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JWS



DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

DOUGLAS F. DAY 1596 West North Temple/Salt Lake City, Utah 84116/801-533-9333  
Director

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

May 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 April, 1980, on the study to determine the "Effects of Coal Development on Wildlife in Southeastern Utah." Work is proceeding as planned. Spring conditions remain in a situation considered to be normal.

Thank you for your cooperation on this project.

Sincerely,

Larry J. Wilson, Supervisor  
Southeastern Region

LJW:LBD:cs

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

RECEIVED  
MAY 14 '80  
EUREKA ENERGY CO.  
Salt Lake City



STUDY TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTS OF COAL DEVELOPMENT  
ON WILDLIFE IN SOUTHEASTERN UTAH  
MONTHLY REPORT FOR APRIL, 1980

During April 1980, big game tracks, medium sized mammal sign, and emlen transects were all monitored along all the experimental and control transects. Additionally, one half of the Black-footed survey has been completed along the proposed right-of-ways. To date, in the areas surveyed there was no indication of Black-footed Ferrets using the right-of-ways.

Breeding Raptor surveys continue to be conducted within one kilometer of the preparation plant and portal areas. To date, one Golden Eagle aerie has been located on the proposed mining area. This nest is located east of Dugout Canyon in the northwest quarter of section 23, township 14 south, range 13 east, slm. possibly one other pair of Golden Eagles has a territory extending into the east part of Eureka Energy Company's mine plan area.

One Cooper's Hawk aerie is located at the mouth of Dugout Canyon in the northwest quarter of section 27, township 13 south, range 12 east, slm. Also, one possible Great Horned Owl aerie is located at the mouth of Dugout Canyon. Verification of the owl nest is currently proceeding.

One pair of American Kestrels has been observed mating and performing a courtship flight near the preparation plant, and a pair of Turkey Vultures have been using the mine plan area. Additional Raptor surveys will be conducted in the month of May.

Deer migration patterns along the proposed conveyor belt continue to be monitored. The deer continue to remain on their traditional winter range, despite the subsiding snow. Migration onto summer range is expected to occur before May 15. Final determination of the design and placement of crossing structures along the conveyor belt will proceed after the deer move back onto summer range.

In addition to the crossing previously recommended in the past monthly reports, the following additional crossings are needed (table 1, April 1980); in section 7, proceeding east to west, eight crossings need to be placed in the first 500 meters because of utilization of Fishcreek Wash as a water source in early spring.

Section 3, proceeding east to west, needs at least one crossing in every 100 meter section.

Section 5, proceeding east to west, needs four crossings in the first 300 meters. In the next 500 meters, 8 crossings are needed. The last four hundred meters need six crossings.

Final recommendations by Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to Eureka Energy Company for the minimum number of crossings needed will proceed during the coming summer.

Aircraft observations were conducted three times during the month of April. These observations were combined with on the ground monitoring to determine areas of deer activity in relation to the conveyer belt rather than attempting to conduct an actual count of deer numbers. An additional flight was conducted as an aerial deer survey for Eureka Energy Company by Mary Boucek, Biologist, ERT.

Previous interest by Eureka Energy Company as to obtaining the locations where evidence of mountain lion activity has been recorded, can best be expressed as, that lions and mule deer go hand in hand in an area such as Eureka's Mine plan area. Lion sign as been documented on both the conveyer belt and transects. In addition, two lion kills on deer have been documented this past winter on the mine plan area.

Next month's activities include monitoring big game transects for tracks and winter pellets, emlen transects, Raptor surveys, and additional Black-footed Ferret surveys.

TABLE 1: INDEX OF MULE DEER ACTIVITY IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED  
 COAL CONVEYOR AT THE SAGE POINT-DUGOUT CANYON MINING PROJECT  
 CARBON COUNTY, UTAH

		Conveyor Sections								
		Crucial-Critical Range				High-Priority Range				
Months		6	7	8	9	3	4	5	11	
		Indices to Deer Use								
December 1979	Passage Index <sup>1</sup>	2	2	22	--	4	1	9	13	
	% <sup>2</sup>	5%	5%	55%	NA <sup>4</sup>	10%	2%	23%	NA <sup>4</sup>	
	Trials <sup>3</sup>	0	0	6	--	0	0	0	2	
January 1980	Passage Index <sup>1</sup>	20	113	372	372	23	11	69	33	
	% <sup>2</sup>	3%	19%	61%	NA <sup>4</sup>	4%	2%	11%	NA <sup>4</sup>	
	Trials <sup>3</sup>	6	22	32	56	5	4	15	15	
February 1980	Passage Index <sup>1</sup>	18	16	48	138	3	16	20	19	
	% <sup>2</sup>	15%	13%	40%	NA <sup>4</sup>	2%	13%	17%	NA <sup>4</sup>	
	Trials <sup>3</sup>	18	4	9	21	7	11	5	6	
March	Passage Index <sup>1</sup>	3	15	18	41	0	0	4	0	
	% <sup>2</sup>	8%	37%	45%	NA <sup>4</sup>	0	0	10%	NA <sup>4</sup>	
	Trials <sup>3</sup>	0	8	2	21	0	0	1	1	
April 1980	Passage Index <sup>1</sup>	20	179	136	462	114	26	206	120	
	% <sup>2</sup>	3%	26%	20%	NA	17%	4%	30%	NA	
	Trials <sup>3</sup>	5	27	11	44	4	2	23	5	

Conveyor Sections

		Crucial-Critical Range				High Priority Range			
		6	7	8	9	3	4	5	11
Total	Passage								
	Index <sup>1</sup>	63	325	596	1013	141	54	308	185
	% <sup>2</sup>	4%	22%	40%	NA <sup>4</sup>	9%	4%	21%	NA <sup>4</sup>
	Trials <sup>3</sup>	18	27	32	56	7	11	23	15

1. Number of individuals identifiable tracks crossing the conveyor corridor.
2. Number of tracks per section - total summation of tracks from Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.
3. Number of trials formed by a multitude of tracks in addition to individual, identifiable tracks. Trails in the total column equal the greatest number observed during any one month.
4. Not applicable.