wood St Fort Collins, CO 80521



# An Appeal for Lamb Lakes | App #: M-2018-039

Maya Ortega <mayaortega1@gmail.com> To: "Ebert - DNR, Jared" <jared.ebert@state.co.us> Wed, Sep 5, 2018 at 3:45 PM

Thank you, Jared.

301 E. Magnolia St. Apt. GN Fort Collins, CO 80524

970-308-6944

On Wed, Sep 5, 2018 at 3:05 PM, Ebert - DNR, Jared <a href="mailto-size-4.2">jared.ebert@state.co.us</a> wrote: Hello Maya Ortega,

Thank you for your comment. Would you like your e-mail to be considered an official objection to the Lamb Lakes (M-2018-039) application and would you like to be considered a party to the process? If so, in accordance with Rule 1.7.1(2)(a) you must provide your mailing address and phone number. I have attached a document that explains the application process and the public's rights and responsibilities in that process. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks you,

Jared

On Wed, Sep 5, 2018 at 1:37 AM, Maya Ortega <mayaortega1@gmail.com> wrote: Dear Mr. Ebert, and Government,

I am writing regarding the future of the Lamb Lakes area, application M-2018-39...

I am a Colorado native, my family being in this land over 400 years. Much has changed, and will continue. The Lamb Lakes area is a dear spot to me because not only is it beautiful, it is free. In addition to being a native, I am also poor. Costs of living continue to rise and places like this give me solace in my home. I'm asking you not to proceed with the plans for fencing and mining, etc. I am asking you to let me, and others, keep this precious piece of my home.

I know that you will most likely go through with it, for all the logical reasons. Logic often doesn't give way to the long term, to generations before, and most importantly, after. And I'm asking you anyway, to please do not take this from us.

Kindly yours, Maya Ortega

>>The wolf always charges the lamb with muddying the stream.<< -Elihu Root

Jared Ebert

# **Environmental Protection Specialist III**



P 303.866.3567 ext. 8120 | F 303.832.8106 |

1313 Sherman St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203

jared.ebert@state.co.us | mining.state.co.us



# Application number M-2018-039, Lamb Lakes

Cheryl Distaso <cdistaso@frii.com> To: jared.ebert@state.co.us Wed, Sep 5, 2018 at 12:07 PM

# Dear Mr. Ebert,

I am very concerned about the proposed redevelopment of what has become a community treasure. It seems the ponds north of the Poudre Trail are slated to become industrial water storage tanks.

The ponds are enjoyed by community members of all walks of life. They are seen and admired from the Poudre Trail to the south and to the City's property to the North where many of us gather to enjoy beautiful summer afternoons and majestic sunsets. Experiencing the changing seasons at the ponds is a way many of our children have learned about the cycles of the earth.

The ponds enhance the quality of life for many in our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally request that the ponds (Application number M-2018-039, Lamb Lakes) do not become redeveloped.

Best,

Cheryl Distaso

135 South Sunset Street

Fort Collins, CO 80521

970.310.6563

cdistaso@frii.com



# Application number M-2018-039 Lamb Lakes

Amy Fleshman <acflesh@gmail.com>
To: jared.ebert@state.co.us

Thu, Sep 6, 2018 at 6:04 PM

Dear Mr. Ebert,

I am writing to express my strong objections to proposal M-2018-039 Lamb Lakes in Fort Collins and to urge you to reconsider. The location of the proposed mining project has been my favorite spot in town to walk and run my dogs as well as connect with my community since I discovered its existence upon moving here 2 years ago. As I am fortunate enough to be within walking distance to "the ponds," as myself and many others affectionately call the area, I have spent at least an hour almost every day there (often, twice a day), enjoying the natural beauty of the area and getting my dogs and myself some much needed exercise and peace in nature. It has not only been a necessary nature outlet for me before/after work, but it has also been a place for social gathering, where I have met many acquaintances, several of which I now consider my friends. Almost daily, we meet at "the ponds" to walk our dogs and relieve the stresses of work and daily life. We use the ponds year-round- whether the temperature is 0 degrees or 100. While the ponds are especially appreciated to escape the heat of the summer, they are equally appreciated during the winter, when snowy walks there provide rare opportunities for solitude and peace in the midst of a busy city. This area is a truly unique community space that allows Fort Collins residents of varied backgrounds and careers to come together and appreciate the natural beauty this city has to offer. To take this away would be devastating not only to myself, but also to the members of our community that gather there.

In addition to being a valued community space, the ponds are home to a wide variety of wildlife. Mining these ponds and/or the construction of an impenetrable fence would not only uproot wildlife from its natural habitat, but would prevent it from passing through this area as it so often does, likely forcing it out on the busy streets nearby.

It seems there are ample areas to the west that do not foster this sort of environment where this project could be completed instead.

I know that I speak for many others when I say that I am so grateful for this area and the many outlets it provides. Therefore, I urge you to consider the opinions of your fellow Coloradoans and help us to preserve a very unique and raw, natural community space.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Amy Fleshman

1619 W Vine Drive

Fort Collins, CO 80521

Cell: (678) 654-8516

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# **Amy Fleshman, MSc**

Microbiologist Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Centers for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases **Bacterial Diseases Branch** Fort Collins, CO acflesh@gmail.com http://www.linkedin.com/pub/amy-fleshman/82/641/4a1/



# 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 <a href="mailto:sared.ebert@state.co.us">jared.ebert@state.co.us</a> 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 likes 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 <a href="mailto:specification.com">jared.ebert@state.co.us</a> 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 had 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

Environmental Protection Specialist III  P 303.866.3567 ext. 8120   F 303.832.8106    1313 Sherman St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203  jared.ebert@state.co.us   mining.state.co.us  Maureen DeCoursey Director, DeCoursey and Associates Skype: mo3460  red Ebert vironmental Protection Specialist III	567 ext. 8120   F 303.832.8106   nan St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203
1313 Sherman St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203 jared.ebert@state.co.us   mining.state.co.us  Maureen DeCoursey Director, DeCoursey and Associates Skype: mo3460  red Ebert vironmental Protection Specialist III	nan St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203
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13 Sherman St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203	
ed.ebert@state.co.us   mining.state.co.us	

Maureen DeCoursey Director, DeCoursey and Associates Associate, Center for Fair and Alternative Trade https://cfat.colostate.edu/

Skype: mo3460

# Comments Received Within Public Comment Period Not in accordance with Rule 1.7.1(2)(a) Lamb Lakes M-2018-039



# Ponds near Shields and Vine

**Ward Sutton** <wardsuttonimpact@gmail.com>
To: jared.ebert@state.co.us

Fri, Aug 10, 2018 at 1:59 PM

Dear Jared -

I just read with great dismay that there are plans underway to develop - and cut off - the pond areas near Shields and Vine here in Fort Collins.

That area is literally my favorite space in Fort Collins. I live nearby and bring my dogs over for walks/runs regularly. It is an amazing space to let dogs off leash and the people there are always very laid-back and friendly and respectful of each other.

I do realize that there are signs saying "No Trespassing" around the area; what I've gleaned over time was that the area is owned by a quarry and that those signs are mostly for liability. I've never encountered anyone unhappy about people walking around the area.

I'd like to learn more about the area and the plans ... from what I've heard the development plan sounds tragic. I would urge you and other officials to reconsider and leave the land/water as it is - or at least create something the public - people AND dogs! - can all enjoy.

If there is a way for me to become more involved I would love to learn more.

Thank you for your time,

Ward Sutton

Fort Collins



# application number M-2018-039, Lamb Lakes

Gina Blickenstaff < gina@ginablickenstaff.com> To: jared.ebert@state.co.us

Wed, Aug 15, 2018 at 3:14 PM

Greetings,

I am writing to ask you to please dismiss any plans to get rid of WATER (ponds) in north FC - or anywhere in FC. We live in a desert!!! And we are dealing with global warming! Please - the wildlife is already suffering - and with the extreme stress in the world these days, we need natural areas to keep our sanity!

Thank you, Gina Blickenstaff (nature lover and environmentalist)



# (no subject)

Daniel Covey <2danielcovey@gmail.com> To: jared.ebert@state.co.us

Wed, Aug 15, 2018 at 6:11 PM

Dear Mr. Ebert:

Please do not mine the lake at vine and shields. I respectfully request that the natural area remain an accessible natural area for the continued enjoyment of Fort Collins resident as well as serving as a critical habitat for our animal friends.

Thanks, Daniel covey Fort Collins resident



Sandra Jordan

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

# Application # M-2018-039, Lamb Lakes

Sandy Jordan <spottedstorm@yahoo.com> To: Jared.ebert@state.co.us

Sat, Aug 18, 2018 at 8:21 AM

Sir: over the past 10 years this area has been generally open to the public as an area where people can fish, walk/run alone or with dogs, and wade in the ponds. It is a wonderful area for these activities where people know that the property is private (using it is at the graciousness of the owner) and there is no recourse if one suffers any injury. Since Martin-Marietta has owned it, the property has been officially closed but practically open to the public. This is a unique recreation area in Fort Collins and would be a great loss to people if it were unavailable..



# application # m-2018-039 lamb lakes

Mark Vandever <mwvandever@gmail.com> To: jared.ebert@state.co.us Fri, Sep 7, 2018 at 10:15 PM

Hello Mr. Ebert,

I just wanted to voice my opinion as a local resident and neighbor of the lamb lakes area. I am not in favor of any mining operation or any change to the existing landscape. The lakes serve multiple purposes from migratory waterfowl to wildlife habitat. The city of Fort Collins has changed a lot over the last 30 years, and most of the landscape has been severely altered and is unrecognizable from what it once was. There are very few hidden gems left in the city and the lamb lake area is one of them. There is an opportunity here to preserve something in the name of open space for people and wildlife to enjoy. The fact that Lincoln Middle school backs up to this area on one side, and the Poudre river trail on the other side is being overlooked. Where else can you find a school in Fort Collins or a trial that is adjacent to such open space? I understand there is a need for urban development, but this doesn't seem like a logical tradeoff. What exactly does the city gain from this development? If you don't think those joggers, or bird watchers or 7th and 8th graders out there practicing football nearby don't purely enjoy the standing water, the waterfowl, the owls and hawks that use the area as habitat, then I think you are dearly misguided. This area is a treasure, why does it need to be drained and converted? Surely the thousands of taxpayers that enjoy this little bastion of nature don't understand the reason. And if any of them even had a clue this operation was being proposed. I promise you there would be an outpouring of disapprovement. Please don't confuse lack of response from the general public as support or ambiguity. Nobody knows about this proposal. I just found out about it today and I frequent the area. I ask that you consider the true impact this proposed change would have on the area and to be open minded and have more of a long-term vision for what makes this city great as opposed to how to develop and change the landscape for short term gains. Thank you for your time,

Mark Vandever

# Agency Comments Received Within Public Comment Period Lamb Lakes M-2018-039



# Response to Consideration of 112c Construction Materials Reclamation Permit Application

DATE: August 7, 2018

TO: Jared Ebert, Environmental Protection Specialist (jared.ebert@state.co.us)

CC: Division 1 Office, District 3 Water Commissioner

FROM: Sarah Brucker, P.E.

RE: Lamb Lakes, File No. M-2018-039

Applicant/Operator: North Weld County Water District: (970) 356-3020

Section 3, Twp 7 North, Rng 69 West, 6th P.M., Larimer County

# CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL

	The proposed operation will consume groundwater by: $\boxtimes$ evaporation, $\boxtimes$ dust control, $\square$ reclamation, $\boxtimes$ water removed in the mined product, $\square$ processing, $\boxtimes$ other: slurry wall construction.
	<u>Prior to</u> initiation of these uses of groundwater, the applicant will need to obtain either a gravel pit or other type of well permit, as applicable. However, prior to obtaining a permit, an approved substitute water supply plan or decreed plan for augmentation is required.
	Prior to approving a well permit, the applicant must conduct a field inspection of the site and document the locations of all wells within 600 feet of the permit area. The applicant must then obtain a waiver of objection from all well owners with wells within 600 feet of the permit area or request a hearing before the State Engineer.
$\square$	Any storm water runoff intercented by this operation that is not diverted or cantured in priority must

Any storm water runoff intercepted by this operation that is not diverted or captured in priority must infiltrate into the ground or be released to the stream system within 72 hours. Otherwise, the operator will be required to make replacements for evaporation.

**COMMENTS:** The subject application seeks to split 128.8 acres known as the Lamb Lakes from the Home Office Pit, M-1977-439. Mining at the site is mostly complete, but additional aggregate is anticipated to be mined under this permit. The subject 128.8 acres includes three groundwater lakes with surface areas of approximately 21, 41, and 17 acres. The proposed post-mining use is developed water resources.

The applicant intends to construct a slurry wall liner around the three lakes to create a relatively impermeable barrier between the alluvial groundwater and the reservoirs. The slurry wall must be constructed in accordance with the State Engineer's Lining Criteria and approved by the Division 1 Office.

Evaporative depletions from the exposure of groundwater in Lamb Lakes B and C are currently replaced under the Partners Combined Substitute Water Supply Plan (Plan ID 5436), valid through December 31, 2019. A total of 22.1 acres of groundwater exposed in Lamb Lake A are recognized by this office as being pre-81 and do not require replacement of evaporative depletions. The approved substitute water supply plan does <u>not</u> cover depletions associated with water removed in the mined product, or water used for any other purpose at the site, such as for dust control or slurry wall construction. No material may be mined below the groundwater table (including in a dewatered state) and no groundwater may be used for any purpose at the site other than evaporation until the applicant has obtained a substitute water supply plan that covers such use(s).

The applicant may contact the State Engineer's Office with any questions.





### DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT 1616 CAPITOL AVENUE OMAHA NE 68102-4901

August 6, 2018

Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division

Mr. Jared Ebert Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215 Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Mr. Ebert:

RECEIVED

AUG 132018

Reclamation.

Respectively.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District (Corps) has reviewed your letter dated July 26, 2018 (received August 2, 2018) regarding the environmental review of the North Weld County Water District Construction Material Reclamation Permit Application (Lamb Lakes, Permit No. M-2018-039). It is understood that the proposed mining and reclamation operation would occur in Larimer County (Township 7N, Range 69W, Section 3, 6th Meridian). Affected lands will be reclaimed to support a post-mining land use of developed water resources. We offer the following comments for your consideration:

Your plans should be coordinated with the state water quality office that has jurisdiction within the area where the project is located to ensure compliance with federal and state water quality standards and regulations mandated by the Clean Water Act and administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Please coordinate with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment concerning state water quality programs.

If you have not already done so, it is recommended you consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Colorado Division of Wildlife regarding fish and wildlife resources. In addition, the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office should be contacted for information and recommendations on potential cultural resources in the project area.

Since the proposed project does not appear to be located within Corps owned or operated lands, your plans should be submitted to the local floodplain administrator for review and approval prior to construction. It should be ensured that the proposed project is in compliance with the floodplain management criteria of Larimer County and the State of Colorado. In addition, please coordinate with the following floodplain management office:

Colorado Water Conservation Board Attention: Ms. Jamie Prochno 1313 Sherman Street, Room 721 Denver, Colorado 80203 Telephone: 303-866-3441 ext. 3215

Fax: 303-866-4474

Email: jamie.prochno@state.co.us

Any proposed placement of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States (including jurisdictional wetlands) requires Department of the Army authorization under

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. You can visit the Omaha District's Regulatory website for permit applications and related information. Please review the information on the provided website (<a href="http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryProgram.aspx">http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryProgram.aspx</a>) to determine if this project requires a 404 permit. For a detailed review of the permit requirements, preliminary and final project plans should be sent to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Denver Regulatory Office
Attention: Mr. Kiel Downing, CENWO-ODR-CO
9307 South Wadsworth Boulevard
Denver, Colorado 80128

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Amee Rief of my staff at (402) 995-2544 or <a href="mailto:amee.l.rief@usace.army.mil">amee.l.rief@usace.army.mil</a> and reference PD# 8098 in the subject line.

Sincerely,

Eric A. Laux

Chief, Environmental & Cultural Resources

Copy Furnished: CENWO-ODR-CO/Downing



# CPW's response to the proposed Lamb Lakes development

To: "Ebert - DNR, Jared" <jared.ebert@state.co.us> Cc: Shane Craig - DNR <shane.craig@state.co.us>

Thu, Aug 16, 2018 at 10:00 AM

Good morning Jared,

Thank you for the opportunity for CPW to comment on the North Weld County Water District's proposed Lamb Lakes Aggregate Surface Mine. Our goal in responding to land use proposals, such as this project, is to provide complete, consistent, and timely information to all entities who request comment on matters within our statutory authority.

Upon review of the proposed referral request and an internal review of this parcel, Colorado Parks and Wildlife has no biological concerns regarding this matter. If you have any further questions, or if this proposed development changes in timing or scope, please contact me or Shane (cc'd).

Finally, please continue to reach out to us for comment on future applications, as we strive for responsible land development while protecting sensitive species and their habitats.

Cheers,

#### Brandon B. Marette

Northeast Region Energy Liaison and Land Use Coordinator



Direct (303) 291-7327 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216 brandon.marette@state.co.us CPW Energy Page | @CPW\_NE | LinkedIn

THINK SAFETY FIRST!



# OFFICE of ARCHAEOLOGY and HISTORIC PRESERVATION

# **RECEIVED**

AUG 29 2018

AUG 2 4 2018

Jared Ebert
Environmental Protection Specialist
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources
1313 Sherman Street, Rm. 215
Denver, CO 80203

DIVISION OF RECLAMATION MINING AND SAFETY

Re: Consideration of 112c Construction materials Reclamation Permit Application – Lamb Lakes File M-2018-039 (HC #74700)

Dear Mr. Ebert:

Thank you for your correspondence dated July 26, 2018 (received by our office on July 31, 2018) regarding the above mentioned subject project. Our comments are provided in accordance with the Colorado State Register Act (Colorado Revised Statute (CRS) 24-80.1).

A search of the Colorado Cultural Resource Inventory database indicated that no cultural resource inventories have been conducted in the vicinity of the proposed permit area, and no historic properties have been recorded therein. Our files contain incomplete information for this area, as most of Colorado has not yet been inventoried for cultural resources. As a result, there is the possibility that as yet unidentified cultural resources exist within the proposed permit area. Should human remains be discovered during mining activities, the requirements under State law CRS 24-80 part 13 apply and must be followed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Todd McMahon, Staff Archaeologist at (303) 866-4607/todd.mcmahon@state.co.us

Sincerely,

Steve Turner, AIA

State Historic Preservation Officer

ST/TCM

OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

303-866-3392 \* Fax 303-866-2711 \* E-mail: oahp@state.co.us \* Internet: www.historycolorado.org

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation 1200 Broadway Denver, CO 80203

270130170

STATE OF IGLORADO FEN LITTE FOR PRUATE USE



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

\$ 000.40<sup>8</sup>

# RECEIVED

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AUG 29 2018

**DIVISION** OF RECLAMATION, **MINING AND SAFETY** 

Jared Ebert Environmental Protection Specialist Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety Department of Natural Resources 1313 Sherman Street, Rm. 215 Denver, CO 80203



