

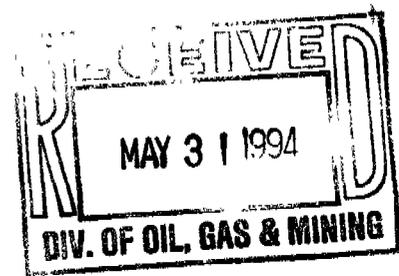
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State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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May 27, 1994

Charles J. Jankiewicz, District Ranger  
Price Ranger District  
U.S. Forest Service  
599 West Price River Drive  
Price, Utah, 84501

Dear Charlie.

*ACT/007/006 # 2  
Route to Schen / Ashen  
Tran file*

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has reviewed Cyprus Plateau Mining's proposal to conduct a 7-hole coal exploration project on Trough Springs Ridge and Gentry Mountain. The proposed drilling area contains valuable wildlife habitat and we offer the following comments.

Elk and deer use this area in the summer. Aspen stands on top of Gentry Mountain are particularly important to elk as calving and rearing areas. Mule deer also raise their fawns in similar habitat. We recommend that no drilling activities be allowed from May 15 through July 5 to reduce disturbance during this critical period.

Several raptors are known to nest in the area, including red-tailed hawks, northern goshawks, and Cooper's hawks. We know of one red-tailed hawk nest in section 11 of T. 15 So., R. 7 E. A juvenile goshawk was seen in the area in August 1992, indicating that a nest may be nearby. In order to protect nesting raptors, we recommend that a 0.5 mile radius area around each drill site be surveyed. This should be done using taped calls in order to solicit a response from adults or nestlings. The survey should be conducted between June 20 and July 10. This is the period when nesting activity should occur, and offers the best chance to solicit responses. A 12 ha area around any nests found should be protected from disturbance. No construction activities should be allowed from April 15 through July 20 within 0.5 miles of an active nest.

Dead snags are important to many wildlife species that are found in the area. Some of these include the northern flying squirrel, northern three-toed woodpecker, and flamulated owl. We recommend that no dead snags be removed by pad or road development.

The temporary road that will be constructed to access drill site PP-14-1 should be reclaimed after the project is concluded. We recommend that at least three shrub species be included in the seed mix. Possibilities include Utah serviceberry, mountain mahogany, elderberry, and mountain big sagebrush.

Charles J. Jankiewicz

(2)

May 27, 1994

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. We will be happy to assist with design of the raptor survey or assessment of wildlife habitat. Please contact Bill Bates, Habitat Manager for further assistance.

Sincerely,



Miles Moretti  
Regional Supervisor

copy: Darrin Haddock, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
Ralph Miles, DWR, Habitat