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Route + file MAW

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
AREA OFFICE COLORADO—UTAH
1311 FEDERAL BUILDING
125 SOUTH STATE STREET
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84138

May 16, 1980

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Cleon B. Feight, Director
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Attention: Mary Ann Wright

RE: Beaver Creek Coal Company
Gordon Creek Mine No. 2
ACT/007/016

Dear Mr. Feight:

This letter comprises our response to your requested Pre-design Consultation in regard to this coal mining operation.

This is an existing operation with the planned development bascially completed. No further disturbance of the habitat or terrain is planned. The operation is located at a higher elevation than other company mines. The portals are located in an area vegetated with aspen and pine. It would be beneficial if the Company would conduct a study to determine the use of these wooded areas for nesting by raptors or woodpeckers. The purpose would be to provide an indication of the compatibility of these nesting species to this type of disturbance.

This mine permit area is located in the range of the following endangered species.

1. Peregrine Falcoln, Falco peregrinus anatum

2. Bald Eagle, Haliaeetus leucocephalus

The Company should ascertain whether any of these species do occur in this permit area.

We see no need for additional detailed biological baseline inventories. We do request, that a detailed vegetational map be developed for the permit area.

As a part of the Fish and Wildlife and Reclamation Plans, the Company should present modifications to their operations wherein they would forego dozing of waste material into the creek bottom areas. The canyon bottom is already badly disturbed and important riparian habitat types destroyed. A continuation of this kind of activity is not acceptable.

Creek F&W plan

This completes our comments in regards to the subject mine plan. If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Shields

Robert H. Shields
Area Manager