



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

November 6, 1980

IN REPLY REFER TO:

RECEIVED

NOV 10 1980

DIVISION OF
 OIL, GAS & MINING

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

Attention: Mary Ann Wright

Dear Mr. Feight:

This letter is in response to a request made by Mary Ann Wright of your staff concerning mining development proposals made by Plateau Mining Company for their ~~Cotton Creek~~ ^{Stag Point new} operation. It is our understanding that the Company proposes to make five breakouts from their underground operations for the purposes of providing ventilation to the mine. A concern exists whether these breakouts would have any impact on endangered species or on the presence of any nesting raptor species in that area.

To the best of our knowledge, no endangered or threatened plant species occur in the area being considered for the breakouts.

There is a possibility of detrimental impacts on any nesting raptors that might occur in the vicinity in these breakouts. To resolve questions on the occurrence on raptor nests in the area of the breakout, we have arranged with Mr. Grimes of Plateau Mining to visit the breakout site with the Raptor Biologist in November. We will attempt to determine whether there are any raptor nest sites that could be impacted by these planned breakouts and if there is some possibility of detrimental impacts. We will provide comments to you so that if appropriate, you might advise the Company of procedures to eliminate those detrimental impacts.

We will inform you of the results of the raptor survey when complete. If we can be of any further assistance in this matter, please contact us.

Sincerely yours,

Robert H. Shields
 Robert H. Shields
 Area Manager