0017

File ACT/007/005 #2

United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Manti-LaSal National Forest | 599 West Price River Dr. Price, Utah 84501

Reply to: 2820

Date: September 29, 1988

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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Lowell Braxton
State of Utah Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
355 W. North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

RE: Amended Plans for a PAP Amendment for South fork Breakout, Utah Fuel Company, Skyline Mine, ACT/007/005-88(B), Folder No. 2, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Lowell:

We have reviewed the subject amendment and deficiency responses and have prepared an Environmental Assessment for the proposal.

Enclosed is a copy of the Forest Service Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Notice (FONSI/DN). The EA identifies mitigations/stipulations for each alternative and the FONSI/DN documents the Forest Service decision which is to consent to Alternative 2. Alternative 2 is essentially the project as proposed with Forest Service mitigations/stipulations. This alternative involves leaving the culvert for the road crossing in place until final reclamation when the breakout is abandoned. The Forest stipulations are contained in Appendix B of the EA.

If you have any questions, please contact the Price Ranger District at the Forest Supervisor's Office located in Price, Utah.

Sincerely,

James T. Horne
for
GEORGE A. MORRIS
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures

Decision Notice
Finding of No Significant Impact
Utah Fuel's Mine Breakout Portals
South Fork of Eccles Creek

Manti-LaSal National Forest
Price Ranger District
Region 4
Carbon County, Utah

On July 28, 1988, the Price Ranger District of the Manti-LaSal National Forest received a request from the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining to process a Permit and Application Package (PAP) amendment from Utah Fuel Company. The PAP amendment was for three proposed breakout portals in the South Fork of Eccles Creek, NE 1/4 SW 1/4 Sec. 24 T13S, R6E, SLM. The three breakout portals are to be used to improve existing ventilation to the Skyline Mine No. 1. No exhaust fans of permanent activity are planned for this area once construction is finished.

The proposed operations are authorized under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, Federal Regulations 30 CFR 700 to end and the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1975.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) of the proposed project has been prepared by the Price Ranger District. Copies of the EA and other pertinent documents are available for review at the Price Ranger District office and the Manti-LaSal National Forest Supervisor's office, located at 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah.

My decision, based upon the EA, is to approve the proposal discussed under Alternative 2 consistent with Utah Fuel's proposed plans and the Forest Service requirements and constraints discussed in the EA. (Appendix 3) Alternative 2 is essentially the Company's proposal with Forest Service Management requirements. This alternative best meets Forest Service Management objectives for the project area and is consistent with the Manti-LaSal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, 1986.

Alternative 1 (no action) is not considered a viable alternative as the proposed project is consistent with the Manti-LaSal Land and Resource Management Plan as long as all management constraints are adhered to. Alternative 3 and 4 would cause unnecessary disturbance to the side drainage and the main South Fork tributary.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, I have determined through the environmental assessments process that the proposal is not a major federal action that would have significant impact on the human environment . An Environmental Impact Statement, therefore, will not be required. This determination was based on the following considerations:

1. The proposed project can be conducted within the constraints outlined by the Manti-laSal Land and Resource Management Plan.

2. Adherence to Forest Service Management requirements will effectively mitigate any impacts that would result from the project.

3. There will be no disturbance to prime or unique rangelands, farmlands, or timberlands, alluvial valley floors, floodplains and wetlands.

4. This project will have no effect on threatened, endangered or sensitive plants or animals.

5. There will be no disturbance to cultural or paleontological resources.

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 211.18.

Compliance with the terms and conditions of the approved proposal will be monitored cooperatively by the Forest Service and Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. The responsible Forest Service official is George A. Morris, Manti-LaSal National Forest Supervisor.

Implementation of the project may not begin until final approval if given by the Utah Division of Oil Gas and Mining.

Approved by: George A. Morris Date: 9/30/88

George A. Morris
Forest Supervisor
Manti-LaSal National Forest

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
UTAH FUEL COMPANY, PROPOSED PORTAL BREAKOUTS
SOUTH FORK OF ECCLES CREEK

MANTI-LASAL NATIONAL FOREST
PRICE RANGER DISTRICT
REGION 4
CARBON COUNTY, UTAH

Responsible Agency: U.S.D.A. Forest Service
Manti-LaSal National Forest
599 West Price River Drive
Price, Utah 84501

Responsible Official: George A. Morris
Forest Supervisor
Manti-LaSal National Forest
Price, Utah 84501

For more information contact: Ira Hatch, District Ranger
Price Ranger District
599 West Price River Drive
Price, Utah 84501

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose Of And Need For Action

On July 28, 1988 the Utah Division of Oil Gas and Mining (UDOGM) submitted to the Manti-LaSal National Forest, an Amendment to Utah Fuel Company's Permit Application Package (PAP). The amended plans include construction of three portal breakouts and reopening a short access road in the South Fork of Eccles Creek, NE/4 SW/4, Sec. 24, T13S, R6E, SLM (see Figures 1 & 2). The proposed breakouts would be located within Utah Fuel's Skyline Mine permit area and will be used to improve existing ventilation to the mine by allowing mine air to be exhausted at the proposed portals. The Division of Oil Gas and Mining requested that the Forest Service review the PAP amendment and make necessary recommendations.

The Price Ranger District reviewed the PAP amendment and prepared a project Scoping Document. As a result of the scoping process the District Ranger decided that additional environmental evaluation was necessary. Thus the need for this document.

B. Authorizing Actions

Leasing and development are under the authority of the following authorizing actions: The Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920, as amended; the Multiple Minerals Development Act of August 13, 1954; the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969; the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976, as amended; the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) of 1977; the Department of Energy operations Act of August 4, 1977; the Act of October 30, 1978 that further amended the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920; regulations: Title 43 CFR Part 3400, Subpart 3400, Part 3420, Subpart 3420, Part 3430, Subpart 3432; Title 30, Part 700; and the Manti-LaSal Land and Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, 1986.

C. Public Issues, Management Concern and Opportunities

Public Issues - The public was notified of Utah Fuel's proposed breakouts in a news release published in two local newspapers on August 11, 1988. Individuals and groups interested in Forest management were sent letters with information on the proposed project (see listing in section V, FOREST SERVICE PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT). Comments were received from the Utah State Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR). They stressed the need to protect known fisheries in the South Fork of Eccles as well as those in Eccles Creek. The DWR recommended that sediment control measures be considered in the environmental analysis. These comments and issues were also identified by the Forest Service Interdisciplinary (ID) Team and have been considered and addressed in Subsection E., Management Requirements, Mitigations, and Constraints Required for Alternatives 2, 3, and 4, of Section II, Alternatives, or Section III, Affected Environment. DWR comments can be found in Appendix C.

Management Concerns - The following Management concerns were identified by the Forest Service ID Team. The Forest Service ID team members and consultants are listed in Section V. References used in this report are also listed in Section V.

1. Sediment from disturbed areas could adversely affect water quality in streams in the South Fork of Eccles and Eccles Creek. This could have a negative impact to macroinvertebrate populations and known fisheries

2. Construction of the portal breakouts may cause slope instability.

3. Construction of the stream crossing could have adverse impacts on riparian and macro-invertebrate environments.

4. Disturbance of the project area could result in a noxious weed problem

5. Sheep grazing or trailing on the cut and fill slopes may reduce the effectiveness of reclamation and increase erosion.

6. The existing road which will be used as a temporary coal haulage road, could cause traffic problems and environmental damage if improperly designed.

Opportunities - The proposed action will provide the opportunity, upon final reclamation, to restore the existing road in the south fork to a productive state suitable for wildlife habitat and grazing. During the interim period from initiation of the project until final reclamation, an opportunity will be provided to improve drainage of the existing road.

D. Negative Declaration

The Interdisciplinary Team identified that following mitigation, the proposed project will not have any significant adverse impacts on the following: Threatened, Endangered and sensitive plants or animals; cultural and/or paleontological resources; prime or unique rangelands, farmlands, wetlands or timberlands; alluvial valley floors, riparian areas; or floodplains.

II. ALTERNATVIES

A. Alternative 1 - No Action - Deny Forest Service Consent and Proposed Breakouts

This alternative would preclude Utah Fuel Company from constructing the breakouts at the proposed location. If the proposal is denied the company would have the choice of continuing use of the mines existing ventilation system or submitting an alternative proposal. This is not considered to be a viable alternative as the proposed project can be conducted within the constraints prescribed in the Manti-Lasal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Management objectives and future desired conditions can be met so long as Utah Fuel adheres to all managment requirements and mitigating measures.

B. Alternative 2 - Utah Fuel's Proposal with Forest Service Management Requirements

For a detailed description of Utah Fuel Company's proposal see Appendix A.

In brief, Utah Fuel has proposed the construction of three portal breakouts in a side canyon of the South Fork of Eccles Creek, NE/4 SW/4, Sec 24, T13S, R6E, SLM (See figure 1 & 2).

The Company proposes to upgrade the existing road in the South Fork to the degree necessary to accmmodate the temporary use of construction and coal haulage equipment. Where the road crosses two tributary drainages to the main south fork, 18" culverts would be installed (Fig. 2) Waterbars would be reconstructed and one pull-out will be constructed on the Forest to allow trucks to pass. Upon completion of the project the road would be restored to a preproject condition.

At a point directly across the drainage from the proposed breakouts, a road crossing would be constructed to access the breakout area. A 36 inch culvert would be placed in the stream bottom and then back filled and covered with material excavated from the breakout area. The company proposes to leave the culvert and short access road in place for the life of the mine. No exhaust fans or permanent activity is planned for this area once construction is finished.

C. Alternative 3 -

Under this alternative, the 36 inch culvert and short access road would be removed after construction of the portal breakouts. The culvert and fill material would be stored on the existing road below the proposed topsoil storage area (Fig. 2) The culvert and fill material would remain at this location until final abandonment of the mine. At that time the culvert and fill material would be used to reconstruct the crossing and achieve final reclamation of the portal breakouts. Once the breakout area was recontoured and seeded the company would remove the crossing and reclaim the stream channel permanently.

D. Alternative 4 -

This alternative is nearly the same as alternative 2. The difference being the use of a bottomless arch in the stream crossing instead of the proposed 36 inch culvert.

E. Management Requirements, Mitigations, and Constraints Required for Alternatives 2, 3, and 4

Construction and operations must be consistent with the approved proposal except where modified by Forest Service constraints. Any revisions or additional operations and facilities are subject to Forest Service review and approval. See Appendix B for Forest Service stipulations.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. Topography and Geology

The project area is located within the rugged mountain terrain of the Wasatch Plateau. Elevations of the project area range from approximately 8400 feet above sea level at the mouth of the South Fork of Eccles Creek to approximately 8800 feet at the proposed breakout location. The South Fork of Eccles is a deeply incised V-shaped Canyon which trends from Northeast to Southwest. Canyon slopes near the proposed breakouts are moderate to steep.

The Wasatch Plateau is a transition zone between the Basin and Range Physiographic Province to the West and the Colorado Plateau Physiographic Province to the East. The project area lies within the Northern portion of the plateau. Major normal faults of the Pleasant Valley Fault zone diSsect the area in a North - South to Northeast - Southwest trend. The largest of these, the Connelville Fault, forms much of the eastern boundary of Utah Fuel's permit area. The oldest formation exposed in the project area is the Star Point Sandstone. The Star Point Sandstone is a massive cliff forming littoral sandstone unit which crops out east of the Connelville Fault in the South Fork of Eccles. The Star Point Sandstone is overlain by the Blackhawk Formation. The Blackhawk Formation consists of Sandstone interbedded with shale and coal. This is the predominant unit exposed in the project area. The Blackhawk contains the important coal seams in the plateau. Of major importance in the project area, in ascending order, are the Lower O'Connor "A", the Lower O'Connor "B", and the Upper O'Connor seams. The proposed breakout would be constructed in the Upper O'Connor seam.

The Blackhawk Formation generally is not noted for a high potential of slope instability. However the portal breakouts would be constructed for a short distance on a steep slope through colluvial and alluvial deposits. These materials do have some potential for slope failure, especially on steep slopes..

B. Wildlife

The mine plan contains a listing of wildlife species found in the vicinity of the lease. The area of the breakout is used as spring, summer, and fall range for mule deer, elk, and a small but growing herd of moose. Because human access is limited, the site provides good security to these animals. The South Fork of Eccles sustains a population of cutthroat trout up to just above the Forest boundary. At this point fish passage is blocked by a large beaver dam. The stream reach up from the beaver dam, could sustain a fishery if the blockage were removed. Even though the upper reaches currently do not sustain a fishery; they serve as a valuable macroinvertebrate food source for downstream fish.

C. Watershed

The South Fork of Eccles Canyon is a tributary to Eccles Creek. The South Fork is a third order stream at the Forest boundary. The proposed breakout is in one of 4 small tributaries of the South Fork. The drainage area above

the breakouts contain approximately 135 acres. The watershed is well vegetated, therefore, erosion and sediment yield rates are low. The mean annual precipitation is 30 inches and the seasonal precipitation is 8.5 inches. The Forest Service monitored the South Fork at the Forest boundary from 1977 to 1980. High values of total cadmium, total copper, and total iron were reported by Kelly (1983). Turbidity ranged from 470 to 3 n.t.u A minimum value of dissolved oxygen at 1.6 mg/l was also reported. The stream is considered an antidegradation segment for water quality.

D. Soil

The soils in the area have formed from sandstone and shale of the Blackhawk Formation. Typically they have a dark colored surface layer (topsoil) that is about 8 to 20 inches thick with a loam texture. Subsoils are a clay loam and have a lighter color. The soils are classified at the subgroup level as Argis Cryoborolls and Argis Pachic Cryoborolls. The soils have adaquate topsoil of a sufficiently good quality to provide for reclamation activites.

E. Transportation

Access to the proposed breakout would be from the existing State Route 264. Access to the site would require use of approximately 0.9 miles of existing roadway which is not on the Forest Development Road System and is mostly off-Forest. The proposed route uses existing or reclaimed roadway templates or benches except where it crosses the creek directly to the breakout. Approximately 0.25 miles are within the National Forest and the remainder is on private land held by the proponent. Utah Fuel Company has installed a locked gate at the mouth of the canyon to control all traffic. The road is located on the lower bench of the drainages with sideslopes of approximately 35%. The road parallels the South Fork with a grade of approwimately 8%+ and the side drainage with a grade of approximately 12 to 15%+. The primitive single lane facility is native (dirt) surfaced. The fine grain soil making up the surface is moderately erosive. Two side drainages presently cross a portion of road in the South Fork. These crossings have been eroded to below road grade making passage difficult if not impossible.

IV. EFFECTS OF IMPLEMENTATION

A. Alternative 1 - No Action

Under this alternative Utah Fuel Company's proposal would be denied. No disturbance of the existing environment would occur. Therefore, the present environmental conditions would continue unchanged.

B. Effects of Implementation common to Alternatives 2, 3, and 4

This section discusses the effects of implementation common to these alternatives. Alternatives 2, 3, and 4 all include minor improvements to the existing road and construction of three portal breakouts. The only difference between these three alternatives is in the design and duration of the stream crossing.

1. Topography and Geology

The portal breakouts will be constructed in a steep canyon slope. The slope is covered with colluvial and alluvial material derived from the Blackhawk Formation. As such the potential for slope instability near the breakout portals would exist until final reclamation work is completed. However, any failure which might occur would likely be minor and could be mitigated by occasional inspections and cleanup work from within the mine. Approximately 2700 tons of coal will be irreversibly lost during excavation of the portals. Upon cessation of mining operations, the portal site will be backfilled with original material and returned to approximate original contour as near as possible. However, due to the loss of coal, insufficient fill material will be available to eliminate the highwall caused by the face-up. Consequently some long-term residual change in topography would be evident as a result of removing the coal volume. This effect can be mitigated by removing the small knoll near the slash disposal area (Fig 2) and using this material as fill to replace the coal volume. Removal of the small knoll would cause additional disturbance therfore, it would be necessary to include this area in the company's interim and final reclamation schedule.

2. Wildlife

With proper mitigation measures there would be minimal long-term impacts to wildlife. The main mitigation necessary is control of sediment in the streams. Construction activities would temporarily displace big game animals from the site and the immediate surrounding area. There would be a very small area of habitat lost for the life of the project where the actual breakout occurs. There would be no irreversible impacts and the only irretrievable impact would be the loss of productivity on the disturbed site for the duration of the project (approx. 30 years).

3. Watershed

The project would temporarily affect approximately 1/4 mile of stream channel and associated riparian habitat on the National Forest. Erosion from the construction site, topsoil stockpiles, and the road would temporarily increase the sediment load of the stream. This effect could be mitigated with vegetation and sediment control structures. These mitigations would greatly reduce the amount of sediment that would enter the stream, however, some portion of these particles would escape these structures and reach the stream affecting the macroinvertebrate population.

4. Soils

All topsoil would be removed from the proposed construction sites and hauled to the topsoil storage area. This would preserve the majority of existing topsoil for use during final reclamation although a small portion would be lost during the construction phase. The topsoil storage area would be vulnerable to erosion and soil loss therefore, it would be necessary to implement sediment control methods as a mitigation measure.

5. Transporation

The development of the breakout will require the movement of heavy equipment and coal haulage from the site. It is estimated that approximately 525 trips will be required during the construction which includes coal removal of the site. Heavy traffic could loosen the surface material which could then be transported as sediment by wind or surface drainage almost directly into the adjacent streams. Without improvement to the roadway prism it is exspected that approximately 75 yards of fines will be produced and avialable for transport by wind or water erosion. Placement of gravel to armor the roadway could reduce the production of fines to less than 10 yards (gravelling traffic included). The use of water for dust suppression would effectively reduce the transport of soil by wind. The use of water with temporary silt fencing could reduce soil transport to an acceptable level of under 10 yards by preventing movement to the streams until traffic is removed and the surface stablized by revegetation. All natural drainage courses would be culverted during use to prevent introduction of sediment.

C. Effects of Implementation Specific to Alternative 2

1. Topography

The change in topography due to construction of the stream crossing will be evident until final mine abandonment. At that time the crossing will be removed and the stream returned to approximate original contour.

2. Wildlife

The natural channel bottom would be affected along the length of the culvert (Approx. 85 ft.) This would impact the macroinvertabrate environment for the life of the project. However, impacts would become less as the culvert accumulates sediment and drift material.

3. Watershed

The fill material placed over the culvert has the potential for being eroded which has the potential to produce sediment into the creek. The proposed mitigation measures will control most of the erosion and prevent most of the sediment from reaching the creek. However, some sediment is likely to reach the stream, especially during the first three years following construction. Mitigation by revegetation using mulches and tackifiers will greatly reduce the hazard. Impacts although probably small, would continue until final reclamation is complete.

4. Soils

The effects of implementation are the same as described under section IV subsection B Effects of Implementation common to Alternatives 2,3 and 4.

D. Effects of Implementation Specific to Alternative 3

1. Topography

The natural topography would be altered only for a short time during construction of the portal breakouts after which the crossing would be removed until final mine abandonment. At that time the topography would again be changed for a short time when the culvert and road is replaced to aid the final reclamation effort. Once the portals have been reclaimed, the crossing would be removed permanently and the stream channel returned to approximate original contour.

2. Wildlife

Because of the repeated disturbance, there would be additional displacements of big game from the area for slightly longer time periods.

3. Watershed

There will be some additional sediment during the process of removing the culvert and again at the end of the project when the culvert is reinstalled and then removed for a second time. By removing the culvert following the initial construction, the fill material would be removed from the immediate proximity of the creek and stockpiled along the road. The slope of the stockpiled material may be gentler than when it is in place as a stream crossing. Between the stockpile and the creek there would be a well vegetated buffer area that has the potential of catching and holding any sediment that is produced from the stockpile. The stream would have an opportunity to recover more rapidly from the impacts of the construction if the fill material is removed. Upon final mine abandonment, the reestablishment of the crossing would create a new impact.

4. Soils

Under this alternative additional soils would be lost. The repeated removal and replacement of topsoil would have a net loss of soil which would be available for final reclamation.

E. Effects of Implementation Specific to Alternative 4

1. Topography

The effects of implementation of this alternative would be the same as those described under Subsection C Effects of Implementation Specific to Alternative 2.

2. Wildlife

The bottomless arch would provide a natural aquatic habitat. However there would be additional disturbance during excavation of the footers and again when the footers are removed from the channel. This would allow a greater volume of sediment to enter the stream.

3. Watershed

Use of a bottomless arch would allow debris to pass under the road more easily but the construction impact would be greater. There would be more disturbance because the construction will require excavation for footers to attach the pipe arch.

4. Soils

The effects of implementation are the same as described under section IV subsection B Effects of Implementation common to Alternative 2,3 and 4.

F. Cumulative Effect

Major mining operations already exist with the Eccles watershed. These include Utah Fuel's Skyline Mine and Valley Camp of Utah's Belina Mine. The Skylne Mine and associated facilities have a total surface disturbance of approximately 48 acres. The Belina Mine has disturbed some 120 acres. The proposed project would add approximately 0.7 acres to the total disturbance. The proposal is negligible when compared to the overall impacts already occurring. However the proposed breakout, although slight, would add to the cumulative overall effects.

V. PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A. Forest I.D. Team

Ira Hatch	District Ranger	Price District
Dennis Kelly	Hydrologist	Supervisor Office
Rod Player	Wildlife Biologist	Supervisor Office
Bob Thompson	Range Conservationist	Supervisor Office
Brent Barney	Preconstruction Engineer	Supervisor Office
Ted McDougall	Geologist/Team Leader	Price District
Walt Nowak	Geologist	Price District
Glen Jackson	Forester	Price District
Dan Larsen	Soils	Supervisor Office

B. Publics Consulted

1. County Commissioner Court House Building, Price, Utah 84501
2. East Carbon Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 523, East Carbon, Utah 84520
3. Slickrock Outdoor Society, Rt. 1 Box 144H, Price, Utah 84501
4. Slickrock Country Council, P.O. Box 126, Moab, Utah 84532
5. Utah Wilderness Association, 455 East 400 South #306, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
6. Utah Division of Water Rights, 453 South Carbon Avenue, Price, Utah 84501
7. Utah Division of Wildlife Resource, 455 West Railroad Avenue, Price, Utah 84501
8. Wilderness Society 436 East Alameda Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

C. Selected References and Tiering Opportunities

The following is a list of the documents used for reference during preparation of this document. These documents are available for review at the Price Ranger District Office.

1. Utah Fuel Company, Amendment to their Skyline Mine PAP received by the Manti-LaSal National Forest July 28, 1988

2. Utah Fuel Company's Mining and Reclamation Plan

3. Manti-LaSal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, 1986

4. Environmental Assessment for Utah Fuel Skyline Mine and selection of corridor for proposed State Highway from U-96 to U-31, USDA Forest Service, Manti-LaSal National Forest, June 19, 1980.

Management Requirements and Constraints
Utah Fuel Company, Portal Breakouts in South Fork of Eccles Creek

A. Management Constraints Common to Alternative 2, 3, and 4

1. No construction operations may begin prior to approval. Any modifications or changes to approved plans are also subject to Forest Service review and approval. Forest must be given 48 hour notification prior to commencement of operations.

2. A preconstruction meeting involving the Forest Service, company representative(s) and their contractor(s) must be conducted before any construction work may begin. The pad and road must be construction staked prior to this meeting.

3. All surface disturbing activities must be supervised by a qualified, responsible official or representative of the designated operator who is aware of the terms and conditions of the approved plans.

4. If cultural or paleontological resources are discovered during operations, all activities which may result in disturbance to the resource, will cease and the Forest Service will be notified immediately of the discovery.

5. Fire suppression equipment must be available to all personnel on the project site. Equipment must include a minimum of one hand tool per crew member consisting of shovels and pulaskis, and one properly rated fire extinguisher per vehicle and/or internal combustion engine.

6. All gasoline and diesel equipment must be equipped with effective spark arresters and mufflers. Spark arresters must meet Forest Service specifications discussed in the USDA Forest Service Spark Arrester Guide. In addition, all electrical equipment must be properly insulated to prevent sparks.

7. The operator will be held responsible for damage and suppression costs for fires started as a result of their operations. Fires must be reported to the Forest Service immediately upon discovery.

8. All accidents or mishaps resulting in significant resource damage and/or death or serious personal injury must be reported to the Forest Service as soon as possible.

9. Harassment of wildlife and livestock is prohibited.

10. All disturbed areas and abandoned roadway sections will be seeded as soon as practical to establish vegetation for soil protection and inhibit growth of musk thistle. Seeding may be done by either drilling or broadcast method. Drilling method will be done on relatively flat slopes. If the drilling method is used, seeds will be drilled to a depth not less than 1/16 inch and not more the 1/2 inch. The seed mix is shown in the following table.

Common Name	Botanical Name	lb/ac
Smooth Brome	Bromus inermis	2
Orchard Grass	Dactylis glomerata	2
Meadow Foxtail		1
Timothy	Phleum pratensis	1
Slender Wheat grass	Agropyron trachycaulum	1
Yellow Sweet Clover	Melitotus officinalis	1/2
Ladak Alfalfa		1

On south facing slopes substitute the following for Timothy and Meadow Foxtail:

Pernnial Rye Grass	Lolium Perenna	1
Crested Wheat Grass	Agropyron cristatum	2

Note: seed mix should be certified to have a minimum of 90% PLS and a maximum of 1% weed (none of which are noxious)

11. All trash, garbage and other refuse must be properly contained on the site during operations and periodically disposed of off-Forest at an approved refuse facility. Following completion of operations, all unnecessary equipment, materials and refuse must be removed from the Forest.

12. Utah Fuel Company will be required to purchase all merchantable timber (8 inch and greater DBH) and fuel wood (4 to 8 DBH) for the entire project area. The Forest Service will conduct a cruise when clearing limits have been established. All conifer will be removed from the Forest prior to November 30, 1988.

13. All slash will either be removed from the Forest or burned on Forest before this winter. If burned, Utah Fuel Company will be required to acquire a Burning Permit.

14. Prior to any grubbing work, all trees to be removed will be cut down so that the stumps can then be dozed without damaging the remaining, adjacent trees.

15. All revegation efforts will be monitored for a period of 3 to 5 years following initial seeding. If deemed necessary by the Forest Service, further reclamation efforts will be required.

16. If noxious weeds present a future problem, they will be controlled by Utah Fuel Company.

17. Utah Fuel will inspect the breakout area for slope instability at a minimum of once per month. If instability becomes evident or failure occurs, the Forest Service will be notified to coordinate mitgations.

18. If sheep grazing or trailing on disturbed areas is found to interfere with reclamation, fencing may be required.

19. All fill slopes of the portal pad and stream crossing will be stabilized with a tackifier or geotextile until revegetation is established. Silt fences or straw bales will be installed and maintained at the base of these slopes until adequate vegetation is established.

20. The upper 18" culvert (at the meadow) will be removed and existing drainage reestablished after construction operations are complete. Above the upper culvert the road will be reclaimed and rendered impassable to all vehicular traffic.

21. The lower 18 inch culvert will remain in place until final (life of mine) reclamation.

22. Top soil will be stockpiled in a manner approved by the Forest Service

23. Hauling will not occur on the road during wet conditions when the surface is susceptible to rutting. Hauling may not commence again until the road surface has stabilized.

24. The roadway to be reopened from the meadow to the proposed pad will be outsloped with rolling ditches for drainage spaced at 150 foot intervals or less. A continuous silt fence must be installed on the fill slope of this road section for its full length. Silt fencing must be maintained until vegetation is successfully reestablished at which time it will be removed.

25. The Forest Service will monitor the South Fork of Eccles during 1989 to determine if adverse impacts to the macroinvertebrate population have occurred. If impacts are determined to be adverse, Utah Fuel will be responsible for further monitoring per Forest Service direction.

B. Management Requirements Unique to Alternative 2

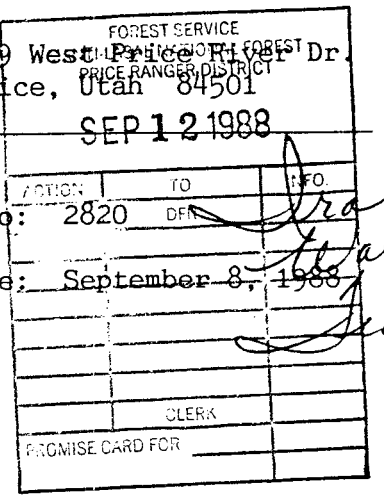
1. The 36 inch culvert shall have a flared inlet equipped with a trash rack. The inlet and outlet will be armored with rip rap.

2. The trash rack will be inspected and cleared of debris on a monthly basis.

APPENDIX A

D-3

United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Manti-LaSal National Forest | 599 West Price River Dr. Price, Utah 84501



Reply to: 2820

Date: September 8, 1988

Lowell Braxton
State of Utah Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

Dear Lowell:

RE: Amended Plans for PAP Amendment for South Fork Breakout, Utah Fuel Company, Skyline Mine, ACT/007/005-88(B), Folder No. 2, Carbon County, Utah

We have reviewed the subject materials and are presently conducting an environmental analysis of the proposal. The environmental analysis and the Forest Service consent/non-consent decision and required mitigation measures will be documented in the Forest Service Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice which will be sent to your office when completed. We anticipate completion of this document by October 1, 1988.

Our review of the submitted materials was generally for completeness. We have the following comments:

1. Coastal States Energy Co. and Valley Camp of Utah have, together, been monitoring eight stations in the South Fork of Eccles Creek since 1979. The Forest Service monitored the South Fork at the Forest boundary from 1977 to 1980. These stations should be used to monitor the effects of the proposed breakout.

2. Samples should be collected daily rather than weekly as proposed during the construction period (estimated to be about 2 weeks). Sampling should be done above and below the construction activity. State requirements for monitoring sediment and for preventing sediment increase in the creek must be followed as set out in the State of Utah Division of Water Rights Permit.

3. A substantial amount of coal is proposed to be hauled out through South Fork from the breakout. The Forest Service interdisciplinary team estimated that 300 truck loads would be necessary after consulting with Coastal States Energy Co. The road surface and width will need to be adequately designed to accomodate this traffic and minimize the damage to the road surface and amount of sediment which will be generated and

introduced into the creek. The plan must discuss the amount of coal which will be hauled out from the breakout, the type of trucks which will haul the coal, the number of haul trips and must discuss the proposed measures to be taken to protect the road surface during hauling and to control drainage and sediment on the road during hauling and construction.

4. Page 3-64a - The estimates of the disturbed area should include the acreage of the existing road which will be reopened. This road will be improved for the project.

4. Page 4-26a - Soil stockpiles must be revegetated and mulched to prevent erosion until final reclamation.

5. Page 4-90 - Riprap must not include fines which will add sediment to the creek. The range of size of riprap to be used should be stated rather than just stating that a full gradation of material with a maximum size will be used.

If you have any question on our comments, please contact the Forest Supervisor's Office in Price, Utah. Please send us a copy of the Division's and other agency comments received in regard to the breakout.

Sincerely,

/s/ Aaron L. Howe

for
GEORGE A. MORRIS

cc:
D-3
C. Reed

Utah Fuel Company
a subsidiary of The Coastal Corporation
P.O. Box 719 • Helper, Utah 84526 • (801) 637-7925
Salt Lake (801) 596-7111

GLEN A. ZUMWALT
Vice President and
General Manager

September 15, 1988

Ira Hatch, District Ranger
Price Ranger District
Manti-LaSal National Forest
599 W. Price River Drive
Price, Utah 84501

Re: South Fork Breakout

Dear Mr. Hatch,

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify and document our plans for reopening and operation of the road into the breakout area in the South Fork of Eccles Creek.

We do not plan any major construction or reconstruction of the road. We plan on using a small D-6 Cat with an angle blade to smooth the running surface. The D-6 Cat will slightly inslope the road so as to direct any surface run-off to the inside of the road, and then down to selected points where it can cross the road in drainage dips. If there is a chance that sediments being carried by the drainage water could reach the Creek, then strawbales and/or silt fenches will be used to treat the run-off water. As the road is re-opened, material will not be side cast into the creek. As soft spots are encountered, they will be filled with either available native rocky material or rocky material hauled in. Two or three turnouts will be needed for traffic to pass. These will be located in already existing natural wide spots. One will be on National Forest lands at the mouth of the side canyon where the road leaves the main South Fork drainage, and one or possibly two on private land. These turnouts will be short and will require very little work to make them useable. We estimate that we will be hauling approximately 2700 tons of saleable coal from the breakout site over this access road. This will require 250-300 loaded trips by a ten-wheel dump truck. The trucks will be equipped with CB radios. This will allow the trucks to utilize the turnouts and not meet on the narrow portions of the road. During the coal hauling operation, if the road becomes dusty, we will water it to relieve the dusty condition. Traffic on the access road will be controlled at the mouth of the canyon and restricted to official state and federal agencies and Utah Fuel Company business traffic.

We have discussed the breakout proposal with Walt Nowak on 9/13/88 and are adding information in the proposal to DOGM on the following items:

1) Utilize material from knob at mouth of canyon for fill material for stream crossing and create an opening for slash burning.

2) Utilize silt control devices between raw soil and creek bed.

3) Sample water daily during construction.

4) Continue approved water monitoring in drainage after construction.

5) Include acreage of North Fork road to be reopened.

6) Revegetate and mulch top soil storage.

7) Exclude from riprap fines which would increase sediment load in creek.

8) Use excelsior mats on fill slopes covering 36" culvert.

We appreciate the assistance of Walt Nowak and Ted McDougall in this project. As soon as approval is received, we plan to start construction. We would welcome you or any member of your staff to visit us for an onsite inspection.

Sincerely,

Glen A. Zumwalt
Vice-President/General Manager

GAZ:KZ:lm

APPENDIX B

Management Requirements and Constraints
Utah Fuel Company, Portal Breakouts in South Fork of Eccles Creek

A. Management Constraints Common to Alternative 2, 3, and 4

1. No construction operations may begin prior to approval. Any modifications or changes to approved plans are also subject to Forest Service review and approval. Forest must be given 48 hour notification prior to commencement of operations.

2. A preconstruction meeting involving the Forest Service, company representative(s) and their contractor(s) must be conducted before any construction work may begin. The pad and road must be construction staked prior to this meeting.

3. All surface disturbing activities must be supervised by a qualified, responsible official or representative of the designated operator who is aware of the terms and conditions of the approved plans.

4. If cultural or paleontological resources are discovered during operations, all activities which may result in disturbance to the resource, will cease and the Forest Service will be notified immediately of the discovery.

5. Fire suppression equipment must be available to all personnel on the project site. Equipment must include a minimum of one hand tool per crew member consisting of shovels and pulaskis, and one properly rated fire extinguisher per vehicle and/or internal combustion engine.

6. All gasoline and diesel equipment must be equipped with effective spark arresters and mufflers. Spark arresters must meet Forest Service specifications discussed in the USDA Forest Service Spark Arrester Guide. In addition, all electrical equipment must be properly insulated to prevent sparks.

7. The operator will be held responsible for damage and suppression costs for fires started as a result of their operations. Fires must be reported to the Forest Service immediately upon discovery.

8. All accidents or mishaps resulting in significant resource damage and/or death or serious personal injury must be reported to the Forest Service as soon as possible.

9. Harassment of wildlife and livestock is prohibited.

10. All disturbed areas and abandoned roadway sections will be seeded as soon as practical to establish vegetation for soil protection and inhibit growth of musk thistle. Seeding may be done by either drilling or broadcast method. Drilling method will be done on relatively flat slopes. If the drilling method is used, seeds will be drilled to a depth not less than 1/16 inch and not more the 1/2 inch. The seed mix is shown in the following table.

Common Name	Botanical Name	lb/ac
Smooth Brome	Bromus inermis	2
Orchard Grass	Dactylis glomerata	2
Meadow Foxtail		1
Timothy	Phleum pratensis	1
Slender Wheat grass	Agropyron trachycaulum	1
Yellow Sweet Clover	Melitotus officinalis	1/2
Ladak Alfalfa		1

On south facing slopes substitute the following for Timothy and Meadow Foxtail:

Pernnial Rye Grass	Lolium Perenna	1
Crested Wheat Grass	Agropyron cristatum	2

Note: seed mix should be certified to have a minimum of 90% PLS and a maximum of 1% weed (none of which are noxious)

11. All trash, garbage and other refuse must be properly contained on the site during operations and periodically disposed of off-Forest at an approved refuse facility. Following completion of operations, all unnecessary equipment, materials and refuse must be removed from the Forest.

12. Utah Fuel Company will be required to purchase all merchantable timber (8 inch and greater DBH) and fuel wood (4 to 8 DBH) for the entire project area. The Forest Service will conduct a cruise when clearing limits have been established. All conifer will be removed from the Forest prior to November 30, 1988.

13. All slash will either be removed from the Forest or burned on Forest before this winter. If burned, Utah Fuel Company will be required to acquire a Burning Permit.

14. Prior to any grubbing work, all trees to be removed will be cut down so that the stumps can then be dozed without damaging the remaining, adjacent trees.

15. All revegation efforts will be monitored for a period of 3 to 5 years following initial seeding. If deemed necessary by the Forest Service, further reclamation efforts will be required.

16. If noxious weeds present a future problem, they will be controlled by Utah Fuel Company.

17. Utah Fuel will inspect the breakout area for slope instability at a minimum of once per month. If instability becomes evident or failure occurs, the Forest Service will be notified to coordinate mitgations.

18. If sheep grazing or trailing on disturbed areas is found to interfere with reclamation, fencing may be required.

19. All fill slopes of the portal pad and stream crossing will be stabilized with a tackifier or geotextile until revegetation is established. Silt fences or straw bales will be installed and maintained at the base of these slopes until adequate vegetation is established.

20. The upper 18" culvert (at the meadow) will be removed and existing drainage reestablished after construction operations are complete. Above the upper culvert the road will be reclaimed and rendered impassable to all vehicular traffic.

21. The lower 18 inch culvert will remain in place until final (life of mine) reclamation.

22. Top soil will be stockpiled in a manner approved by the Forest Service

23. Hauling will not occur on the road during wet conditions when the surface is susceptible to rutting. Hauling may not commence again until the road surface has stabilized.

24. The roadway to be reopened from the meadow to the proposed pad will be outsloped with rolling ditches for drainage spaced at 150 foot intervals or less. A continuous silt fence must be installed on the fill slope of this road section for its full length. Silt fencing must be maintained until vegetation is successfully reestablished at which time it will be removed.

25. The Forest Service will monitor the South Fork of Eccles during 1989 to determine if adverse impacts to the macroinvertebrate population have occurred. If impacts are determined to be adverse, Utah Fuel will be responsible for further monitoring per Forest Service direction.

B. Management Requirements Unique to Alternative 2

1. The 36 inch culvert shall have a flared inlet equipped with a trash rack. The inlet and outlet will be armored with rip rap.

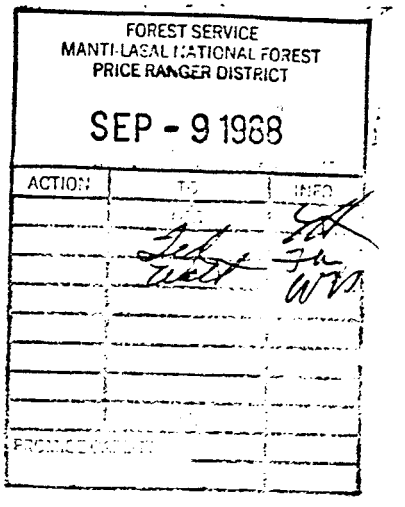
2. The trash rack will be inspected and cleared of debris on a monthly basis.

APPENDIX C

STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Wildlife Resources

Norman H. Bangerter, Governor
Dee C. Hansen, Executive Director
William H. Geer, Division Director

Southeastern Region • 455 West Railroad Avenue • Price, UT 84501-2829 • 801-637-3310



September 9, 1988

Mr. Ira W. Hatch
Price District Ranger
Manti LaSal National Forest
599 West Price River Drive
Price, UT 84501

Attention: Tod McDougall
Rod Player

Dear Ira:

The Division has evaluated Utah Fuel Company's proposed portal breakout for the Sklyline Mine in the South Fork of Eccles Canyon (NE4,SW4, Sec. 24, T13S, R6E, SLM). The following is offered for your consideration.

An electroshock survey for fish distribution during late August, 1988 showed cutthroat trout to persist within the South Fork from its confluence with Eccles Creek upstream to just beyond the U.S. Forest Service boundary. At that location a large beaver pond represents a barrier. However, if it were removed, fish would likely be distributed into the headwater section of the main stem of South Fork.

Upgrading of the existing road up the main stem as well as the road in the tributary canyon and development of the portal site will likely impact the stream with sediments. It is recommended that during the development phase, all unconsolidated soil areas along the road and at the portal site be sprayed with a tacifier. Drainage control from the road's and pad's surface should include facilities such as filter fabric to capture sediments. Once development is completed all disturbed areas should be hydro sprayed with a wood-fiber mulch and an appropriate seed mix.

Ira, sediment is a major concern for the South Fork as well as Eccles Creek. Turbidity in South Fork measured as "nephlometric turbidity units" should not be allowed to exceed a 10% increase over background measurements. The Division has assessed techniques to enhance spawning gravels in South Fork as mitigation, but control of sediments was decided as being the most practical and beneficial approach.

Thank you for an opportunity to review and provide comment.

Sincerely,

Larry B. Dalton
Resource Analysist

cc: Darrell Nish

NATURAL RESOURCES
Wildlife Resources

memorandum

To: Walt Donaldson

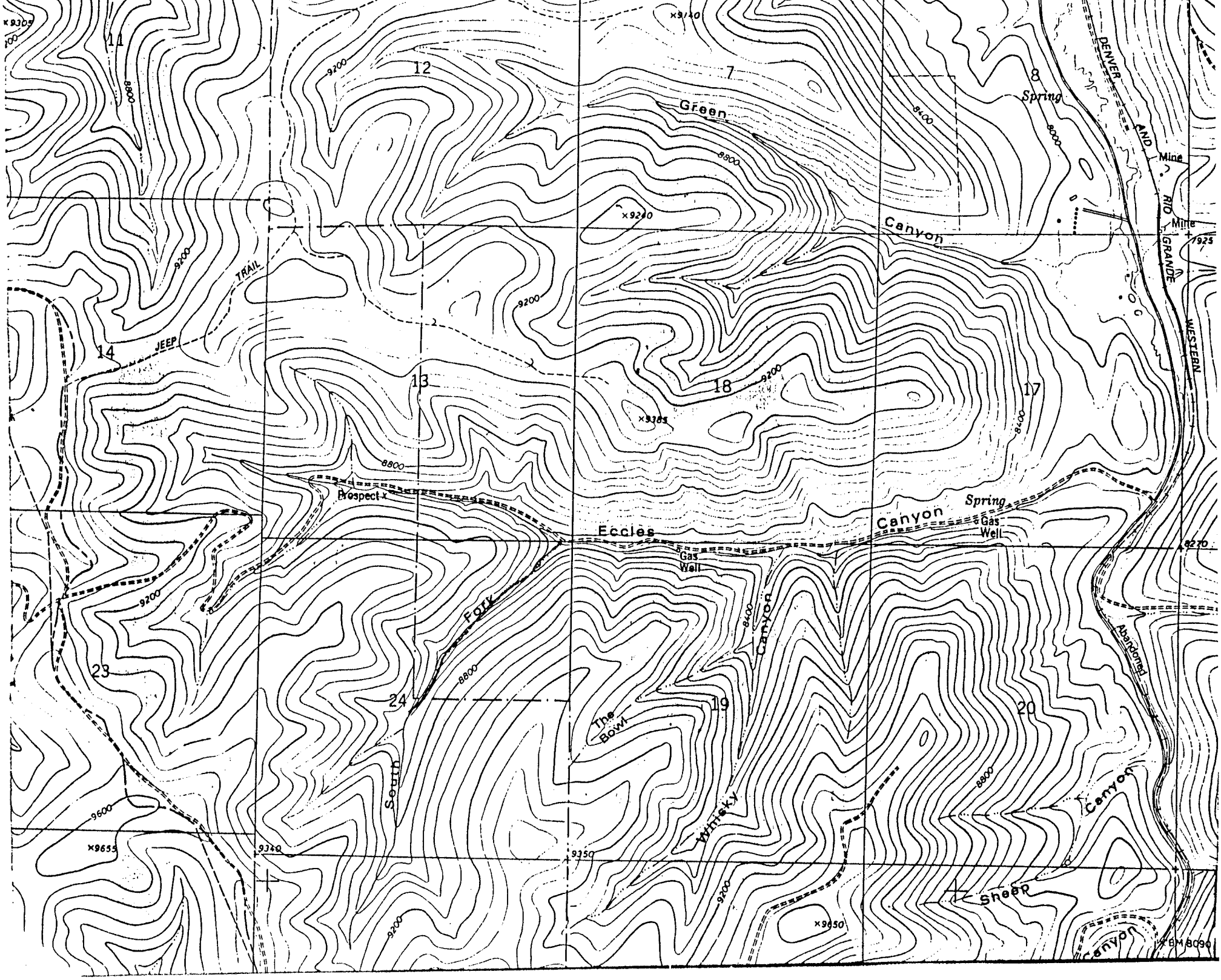
Attn: Eccles Creek File

From: Larry Dalton

On August 25, 1988 myself, Paul Janssen (SERO Fisheries Biologist), Keigh Zobell (Skyline Mine) and several other DWR personnel inventoried the fishery in the South Fork of Eccles Creek (Sec 24, T13S, R 6 E). Our sampling with a back-pack electro-shocker was intended to determine species distribution in the stream reach and parameters of population were not measured. Flows were less than 1 CFS but more than 0.5 CFS (occular estimate).

Cutthroat trout (4 inch to 6 inch size range) were the only fish species to be collected. Their numbers were low and their distribution extended upstream to just beyond the US Forest Service boundary. At that point a large beaver dam existed and represented a barrier to fish movement. Gradient and habitat conditions upstream from the USFS boundary were such that cutthroat trout could persist in the main channel, although none were present.

cc: Rod Player (USFS)
Keith Zobel (Skyline Mine)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Prospect
Eccles
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Spring
Gas Well
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9270
Fork
South
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