



MANTI-LA SAL NF

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report: ML-89-0492

Manti-LaSal NF

CULTURAL RESOURCE RESPONSE  
TO  
CYPRUS-PLATEAU MINING CO.  
COAL LEASE APPLICATION  
UTU-64263

CP

010-3

Cyprus-Plateau Mining Company has filed a coal lease application (UTU-64263) for 1826 acres in the Gentry Mountain area near "The Steeps". The tract is at elevations of about 8800 feet to over 10,000 feet. This application covers Forest Service system lands on the Price Ranger District of the Manti-LaSal National Forest. This proposal is in portions of sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 14, and 15 of Township 15 South, Range 7 East.

Generally speaking, coal leases have been required to be covered by at least a 10% sample survey for cultural resources for the initial lease itself, with 100% surveys later required for specific impact areas, such as mine portals, road construction, etc. To complete this requirement for the lease itself, a Class I inventory (literature search) is to be conducted, and, if necessary, a Class II inventory (survey sample) completed to the extent that at least 10% of the area has been searched for cultural resources.

In the area of the proposed coal lease, there is at present on record three cultural resource survey efforts conducted within the area itself, with others having been completed nearby (one just adjacent to the southeast corner of the lease proposal). One survey covered a block of 160 acres in the center of the lease area, and the other two surveys consisted of seismic lines and access roads north of this block (see map).

These survey projects found only two isolated artifacts, each being individual flakes with no evidence of use as scrapers or other tools. The survey that was conducted to the southeast (just adjacent to the lease proposal), also 160 acres, found two archeological sites and three isolated artifacts. The sites were lithic scatters (locations of stone flaking activity) with limited informational content. Two of the isolated artifacts were flakes, while the third was a projectile point with probable Archaic time period connotations (several thousand years B.C.).

The nature of the cultural resources found indicates that the area was used very lightly in prehistoric times, and mostly for flaking, although the projectile point indicates some limited hunting activities.

The coal lease proposal area is in very steep terrain, with the exception of the slightly flat southern portion, which is at very high elevations (basically 9600 feet to 10,100 feet). It is important to note that immediately to the east of this location is the previously surveyed area outside of the proposed lease that found the two lithic scatters and three isolated artifacts at only slightly lower elevations. Therefore, we can expect when surveys are completed

in this southern sector of the proposed lease that we will have found a few more lithic scatters and possibly one or two more projectile points. Other than this area, it is expected that only a few more isolated flakes will be found at the extreme north part of the lease area, on the flatter narrow top where Castle Valley Ridge ends.

The 184 acres surveyed so far constitutes 10.1% of the total proposed lease acreage, and is an adequate sample for assessing the initial patterns found in the cultural resources within the area. This is at this time a sufficient sampling completed to give us a good overall picture of the potential for cultural resources in the area, as far as leasing itself goes. (Surface disturbing projects will have to be addressed separately.)

On the basis of the findings so far, it can be projected that cultural resource concerns will probably be very minimal in complexity, and that mitigation in the event of future proposed surface-disturbing projects will also be very minimal in difficulty.

At the present time, there seems to be no further cultural resource field work needed to be done to complete this portion of the review of the proposed Cyprus-Plateau Mining Company coal lease application (UTU-64263). The three survey reports covering the activities within this lease area have previously been reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) of Utah.

#### REFERENCES

Nickens and Associates

1983 [title and author not available at this time...will be supplied later]

Weder, Dennis

1981a "Cultural Resource Inventory of Proposed Coal Exploration Drill Holes and an Access Road in the Castle Valley Ridge Locality of Emery and Carbon Counties, Utah". Archeological-Environmental Research Corporation, Salt Lake City, Utah.

1981b "Cultural Resource Inventory of Proposed Seismic Lines and Noise Test Lines in the Gentry Mountain and Castle Valley Ridge Localities of Emery and Carbon Counties, Utah". Archeological-Environmental Research Corporation, Salt Lake City, Utah.



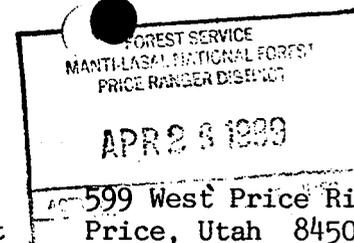
Les Wikle  
District Archeologist

10 November 1988

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Manti-LaSal  
National Forest



599 West Price River Dr.  
Price, Utah 84501

Reply to: 2820

Date: April 25, 1989

Floyd McMullen  
Office of Surface Mining  
Reclamation and Enforcement  
Brooks Towers  
1020 15th. Street  
Denver, Colorado 84501

Dear Mr. McMullen:

We received your letter, dated April 14, 1989, requesting that the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) be included as a cooperating agency regarding the Environmental Analysis for the proposed Castle Valley Ridge Tract (Coal Lease Application UTU-64263).

The Bureau of Land Management and Manti-LaSal National Forest are cooperating in regard to preparation of the Environmental Assessment. The first step in obtaining public participation and identifying public issues and management concerns is identified as project scoping. On March 29, 1989, we sent a letter to your office requesting comments on an attached Project Scoping Document. Similar letters were sent to all identified interested publics. The Project Scoping Document listed preliminary issues and concerns identified by the Forest Service prior to soliciting public comments or assembling the Interdisciplinary Team. Comments from the public which would be used to confirm or adjust the list of issues and concerns to be addressed in the Environmental Assessment were requested by April 18, 1989.

Since the Environmental Assessment will be prepared for a leasing action and OSMRE's responsibilities under SMCRA do not begin until a Mining and Reclamation Plan is submitted, we did not identify OSMRE as a cooperating agency in conducting the environmental analysis. We will, however, consider any comments or advice regarding potential environmental affects of mining which your agency would like to contribute.

When the Environmental Assessment is finalized it will be available for review by interested publics and a public meeting as required under Federal Regulations 43 CFR 3425.4(a)(1) will be scheduled. The BLM decision regarding leasing and the Forest Service consent/non-consent decision will be made after the meeting

and will be documented in an appropriate decision document. The decision document will also be released for public review and the Forest Service consent/non-consent decision will be subject to appeal through Forest Service Appeal Regulations.

If you have any questions, please contact Walt Nowak at this office.

Sincerely,

/s/ Aaron L. Howe

for  
GEORGE A. MORRIS  
Forest Supervisor

cc:  
D-3  
C. Reed