



Russell - DNR, Elliott <elliott.russell@state.co.us>

Notice of Application Consideration for Permit: M2023015

Hamous-Miller - DNR, Lexi <lexi.hamous-miller@state.co.us>

Fri, Sep 22, 2023 at 10:53 AM

To: Joseph Harrington <jgh@minewater.com>

Cc: "Elliott Russell (DNR-DRMS)" <elliott.russell@state.co.us>, Bob Oswald <bob.oswald5@gmail.com>, brandon.marette@state.co.us, Jacob Cdphe <jacob.dyste@state.co.us>, melynda.may@state.co.us, Eric Lancaster <ejl@minewater.com>, Mark Lamb - DNR <mark.lamb@state.co.us>, Mark Fisher - DNR <mark.fisher@state.co.us>

Hi Joseph,

Thank you for allowing us to come out Sept 20 to tour the site and gain a better understanding of the project. Mark Lamb, the Area Wildlife Manager, could not join us, but we set up a call with him afterward to debrief him. We appreciate the effort to reclaim and seed the areas proposed because this will reclaim previous wildlife habitat that was lost.

After internal discussion and physically seeing the site, CPW has decided not to pursue the Elk production HPH requirements because we do not anticipate the Elk caving where the disturbance will be occurring. CPW is still concerned with the Bighorn Sheep herd in the area because of the increased use of Mosquito Pass for recreation and other human activity and the cumulative impacts to wildlife increasing on the adjacent Forest Service land. CPW recommends not running heavy machinery year-round onsite when ten or more Bighorn Sheep are present and minimizing noise to the greatest extent possible. If this is not feasible, we recommend not running heavy machinery onsite when Bighorn Sheep are present between April 15 and June 30 (lambing season) and minimizing noise and work during the winter season to the greatest extent possible. We add the caveat that if the Bighorn sheep leave, you may continue working that day. Although we see the reclamation as a benefit to the herd once the project is complete, the noise and constant disturbance of trucks running up and down the hill that the Bighorn sheep use frequently could result in the sheep being further pushed out of their range. Please let me know if there are any questions or clarification needed.

-Sincerely,**Lexi Hamous, MS (She/Her)**
Northeast Region Land Use Coordinator

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