

STATE OF
COLORADO

Girardi - DNR, Chris <chris.girardi@state.co.us>

Sludge issue Beebe Draw Farms

2 messages

John and Kim Coleman <jc4buffs@msn.com>

Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 8:08 PM

To: "Girardi - DNR, Chris" <chris.girardi@state.co.us>, Dan Joseph <djoseph@weld.gov>, "mfreeman@weldgov.com" <mfreeman@weldgov.com>, Maxwell Nader <mnader@weld.gov>, Perry Buck <pbuck@weld.gov>, "Isaine@weldgov.com" <Isaine@weldgov.com>, "kford@weld.gov" <kford@weld.gov>

Chris Girardi

Environmental Protection Specialist Intern and Weld County Commissioners,

I'm writing to share concerns about Lake Christina, a lake that is part of our community, and the impact of FRICO's dredging and discharge activities. These concerns were brought to my attention by Bill Caldwell, one of our community's board members, who shared photos and observations with me.

The photos show significant sludge buildup in the shallow areas of Lake Christina, particularly south of the causeway. This sludge appears to be coming from FRICO's outlet structures, which were constructed this past spring to manage water flow from their cyclone mining operations. The water entering the lake often looks like chocolate milk, carrying fine materials that are settling in the slow area. In some places, this buildup has reached an estimated depth of 5 to 7 inches.

The outlet structures themselves are Parshall flumes, which are designed to measure water flow, but it seems there is no filtration system in place to prevent sediment and other materials from entering the lake. This lack of filtration raises concerns about potential contamination. The sludge is extremely fine—finer than face powder—and could contain agricultural chemicals, organic waste, or other pollutants originating from Milton Reservoir.

Additionally, there are growing concerns about the environmental impact this is having on Lake Christina, a vital part of our community's ecosystem and recreational activities. Allowing unfiltered discharge into the lake risks harming the wildlife and diminishing the lake's value for the community.

In light of these concerns, I am requesting the following actions:

- Comprehensive testing of the sludge to determine if it contains toxins or harmful substances.
- A review of FRICO's discharge practices to ensure compliance with environmental standards and to confirm whether proper filtration measures are in place.
- An investigation into FRICO's authority to discharge unfiltered material into Lake Christina and the broader environmental implications of these actions.

As a community member, I'm deeply concerned about the future of Lake Christina. I appreciate your time in addressing this matter and hope for a prompt investigation to ensure the lake remains a healthy and thriving part of our community.

Thank you for your attention.

I am sure we can meet to show you the issue, let me know what date will work for you!

Sincerely,
Kim Coleman

4 attachments



IMG_8038.jpeg
4239K



IMG_8021.jpeg
2897K



IMG_8022.jpeg
3408K



IMG_8035.jpeg
4086K

Girardi - DNR, Chris <chris.girardi@state.co.us>
To: Jared Ebert - DNR <jared.ebert@state.co.us>, Jeff Fugate <jeff.fugate@coag.gov>, "Scott Schultz (He/Him)" <scott.schultz@coag.gov>
Cc: Russ Means - DNR <russ.means@state.co.us>

Wed, Jan 29, 2025 at 8:14 AM

FYI, this is an email containing an objection/comment regarding the Farmers Sand/Milton Reservoir application, M-2024-057.

Chris

Chris Girardi

Environmental Protection Specialist Intern