



STATE OF  
COLORADO

Zuber - DNR, Rob <rob.zuber@state.co.us>

## Gravel pits near Dos Rios

1 message

**Karen Johnson** <kaj5greensquares@yahoo.com>

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To: "Rob.Zuber@state.co.us" <Rob.Zuber@state.co.us>

Cc: "mobereschmidt@evanscolorado.gov" <mobereschmidt@evanscolorado.gov>, "mhiggins@weldgov.com" <mhiggins@weldgov.com>, "Jon.kindler@state.co.us" <Jon.kindler@state.co.us>

Hello Rob.

I am Karen Johnson. I live at [24350 Compo Rd.](#) in Greeley--- right across the street from the projected **Raptor Materials, LLC "Two Rivers Sand, Gravel and Reservoir Project" File #M2022013.**

I live in the Dos Rios neighborhood. I am one of the many living here who are outraged and horrified by the prospect of this project becoming a reality.

There are many arguments against allowing gravel pits in this area --- environmental, wildlife, aesthetics, noise, traffic, bald eagles, bobcats, --- etc.

The argument I want to make is one which values and prioritizes --- the human spirit ---- the human soul.

The land area that extends from the bridge, on CR60, that crosses, I think, the South Platte, onto Twin Rivers Pkwy, which crosses, I think, The Big Thompson, onto 65th Ave, and turning onto 54th Street Rd.--- is a magical landscape. It is beautiful open land graced by rivers and trees along the river banks, a few cows, a feeling of raw wilderness alongside shimmering fields of feed-corn and irrigation systems. The land is wide open and natural and gently farmed. Quiet. The deer and wild turkey, the bobcats and owls, hawks and bald eagles can feel safe and at home. When I drive by, or when I walk down the dirt road CR396 which runs from 54th St. Rd to Twin Rivers Pkwy, I am reminded that Mother Nature has given us this gift ---- so that we humans can retreat from the hectic and stressed lives that we live, and --- simply, breathe. We need this kind of natural beauty in our lives. There is ample ugliness all around us ---. Just drive down highway 85.

When my husband and I first moved to Greeley in 1991 we would occasionally get "lost" while trying to take back roads from, say, Johnstown to Greeley. We would invariably end up driving along Twin Rivers Pkwy and onto 65th Ave ---- and I always thought to myself--- " Where I am I? Where is this place? It is so beautiful. I wish I could live there." My sense of direction is generally pretty awful and I really had no idea where this area was in relation to where I lived, at the time, in Greeley. But even back then I knew that it is a magical, beautiful, soul-feeding place that should be preserved.

**Some governing body in the past made a mistake** when the land was zoned to accept gravel pits, or any kind of development. It was a mistake --- **BUT --- mistakes can be corrected.** This mistake must be corrected. The entire area should be zoned open space/wildlife preserve/gentle farming. Perhaps a bike trail through it. Perhaps a path along the river and a few picnic tables. But I wouldn't try to "develop" it very much. It doesn't need developing. It is perfect just the way it is and the human soul NEEDS it. The human soul longs for the quiet, gentle peace that Mother Nature offers.

So--- the plan should be to form a coalition of State, county and town, and organizations like Nature Conservancy and RAISE THE MONEY to buy the land back from the Varra family and then--- treat it the way Mother Nature intended it be treated. Care for it and protect it, so that it may continue to nourish the souls of "we the people".

We the people matter.

Quality of life matters.

There is no NEED to develop gravel pits in this location. It will destroy the entire neighborhood of Dos Rios. It will ruin what is now a pleasant drive past a magical landscape. It will replace beauty with ugliness. It will say to Mother Nature " We don't care."

We human beings so often behave like lemmings running toward the cliff. We are shortsighted and we destroy so much of what we have been given for short-term satisfaction.

Let's do something good --- not for money ---- but for for the human soul.