



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
AREA OFFICE COLORADO-UTAH
1311 FEDERAL BUILDING
125 SOUTH STATE STREET
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84138
May 19, 1980

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Cleon B. Feight, Director
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Attention: Mary Ann Wright

RE: Valley Camp of Utah
Utah No. 1
Belina No. 1
ACT/007/001

Dear Mr. Feight:

This letter is provided in response to your request for Pre-design Consultation in regard to the existing and planned operation of the Valley Camp Coal Company of Utah.

We understand that the Company will develop a mining plan for the entire permit area which includes the Ute No. 2, Belina No. 1 and the proposed future development of the old O'Connor and McKinnon mines.

We suggest that a detailed vegetational map be prepared for the entire permit area. This would enable a better understanding of the habitat and associated wildlife involved in the permit area. Also this will provide a base against which future reclamation can be measured.

The Company should be asked to conduct an intensive investigation into the presence and degree of use by raptors and other migratory bird species of high federal interest of the planned conveyor belt corridors, the portal development sites for O'Connor and McKinnon mines, and for the access roads to these mines in Boardinghouse and Finn Canyons.

This mine permit area is located in the range of the following endangered species.

1. Peregrine falcon, Falco peregrinus anatum
2. Bald Eagle, Haliaeetus leucocephalus

The Company should ascertain whether any of these species do occur in this permit area.

Other biological baseline data needs for the planned new disturbance of the permit area should be adequately met with low level studies of mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Much of this material is already available from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

During the Company's preparation of the Fish and Wildlife Plan, they should be encouraged to consider directing of the management objectives of their fee lands toward wildlife purposes with a goal of enhancing those associated wildlife resources. Another item for consideration in that plan is the rectification of an existing problem involving earth and coal being dozed into Eccles Creek. A part of this problem is coal haul truck spillage resulting entirely from an overloading of the haul trucks transporting coal from the Belina No. 1 Mine to the load out facilities at the mouth of Eccles Creek. The Fish and Wildlife Plan should address their measures to prevent a continuation of this undesirable situation. The spillage problem from coal haul trucks should be eliminated immediately. The restoration of existing damages, design of road and snow removal programs to eliminate a continuation of this transfer of sediment materials into the creek bed should be a requirement of the plan. Measurable losses have already occurred to the fisheries resource within Eccles Creek.

This concludes our response to your requested consultation. We would be most happy to participate with you and other interested parties in the further preparation of this Company's mine plan.

Sincerely,



Robert H. Shields
Area Manager