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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Act 10071019
#3

December 7, 1990

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

Dear Dianne:

The Division has reviewed Andalex Resources, Incorporated's Centennial Mines Complex Mining and Reclamation Plan. The raptor survey included as part of the MRP was completed in 1980. The Division would like to offer updated information concerning raptor nesting at the mine plan area. Attached is a map of the area. Golden eagle nesting sites have been designated along with the 0.5 mile radius buffer zone that is required for protection from human disturbance.

Nest status for each territory since 1981 is as follows:

- 181.10 - 1981 Active with one young
- 181.11a - 1988 Active with one egg and one young
- 181.11b - 1981 Active (occupied)
1982 Inactive
1990 Active
- 181.12 - 1981 Inactive (old)
1982 Inactive
1988 Active
- 181.13 - 1981 Inactive (old)
1982 Inactive
- 181.7 - 1981 Active (occupied)
1982 Active with one young

Any mining activities within the recommended buffer zones should be coordinated to avoid the courtship and nesting periods of the eagles (February 1 - July 15). Any additional nesting sites that are located in the future should be reported to DWR and appropriate precautions should be taken.

Dr. Dianne R. Nielson, Director
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The statements pertaining to the impacts of operations on wildlife should be rewritten (Chapter 3, page 73). The implication here is that potential impacts are only of concern with respect to golden eagles and that this has been addressed. As discussed, the golden eagle information needs to be updated. Additionally, the Division has some concern where an MRP directs its concerns to one species. There is a wide array of species that occupy the mine area. Mining will undoubtedly have various impacts on all of these species for the life of the mine. Some species could also be affected indefinitely. Final reclamation efforts will help mitigate for these disturbances.

Along these lines, the Division feels it is important to educate mine employees to the intrinsic value of the various wildlife species as well as ways of reducing impacts to the species through everyday activities. It is recognized that Andalex has in the past provided employee wildlife education sessions (Chapter 4, page 196). We recommend the continuation of such training.

Revegetation seed mixtures appear adequate for the area. It should be noted that where seed is hand broadcast, the amount of seed applied should be doubled.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment.

Sincerely,


Timothy H. Provan
Director

Attachment

