

EXHIBIT H – WILDLIFE INFORMATION

Meeker Sand & Gravel: M-1976-038

There has been little or no change in the wildlife in this area since the original permit was issued. Animals of interest in the area include mule deer, elk and greater sage grouse. GrSG have not been present in the area in the past 40 years due to irrigated hay ground surrounding the gravel pit on all sides. No other threatened or endangered species are present in the area. Wildlife use of the the area is consistent in that significant fluctuations by season are not present. The manner in which mining and reclamation moves allows the wildlife to move from one area to the other in the mining operation. Wildlife is acclimated to the operation and no significant impact is expected (30). The local Colorado Parks & Wildlife office has been contacted regarding the proposed expansion and they have issued the attached statement dated September 25, 2023 (Exhibit H-1). Meeker Sand & Gravel commits to the recommendations they have stated in the letter dated September 25, 2023, signed by Jonathan Lambert included as Exhibit H-1(29). CPW has also approved of the proposed seed mix as being supportive of GrSG and wildlife habitat, as indicated in their letter dated September 25, 2023 and included as Exhibit H-1 (29a).

EXHIBIT H-1: DIVISION OF WILDLIFE STATEMENT

Dated September 25th, 2023, Signed by Jonathan Lambert

Meeker Sand & Gravel: M-1976-038



COLORADO
Parks and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources

Meeker (Area 6)
73485 Hwy 64
Meeker, CO 81641
P 970.878.6090 | F 970.878.6077

September 25, 2023

Meeker Sand & Gravel, Inc.
3251 County Road 4
Meeker, CO 81641

Re: Meeker Sand & Gravel Pit Expansion Amendment Application No. M-1976-038

Dear Ms. Conrado:

Thank you for consulting Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) regarding your proposed expansion of the Meeker Sand & Gravel operation. CPW appreciates all of the discussions and negotiations that have occurred over the past year with regard to your pit expansion amendment application in order to minimize impacts to wildlife.

The portion of the Meeker Sand & Gravel operation referenced in this application is located approximately two miles southeast of Meeker, CO on Rio Blanco County Road 4. The original mining permit was 78 acres and will be expanded to include an additional 80 acres. The area is predominantly rural residential development with irrigated agricultural areas along the Highland and Miller Creek ditches.

CPW utilizes High Priority Habitats (HPH), for which CPW has sound spatial data and scientifically-backed recommendations when conducting reviews of land use proposals. CPW has identified the following HPH's that the proposed expansion could impact and CPW has recommendations associated with those HPH's.

- Mule deer and Elk Severe Winter Range
- Greater sage-grouse (GrSG) General Habitat Management Area

Due to the existing operations at Meeker Sand & Gravel, CPW recognizes that the wildlife species in this area are likely already acclimated to activities such as truck traffic and machinery operation. Therefore, Meeker Sand & Gravel's proposed expansion at the Meeker pit site is unlikely to impact those HPH's significantly and aligns with the historical use of this property. Considering these factors and our need to afford wildlife ample protection measures, CPW recommends the following strategies to avoid, minimize and mitigate adverse impacts to mule deer and Greater sage-grouse in particular.

- When possible, limit traffic and operations to daylight hours to avoid times when wildlife are most active.

Jeff Davis, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Parks and Wildlife Commission: Dallas May, Chair • Richard Reading, Vice-Chair • Karen Bailey, Secretary • Jessica Beaudieu
Marie Haskett • Jack Murphy • Gabriel Otero • Duke Phillips, IV • Gary T. Skiba • James Jay Tutchton • Eden Vardy



- During construction and operations, the contractor should prioritize erosion control measures identified within the NPDES Permit to minimize off-site sediment transport.
- Dust suppression should utilize fresh water only.
- Surface water, groundwater, or storm water discharged from operations within the permitted area to neighboring properties or irrigation ditches should first be treated by the site's sediment and erosion controls and ensure it is within natural water standards.
- A reclamation plan should include the custom seed mix below that has been approved by CPW, which provides suitable habitat for GrSG and other wildlife species that utilize the area:

SPECIES	PERCENT IN MIX	PLS/ACRE DRILLED	PLS/ACRE BROADCAST
Russian Wildrye	15%	2.25	3
Mountain Brome	10%	1.5	2
Paiute Orchardgrass	10%	1.5	2
Sherman Big Bluegrass	10%	1.5	2
Bluebunch Wheatgrass	14%	2.1	2.8
Prairie Junegrass	5%	0.75	1
Indian Ricegrass	7%	1.05	1.4
Northern Sweetvetch	2%	0.3	0.4
Mountain Big Sagebrush	2%	0.3	0.4
Falcata Alfalfa	5%	0.75	1.0
Triticale (sterile)	20%	3	4

CPW appreciates the opportunity to comment on this project and we appreciate the support and patience that Meeker Sand & Gravel has shown over the past year with this process. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact District Wildlife Manager Bailey Franklin with CPW at 970-942-5111 or bailey.franklin@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

Johnathan Lambert

Johnathan Manager, Area Wildlife Manager