

STATE OF
COLORADO

Bowles - DNR, Brock <brock.bowles@state.co.us>

Referral comments M2024015

1 message

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

Fri, May 3, 2024 at 10:52 AM

To: Brock Bowles - DNR <brock.bowles@state.co.us>

Cc: Michael Grooms - DNR <michael.grooms@state.co.us>

Hi Brock,

I wanted to reach out about a referral request we received for M2024015.

After review of the project, CPW has the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATIONS:**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.

In the future, can you send all DRMS requests in the NE to me so I can make sure they are taken care of in a timely manner, we received this one later than expected because it was not sent to the correct person. I made a request last year to have all requests sent to me but this one must have slipped through the cracks. Please let me know if you have any questions and I would be happy to answer them.

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

5/3/24, 11:19 AM

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[CPW's Energy Webpage](#)

