



STATE OF
COLORADO

Gibson - DNR, Amber <amber.gibson@state.co.us>

CPW comment received for the Lascar Pit M-2025-004 application

1 message

Gibson - DNR, Amber <amber.gibson@state.co.us>
To: PFM Consulting <pfmconsultingcompany@gmail.com>

Thu, Feb 27, 2025 at 9:14 AM

Good morning,

Attached is a copy of a comment received by the Division on February 27, 2025 from Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Thank you,

Amber Michels Gibson
Environmental Protection Specialist I



COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

P 720.836.0967 | F 303.832.8106 |
amber.gibson@state.co.us

Mailing: DRMS Room 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave, Denver, CO 80216
Physical: 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203

<https://drms.colorado.gov/>



CPW_burringowls_M2025004.pdf
99K



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Pueblo Service Center
600 Pueblo Reservoir Road
Pueblo, CO 81005
P 719-561-5300 | F 719-561-5321

RECEIVED

FEB 27 2025

**Colorado Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**

Amber M. Gibson
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman Street Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Lascar Gravel Pit Review

Dear Ms. Gibson,

Thank you for allowing Colorado Parks & Wildlife, (CPW) the opportunity to review this application to discuss any fish and wildlife concerns. The Lascar Gravel Pit site is located in an area with diverse wildlife populations. CPW species activity maps indicate that nearly 50 different wildlife species can be located in this general area. Notable big game species such as pronghorn, mule deer, and elk utilize the area throughout the year. Several small game and non-game species also utilize the area.

Tom Branch creek is a dry creek bed/arroyo that runs through the project site and potentially carries water during periods of heavy rainfall. We conducted a site visit along Tom Branch creek in the proposed project site on May 26, 2023. The arroyo was dry even though the area had received significant rainfall in the months prior. At the time of the inspection, no aquatic species were present. CPW's local aquatic biologist was consulted on this project. CPW's aquatic biologist did not believe the area contains any fish or aquatic wildlife species associated with the drainage. Given the area is a consistent dry arroyo without any established aquatic wildlife, this project should not have any impacts to aquatic species.

CPW would like to highlight potential impacts to burrowing owls as this project does occur within their breeding range. Burrowing owls utilize burrows created by other animals such as prairie dogs and badgers. If these types of burrows exist within the proposed project site, burrowing owls may be present. Federal and state laws prohibit the harming or killing of burrowing owls and the destruction of active nests.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) recommends surveying for burrowing owl presence before potentially harmful activities start. The migration of burrowing owls depends on numerous factors including weather. This can result in burrowing owls being present prior to March 15th. Burrowing owls typically arrive on breeding grounds in Colorado in late March or early April, with nesting beginning a few weeks later. Active nesting is expected from late March through early August.



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 • Tai Jacober • Jack Murphy • Gabriel Otero • Murphy Robinson • James Jay Tutchton • Eden Vardy

To best avoid and minimize impacts to burrowing owls within the project area, CPW recommends the following:

- If development is proposed to occur in a prairie dog colony that has been active within the past 10 years, CPW recommends the adherence to CPW's Burrowing Owl survey protocol.
- CPW recommends that targeted surveys should be conducted for any activities resulting in ground disturbance between March 15th and October 31st.
- If nesting burrowing owls are present, no human encroachment or surface disturbance should occur within a 200-meter buffer of nesting burrowing owls from March 15th to August 15th.
- If burrowing owls occupy the site, CPW recommends that earthmoving and other disturbance activities be delayed until late fall after the owls migrate.

Aside from potential impact to Burrowing owls, this project should not have any significant wildlife impacts. CPW would like to thank you for including our agency on the commenting process for this project. Please contact District Wildlife Manager, Cody Purcell at (719)-424-2106 or via email at cody.purcell@state.co.us if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

 #122

Michael D Brown
Area Wildlife Manager
Area 11-Pueblo



Jeff Davis, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

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