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State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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30 July 2000

Maryann Wright  
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining  
1594 W. North Temple #1210  
PO Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

*John Kimball*  
7/30/00  
*John Kimball*

RE: Recommendation for discontinuance of White Oak Mine's helicopter raptor survey

Dear Ms. Wright,

On May 22, 2001 Chris Colt (DWR), Paul Baker (DOGM), and Kit Pappas (White Oak Mine) conducted a raptor survey of the White Oak Mine permit area by helicopter. The attached map shows the flight path covering the survey area. One active red-tailed hawk nest was detected by air. From this survey we determined that the surveyed area is not suitable for golden eagle, prairie falcon, or peregrine falcon nesting. However, the area is highly suitable for red-tailed hawks and goshawks.

It is our recommendation not to survey this area by helicopter in the future, as this is not an effective method to locate red-tailed hawk and goshawk nests in wooded habitats. The area is heavily timbered with fir, spruce and aspen, which has a closed canopy and high tree density that does not allow visibility into nest sites. Future raptor surveys, particularly for northern goshawks, in areas of proposed disturbance should be done from the ground following standard U.S. Forest Service survey methods.

Thank you for taking these recommendations into consideration for future raptor surveys on the White Oak Mine permit area. If you have questions about these comments, please call Chris Colt (Habitat Biologist) at 435.636.0279.

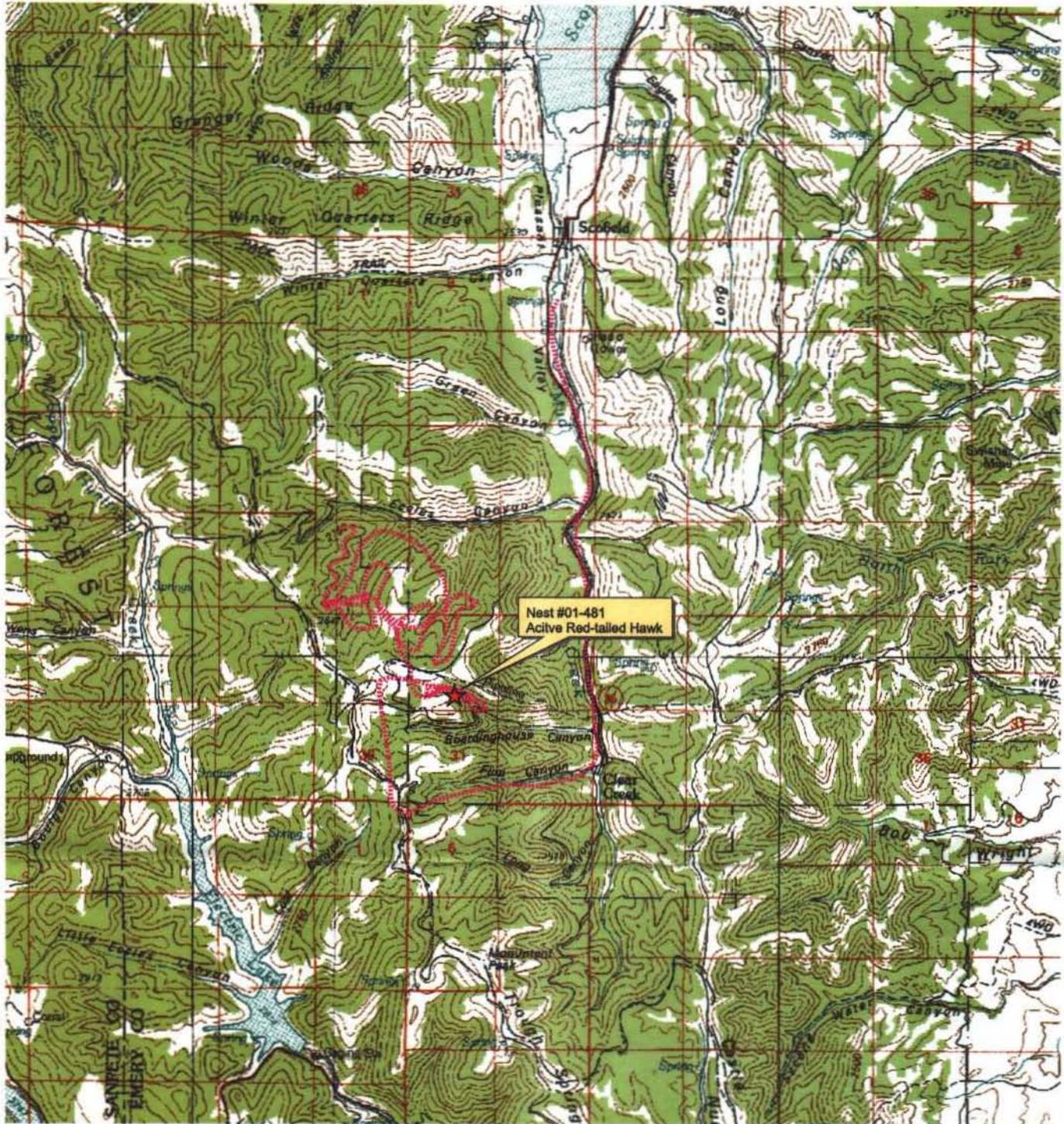
Sincerely,

for Kevin Christopherson  
Regional Supervisor

enc: 2001 Raptor Survey Map  
cc: USFWS, USFS, White Oak Mine

RECEIVED  
AUG 9 2001  
DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS AND MINING

# 2001 White Oak Mine & UDWR Raptor Survey



 Survey Flight Path

1 0 1 2 3 Miles  
Scale 1:100,000

