

Douglas D. Foote & Lynnette R. Hampton

**370 Darby Drive
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October 8, 2020

Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman St.
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Application by Peak Ranch Resource (File No. M2020041)

Dear Madam or Sir,

We are writing to seek Party status to testify about the above-mentioned application by Peak Materials to establish a gravel mining operation at the site designated as Peak Ranch Resource.

We live approximately 1½ miles North of the proposed project and would be adversely impacted by this proposed project for the following reasons:

This project will have a material adverse effect on the quality of the Blue River, formerly a Gold Medal trout stream for which reinstatement of that designation is currently being sought. The area is predominantly rural with widely spaced homes, conducive to a thriving wildlife population of deer, elk, mountain lions, eagles, hawks, and many other species. There currently is no industrial activity along the entire area between the project site and the current Maryland Creek gravel processing operation. The noxious noise and trucking activity of the project will severely disrupt this wildlife-friendly environment. In addition, the proposed reclamation plan is wholly inadequate.

The project is located in a relatively narrow valley and within approximately two miles of the eastern boundary of the Eagle's Nest Wilderness Area and approximately three miles of the northern boundary of the Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness Area, with the White River National Forest and the Arapaho National Forest nearby. The adverse environmental impacts of this project will be concentrated and magnified in this area. It is completely inappropriate to have this industrial activity in such a location.

The some 230 one-way truck trips per day, eight months per year will have a material adverse effect on the currently very high quality air and other environmental characteristics of the agricultural area between the project and the applicant's Maryland Creek processing facility some nine miles to the South and East. In addition, there currently are a number of roadkill incidents on that stretch of Hwy. 9, and this very heavy additional usage very likely will result in a substantial increase in those incidents.

I understand that the Division is not charged with addressing the impact of the operation on the safety of residents and travelers. Nevertheless, Hwy. 9 already is a two-lane highway with speed limits of 45 to 55 miles per hour in the affected area and subject to regular traffic backups due to large commercial vehicles transiting for other purposes. Accessing Hwy. 9 in the affected stretch is the Sierra Bosque Subdivision, the Blue River Campground, and several small turnoff/parking areas for fisherman wishing the fish the Blue River.

The addition of some 230 one-way trips per work day for the majority of the year will produce a very dangerous traffic situation with extensive delays, road wear, and dangerous conditions for residents of the area, tourists en route to or from Steamboat Springs and extensive hiking, fishing, camping, hunting, and other attractions in the area. Particularly vulnerable would be the children of area residents who regularly ride rural school buses to and from schools in Summit County. The number of motor vehicle accidents will increase substantially, not only endangering travelers but placing a significant additional burden on local law enforcement and fire/rescue resources.

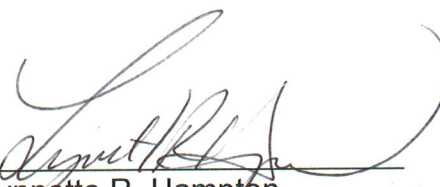
The proposed project contravenes the Summit County Lower Blue Master Plan which finds industrial activity in the area completely opposed to the natural, rural, agricultural character of the Lower Blue River environs and their sustainability.

I would like to address the Board at the public hearing of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board when the Board takes up this application. Please add me to your email distribution list notifying interested parties of the date, time and location for this meeting.

Sincerely,



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Number of people in your household: 2.