

state of utah

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DOUGLAS F. DAY  
Director

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

1596 West North Temple/Salt Lake City, Utah 84116/801 533-9333

Reply To SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE  
455 West Railroad Avenue, Box 840, Price, Utah 84501  
(801) 637-3310

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July 8, 1980

Mr. John C. Osmond, President  
Eureka Energy Company  
215 Market Street, Room 258  
San Francisco, California 94106

Dear Mr. Osmond:

Enclosed is the monthly progress report for June, 1980, on the study to determine the "Effects of Coal Development on Wildlife in Southeastern Utah." Work is proceeding as planned. Late spring and early summer conditions remain in a situation considered to be normal.

Thank you for your cooperation on this project.

Sincerely,

*Larry J. Wilson by J.C. Smith*

Larry J. Wilson, Supervisor  
Southeastern Region

LJW:LBD:cs

- cc: Bob Goudge
- Paul Anderson
- Darrell Nish
- Mary Boucek
- Rolene Allen

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DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

STUDY TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTS OF COAL  
DEVELOPMENT ON WILDLIFE IN SOUTHEASTERN UTAH

MONTHLY REPORT FOR JUNE 1980

During June 1980, small mammals were trapped in sherman live traps, marked and released. Traps were set out on a Monday, then run four nights and picked up on Friday. Eleven different species were caught on the mine plan area; Deer Mice, Canyon Mice, Pinyon Mice, Brush Mice, Western Harvest Mice, Great Basin Pocket Mice, Cliff Chipmunks, Uinta Chipmunks, Golden Mantle Ground Squirrels, White Tailed Antelope Squirrels, and Ord Kangaroo Rats.

Big game winter pellet counts were completed along all control and experimental transects. Pre-breeding ~~Em~~Emlen transects were also completed. Preliminary work on vegetation surveys has also been initiated.

An active Cooper's Hawk nest has been located along the Dugout Canyon Road (SW Sec. 27, T.13S., R.12E., SLM, Carbon County, Utah. Note BLM data utilized in the April progress report erroneously places this nest in the ~~NW~~ NW Sec. 27). Three chicks are being raised this year. Last year a Coopers Hawk nest was located in the same general area (Dave Mills, BLM). It also had three chicks. Although this nest is out of the one Kilometer radius from the Dugout Canyon portal area, it could be improved by development of the Dugout Canyon road which lies 50 meters to the west. This data is of significance since the Coopers Hawk is a species having high federal interest. ✓

Reptile and Amphibian surveys will be completed during July along with road mortality (herpetologic) studies and post breeding ~~Em~~Emlen transects. Work will continue on vegetation surveys.

For purposes of developing a vertebrate species list for the mine plan area it is important to note that Ring-necked Pheasants were planted on the Mahlares Farm in past years. According to John Mahlares Sr., the birds persisted for several years after the plant, but disappeared when he let the farm "dry out". He has not observed Pheasants in that area for nearly 20 years. Based upon this information and current Division Management plans the Pheasant should not be included as a species currently inhabiting the farm. However, there exists a potential to reestablish a population of pheasants if farming practices were established that would allow natural maintenance of a population.