

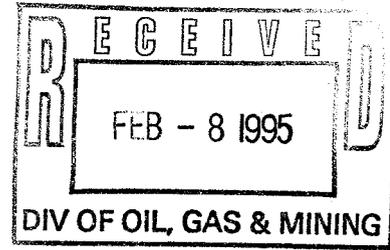
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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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January 30, 1995

Keith Zobell
Utah Fuels, Skyline Mine
P.O. Box 719
Helper, Utah 84526

RE: Soldier Creek Raptor Survey

*Copy to ACT/007/018 # 2
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Dear Keith:

On January 27, 1995, Bill Bates and Mike Milburn of our staff conducted a raptor survey in the area around Dugout Creek at your request. This survey was to determine if any raptor nests were located within a 0.5 mile radius of an old portal at the end of the road in the canyon.

Conditions for the survey were not conducive to acquiring needed information. Deep snow covered many ledges and cracks in the cliffs, making it difficult to determine if nests were present. Results from a survey in 1981 conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and our personnel showed 3 golden eagle, 2 red-tailed hawk, a prairie falcon scrape and several raven nests in the survey area. We were unable to find any of these nests during this survey.

We found one red-tailed hawk nest and a possible prairie falcon scrape that you will find marked on the enclosed map. There was also at least one adult golden eagle in the canyon. An eagle was seen north of the portal on 1/17 by Bill Bates, and just west of the portal during this survey.

We would like to make the following recommendations to facilitate re-opening the portal this winter. The cliffs within 0.5 miles of the portal should be monitored to determine where the golden eagles nest this season. Monitoring should begin February 15, and continue until the nest is located, the project is completed, or April 15, 1995, whichever comes first. If an active nest is located, our office, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining should be contacted immediately. At that time potential impacts to the territory will be assessed.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist in this survey. If you have questions contact Bill Bates, Habitat Manager.

Sincerely,

Miles Moretti
Regional Supervisor

copy: Robert Benton, USFWS
Paul Baker, DOGM
Ralph Miles, DWR



