

**Ennis, David, EMNRD**

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**From:** Kellermueller, Ronald, DGF  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 2:59 PM  
**To:** Ennis, David, EMNRD  
**Subject:** RE: Copper Flat submittal

DJ,

The NM Department of Game and Fish (Department) supports the potential habitat value of pit highwalls as part of the post-mining reclamation plan. However, in order for vertical pit highwalls to provide adequate wildlife habitat they need to contain habitat features that attract wildlife species which utilize cliffs for nesting and shelter. Verticality alone does not create adequate cliff habitat for wildlife. The Department recommends that pit highwalls are enhanced by design features that are of value to wildlife. These would include; creating ledges, niches, alcoves, and horizontal holes on the cliff face for nesting raptors and other bird species that utilize ledges and cavities, and by placing rock piles along the toe of the highwall that mimics talus slopes for small mammals and reptiles.

In addition, the Department suggests extending the “Expanded 4900 Catch Bench” as far as it technically feasible, so that it would gently slope into the pit and be submerged after the rapid-fill process is complete. This would create a littoral zone in the pit lake and allow for the establishment and growth of aquatic plants and would further enhance its value as wildlife habitat.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Yours Truly, Ron

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**From:** Ennis, David, EMNRD  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2017 4:36 PM  
**To:** Kellermueller, Ronald, DGF  
**Subject:** Copper Flat submittal

Hi Ron,

New Mexico Copper has submitted this response ([http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/MARP/documents/2017-10-12RFAIOnRevision1toMORP\\_CopperFlatMine\\_SI027RN.pdf](http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/MARP/documents/2017-10-12RFAIOnRevision1toMORP_CopperFlatMine_SI027RN.pdf)) to MMD’s request for additional information regarding their updated Mining and Reclamation Plan (Revision 1, July 2017). MMD requests DG&F review of this document pursuant to 19.10.6.605 NMAC. Please provide any comments you may have by close-of-business November 3, 2017.

Best,  
DJ

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*DJ Ennis, P.G.*

*Mining and Minerals Division / 1220 S. St. Francis Drive / Santa Fe, NM 87505*  
*(505) 476-3434 / [david.ennis@state.nm.us](mailto:david.ennis@state.nm.us)*