



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Southwest Region Office
415 Turner Drive
Durango, CO 81301
P 970.375.6703 | F 970.375.6705

September 16, 2025

Director Richard Hubler
Land Use and Building Department – Alamosa County
8999 Independence Way, Suite 100
Alamosa, CO 81101

RE: 1041 Permit Application of Haynach Solar for Alamosa County, prepared by Adapture Renewables, LLC

Dear Mr. Hubler,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on Adapture Renewable's Haynach Solar Hybrid Project 1041 Application in Alamosa County, Colorado. Colorado Parks and Wildlife'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 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 agency and industry requests for recommendations to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the impacts of various types of land use development activities on wildlife and natural resources in Colorado. We recognize that renewable energy development is important to meeting the State's greenhouse gas reduction goals and improving climate resiliency.

CPW has reviewed the Final 1041 Application regarding the proposed location for the Haynach Solar Hybrid Project (hereafter, proposed project) provided by Adapture Renewables. The proposed project includes constructing 110 megawatts (MW) of solar photovoltaic, 110 MW battery energy storage system (BESS), and an electrical substation. The facility would cover approximately 1109 acres within an area zoned as Rural Alamosa County Zone District near Alamosa, Colorado. The proposed project is located on active (dominated by common wheat) and fallow (dominated by Russian thistle and kochia) center-pivot agricultural lands, with disturbed rangeland (dominated by big sagebrush and Russian thistle).

Wildlife:

The proposed project is not within CPW-mapped High Priority Habitat, and CPW has no previously known raptor nest data within a half mile of the proposed project. Kimly Horn prepared a Biological Resources Review in 2023 for the project site and all lands within a one-mile buffer. In 2023 when these surveys were conducted, no raptor nests were found in the project area or within a one-mile radius. If an active raptor nest is located during the pre-construction avian nest surveys, CPW recommends that



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

the operator follow the [Recommended Buffer Zones and Seasonal Restrictions for Colorado Raptors \(2020\)](#).

Electrocution hazards for avian species occur in transmission and substation infrastructure when there is inadequate physical separation between energized components and grounded hardware. The Haynach Solar Hybrid Project proposes to minimize this risk by collocating this facility near an existing substation, reducing the risk of electrocution by minimizing additional transmission infrastructure. In addition, the project proponent stated within the final 1041 application that they will follow the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee recommendations to reduce electrocution and collision hazards through design. If riser poles will be utilized in the transition from underground lines to overhead collectors, CPW recommends that the project proponent utilize the best management practices outlined by the Avian Power Line Committee for Power Pole Configurations. These recommendations can be found [HERE](#).

Fencing:

The proposed project falls within agricultural lands and is adjacent to a substation and existing solar facility. CPW recommends that 8-foot-high wildlife exclusion fencing be used to deter ungulates from accessing the site and becoming trapped in the facility. We recommend modeling the fence after the wildlife exclusion fences used by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), which uses 8-foot-high woven wire. Utilizing woven wire rather than of chain link provides larger holes for small animals to pass through and has been effective along highways for excluding elk and deer. CPW also recommends that gates be installed in the corners to help facilitate wildlife removal from the facility should they become inadvertently trapped. The plans for the CDOT exclusionary fencing designs can be found [HERE](#).

Non-native/Invasive Weeds:

One of the most visible and immediate threats to ecosystem health is non-native/invasive weeds. Invasive weeds typically flourish following surface disturbance, and active weed management should be incorporated during and after the lifespan of the proposed project. CPW also recommends that native drought-tolerant seed mixes be used to reclaim or revegetate all disturbed areas.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the Haynach Solar Hybrid Project to the County of Alamosa. CPW feels that this project has been properly sited and will have minimal impacts on wildlife resources. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact the SW Region Energy Liaison, Peter Foote, at (970) 375-6703.

Sincerely,



Brian Magee
Senior Resource Manager SW Region

Cc: SW Region File; Area 18 File; Cory Chick, Rick Basagoitia, Tyler Cerny, Peter Foote



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