



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Southeast Regional Office

4255 Sinton Road

Colorado Springs, CO 80907

P (719) 227-5200

February 22, 2024

Elliott Russell
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
DRMS Room 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave
Denver, CO 80216

RE: Wild Cat Site, Permit No.2023-033

Elliott Russell,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is in receipt of the above referenced permit application and is familiar with the site. Based both on the location and type of action that is proposed CPW believes impacts to the wildlife resource to be negligible, however the project site is in both the black bear human conflict area and gunnison prairie dog overall range. CPW would recommend that best management practices be followed for any waste on the project site that may attract bears and lead to conflict.

CPW also suggests the area be reasonably reclaimed following mining. We recommend planting the disturbed areas with native vegetation that matches the native vegetation already present in the surrounding area. CPW recommends the development and implementation of a noxious weed control plan for the site. All disturbed soils should be monitored for noxious weeds and noxious weeds should be actively controlled until native plant revegetation and reclamation is achieved.

CPW recommends consultation with the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act due to the identification of possible jurisdictional wetlands on the site. CPW will comment on specific plans for wetland-related issues as part of that 404 permitting process but there are some general recommendations to be considered during the development of the wetland mitigation plan prepared as part of section 404 permitting.

CPW recommends the following Best Management Practices when working in or near aquatic habitats.

- Drainages should be crossed perpendicular to the flow of the stream
- Use existing road crossings and existing stream crossings for vehicles and other construction equipment instead of building new roads and stream crossings
- The width of construction should be minimized within the 100-year floodplain,

Jeff Davis, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

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



- Stream bank, wetland restoration/improvement should be performed, where necessary
- Vehicle and equipment crossing of creeks/streams or streambeds should be made in locations that will cause the least erosion of banks and sedimentation.

If fencing is to be installed, CPW recommends that the developers consult our publication *Hanophy, Wendy* "Fencing with Wildlife in mind." *CPW.state.co.us*. 2009. The publication is available on our website and we would be happy to provide a link to the PDF. Fencing within the known range of elk and deer should have a maximum top height of 42" with at least 12" spacing between the top two wires or rails and a bottom wire or rail at least 16" above the ground to allow passage of juvenile animals. It is also recommended that the top and bottom wires be a twisted barbless type or smooth wire or rail construction.

We appreciate being given the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact District Wildlife Manager, Tyson Floersheim, should you have any questions or require additional information at 719-439-9634 or via email at tyson.floersheim@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

Tim Kroening

Tim Kroening

Area Wildlife Manager

Cc: Tyson Floersheim, DWM

SE Regional File

Area 14 File