



**COLORADO**  
**Parks and Wildlife**  
Department of Natural Resources

12/05/2025

Southwest Region Office  
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Durango, CO 81301  
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Mr. Richard Hubler  
Director - Land Use and Building Department  
8900 Independence Way  
Alamosa, Colorado 81101

RE: Reactivate's 1041 Community Solar Applications for the RDC CO RD 116 Solar Plant & the RD CO Stanley Rd Solar Plant

Dear Mr. Hubler,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) appreciates the opportunity to review and provide comments on Reactivate CO Development LLC's (Reactivate) two proposed community solar projects in Alamosa County, Colorado. CPW's mission is to perpetuate the wildlife resources of Colorado, to provide a quality state parks system, and to provide enjoyable and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire current and future generations. This mission is implemented through our 2015 Strategic Plan<sup>1</sup> and the goals it embraces, which are designed to make CPW a national leader in wildlife management, conservation, and sustainable outdoor recreation for current and future generations. Part of this implementation includes responding to requests for recommendations to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the impacts of various types of land use development activities on wildlife resources in Colorado. We recognize that renewable energy development is important to meeting the State's greenhouse gas reduction goals and improving climate resiliency.

A representative for Reactivate contacted CPW in March of 2025 to request a wildlife consultation for these proposals. Our local specialists, including fish biologists, terrestrial

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<sup>1</sup> Colorado Parks and Wildlife 2015 Strategic Plan (November 2015)  
<http://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/About/StrategicPlan/2015CPWStrategicPlanland-use-and-energy-staff,-met-virtually-with-Reactivate-and-its-contractors,-following-attendance-minimize-Highway-11-19-15.pdf>



Jeff Davis, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Parks and Wildlife Commission: Richard Reading, Chair · James 'Jay' Tutchton, Vice-Chair · Eden Vardy, Secretary · Jessica Beaulieu · Frances Silva Blaney · John Emerick · Tai Jacober · Dallas May · Jack Murphy · Gabriel Otero · Murphy Robinson

biologists, and district wildlife managers, along with the regional land-use and energy staff, met virtually with Reactivate and its contractors on April 3rd. During this meeting, CPW identified potential wildlife resources that may be impacted and provided recommendations to avoid and minimize impacts associated with the construction and operation of these two proposed facilities. The following sections outline those discussions and the results of this consultation.

#### RDC CO Stanley Rd Community Solar Facility

The proposed RDC CO Stanley Rd Community Solar Facility is located immediately east of Highway 17 (Hwy 17), seven miles north of the City of Alamosa. The leased parcel slated for development is 25 acres and is situated between Hwy 17 and Stanley Road. This project is expected to generate approximately 4.95 megawatts and will be interconnected with the adjacent Xcel Energy-owned distribution line. The habitat is desert scrub, with greasewood and rubber rabbitbrush as the dominant species. There are no mapped aquatic or big game High Priority Habitats on this parcel.

During the April 3rd consultation meeting, CPW made the project proponents aware of a ferruginous hawk nest located less than a half mile to the north. CPW recommends that no new construction occur within a half mile of an active ferruginous hawk nest<sup>2</sup>. To avoid impacting this nest, Reactivate has redesigned the project layout by removing all planned infrastructure within the half-mile buffer and relocating the equipment to the south. We appreciate the operator's willingness to avoid impacts to the nest.

#### RDC CO Rd 116 Community Solar Facility

The proposed RDC CO Rd 116 Community Solar Facility is located 6.8 miles east of the City of Alamosa and borders the northern side of Highway 160 at the junction of County Road 116S. The leased parcel is 40 acres in size, and the proposed facility would cover approximately 20 acres. There are no CPW-mapped High Priority Habitats on this parcel, and there are no known raptor nests in close proximity. The vegetation is dominated by greasewood and has historically been utilized for cattle grazing.

Due to high traffic volumes along Highway 160, a setback from the project fenceline to the highway may reduce the likelihood of wildlife-vehicle collisions. Reactivate has included a 100-foot setback from Highway 160 and a 50-foot setback from County Road 116 South in the Mitigation Measures section of the 1041 application. These setback distances may be adequate due to the size of this facility. However, CPW recommends that these setbacks be recognized in all plans and maps, as the maps on pages 125 and 128 of the 1041 application are unclear on the setback distances applied.

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<sup>2</sup> CPW Recommended Buffer Zones and Seasonal Restriction for Colorado Raptors (2020)  
<https://cpw.widencollective.com/assets/share/asset/fqmg4ds76b>

Additional Avoidance and Minimization Recommendations

In addition concerns and minimization practices for both proposed solar facilities include:

- Reactivate has agreed to conduct migratory bird surveys if disturbance activities occur during the breeding season (March 15 - August 31).
- Reactivate has agreed to CPW's recommendation of utilizing CDOT's big game exclusion fencing design. These designs will reduce the likelihood of big game becoming entangled within the fence or trapped within the solar facility.

CPW appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on these proposed solar projects. We also appreciate the early consultation from the project proponent and their ability to address our recommendations. If you have any questions or have additional wildlife concerns, please contact me at (970) 375-6715.

Sincerely,



Peter Foote  
Energy Liaison  
SW Region

CC: SW Region File; Area 17 File, Senior Resource Manager - Brian Magee