



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Lamar Service Center
2500 South Main Street
Lamar, CO 81052
P 719.336.6600 | F 719.336.6623

RE: Brock F Bowles
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, Colorado 80203

Subject: East Sand Canyon Mine, File No. M-2023-021
Permit applicant: W. F. Ratliff
P.O. BOX 38, Pritchett, CO
81064
Township 34S, Range 48W, Section 16

Dear Brock F Bowles,

Thank you for the chance to comment on the proposed East Sand Canyon Mine in Baca County, Colorado. It is the mission of the agency to perpetuate the wildlife resources while inspiring future generations to be stewards of Colorado's natural resource. Colorado Parks and Wildlife has reviewed and the proposed location and has the following comments on the area.

The proposed surface mine is located in Section 16 of Township 34 South, Range of 46 West of the 6th principle Meridian in Baca County. The proposed pit resides on short grass prairie and is south of both National Forrest Service Comanche Grassland and Colorado State Land Board. To the south is Baca County road G, the east county road 15 and to the west county road 18.

The location of the gravel pit falls within the habitat for multiple species of wildlife throughout the year. The proposed mine would fall within the concentration and overall habitat for pronghorn, rocky mountain elk, white tail deer, mule deer and overall range of scaled quail. There has been a historic counting route where quail, mule deer and pronghorn are regularly seen in this area. Additionally, the proposed mine falls within habitat for other wildlife species such as small and large raptors, bats, swift fox and other small predators.

Impacts to scaled quail will be loss of habitat and displacement of the coveys throughout other area of the mine. This will be mainly due to the loss of vegetation habitat which is used as both a food source and a as cover for predators. Due to the increased usage by humans and equipment the quail will likely avoid this area.

There will also be impacts to larger wildlife as well. Deer and pronghorn will also be displaced and less likely to use the area of the mine. This would also be due to the loss of



habitat in forage and cover for bedding. With the increased usage of machinery and human presence the wildlife would be displaced and less likely to use this area.

A fence is likely to be used to keep the domestic livestock from not being able to enter the mine, please consider using a fence that would allow for wildlife to enter and exit the property as to not inhibit the migration of species. Colorado Parks and Wildlife recommends the following four wire fence to lessen the impact and chances of wildlife being entangled in the fence.

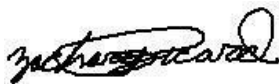
1. Smooth wire that does not exceed 42- inches in height from the ground.
2. The second wire can be either smooth or barbed and does not exceed 30- inches from the ground.
3. The third wire can be smooth or barbed and only 23 inches from the ground.
4. The final and fourth wire should be smooth and at least 16 inches high to allow for pronghorn to be able to pass under the fence.

Noxious weed pose a considerable threat to the native grasses and wildlife habitat of Colorado will be present with the disruption of the soil. Please consider monitoring and controlling any noxious weeds that are found in the area of the mine. This will help avoid further damage to the area and the wildlife resource.

Reclamation of the area once the mine is no longer needed will help return the area to wildlife habitat.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife appreciates the opportunity to comment on the East Sand Canyon Mine and interests in Colorado's wildlife. Please feel free to contact the local District Wildlife Manager Zachary Picard (719-980-0025) or the Lamar Service Center (719-336-6600) with any question or need further clarification on this comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zachary Picard", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Zachary Picard
District Wildlife Manager 184
Kim/ Springfield area
(719)980-0025
Zachary.picard@state.co.us