



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Colorado Ecological Services



IN REPLY REFER TO:
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FEB 27 2017

Moneka Worah
ERO Resources Corporation
1842 Clarkson Street
Denver, Colorado 80218

Dear Ms. Worah,

On June 23, 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received your report regarding effects to the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) from constructing a storage yard on the southeast corner of the intersection of Spruce Mountain Road and Upper Lake Gulch Road in Larkspur, Douglas County, Colorado. On November 28, 2016, we requested more information regarding the type of storage facility proposed and the size of the development, and received your response on December 13, 2016. Our review was performed consistent with our authority under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

The proposed storage yard would be used to store construction equipment when not on a job site. One building that would be used as an office space as well as a repair shop would be constructed on the south end of the property. Paved areas would be limited to the sidewalks directly adjacent to the building; the remainder of the area would be crushed gravel. Onsite detention is proposed and would outlet into an existing swale on the northern end of the property.

The area to be graded is on an upland terrace that is completely separated from East Plum Creek and the 100-year floodplain by a steep slope vegetated with ponderosa pine trees. The number of trees requiring removal as well as the amount of pavement have been minimized. Sediment control logs will be installed around stockpiles and disturbance areas to control erosion, and all temporarily disturbed areas will be reseeded with a native seed mix. Because of the site's location outside of habitat, fragmentation is not expected.

Given that the proposed storage yard will be constructed on an upland site separated from Preble's mouse habitat by a steep slope, the Service finds the report acceptable and agrees that the proposed project should not have any negative impacts to the Preble's meadow jumping mouse or its habitat.

Please note that additional review will be required should project plans change or if additional information regarding listed or proposed species becomes available. If the proposed project has not commenced within one year, please contact the Colorado Field Office to request an extension.

Sincerely,



Drue L. DeBerry

Colorado and Nebraska Field Offices Supervisor