



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Norman H. Bangerter
Governor

Dee C. Hansen
Executive Director

Timothy H. Provan
Division Director

1596 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116-3195
801-533-9333

June 12, 1989

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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Mr. Richard M. Olsen
Sunedco Coal Company
Soldier Canyon Mine
P.O. Box I
Price, Utah 84501

Subject: Soldier Canyon Mine/Wildlife Mitigation

Attention: Tom Paluso and Chris Allen

Dear Rick:

In regards to wildlife mitigation associated with the Soldier Canyon Coal Mine, the following is offered for your consideration.

The existing approved mine plan identified a potential for loss of 22.2 acres of critical valued deer winter range. Already completed construction of sewage lagoons and long-term development plans for a waste-rock disposal area account for this acreage. Another 4.8 acres of winter range (this includes 1.5 acres of riparian habitat) will be lost in association with the proposed potential for 27 acres of damage to deer winter range.

Mitigation for these winter range losses is expected. As you know, Utah's Division of Oil, Gas & Mining and the Bureau of Land Management are the regulatory agencies concerning such mitigation. Based upon experience with rangeland enhancements, it is our opinion that three acres need to be improved for each acre damaged to mitigate for long-term (life of Mine) forage losses on deer winter range. Thus, 81 acres of rangeland improvement needs to be accomplished. Although 1.5 acres of riparian habitat along Soldier Creek are included in the total loss for deer winter range, at abandonment of the facility this 600 foot long area will need to be reestablished as a riparian habitat.

The Division, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, Utah Department of Transportation and Carbon County, is currently planning a large acreage pinyon/juniper chaining. This rangeland conversion lies on BLM, as well as State land, and is designed to improve forage conditions on mule deer winter range in the Soldier Creek area (parts of Sec. 31, 32 and 33, T13 S, R 12 E and parts of Sec. 4, 5 and 6, T 14 S, R 12 E, Carbon County, Utah).

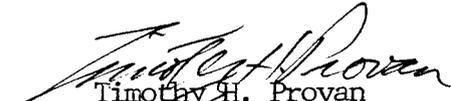
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The rangelands to be treated are an extension of the winter forage use area that the Mine will damage. They have potential to be enlarged to accommodate the Mine's mitigation needs. The cooperative project will be completed during the fall season of 1989, and costs will be \$60 per acre.

Rick, the Division has discussed the Mine's mitigation needs with BLM and DOGM. It is concurred that economic participation by the Mine resulting in an extension of the aforementioned cooperative project by 81 acres would adequately fulfill your mitigation requirements for lost deer winter range. Administration of this large acreage chaining is being coordinated by the Division. If Sunedco Coal Company (Soldier Canyon Mine) is interested in participating to fulfill mitigation needs, a remittance of \$4,860 to the Division of Wildlife Resources is needed.

Thank you for your interest and concern relative to Utah's wildlife resource.

Sincerely,


Timothy H. Provan
Director