

STATE OF
COLORADO

Cazier - DNR, Tim <tim.cazier@state.co.us>

Permit #P20130021 message

Gerald DeBoer <jerry937975@aol.com>
To: tim.cazier@state.co.us

Wed, Apr 8, 2020 at 3:27 PM

Dear Tim,

My name is Jerry DeBoer and I am a resident of Canon City, Colorado. It is my understanding that Zephyr Minerals is attempting to acquire permission to expand their mining operations onto our public lands just outside of town and I wanted to express my opinion on this.

First, my desire to keep our wild lands wild is motivated by my love for nature and the outdoors. I am an avid naturalist and nature photographer and have only scratched the surface in exploring this area. Submitting my observations to various citizen science projects like Ebird, iNaturalist and Bug Guide, I have become very aware that a number of the sightings and observations I've made in the proposed area are extremely unique for the state of Colorado. Within this area, one may find Bighorns, Mountain Lions, Ring-tail Cats and Hog-nosed Skunks, as well as (a species of State Special Concern) the Triploid Checkered Whiptail. Bird wise, Gray Flycatcher are a local specialty and it is not uncommon to look to the skies and see a Peregrine Falcon. Canon City is a favorite destination for birdwatchers and nature lovers, and the destruction of wild lands in this area, particularly wild lands as pristine as the Temple Canyon area and the Grape Creek corridor may very well have a negative effect on the appreciation of this area by that quickly growing segment of society. But beyond what we do know about this area, is the bigger question of what don't we know about this area. Far too much. And that concerns me even more. We already know that species like the Mexican Spotted Owl reach their northern limits in Fremont County and the land that Zephyr Minerals is desiring to mine, not only lies within the range of Mexican Spotted Owl but contains habitat suitable for their nesting. Without proper surveying for not only the Spotted Owl but for any and all flora and fauna that call this area home, I beg you to not grant this permit until it is actually known what species may be impacted.

Second, in light of our current situation regarding the Coronavirus, it is becoming more obvious than ever, the value of our wild and remote lands. Another gold mine encroaching on our wild areas is not necessary. It provides value to nobody but those profiting from it. But our wild lands give value to all, regardless of what level of recreation or enjoyment each individual pursues. The opportunity for my wife and I to get out and hike in these beautiful areas just outside of town in the midst of this crisis has more value than a gold mine could ever dream of providing.

How the initial request to allow exploration of these lands for gold was approved by the mayor and city council is beyond understanding. It is vehemently opposed by the vast majority of citizens. I urge you to not grant this permit, particularly until we have a complete AND THOROUGH understanding of the habitats and flora and fauna that would be impacted by it.

Regards,

Jerry DeBoer

Canon City, CO