



File Code: 2850
Date: February 15, 2023

Ben Langenfeld
Lewicki & Associates
4654 S. Espana Street
Centennial, CO 80015

Dear Mr. Langenfeld,

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of the Mule Creek Operating and Reclamation Plans (ORP) in accordance with the Forest Service (FS) mineral materials regulations at 36 CFR 228, Subpart C. The ORP was received on January 12, 2023, by the Pikes Peak Ranger District, Pike – San Isabel National Forests & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands (PSICC). The Mule Creek ORP has been assigned an identification number of **2850-021209-OP-2023-002**. Please use this number for all future correspondence.

The Mule Creek ORP outlines your intent to conduct mineral material operations on the PSICC within the Fourmile Creek watershed area in portions of Section 30, T. 13 S., R. 69 W., 6th Principal Meridian in Teller County, Colorado. The ORP described activities include:

- The expansion of the current gravel pit by approximately 60 acres to the east and south (total permit area of 80 acres) in five (5) phases over 110 years.

Phase No.	Estimated Time to Complete (years)	Description
Phase 1	5	Mine the first five benches within the existing disturbance.
Phase 2	5	Mine the first five benches to the northern extents on the western hillside.
Phase 3	28	Mine the first five benches through the hill, daylighting to the east.
Phase 4	30	Mine to the final quarry floor within the Phase 3 disturbance.
Phase 5 (Final Phase)	42	Mine all benches to the southern extents. Mining completed after this phase. This phase is the longest because it includes mining of all ten benches while nearly doubling the mine footprint to the south.



- The removal of approximately 100,000 short tons of construction materials (crushed rock, sand, washed rock, concrete, and asphalt) per year from the Mule Creek gravel pit.
- Drilling and blasting will occur according to the mine development sequence.
- Construction of mine benches with approximate dimensions of 28 feet high x 15 feet wide. Bench mining will start on the western face of the mine within the existing disturbance. It will then expand to the north before it continues through the hillside to the east, effectively lowering the hill ridgeline. The progression of mining will generally occur from the top to bottom of the mine, starting on the uppermost bench, and moving downward as mining is completed on each level. This will result in subsequent 28-foot cuts leaving behind the proposed bench configuration.
- Blasted rock will be excavated and hauled to the operations area for processing.
- Processing of the aggregate materials will consist of crushing, screening, and washing to produce various sized aggregate products.
- The utilization of a non-system routes for access, hauling, and site expansion. Non-system routes have approximate width of 20 feet.
- The use of mechanized operating and processing equipment.
- The improvement to scenic values, forest land, and wildlife habitat after reclamation is complete.

Based on my initial review of your ORP, additional information will be required in accordance with 36 CFR 228.56, as well as requiring an environmental analysis. After the U.S. Forest Service has completed the review of your operating plan, I will provide you, in writing, with a list of additional items that will be necessary to consider your plan complete.

As part of the USFS's continued review, we will assess your proposed activities to ensure they are authorized by law, reasonable and follow logical progression, and are designed to minimize adverse environmental impacts.

Once the ORP is determined to meet the requirements of the 36 CFR 228 Subpart C regulations, it will be included into the Forest's program of work. An interdisciplinary (ID) team will be assigned to analyze and disclose the environmental impacts from the proposed activity, as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Following completion of the NEPA analysis, you will be required to accept any stipulations the USFS deems necessary to minimize adverse impacts, in addition to posting an acceptable reclamation bond in accordance with 36 CFR 228.51.

Sincerely,

CARL R. BAUER
District Ranger

cc: DRMS - Elliott Russell; Lewicki & Associates