



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Northeast Regional Office  
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November 16, 2021

Mr. Patrick Lenneberg  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety  
[patrick.lenneberg@state.co.us](mailto:patrick.lenneberg@state.co.us)

RE: CPW's Comments on the Tucson South Mine, Amendment Application (AM-2), Brighton, Adams & Weld Counties (T1S, R67W, S1; T1N, R67W, S36; DRMS File No. M2004-044).

Dear Patrick,

Thank you for the opportunity for Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to comment on the Aggregate Industries' proposed Tucson South Mine Amendment Application. It is our understanding that this existing gravel mine is proposing an amendment to allow for a conveyor easement to export the mined material from the Tucson South Resource to the Wattenberg Lakes Mine for the purpose of providing construction materials to meet Front Range demand. It is also CPW's understanding that some citizens are concerned that the new conveyor belt could be a barrier to deer migratory pathways due to its proximity to the South Platte River.

The mission of CPW is to perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state, to provide a quality state parks system, and to provide enjoyable and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire current and future generations to serve as active stewards of Colorado's natural resources. CPW has a statutory responsibility to manage all wildlife species in Colorado, and to promote a variety of recreational opportunities throughout Colorado. One way we achieve this goal is by responding to referral comment requests, as is the case for this request.

After consulting with local CPW staff, CPW does not believe that this proposal will cause significant wildlife to local wildlife because of the following reasons:

- The project proposal is not located within sensitive wildlife habitats. While a small portion of the proposed conveyor belt is located in CPW's High Priority Habitat for mule deer severe winter range (at the extreme northern edge of the proposed conveyor belt location), the habitat is functionally absent since this area is already



heavily impacted with the existing sand and gravel mine that has associated disturbances such as human activity.

- The conveyor belt will not be on the landscape indefinitely. It is CPW's understanding that it is estimated that the conveyor belt will be on the landscape for 5-8 years.
- The conveyor belt is parallel to (and does not bisect) the South Platte River (and associated mule deer severe winter range). Furthermore, it will parallel an existing road located on the property.

Yet CPW still has the following recommendations for DRMS and Aggregate Industries:

- CPW prefers that the conveyor belt is not fenced. If it needs to be fenced, then we should discuss if it should be wildlife-friendly or wildlife-exclusion fencing.
- Since a small portion of the conveyor belt is located in mule deer severe winter range, then, to the extent possible, please avoid installing it between December 1 to April 30.

If the timing or scope of this project changes and/or if you have any questions, please contact Brandon Marett (Northeast Region Land Use Coordinator) at 303-291-7327 or [brandon.marett@state.co.us](mailto:brandon.marett@state.co.us).

Sincerely,



Shannon Schaller  
Deputy Regional Manager - Northeast Region

cc: Chris Mettenbrink, District Wildlife Manager (Fort Lupton)  
Hannah Posey, District Wildlife Manager (Brighton)  
Joe Halseth, Area 2 Terrestrial Wildlife Biologist (Southern Weld County)  
Jason Duetsch, Area 2 Wildlife Manager (Southern Weld County)  
Kirstie Yeager, Area 5 Terrestrial Wildlife Biologist (Denver Metro)  
Matt Martinez, Area 5 Wildlife Manager (Denver Metro)  
Lance Carpenter, Northeast Region Senior Terrestrial Biologist  
Brandon Marett, Northeast Region Land Use Coordinator