

December 26, 2000

Dave Darby  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

Dear Mr. Darby,

Copy Dave: Daran  
~~0007/013~~ SR98(1)  
~~Incoming~~

The BLM has recently approved the rights-of-way (ROW) for the operation of *Lila Canyon Coal Mine* within the Desolation Canyon proposed wilderness. This project would fall within an existing Wilderness Study Area and newly inventoried BLM wilderness units. The damage estimated by the BLM's own Environmental Assessment would include the destruction of habitat for 15-25 perennial bighorn sheep and other natural resources. It is disturbing that the BLM is approving plans with possible detrimental environmental impact without preparing an *Environmental Impact Statement* first. As I understand, it is now up to the UDOGM to consider to issue the final permit for the proposed *Lila Canyon Coal Mine*. I am concerned about the para-legal proceeding of the BLM and the impact of this mine on the public lands. Please help protect the fragile eco-systems of the Desolation Canyon area and deny access for mining operation with irreversible impact.

Sincerely,

Nora Flucke

Nora Flucke and Family

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OIL, GAS AND MINING