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KAISER COAL

KAISER COAL CORPORATION
102 SOUTH TEJON STREET, SUITE 800 ■ P.O. BOX 2679
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80901-2679
(303) 475-7005 ■ TELEX 289 909

RECEIVED
OCT 15 1985
DIVISION OF OIL
GAS & MINING

October 10, 1985

Mr. John Whitehead
Permit Supervisor/Reclamation Hydrologist
Utah Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
355 West North Temple, 3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203

Dear John:

Enclosed please find xerox copies of the subsidence limit map and the 1985 Wildlife Field Study Report, which I had delivered to you yesterday in telecopy form.

Thanks again for your assistance on our Sunnyside permit revision, and please call me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Martin P. Holmes

Martin P. Holmes
Manager Permits and
Regulatory Compliance

MPH/klk

Enclosures

RECEIVED

OCT 15 1985

DIVISION OF OIL
GAS & MINING

1985 Summary of Wildlife Field Studies For B, C and Horse Canyon Areas, Sunnyside Mines

Kaiser Coal Corporation
Mine Office: Sunnyside, Utah
Corporate Office: Colorado Springs, Colorado

September 5, 1985

INTRODUCTION

Kaiser Coal Corporation (formerly Kaiser Steel) initiated a wildlife program for the B Canyon area starting with agency consultation visits in November 1983 and February 1984. Agency recommendations were received in January and March and were used to develop the B Canyon wildlife program. Field studies were conducted by Curt Jansen, Wildlife Ecologist in the spring of 1984 and results summarized in a report dated June 15, 1984.

The proposed B Canyon activities were significantly scaled down from plans discussed during the consultation meetings. Coal will be accessed through the adjacent Sunnyside Mine thus obviating the previously proposed surface disturbance. A permit application for B Canyon was submitted in May 1985.

The surface disturbance originally planned for B Canyon may now be a part of the plan for the C Canyon area which is the adjacent canyon to the north. Because C Canyon was discussed during the B Canyon consultation, a letter requesting waiver of the consultation requirement was sent from Mr. Doug Pearce, Mine Engineer for Kaiser Coal, to Mr. Steve Cox, Reclamation Biologist with DOGM. The waiver was granted in a letter to Mr. Pearce from Mr. Cox (May 20, 1985).

Raptor nest surveys were conducted during April 22-27 and June 4-8, 1985, as part of the ongoing program recommended in the June 15, 1984 report. The results are summarized below.

RAPTOR NEST SURVEY RESULTS

Searches were conducted with the aid of 7x binoculars and a 25x spotting scope from vantage points along the base of the cliffs. Cliffs were searched from the parked vehicle and during hikes on canyon roads. Search boundaries

were the cliff complex between the NE 1/4, section 23, R13E, T14S and the NE 1/4, section 15, R13E, T14S. B and C Canyons were searched most of their length.

The golden eagle nest located in the NW 1/4, section 23, R13E, T14S that was active in 1984 was active again in 1985. An adult and fledgling were observed on April 23 at the nest site. The only activity observed in the vicinity in June was a soaring immature.

A pair of vultures was observed at the head of C Canyon on April 23. A pair of falcons was observed on the same day near the mouth of B Canyon.

The ferruginous hawk nest located in NW 1/4, section 32, R13E, T14S that was active in 1984 was inactive this year. There appeared to be some new nest construction in April but no birds were observed on either trip.

Observations were not made from the cliff top as recommended in last year's June 15 report. Late snow again prohibited access from Bull Ridge. To gain a view point a route was hiked that went to the head of B Canyon, over the ridge to the head of C Canyon and down to the mouth of C Canyon. The major cliff habitat is found at the mouths of the canyons where erosional forces are most active. Except for this hike, most of the observation time was from the base of the cliffs at the confluence of B and C Canyons.

Recommendations

- Continue monitoring nests and nesting activity
- When possible observe nests from above the Bookcliffs

MIGRATORY BIRDS OF HIGH FEDERAL INTEREST

Birds observed during field trips are being documented in a permanent record. The golden eagle, ferruginous hawk and prairie falcon are the only

species on the List for the Uinta-Southwestern Utah Coal Production Region that have been observed.

Recommendation

- Continue to record observations on an incidental basis, i.e., no formal surveys will be conducted.

PRAIRIE DOG TOWNS

There are three prairie dog towns in the vicinity of facilities which could be constructed for the C Canyon area as reported last year. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommends that surveys for black-footed ferrets be conducted not more than 1 year before construction begins.

Recommendation

Construction start-up is scheduled for 1988 or 1989.

- Surveys should be conducted not more than 1 year before construction begins.

BIG GAME

No surveys specific to big game were conducted and none are planned. Incidental sightings are recorded and located on the field map.

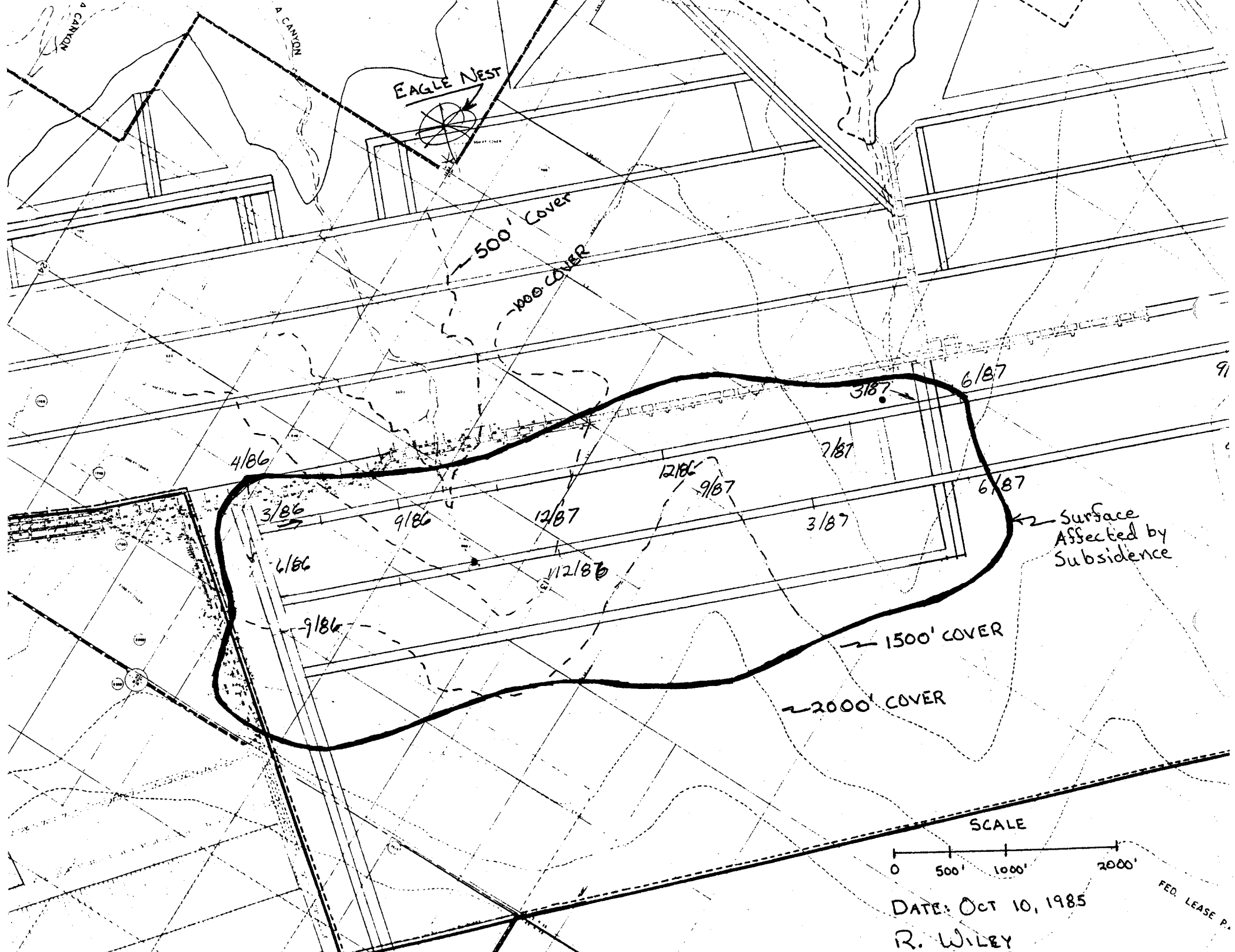
Recommendation

- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources must be informed about construction plans so they can evaluate potential impacts and make their recommendations accordingly.
- Contact UDWR for updates on data pertaining to big game habitat use, migratory patterns and population status.

- Existing BLM pellet plot transect data be referenced for big game use of chained areas.

HORSE CANYON

Reconnaissance surveys were conducted at the mouth of Horse Canyon and from the road that borders the Cove at the base of the cliffs. A pair of eagles and a pair of prairie falcons were observed above the cliff at the center of section 9, R14E, T16S. No nesting activity was observed but the prairie falcons in particular exhibited strong courtship behavior. BLM records indicate a prairie falcon scrape in the vicinity of the falcon observation.



EAGLE NEST
500' Cover
1000 COVER
4/86
3/86
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9/87
7/87
3/87
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6/87
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Surface Affected by Subsidence
1500' COVER
2000' COVER
SCALE
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500'
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2000'
DATE: OCT 10, 1985
R. WILEY
FED. LEASE P.