



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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August 2, 1989

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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Mr. Reid W. Olsen
Soldier Creek Coal Company
Soldier Canyon Mine
P.O. Box I
Price, UT 84501

Attn: Tom Paluso

Dear Rick:

The Division is in receipt of your check (No. 18015) for \$4,752 that serves as total wildlife/habitat mitigation for mining projects identified in my June 15, 1989 correspondence. As you know, this project has been fully discussed with the Bureau of Land Management, as well as the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. Both concur on the impacts and mitigation. I will provide a copy of this correspondence to both agencies as notice that Soldier Creek Coal Company's wildlife/habitat requirements have been fulfilled.

The pinyon/juniper rangeland conversion, of which 79.2 acres will be treated on behalf of the company, will occur this fall.

Rick, I want to extend a special "thank you" to Soldier Creek Coal Company from the Division. The other cooperators in this project (Bureau of Land Management, Utah Department of Transportation, Utah Division of State Lands and Forestry, Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining, as well as Carbon County) are each appreciative of the Company's participation. There is no doubt that Utah's wildlife resource, particularly the mule deer herd, will benefit from all of us pooling our resources to accomplish this project.

Sincerely,


Timothy H. Provan
Director

June 15, 1989

Mr. Reid W. Olsen
Soldier Creek Coal Company
Soldier Canyon Mine
P.O. Box I
Price, Utah 84501

Attention: Tom Paluso and Chris Allen

Dear Rick:

Subject: Soldier Canyon Mine/Wildlife Mitigation

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 4.2 acres of winter range (this includes 1.5 acres of riparian habitat) will be lost in association with the proposed potential for 26.4 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, 79.2 acres of rangeland improvement needs to be accomplished. The 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).

Mr. Reid W. Olsen
June 15, 1989
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The rangelands to be treated are an extension of the winter forage use area that the Mine will damage. This project has potential to be enlarged to accommodate the Mine's mitigation needs and will be completed during the fall season of 1989. Costs will amount to \$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 79.2 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 Soldier Creek Coal Company (Soldier Canyon Mine) is interested in participating to fulfill mitigation needs, a remittance of \$4,752 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