

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Colorado River Valley Field Office 2300 River Frontage Road Silt, CO 81652



Recieved Dec 11, 2020 Via Email by DRMS

In Reply Refer To: COC-074205 (CON040)

December 10, 2020

Robert Wagner RMR Aggregates, Inc. Rocky Mountain Industrials 4601 DTC Blvd., Suite 130 Denver, CO 80237

Dear Mr. Wagner,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received RMR Aggregates, Inc. (RMR) October 2020 letter, requesting an exception to the 1982 Plan of Operations condition of approval that restricts quarrying operations to truck hauling only between December 15 and April 15. Your specific request is for an exception to allow crushing and screening during this period for the 2020-2021 winter season.

Our office does not have data to determine that these specific quarrying operations have caused unacceptable disturbance to wintering wildlife. Additionally, we learned during a recent discussion with Colorado Parks & Wildlife that blasting operations are a greater concern during the wintering period when big game animals may be concentrated in this area. This is due to the unexpected nature of blasts that big game animals are not habituated to compared to the more consistent and routine operations. Therefore, as in past years, BLM will grant an exception to allow crushing and screening to continue between December 15 and April 15 for the 2020-2021 winter season. Although you stated that you do not anticipate the need for winter blasting, any request for a blasting exception would be considered separately.

The BLM requires that the Transfer Trail access road be left open for public use during RMR's authorized operations and that you work with other Transfer Trail stakeholders (i.e., Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park, Snowmobile Club, BLM, etc) to support mutually beneficial efforts that ensure vehicle access is sufficiently maintained. For public snowmobiler access, this includes either snowplowing to maintain wheeled vehicle access to the snowmobile parking lot at the saddle as you have done in past years, or an alternative that is mutually agreeable.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Assistant Field Manager Monte Senor at (970) 876-9004 or <u>msenor@blm.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Larry W. Sandoval, Jr. Field Manager