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## Applicant's Response to CPW Comments, South Hinsdale Gravel Pit M-2022-018

1 message

**Foote - DNR, Peter** <peter.foote@state.co.us>  
To: Lucas West - DNR <lucas.west@state.co.us>  
Cc: Brian Magee - DNR <brian.magee@state.co.us>

Fri, Aug 5, 2022 at 4:58 PM

Lucas,

Thanks for discussing the operator's response to our recommendations for the South Hinsdale Gravel Pit yesterday. As discussed, CPW does not have any regulatory authority of land use permitting. Rather, CPW makes recommendations to regulatory agencies and industry on ways to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to wildlife resources in Colorado. The purpose of this response is to clarify where CPW stands with the issues addressed below.

### (1) No permitted or authorized human activity from 1 Dec to 30 Apr annually.

Given the potential operational constraints imposed by the County during the summer, CPW discussed with the operator that if gravel pit operations must occur during the winter time frame, that the least impactful months on wintering elk are in December and January. Wintering ungulates are more sensitive during the late winter and early spring months (February - April) when nutrient sources are scarce, they are in their worst body condition, and these animals are in their third trimester of pregnancy. To minimize gravel pit operations on elk in Feb-April, CPW recommends that gravel pit operations be limited to loading and hauling of previously processed materials during this time period.

### (2) Fencing to be wildlife friendly.

The operator stated that "fencing as existing on this property is acceptable to USFS and may be assumed to be wildlife friendly." The USFS does not require private lands to use approved wildlife friendly fencing and therefore the current fencing design may not be friendly to wildlife. Enclosed is a copy of CPW Fencing With Wildlife In Mind document. There are numerous designs that can accommodate various uses and allow wildlife passage. We encourage parties to select and adopt one of these designs.

<https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/LandWater/PrivateLandPrograms/FencingWithWildlifeInMind.pdf>

### (3) No ground disturbance year-round within 500 feet of OHW mark.

This recommendation was made due to the Piedra River being identified as a Sportfish Management Waters and the concern of sedimentation entering the river. CPW reviewed the operator's stormwater and erosion controls and agreed that the BMPs listed are likely protect the waterway from erosion and sediment runoff entering the adjacent river.

### (4) Limiting erosion and sedimentation into streams.

CPW reviewed the operators BMPs, which are likely sufficient for preventing erosion and sedimentation from entering the adjacent Piedra River.

### (5) Controlling invasive weeds; incorporate active weed management forever.

CPW appreciates the BMPs outlined in the application for invasive plants and weed management.

### (6) Using "native drought-tolerant revegetation."

CPW appreciates the use of native drought-tolerant seed mixture for post disturbance reclamation. CPW would be happy to recommend a native seed mix for this site upon the operators request.

I hope this helps. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

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**Peter Foote**  
Land Use Coordinator  
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