



Tim Cazier
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
Re: permit #P2020002

Hello Mr. Cazier,

I write this letter as a concerned homeowner in Cañon City, and as the General Manager of Echo Canyon River Expeditions which operates rafting trips on the Arkansas River.

I understand the role of BLM is to take into consideration the benefits and detriments of all legitimate applications, but when I see the surge in outdoor recreation Fremont County is drawing in - which has seen an even larger number of crowds from front range visitors during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it's clear to me open space and trails are a huge draw not just for locals but for staycationers and travelers from afar. It would be an absolute mistake to allow Zephyr to continue their reach beyond the initial permit already made to them and jeopardize the future this region of Colorado has ahead of us.

As the General Manager of one of the largest rafting outfitters in the state of Colorado, my goal is to attract travelers to experience adventures on the land and on the rivers. The Arkansas River in the state of Colorado is the most commercially rafted river in the United States. Last year over 240,000 people rafted with commercial outfitters on the Arkansas River in Colorado. Our current challenge, COVID-19 fears aside, is fighting the stigma attached to the large number of correctional facilities in our county. The last thing any tourism-based business in the Cañon City / Royal Gorge area needs is a new stigma of being home to every mining company who applies for a permit to destroy the very land that attracts so many travelers.

It's no doubt Zephyr was welcomed by Fremont County Commissioners as a way to bring more jobs and opportunity to our residents, but that has not proven to be the case, and I am convinced we will see no change in this as time moves forward. Instead Zephyr will continue to disrupt a Wilderness Study Area and the very wildlife which were intended to be protected by that designation. And any jobs created or revenue generated will go straight back to the employees and company in Canada. So far I see little reward for any citizen of Fremont County, of the state of Colorado, or even the citizens of the United States.

The Zephyr Gold USA has worn out their welcome in Fremont County, Colorado. They had no intention of simply exploring the initial permit location for which Fremont County Commissioners and BLM approved. Their intent, as I'm sure any level headed person would agree, was to secure an initial permit and then extend their reach as far as possible with little or no regard of





the will of Cañon City and Fremont County residents. Their goals now endanger the watershed by which so many residents rely upon, as well as a number of communities downstream of Cañon City - for drinking water, for irrigation, and for major municipalities including Colorado Springs, Pueblo, and further on downriver.

Please reject their most recent application, and put the best interest of the public and users of BLM land ahead of a single foreign business who has no intention of improving the sustainability of our land, our recreational spaces, our water, or our communities. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Ben Sack
General Manager, Echo Canyon River Expeditions
Home Owner in Cañon City, Colorado





STATE OF
COLORADO

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

Comment on permit #2020002

1 message

Ben Sack <ben@raftecho.com>
To: tim.cazier@state.co.us

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 10:36 PM

Hello Mr. Cazier,

Please find my attached PDF with a public comment on the latest Zephyr permit #2020002. Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Ben Sack
General Manager



Permit #P2020002 Comment - Ben Sack.pdf
153K