

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Manti-La Sal  
National Forest

FOLDER #2 ACT 007/005  
599 West Price River Dr.  
Price, Utah 84501

0051

Reply to: 2820

Date: August 29, 1991

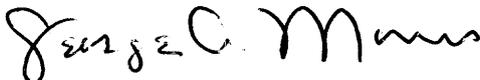
Daron Haddock  
Permit Supervisor  
Div. of Oil, Gas and Mining  
355 West North Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1230

Dear Daron:

I have decided to consent to approval of Coastal States Energy Company's three-hole coal exploration drilling project near Woods Canyon by the Bureau of Land Management. Enclosed is a copy of the associated decision document with attachments for your records.

Don't hesitate to contact this office at the above address or by calling (801) 637-2817 if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,



GEORGE A. MORRIS  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

RECEIVED

SEP 03 1991

DIVISION OF  
OIL GAS & MINING

DECISION MEMO

COASTAL STATES COMPANY, THREE-HOLE COAL EXPLORATION  
DRILLING PROGRAM

COAL EXPLORATION LICENSE APPLICATION UTU-68087  
PRICE RANGER DISTRICT  
MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST  
CARBON COUNTY, UTAH

Coastal States Energy Company (Coastal States) has applied to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to conduct a three hole coal exploration drilling program on unleased Federal Coal lands within the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Since the proposed project lies on unleased lands, a Coal Exploration License Application (BLM designation UTU-68087) was submitted in accordance with 43 CFR 3410. Pursuant to established procedures, the BLM has requested that the Forest Service conduct an environmental analysis since these lands are within the administrative boundary of the Manti-La Sal National Forest. The application and operating plan contained in the case file fully explain the proposal. Attachments 1 and 2 show the locations of the proposed coal exploration license and exploration holes.

I have decided to consent to approval of the coal exploration license by BLM subject to Forest Service special stipulations (Attachment 3). Through project scoping, the Forest Service has determined that there are no unmitigated issues for the project. This type of coal exploratory drilling is a routine practice on the Wasatch Plateau. Many holes have been drilled on the Price Ranger District in the past, with no resource damage, and the sites have been successfully rehabilitated. The proposed action would then fall within Category 5, of Section 26.2 (mineral and energy activity with limited size, duration, and degree of disturbance) and no extraordinary circumstances exist that might cause the action to have significant effects; therefore, the action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment (FSH 1909.15 Section 26). The Forest Service has determined that there would be no unmitigated adverse impacts to Forest Service administered lands and that there would be no impact to Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive species.

This project is consistent with the management directions, including standards and guidelines, in the Manti-La Sal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (pages III-4, III-12, and III-34 through III-36). The management prescription emphasizes wood fiber (TBR Management Unit) and forage production (RNG Management Unit). Mineral activities are allowed with mitigation to assure continued reforestation and livestock access and use.

There are no known prime or unique farmlands, wetlands, timber lands, rangelands, or alluvial valley floors within the lease area. There will be no impacts to floodplains, cultural resources, or Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive floral or faunal species.

The project can be implemented no sooner than seven days following publication of this decision in the Sun Advocate.

This decision is subject to administrative review in accordance with 36 CFR 217. Any appeal of this decision must include the information required by 36 CFR 217.9 (content of a notice of appeal), including the reasons for appeal. Two (2) copies of the Notice of Appeal must be filed with Gray Reynolds, Regional Forester, 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401 within 45 days of the date that the legal notice is published in the Price Sun Advocate.

If you have concerns about this decision, please contact me so that I can hear and discuss those concerns with you. My phone number is (801) 637-2817.

Approved by:

George A. Morris  
GEORGE A. MORRIS  
Forest Supervisor

Date:

8-29-91

ATTACHMENT 1

FOREST SERVICE SPECIAL STIPULATIONS

Stipulations to be included in the Coal Drilling Permit/License

1. A pre-work meeting including the responsible company representative(s), contractors, and the Forest Service must be conducted at the project location prior to commencement of operations. Site-specific Forest Service requirements will be discussed at this time.
2. A Road-Use Permit must be obtained from the Forest Service before equipment is transported onto National Forest System lands. The location of new roads is subject to Forest Service review and approval. No construction may begin prior to approval. Any modifications or changes to approved locations are also subject to review and approval.
3. All surface disturbing activities including reclamation must be supervised by a responsible representative of the permittee/licensee who is aware of the terms and conditions of the project permits/licenses. A copy of the appropriate permits/licenses must be available for review at the project site.
4. The Forest must be notified 48 hours in advance that heavy equipment will be moved onto National Forest System lands and that surface disturbing activities will commence.
5. Establishment of campsites and staging areas on National Forest System lands in support of this project is subject to Forest Service approval.
6. The Forest Service must be notified of any proposed alternations to the plan of operations. Any changes to the existing plan are subject to Forest Service review and concurrence.
7. Fire suppression equipment must be available to all personnel working at the project site. Equipment must include at least one hand tool per crew member consisting of shovels and pulaskis and one properly rated fire extinguisher per vehicle and/or internal combustion engine.
8. All gasoline, diesel, and steam-powered equipment must be equipped with effective spark arresters or mufflers. Spark arresters must meet Forest Service specifications discussed in the "General Purpose and Locomotive (GP/L) Spark Arrestor Guide, Volume 1, April, 1988"; and Multi-position Small Engine (MSE) Spark Arrestor Guide, Volume 2, April, 1988. In addition, all electrical equipment must be properly insulated to prevent sparks.

9. The permittee/licensee will be held responsible for damage and suppression cost for fires started as a result of operations. Fires must be reported to the Forest Service as soon as possible.
10. The Forest Service reserves the right to suspend operations during periods of high fire potential.
11. Water needed in support of operations must be properly and legally obtained according to Utah State water laws. The location of diversions, if on National Forest System lands, is subject to Forest Service review and approval. Water diversion structures, if needed, must be constructed as specified by the Forest Service.
12. Unauthorized off-road vehicular travel is prohibited.
13. Section corners or other survey markers, including claim corners, in the project area must be located and flagged for preservation prior to commencement of surface disturbing activities. The removal, displacement, or disturbance of markers must be approved by the proper authority. Replacement will be done by the proper authority at the expense of the permittee/licensee.
14. If cultural or paleontological resources are discovered during operations, all operations which may result in disturbance to the resources must cease and the Forest Service must be notified of the discovery.
15. Gates must be closed by the permittee after entry unless otherwise notified.
16. The permittee/licensee will be held responsible for all damage to fences, cattleguards, resource improvements, roads, and other structures on National Forest System lands which result from their operations. The Forest Service must be notified of damages as soon as possible.
17. Operations must be coordinated with grazing permittees to prevent conflicts.
18. Harrassment of wildlife and livestock is prohibited.
19. Topsoil must be stripped from areas occupied by parked vehicles and mud pits and stockpiled for use during reclamation. Topsoil stockpiles will be located to minimize contamination or loss. Rock material will be stockpiled separately.
20. Drill pads will be designed to prevent or diminish overland flow from entering the site during precipitation events. Pad sites will be sloped to drain all spills and on-site precipitation into the mud pits. If necessary, pits will be pumped out to reduce their content and insure that overflow does not occur. Fluids will be disposed of Forest at a Utah State approved disposal site.

21. All drilling fluids, mud and cuttings must be contained on the project site in mud pits or portable containers. The pits must not be used for disposal of garbage, trash or other refuse. Unattended pits will be fenced to keep out livestock and wildlife.
22. During the drilling operations all trash, garbage and other refuse must be properly contained on the project site prior to disposal at authorized sites.
23. All significant water encountered during drilling must be reported to the Forest Service, including the depth and formation at which it was encountered, and an estimate of the flow.
24. If any of the drill holes encounter artesian groundwater flow, the District Ranger must be notified prior to plugging the hole to determine whether or not the Forest Service would elect to establish a permanent water development at the site.
25. All drill holes must be plugged in accordance with Federal and State regulations.
26. The operator must clean up and remove all drilling equipment, trash, garbage, flagging, vehicles and other such materials from National Forest System lands.
27. Disturbed areas must be reclaimed by the end of the field season. Exceptions require Forest Service approval.
28. Drill rigs and heavy equipment (not including water trucks) must not be transported on or off the project area during the opening of the general elk hunt nor during the opening weekend of the general deer hunt. Water trucks must be preceded by a pilot vehicle when hauling water for the project during the hunting season.
29. Contaminated soil and gravel must be stripped and placed in the mud pit prior to site reclamation. All toxic or hazardous fluids and materials must be removed from the National Forest and disposed of at a facility licensed to handle and dispose of such materials.
30. Mud pits must be allowed to dry or be pumped out before they are backfilled and reclaimed. If pumped, fluids will be disposed of off-Forest, at a Utah State approved site. They must be enclosed by a 2-strand barbed wire fence with sheep net while they are left to dry.
31. Drill sites, roads to be obliterated, and mud pits when they are dry, must be reclaimed by selectively backfilling excavated materials, topsoil last, such that the disturbed area is replaced to approximate original contour. The disturbed area must be seeded with the specified seed mix.
32. Upon completion of the project, compacted soils must be scarified and seeded with the specified seed mix.

33. All disturbed drainages must be replaced to their approximate original configuration when the project area is reclaimed.
34. The reclaimed roads must be signed and blocked off to discourage vehicle access by the public.
35. Reclamation efforts will be diligently pursued to insure that a minimum ground cover is established on all disturbed areas which is equal to or greater than the surrounding undisturbed areas.
36. Seeding will be done with the following certified seed mix:

Species	pounds/acre
Intermediate Wheatgrass - <i>Agropyron intermedium</i>	3
Orchard Grass - <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	2
Slender Wheatgrass - <i>Agropyron trachycaulum</i>	3
Smooth brome - <i>Bromus inermus</i>	3
Crested Wheatgrass -- <i>Agropyron cristatum</i>	2
Ladak Alfalfa - <i>Medicago sativa ladak</i>	1
Yellow Sweet Clover - <i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	1
Small Burnett - <i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	1
Perennial Ryegrass - <i>Lolium perenne</i>	1

This seed mixture must be 99 percent pure live seed containing a maximum of 1% weeds, none of which are noxious.

37. The operator will be held liable for control of noxious weed infestations found to be a result of this drill operation.
38. Merchantable timber will be purchased by the permittee at appraised rates and removed from the area. Timber not meeting sawlog utilization standards but which is suitable for fuelwood will be cut into four foot lengths and decked at a location that is accessible to the public.
39. Outside berms will not be constructed on any roads.
40. Heavy equipment may not be moved on Forest Development Roads on holiday weekends. If the project should continue into 1992, restricted dates will be determined at that time.
41. The temporary access road to hole 91-35-1 will be obliterated and closed to the public. When this hole is no longer needed for water monitoring the temporary access will be reopened under Forest Service direction, the hole will be plugged and abandoned, and the access road will again be obliterated and closed to the public.
42. Construction of an access road to hole 91-35-2 will not be allowed. Forest Service consent for this hole involves helo-portable operations only. Other access methods and operations would require an amendment to the Exploration License and specific Forest Service consent.

43. Stipulations for Lands of the National Forest System Under Jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture.

The licensee/permittee/lessee must comply with all the rules and regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture set forth at Title 36, Chapter II, of the Code of Federal Regulations governing the use and management of the National Forest System (NFS) when not inconsistent with the rights and regulations must be complied with for (1) all use and occupancy of the NFS prior to approval of a permit/operation plan by the Secretary of the Interior, (2) uses of all existing improvements, such as Forest Development Roads, within and outside the area licensed, permitted or leased by the Secretary of the Interior, and (3) use and occupancy of the NFS not authorized by a permit/operating plan approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

All matters related to this stipulation are to be addressed

to: Forest Supervisor

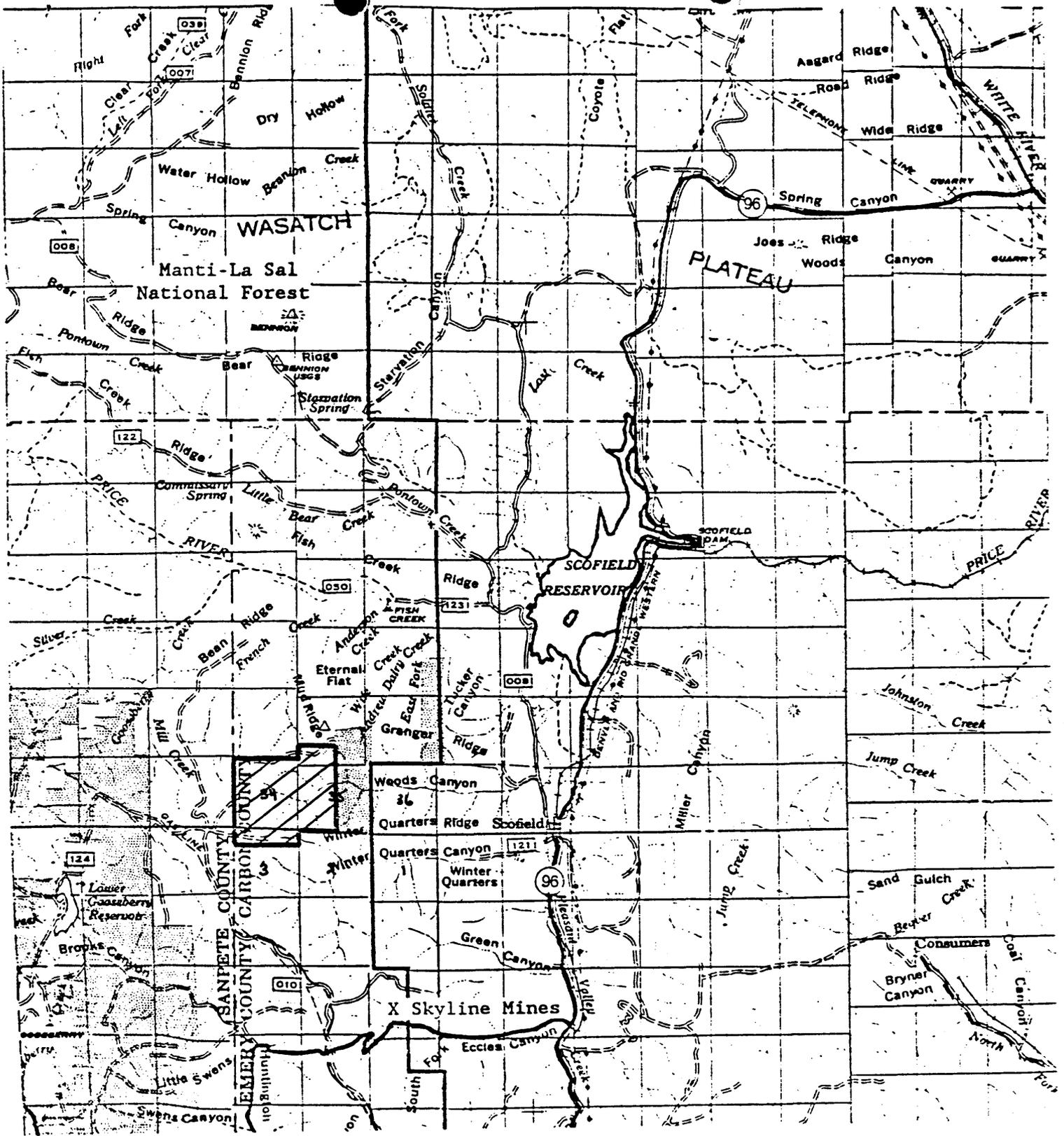
at: Manti-La Sal National Forest  
599 West Price River Drive  
Price, Utah 84501

Telephone No. (801) 637-2817

who is the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture.

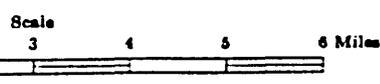
Stipulations to be Included in the Road Use Permit

44. Roads must not be used when they are wet and susceptible to damage.
45. The permittee is responsible for repair of any damages to roads which are caused by his operations.
46. All traffic must maintain safe speeds commensurate with existing conditions.
47. Roads must be watered if dust becomes a problems or if excessive loss of road material occurs.



T12S  
T15S

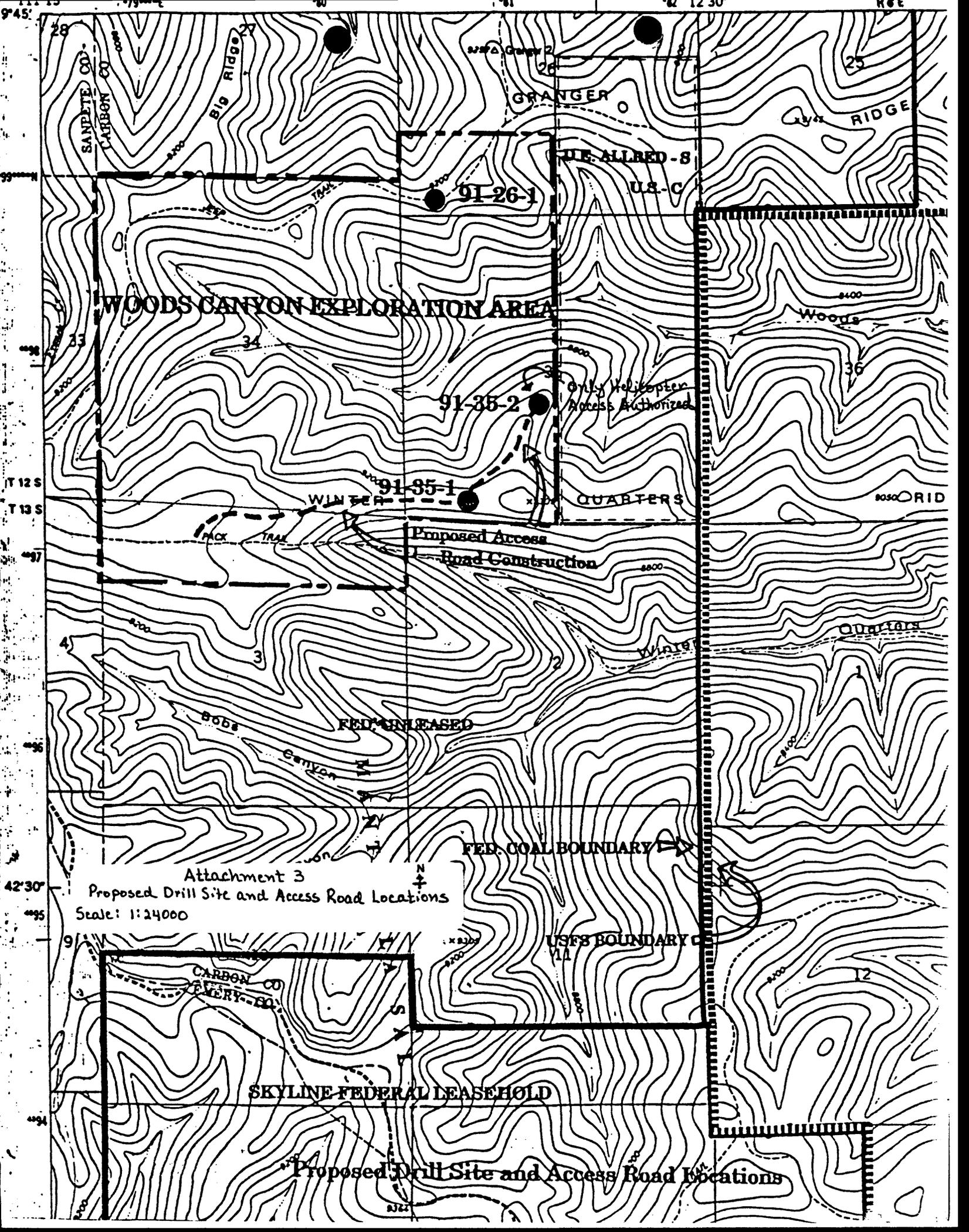
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Coal Exploration License Application UTU-680S7



**WOODS CANYON EXPLORATION AREA**

91-26-1

91-35-2

91-35-1

Proposed Access Road Construction

Only Helicopter Access Authorized

WINTER QUARTERS

QUARTERS

FED. COAL LEASED

FED. COAL BOUNDARY

USFS BOUNDARY

Attachment 3  
Proposed Drill Site and Access Road Locations  
Scale: 1:24000

SKYLINE FEDERAL LEASEHOLD

Proposed Drill Site and Access Road Locations