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Route + file
Eureka
ACT/007/009

Mary Ann,

Here's a copy of my "rough draft" summary of the flight 4/8/80.

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APR 11 1980

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Eureka
ACT/007/009

AERIAL MULE DEER SURVEY FOR EUREKA ENERGY COMPANY 4/8/80

Pilot - Chuck Morris UDWR Aircraft - Cessna 185

Passengers - Mary Ann Wright, Bilogist, UDOGM

Mary M. Boucek, Biologist, ERT

Depart SLC airport at 7:00 a.m.
Arrive Price airport at 7:50 a.m.
Passenger picked up - Larry Wilson, S.E. Regional Supervisor, UDWR
Depart Price airport for project area & vicinity at 8:00 a.m.

We proceeded northerly, following Deadman Creek to approximately the same elevation as the proposed central facilities. We then started transects and flew roughly west - east and east - west, occasionally circling back. Transects flown were about 1/4 to 1/2 mile apart. Transect 1 was flown over areas of elevation approximately that of the central facilities, w - e. Transects 2 - 6 were flown south of transect 1. Transect 7 (w-e) was flown along the steep southwesterly facing slopes of the Book Cliffs and, hence, was the highest in elevation. Transect 8 was flown in a NW - SE direction from about Bear Creek, at upper elevation, to the SE area of the EEC project. Transect 9 was flown in a SE - NW direction over the project area itself, with some circling back. All transects were flown at elevations of 100-200 feet above ground. Total mule deer observed was 173 animals, with probable duplication of 22 individuals. (9 deer observed in an agricultural field, 2 of which were wearing collars, were observed again near the same field and were not included in the probable duplicates). The survey was completed at about 9:10 a.m. resulting in 1 hour and 10 minutes flight survey time.

Arrive Price airport about 9:20 a.m.

Depart Price Airport about 9:50 a.m.

Arrive SLC Airport about 10:45 a.m.

MULE DEER OBSERVATIONS

Transect	# mule deer	Habitat	Approximate Location	Activity
1 (w-e)	4	Agricultural	NE of Anderson Reservoir	Feeding
2 (e-w)	2	Agricultural	SE of Anderson Reservoir	Feeding
	2	PJ Chained	Mesa W. of Coal Creek Rd. south of Browse TR. #3	Running
	15	PJ Chained	Mesa W. of Coal Creek Rd.	Moving
	7	PJ Chained	Mesa W. of Coal Creek Rd.	
3 (w-e)	1	PJ Chained	Mesa W. of Coal Creek Rd.	
	12	Pj Chained	Mesa W. of Coal Creek Rd.	
	4	PJ Chained	Mesa W. of Coal Creek Rd.	
	3	PJ Chained	Mesa W. of Coal Creek Rd.	
	17	PJ Chained	Mesa W. of Coal Creek Rd.	
	3	PJ Chained	Mesa W. of Coal Creek Rd.	
	2	Artr	Coal Creek drainage	
	1	PJ	east of Coal Creek	Standing
	9**	Agricultural	middle field east of Soldier Cyn Rd., South of Ranch	feeding Moving
4 (e-w)	3	Artr (PJfringe)	near Br. Tr. 13, W. of Soldier Cyn. rd.	Standing
(south of "crucial critical" wtr rge.)	3	PJ	Just south of preceeding obsn.	
	5	PJ	1-2 miles west of Soldier Cyn Rd.	Moving
	5	PJ	1-2 miles west of Soldier Cyn. Rd.	
	3*	PJ Chained	Mesa W. of Coal Ck Rd.	
	2*	PJ Chained	Mesa W. of Coal Ck. Rd.	Standing
	5*	PJ Chained	Mesa W. of Coal Ck. Rd.	Standing
	5	Artr/Save	on fringes of Pj, just N of airport	Standing
5 (w-e) (south of "Crucial critical" wtr rge)			no mule deer observed	
6 (e-w-n)	3*	PJ	near dirt road N of airport	Standing
	5*	Artr/Save	on fringes of PJ, North of Airport	Standing
7 (w-e) along sw slopes of Book Cliffs			no mule deer observed	

Transect	# mule deer	Habitat	Approximate Location	Activity
8 (ne-sw)	7	PJ Chained	Mesa area bewteen Rock & Bear Ck.	Running
	20	PJ Chained	Mesa area between Rock & Bear Ck.	Running
	5	PJ Chained	Mesa area between Rock & Bear Ck.	
	3	Artr/Save	No. Clark Valley near old Marakis Ranch & Br. Tr. 9	Moving
9 (se-nw and circling EEC Project area	17	Artr/Save	PJ fringe just W. of And. Resevoir	Moving
TOTAL	151			

* these animals are probable duplications and are therefore not reflected in total.

** Two of these animals wore red collars.

TABLE 2 Habitat distribution of the 151 mule deer observed is as follows:

Agricultural	15
PJ	14
PJ Chained	92
Artr/Save*	30

* Some animals observed in desert shrub were moving into pinyon-juniper or on the fringes of pinyon-juniper. One group of 3 deer were moving from desert shrub into salt cedar vegetation.

TABLE 3 General Areas in which Mule Deer were observed during aerial survey conducted April 8, 1980

Area	# mule deer
Project and adjacent areas	38*
North Clark Valley	3
Coal Creek to Deadman Creek	62
Soldier Creek Road to Coal Creek	11
North of Price Airport	5
Rock Creek - Bear Creek vicinity	32
Total	151**

* 15 of these animals were in agricultural fields.

** These numbers do not include probable duplications.

GENERAL NOTES

SNOW CONDITIONS:

Snow depth has subsided since the beginning of March. Mesa tops at upper elevations were fairly snow covered but were free of snow below elevations of about 6400 feet. Snow within the heavy PJ was spotty. Snow still persisted into the drainages, e.g. on Dugout Canyon Rd.

WEATHER

Fair and cool

OTHER OBERSERVATIONS:

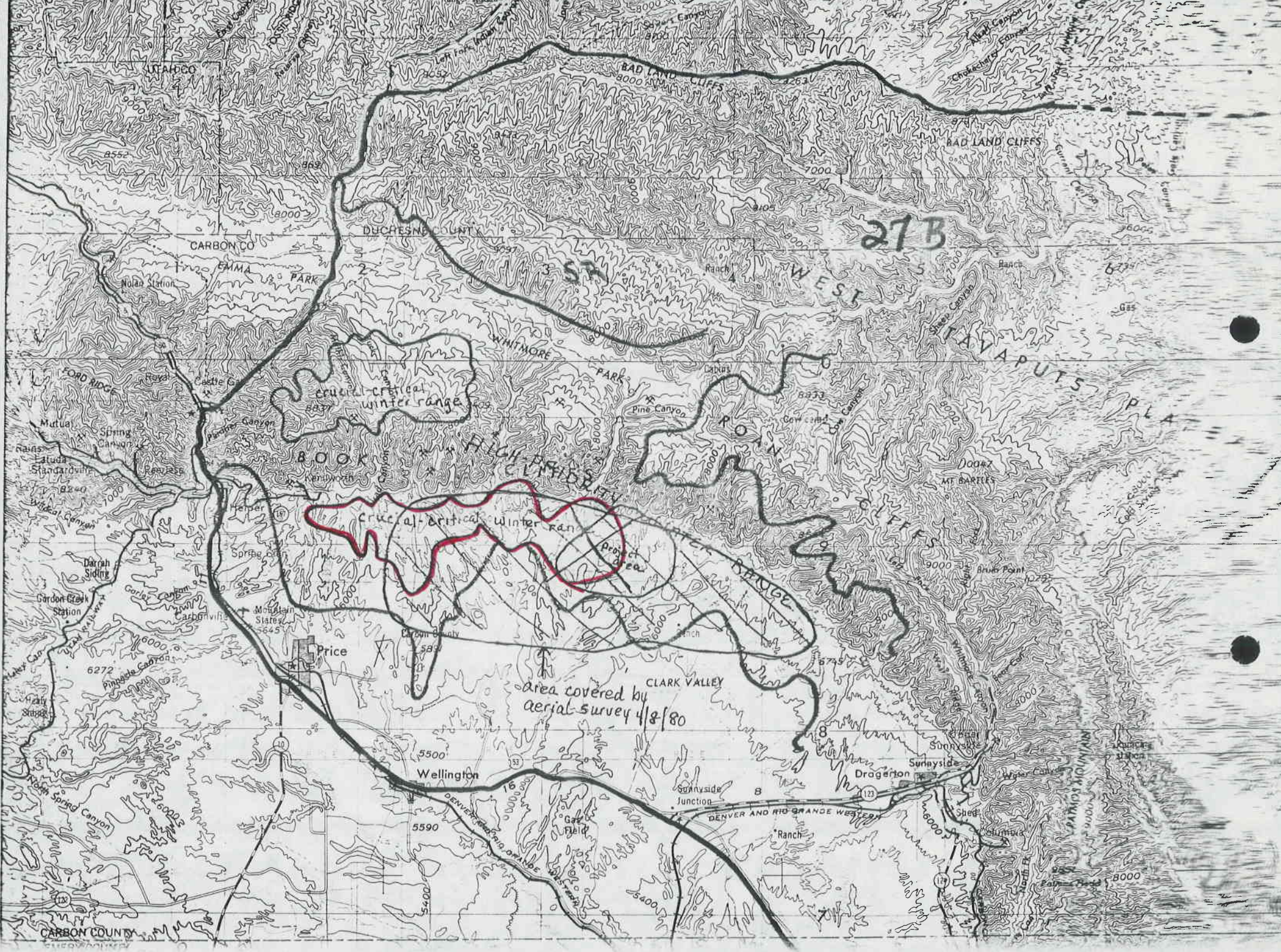
1. An unidentified raptor was observed by Larry Wilson, in an area (over ARTR/Save) west of Coal Creek, hunting.

2. One antelope was observed in desert shrub, standing, north and east of the airport.

3. Cattle were observed grazing in an area between Coal Creek and Soldier Creek; this should be considered when browse transects are analyzed.

4. Horses were grazing between Dugout and Soldier Creeks, at the lower end of the area (bet. DC road & SC Road) in desert shrub. This should not present a problem when browse transects are analyzed.

5. Mule deer tracks, or apparent mule deer tracks, were observed near Fish creek ridge (trail), along DC Road near canyon mouth (single), just east of D.C. road (single) and in chained PJ areas east of the project (trails). Snow conditions were generally not conducive to aerial track counts.


27B
SA
BAD LAND CLIFFS
DUCHESNE COUNTY
CARBON CO
EMMA PARK
WHITMORE PARK
WEST TAVAPUTS PLATEAU
ROAN CLIFFS
BOOK CLIFFS
HIGH-PRIDE CLIFFS
crucial-critical winter range
crucial-critical winter range
project area
area covered by aerial survey 4/8/80
Price
Wellington
CLARK VALLEY
Sunnyside
Dragerton
Sunnyside Junction
DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WESTERN
CARBON COUNTY
Helper
Kenilworth
Carbonville
Mountain States
Carbon County
Pine Canyon
Cow Canyon
Sheep Canyon
Bruin Point
Mt Bartles
Nolan Station
Castle Gate
Royal
Spring Canyon
Mutual
Latuda
Standardville
Darrah Siding
Gordon Creek Station
Pinnacle Canyon
North Spring Canyon
Gas Field
Ranch
Columbia
Shed
Water Canyon
PATMOS MOUNTAIN
Palmer Field
Cabins
Gas