



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Northwest Regional Center
711 Independent Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81505

November 1, 2016

Routt County Planning Department
Attn: Alan Goldich
Box 773749
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

RE: CPW Comments for the SWMD Thickener Underflow Borehole and Pipeline Project

Dear Mr. Goldich:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the SWMD Thickener Underflow Borehole and Pipeline project; Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) appreciates the opportunity to be involved in the Routt County planning review process. We welcome the effort that Twentymile Coal, LLC has made to solicit our input with regard to potential impacts to wildlife.

CPW has a statutory responsibility to manage all wildlife species in Colorado; this responsibility is embraced and fulfilled through CPW's mission to protect, preserve, enhance, and manage the wildlife of Colorado for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the people of the State and its visitors. One specific way that CPW carries out its responsibility is to provide comments on local land use projects such as this one. Please consider the following comments and recommendations for the development of this project.

CPW recommends that access road, pad, and pipeline construction begin as soon as possible after required permits are approved and that revegetation be completed prior to March 1, 2017. CPW guidelines for sharp-tail lekking restrictions begin March 15.

Also, based on location of the project (Columbian sharp-tailed grouse brood rearing habitat) CPW recommends that Twentymile Coal, LLC use a grass mixture for re-vegetation from Peabody's 2012 NORTHWESTERN COLORADO WILDLIFE MITIGATION PLAN. Specifically mix 1 or mix 2 from the seed mixes specified in Table 1 of that plan (see following text).

Table 1, Seed Mixes for Reseeding and Interseeding Rangeland and Pastures for Habitat Improvement, lists seed mixes for revegetation that would encourage the return of sagebrush grassland (Mix 1), enhancement of lek and brood rearing habitat (Mix 2), revegetation or enhancement of mesic drainages (Mix 3), and improving big game habitat (Mix 4).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important transmission line project. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact District Wildlife Manager Andrea Sponseller at 970-871-4668.

