



October 7, 2021

Four Points Surveying and Engineering
ATTN: Walter Magill
P.O. Box 775966
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

SENT VIA EMAIL TO: walterm@fourpointsse.com

RE: Copper Ridge Village Wetland Examination

Dear Walter:

At your request I visited the subject parcel (refer to attached drawing), on September 21 2020, to ascertain the presence or absence of wetlands that may be subject to federal jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Section 404 of the CWA establishes a program to regulate the discharge of dredge and fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands, and requires project proponents to avoid and minimize impacts to Waters of the United States, including wetlands. Compliance with Section 404 of the CWA is monitored by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (COE). My site visit and wetlands examination was conducted to facilitate the project's compliance with Section 404 of the CWA.

Regulations implementing the CWA define wetlands as: *...areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.* For an area to be a federally jurisdictional wetland, the 1987 COE Wetland Delineation Manual¹ and 2010 Supplement² require for it to be dominated by hydrophytic vegetation, exhibit hydric soils, and possess wetland hydrology. If any one of these three indicators is absent, the site is not subject to federal jurisdiction under the CWA.

During my site visit I examined the dominant vegetation growing throughout the parcel. Western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), rubber rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelli*), aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), and Western chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) dominate the site. These plants are all indicative of non-wetlands³. The topographically lowest spot on the parcel is drained by two large culverts beneath Gloria Gossard Parkway. Even at this lowest point at a culver inlet, there are no hydrophytic plants and hydric soils are not present. Since there are no hydrophytic species growing on the site, further examination of soils and hydrology was not required to make a determination. According to protocol set forth in the 1987 Manual and 2010 Supplement, the parcel does not contain any sites that meet the COE definition of wetland and is not subject to federal jurisdiction under Section 404 of the CWA. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Western Bionomics Inc.

Kelly Colfer
President

Attachment: Copper Ridge Village – Existing Conditions Plan

¹ Environmental Laboratory. 1987. Tech. Rep. Y-87-1, U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MS

² ERDC/EL TR-10-3, May 2010

³ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2018. National Wetland Plant List, version 3.4. <http://wetland-plants.usace.army.mil/>

