



9 November 2022

Assistant State Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services
445 W. Gunnison Ave, Suite 240
Grand Junction, CO 81501-5711

**Re: Trapper Mine Inc. (Permit No. C1981010)
Permit Renewal (PR11), and Section 7 Consultation**

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS), is reviewing an application (PR11), to revise an existing permit to conduct coal mining operations at Trapper Mine Inc.

The applicant, Trapper Mine Inc, proposes a 5-Year Mine Plan Update, comprising revised pit disturbance, reclamation, mining and a new bond calculation for permit term 2023-2027. The permitting action proposes and increase in the permit area and in affected area. The applicant is proposing additional surface disturbance outside of the area currently approved for disturbance.

The surface coal mining operation is on land located approximately 6 miles Southwest of Craig, Colorado. The relevant tracts of land are shown on the Castor Gulch USGS 7.5 minute Quadrangle map(s).

DRMS made a completeness determination on 26 October 2022. The Office of Surface Mining (OSMRE), has in the past requested the Section 7 consultation. As OSMRE no longer obtains the consultation, DRMS now makes this request.

The most recent Section 7 consultations in accordance with the Endangered Species Act were conducted for this mine site in 2009 and in 2013. These documents are attached for your review. Additional documents relevant to the PR11 Permitting action comprise:

Map 48B

Revision pages 2-122r

And permitting action RN8:

Section 2 page 2-121 and page 2-141 through 2-142.

DRMS is requesting your opinion regarding the need for another Section 7 consultation for the PR11 permit renewal. The applicant is required to publish notice in the *CO Mountain News Media - Craig Daily Press* that this permit revision application has been deemed complete. The



revision application, as well as all other permit documents, can be viewed at:

<https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/drms/search.aspx>

by searching C1981010 in the "*Permit No*" field. A user guide is available to help first time users of the imaged document system and can be viewed at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/118OUdf_Mpjo3kxIHkP5hMH-w7MeBtxX7/view

Please respond to this letter at by the close of the public comment period, 23 December 2022 by sending me a letter via email to: Robin.reilley@state.co.us and by mail to:

DRMS Room 215
1001 E 62nd Ave
Denver, CO 80216

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone at: 303.866.3767 ext 8105.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robin Reilley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and 'R'.

Robin Reilley, M.S. GISP
Environmental Protection Specialist II
Robin.reilley@state.co.us