



Suzanne Steab <suzannesteab@utah.gov>

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## Agency Consultation- Skyline Mine New Monitoring Well, Task 5257

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Lisa Reinhart <lrinhart@utah.gov>

Tue, Sep 13, 2016 at 11:12 AM

To: Makeda Hanson <makedatrujillo@utah.gov>, "Jewkes, Jeff A -FS" <jjewkes@fs.fed.us>

Cc: Suzanne Steab <suzannesteab@utah.gov>

Good Morning,

DOGM is reviewing an amendment to the Skyline Mine. The amendment includes the addition of water monitoring well 16-22-1, which replaces wells 91-35-1 & 91-26-1. Communication with both of these wells has been lost in recent years. In order to continue monitoring groundwater in the North Lease area, well 16-22-1 will be drilled in late-summer/fall of 2016 or Spring of 2017 using a helicopter drilling rig. US Forest Service is the surface agent. Skyline holds the mineral lease from Carbon County.

PLSS description of the well location is: NE quarter of SE quarter of Section 24, Township 12S, Range 6E, SL B&M. Approximate coordinates for new well: 483279.00 E, 4401020.00 N (NAD 83). No new roads will be constructed.

The amendment includes a 2016 Wildlife Survey Report prepared by Alpine Ecological dated 7/26/2016 (attached). The report describes fish and wildlife resource information within the proposed drilling area. In summary, pre-field research was completed by Alpine wildlife biologists who utilized GIS data from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' (UDWR) Utah Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Occurrences shapefiles and mapping services. The US Fish and Wildlife Services' species by County list was reviewed and a search was conducted in their Information, Planning and Consultation System (IPaC). Research included species occurrences, historic records, species ecology, life histories, known distributions, and habitat requirements. Survey requirements were discussed and are in accordance with the Northern Goshawk technical guide. American three-toed woodpecker surveys were conducted using the same methodology as the Forest Service; conducted along northern goshawk transects in suitable habitat. Northern goshawk protocol surveys, nesting raptor surveys, American three-toed woodpecker, and general wildlife surveys have been conducted in or near the project area by private and federal biologists over the past several years.

There are no threatened, endangered, or candidate species known to occur within the project area. State or Federally listed sensitive species which were identified as species of concern included raptors, with emphasis on northern goshawk and golden eagle, and American three-toed woodpecker. The remaining listed species were dismissed from further consideration, as a result of the multiple agency review, because there is no suitable habitat or the project is outside of the species known distribution.

I have concluded from my review that if drilled in the Fall of 2016, there should be minimal impact to resident wildlife and no negative impact to any listed species. If drilled in the Spring, there may be need to be some timing restrictions (as identified by USFS) for calving.

Will you please provide your concurrence with my findings or provide other recommendations? Jeff, will you also provide timing stipulations for resident wildlife should drilling occur in the Spring of 2017.

Thanks in advance,

Lisa Reinhart  
Environmental Scientist  
Utah Coal Program  
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining  
(801) 538-5437, (801) 359-3940 (Fax)

Web site: <http://ogm.utah.gov>

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## 2 attachments



**Map.pdf**  
1449K



**WildlifeReport.pdf**  
139K