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**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Determination of NEPA Adequacy
DOI-BLM-UT-G021-2010-0027-DNA**

August 2011

**Lila Canyon - Wildlife Habitat Enhancement
and Bighorn Sheep Guzzlers**

Location: The project area is located near Horse Canyon, approximately 20 miles south and east of Price, Utah. The closest mapped geographic place is Lila Point. The project area is in T16S, R14E, Sec 10 and 26 and is along the Little Park Road.

Applicant/Address: **UtahAmerican Energy Inc.,
P.O. Box 910, East Carbon, UT 84520**

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Worksheet

Determination of NEPA Adequacy

U.S. Department of the Interior
Utah Bureau of Land Management

The signed CONCLUSION at the end of this worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal analysis process and does not constitute an appealable decision; however, it constitutes an administrative record to be provided as evidence in protest, appeals, and legal procedures.

OFFICE: Price Field Office

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-UT-G021-2010-0027-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: None

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Lila Canyon - Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Bighorn Sheep Guzzlers

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The project area is located near Horse Canyon, approximately 20 miles southeast of Price, Utah. The closest mapped geographic place is Lila Point. The general legal description for the habitat project area is T16S, R14E, Sec 10, at an elevation of 7400 feet, and surrounds existing sagebrush areas. The general legal description for the guzzlers is T16S, R14E, Sec 26, at an elevation of 6800 feet and is on an escarpment edge. (see attached maps)

APPLICANT (if any): UtahAmerican Energy Inc.
P.O. Box 910
East Carbon, UT 84520

A. Description of the Proposed Action and Any Applicable Mitigation Measures

These projects are part of the Lila Canyon Project Emery County, Utah described in the 2000 EA/FONSI/DR (UT-070-99-22), approved by BLM on October 27, 2000. The projects are to fulfill the mitigation/enhancement for displacement and direct disturbance of wildlife and vegetation loss, during the development and operation of the underground coal mine.

On page 27 of the EA it was stated "Wildlife Enhancement Projects - UEI would provide two rainfall water catchments to benefit bighorn sheep populations and habitat use within the area above the proposed mine site. These guzzlers would be installed by BLM and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) in suitable locations along the cliff-talus habitat south of the Lila Canyon area."

"In addition to this project, UEI would complete a vegetation treatment project within the affected area to increase small mammal populations, and thus increasing the forage capacity for area raptor populations. Project design would be provided by BLM and UDWR and involve treating and reseeding approximately 93 acres of habitat. The vegetation treatment would be designed to improve diversity and density of vegetation cover types and create a mosaic of treated and untreated areas to maximize benefits of edge for wildlife species."

Rainfall Water Catchments (Guzzler) mitigation

The purpose of this wildlife enhancement is to provide water for bighorn sheep. Springs and seeps, which are used by bighorns when flowing, could be disrupted by the coal mining activities. The guzzlers would replace those. The bighorn water catchments would not be available to livestock.

Description of Work: The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has already purchased, installed, and is operating a bighorn sheep guzzler on privately owned land (UEI owned) near the mine portal and facilities. The location is north of the mine portal, on the opposite side of Lila Canyon, and the legal description for this guzzler is T16S, R14E, Sec 15 and is identified as the Lila Canyon Guzzler. This guzzler is now providing water to bighorn sheep in the immediate vicinity of the mine. UEI would compensate UDWR for the materials used for this existing guzzler; by purchasing the supplies and materials that could be used to construct another guzzler. In addition, UEI would be responsible for purchasing another guzzler. This would include all the parts and materials, including fencing materials to exclude livestock, to provide another guzzler in the immediate area. In total, UEI would purchase and deliver enough supplies, parts, and materials for 2 complete guzzlers. The materials would be delivered to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR). The guzzlers would be installed by BLM and UDWR. Attached is a photograph of the existing guzzler (Williams Draw) located on state land, which is very similar to the proposed installation, except that the guzzler would be painted to blend in with the landscape.

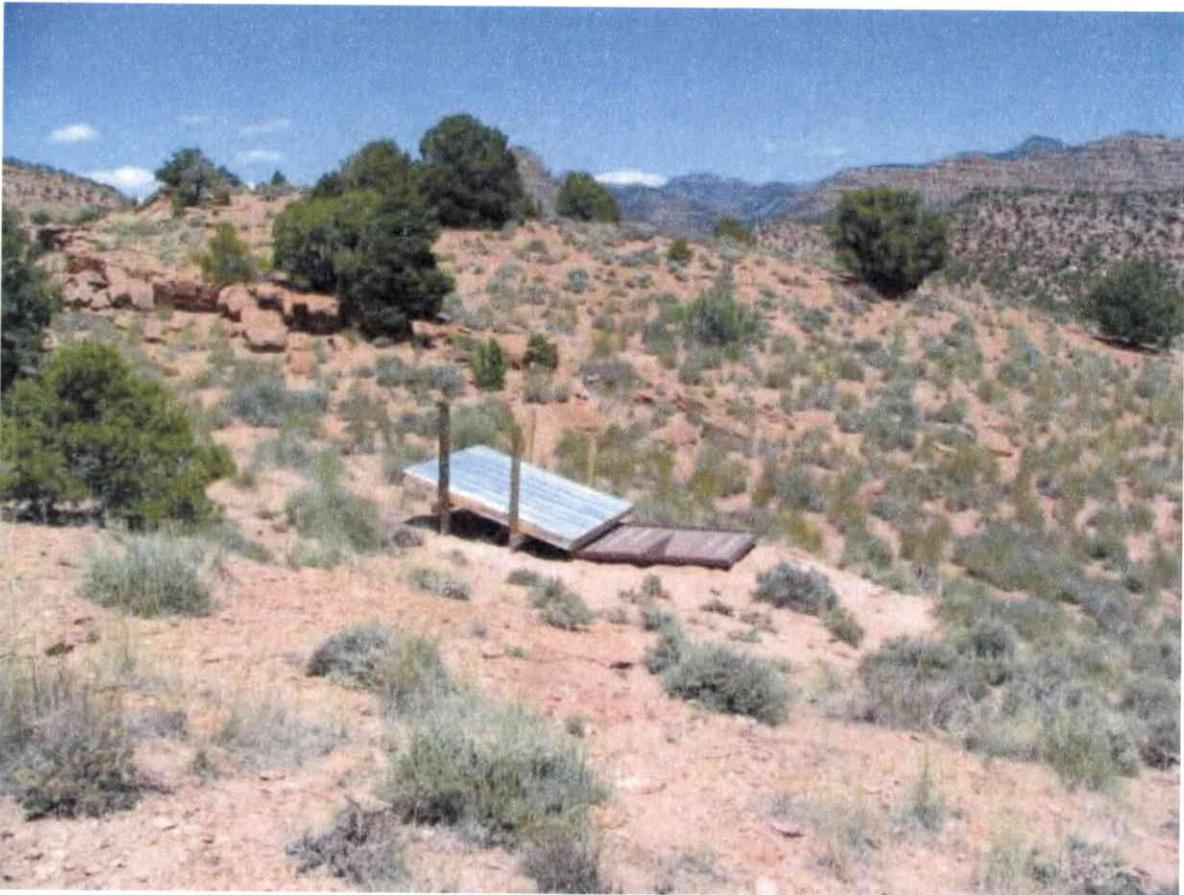


Figure 1 - Existing Williams Draw Guzzler, located on state land

If a helicopter is available, then the guzzler location in T16S R14E Sec 26 SW1/4NE1/4 (E558272 N4361795) is the preferred location (shown in Figure 2). By ground access, the next preferred location is in T16S R14E Sec 26 NE1/4 (E558582 N4361988) (shown in Figure 3). The springs and seeps (Stinky Springs) below these locations are heavily used by bighorn sheep. If these springs ceased to flow, then both of the locations may be needed to provide replacement water for the bighorn sheep.

Access for construction would be by traveling on the Little Park Road (a BLM system road) and then onto an old trail/road (which would become an administrative access road for this project), which had been used in the past for access to coal mine test drill holes, and then by using the Little Park Wash bottom. After construction, the visible tracks would be drug out or raked out, as specified by the BLM. In addition, the guzzler, including the apron would be painted a non-reflective color to blend in with the surrounding landscape. A fence would have to be added around the guzzler to keep livestock from drinking the water in the guzzler location shown in Figure 3.

Both of these proposed guzzler locations are in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics. None of the guzzler locations are in WSAs.



Figure 2 - Proposed guzzler location is on the point, in the center of the photo.



Figure 3 – Second location for a guzzler, with the guzzler being placed on the slope above the flat.

Vegetation treatment project

The purpose of this enhancement project is to increase the habitat (security cover) for small game (rabbits, mice, and other small mammals). Brush piles provide more security for rabbits, thereby increasing the numbers of rabbits, which provide more food for foraging raptors. The traffic on the coal haul road could disturb raptors from hunting next to the road. The road and mine facilities are placed on top of habitat that would have produced small game that would have been food for raptors. The vegetation treatment project would be located in areas with fewer disturbances and the productivity of small game would be enhanced. UEI would be responsible for contracting and completing this part of the project.

General Description of Work: The two units are approximately 93 acres in total. Only green Pinyon Pine and Juniper trees would be treated. All trees and shrubs not identified as Pinyon Pine or Juniper shall be designated as leave trees. Most of the area (77 acres) would be treated by hand crews cutting, limbing, and then leaving the trees and limbs. The loose accumulations of limbs and trunks would be left as is (in a loose pile) and would not be burnt. In a smaller subset of the units, some of the piles could be burned to reduce the fuel loading. This unit (16 acres) would be treated by hand crews cutting and piling. No heavy equipment would be used, with the crews walking on the ground and forming the piles by hand. Only green Pinyon Pine and Juniper trees would be treated. About half of the piles would be left as is and would not be burned. The remaining piles could be burned by the BLM, in areas where the BLM has decided the fuel load is excessive. None of these units are in WSAs or non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.