



STATE OF
COLORADO

Carter - DNR, Jocelyn <jocelyn.carter@state.co.us>

Notice of Application Consideration for Permit: M2024005

Carter - DNR, Jocelyn <jocelyn.carter@state.co.us>

Mon, Apr 29, 2024 at 8:33 AM

To: Ryan Smith <rsmith@aecdenver.com>, scroadbridge@gmail.com

Cc: Amy Eschberger - DNR <amy.eschberger@state.co.us>

Good morning Kacey and Ryan,

Please see the comment sent to DRMS by Colorado Parks and Wildlife regarding the application for permit M-2024-005
SCRB Laster Pit.

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Jocelyn

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Jocelyn Carter
Environmental Protection Specialist
Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety
1313 Sherman St Suite 215
Denver, CO 80203
office: (303) 866-3567 x 8110
cell: (720) 666-1065

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

Wed, Apr 24, 2024 at 2:09 PM

To: jocelyn.carter@state.co.us

Cc: Kyle Gordon - DNR <kyle.gordon@state.co.us>

Hi Jocelyn,

Thank you for reaching out on this project. CPW has reviewed the project and have a few recommendations included below:

CPW appreciates that the operator stated that they would reach out if they were to find any Greater Prairie Chickens or Leks, we also ask that if they find any dens or nests that they contact the District Wildlife Manager, Kyle Gordon (cc'd here). Our general recommendations are as follows:

Fencing

CPW is concerned for the safety of Mule deer and White-tailed deer in the area for the proposed project. CPW recommends that if fencing (project perimeter or internal) is erected, either during or after the project, it should be the type that would allow the free passage of wildlife. Fencing plans should avoid the use of woven wire type fences that will trap or prevent the movement of wildlife. CPW recommends using three or four-strand smooth-wire fencing with a bottom strand height of 17 inches above ground level and a maximum top strand height of 42 inches above ground level, along with the installation of double stays between posts.

CPW's "[Fencing with Wildlife in Mind](#)" brochure.

Noxious Weeds and Native Re-seeding

Also of importance to CPW is the revegetation of disturbed soils and the control of noxious weed species through the development of a noxious weed management plan prior to initiating construction activities. The revegetation of disturbed areas and control of invasive weed species are important components of the project and it is critically important that the site be restored back to the native plant community that currently exists on site. CPW prefers that native vegetation be retained on-site during the operational lifespan of the project, both as potential habitat for wildlife and to ensure successful reclamation of the project area, as noxious weeds could spread to adjacent habitats outside the project area.

Wildlife Escape Ramps

During open pit or open trench mining operations, CPW recommends backfilling escape ramps in areas where steep slopes occur. Escape ramps will allow wildlife to safely exit an open pit or trench if they become entrapped.

Retention ponds

Ponds created by reclamation efforts could potentially have significant value to wildlife. To maximize this benefit, CPW recommends that ponds be designed to include irregular shorelines and one or more islands to provide cover, shelter, and nesting areas for migratory birds. Islands should be at least 15' x 25' in size for every two surface acres of water in the pond. Shoreline and island slopes should be graded to a ratio of 4 horizontal feet to every 1 vertical foot of distance, with some areas having slopes no steeper than 8 horizontal feet to every 1 vertical foot of distance. Such shallow areas will allow for the establishment of a variety of aquatic vegetation and invertebrate prey for waterfowl and shorebirds. Shorelines should be re-vegetated with native aquatic vegetation.

Thank you for including CPW in the review of this project. Please let us know if there are any further questions.

-Sincerely,

Lexi Hamous, MS (She/Her)
Northeast Region Land Use Coordinator
Colorado Parks and Wildlife



6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216

4/24/24, 3:46 PM

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303-916-2987

Lexi.Hamous-Miller@state.co.us

[CPW's Energy Webpage](#)



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