



## State of Utah

### Department of Natural Resources

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### Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

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*Lieutenant Governor*

May 4, 2005

Henry Maddux, Assistant Field Supervisor  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2369 West Orton Circle  
West Valley City, Utah 84115

Subject: USFWS 1996 Biological Opinion Coordinated Review on the Mathis / Summit Creek Boundary Change, Andalex Resources Inc., Centennial Mine, C/007/0019, Task ID #2119, Outgoing File

Dear Mr. Maddux:

On January 14, 2005 the Division received a Permit Boundary Change for the Centennial Mine. The proposed change is in the Mathis tract, (380 acres), State L. B. A., (80 acres), and Federal Summit Creek Lease Area, (630.21 acres), totaling 1090.21 acres. The leases can be located on the Deadman Canyon and Helper 7.5' quadrangles in Township 12 South, Ranges 10 and 11 East, Sections 31 and 36. The proposed change is for underground mining only.

The protection and enhancement plan is addressed in Appendix A of the approved MRP. The application states "the Mathis/Summit Creek Incidental Boundary Change is simply an extension of underground mine workings under roughly 2,600 to 3,000 feet of cover. Therefore there should be no effect to the surface Biology of the area". The application also includes a commitment to develop a mitigation plan with the Division of Wildlife Resources should problems occur.

The application includes a list, (Appendix M), of possible threatened, endangered and candidate plant and wildlife species identified in the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service current listing for Carbon County. There are no threatened or endangered plant species known for the area according to information from Bob Thompson of the Forest Service and the Division of Wildlife Resources survey. Of the 10 species listed for Carbon County, only one, the bald eagle, could potentially occur in the permit area. However, the occurrence is most likely to be migration through the area rather than nesting or roosting. Most threatened or endangered species that could occur in Carbon County occur at lower elevations than the mine and have no habitat in the proposed permit area expansion.

Page 2  
Henry Maddux  
May 4, 2005

The mine has potential, through water depletions, of adversely affecting four listed threatened and endangered fish species of the upper Colorado River drainage. The Fish and Wildlife Service requires mitigation when water depletions exceed 100 acre-feet annually. According to the information in the application 47.61 acre feet/year net gain of water are provided to the upper Colorado River basin. This is the current volume of water and no change is anticipated with the addition of the permit area expansion. Calculations are provided in Table III-12.

The Division considers that the project will likely have no affect on TES species or their habitat and the Permittee should receive clearance. Final decision concerning the proposed project will come after the Division receives a response from USFWS.

Please let us know if you concur with our findings and if you have other concerns by June 7, 2005. If you have any questions about this project, please call Joe Helfrich at (801) 538-5290.

Sincerely,

D. Wayne Hedberg  
Permit Supervisor

Jch/an  
cc: Mike Glasson, Andalex Resources Inc.  
Price Field Office  
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