

**RECEIVED**

**MAY 13 2022**

**DIVISION OF RECLAMATION  
MINING AND SAFETY**

Fred Phillips  
Ridgway Colorado  
Landowner Downstream of the proposed actions  
Ward Water Group (ward ditch headgate is located in this area)

Hello,

This letter is in reference to **DRMS Permit Index for "P2022008"**. The prospector is planning on constructing bridges, prospecting and mining for gold and heavy minerals along the banks of the Uncompaghre river. This operation will affect the private landowners in the area, the safety of the highway and river users, affect our ward ditch headgate operations and severely affect the water quality and environmental health of the Uncompaghre river and the water in the ward ditch. To build bridges across the Uncompaghre river and do any work below the OHWM of the river may/will require an environmental impact statement, ACOE 404 permits, HEC Ras Analysis, no rise certification and structural engineering and may/will require other federal, state and county permits.

The Uncompaghre river in this stretch is already an impaired river due to the 100+ years of mining and development within this watershed. The neighborhood in the this stretch of river is actively working to improve the overall water quality, ecological health and beauty of this river corridor. This stretch of river is incised, mostly devoid of aquatic life and impaired due to aluminum and iron oxide levels. The proposed actions will add to this degradation of the river corridor. These operations will also impact the private landowners in this stretch of river (and downstream), impacting their privacy, quiet, and beautiful natural setting. Mining operations and homemade bridges (which should also require HEC-ras engineering studies and no rise certifications) will also affect the safety of downstream landowners, including their children, pets and livestock. Vibrations and impacts from augering and heavy equipment may/will also affect surface and subsurface water quality, structural integrity of buildings and decks within the vicinity of the operations and the turbidity and accumulation of heavy metals in the river.

I am against any and all operations noted in this permit application.  
Best



Fred Phillips

