Orig mine file
cc: J. Whitehead

0005

STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Wildlife Resources

1596 West North Temple • Salt Lake City, UT 84116-3154 • 801-533-9333

Norman H. Bangerter, Governor
Dee C. Hansen, Executive Director
William H. Geer, Division Director

INA/007/017

April 21, 1986

Dr. Dianne Nielson, Director
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203

FILE COPY

Attn: John Whitehead

Dear Dianne:

The Division has evaluated Beaver Creek Coal Company's February 6, 1986, response to a technical Deficiency Review of a Reclamation Plan for their No. 3 and 6 mine areas. The following is offered for your consideration.

Page 3-27 through 3-29, 3.4.6.2 -- The MRP fails to identify a commitment by the applicant to create 0.5 acre of riparian habitat as per their Certificate of Registration with UDWR for taking a raptor nest at the 2-7 mines. This 0.5 acre would be in addition to maximizing riparian development in reclamation and mitigation for riparian losses during 3-6 mine development.

It is speculative that conditions in Coal Canyon will allow development of this 0.5 acre of riparian along with long term natural maintenance of such. Therefore, it is recommended that the applicant explore the feasibility of enhancing riparian areas along the North Fork of Gordon Creek upstream from its confluence with Coal Canyon. Enhancement could consist of vegetation plantings as well as instream habitat (pool/drop structures) improvements. This stream length has potential for development of a limited cutthroat trout fishery. Instream structures would stabilize downcutting, stimulate natural expansion of riparian habitat and provide needed pool habitat for trout. The company could commit to providing 3 cords of cut aspen at each of four sites within the stream, delivered during July, August and September for three years, and let the existing beaver do the instream structure work.

Page 3-36 d and e, 3.5.5.1 -- If tests determine fertilizing amenities are needed to prepare the soil for planting, the following technique is recommended. Phosphate (P) and potassium (K) elements should be disced into the top soil mass. Fifty percent of the nitrogen (N) requirement should be applied in the mulch slurry and the remaining 50% the following fall.

Thank you for an opportunity to review the MRP and provide comment.

Sincerely,

William H. Geer
Director