



State of Utah
 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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April 12, 1996

TO: File ²

THROUGH: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor *J. Helfrich*

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist *P. Baker*

Re: Exploration Amendment, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation, ACT/007/006-96A, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SUMMARY, ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In 1994 and 1995, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation did exploration in the area of the proposed Willow Creek Mine. They now propose to amend the exploration plan and drill four new holes in the same general area.

The application was made with the Bureau of Land Management who will be the permitting agency. All of the proposed sites are on Bureau of Land Management land, but some access would be through private land. The Division is only providing comments.

The commitments in the application appear to meet Division requirements. The application mentions the possible presence of canyon sweetvetch. This species grows primarily in or near drainages in the Book Cliffs/Wasatch Plateau area. The application says it occurs in the upper reaches of Willow Creek several miles to the northeast of the site. There is some potential this species could occur in two of the proposed exploration areas.

A botanist with experience in the area might know the habitat requirements of this species well enough to know with certainty whether any of the proposed drill sites has potential habitat. If there is potential habitat or if it is unsure whether potential habitat exists in the areas, it is recommended that a botanist examine the drill site areas to confirm whether there are plants of this species.

The application does not mention seeding or mulching methods. It does not appear these are required, but the Division recommends the reclaimed areas be left in a roughened condition,



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broadcast seeded, hand raked, then mulched with certified noxious weed free straw at the rate of two tons per acre.

Cyprus commits to perform a site- specific raptor survey to cover the sites and roads proposed in the amendment. Cyprus plans to begin drilling in the second week of July. This is within the crucial nesting period for most raptors. Some raptor nesting activity has been observed in the area this year, so the commitment is appropriate.

A representative of the Division should visit the sites this year and for about the next two years to see whether Cyprus is complying with the State Program performance standards. These standards are referenced in 43 CFR 3482.1(a)(3)(vii). If there are any problems, enforcement should be coordinated with the Bureau of Land Management. Over the next two years, it is anticipated that vegetation will establish well enough to meet the requirements in R645-202-242 and 30 CFR 815.15(e)(2).