



0031

STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & MiningNorman H. Bangerter, Governor
Dee C. Hansen, Executive Director
Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D., Division Director

355 W. North Temple • 3 Triad Center • Suite 350 • Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203 • 801-538-5340

January 28, 1988

TO: John Whitehead, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Brent Stettler, Reclamation Biologist **BAS**

RE: Report of January 19, 1988 Field Trip to the Wildcat Loadout, ACT/007/033, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

On January 19, 1988, Bill Malencik and I visited the Wildcat Loadout. I had previously been assigned as co-lead inspector and as part of the technical staff completing the review of the loadout's permit application package (PAP).

We spoke with Mike Glasson, Wildcat's permit coordinator, about questions I had with regard to the PAP. Afterwards, we toured the permit area and later drove up Gordon Creek to assess big game distribution and numbers.

The questions I raised involved the following items:

1. The Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) publications within the PAP:

I was told the "Fish and Wildlife Resource information" (page 92-102) and "Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Plan" (page 103-113) were reports done by DWR for the Wildcat Loadout in October, 1987.

The BLM lease stipulation and environmental assessment (Appendix F) were completed in 1981-82. Andalex was at that time obligated to complete mitigation work outside the permit area, involving the chaining and seeding of pinyon-juniper tracts to compensate for vegetation disturbance within the loadout's permit area.

2. The "large area of revegetation" undertaken by Andalex Resources, as noted on page 90:

This refers to the BLM lease stipulation, described in Appendix F.

3. Soil Conservation Service (SCS) reference areas, referred to on page 82:

The SCS selected two reference areas, representing sagebrush-grassland and pinion-juniper vegetation types. A short letter was transmitted to Andalex Resources and included in the PAP (page 82A), noting approximate productivity in pounds-per-acre and range site condition. These areas have not been staked or otherwise mapped in the PAP.

4. The tentative seed mix on page 86:

Mr. Glasson said the seed mix had been left "open" because of past experience with government agencies which disagree about the best seed mix.

5. The wildlife and plant species lists:

I was told these were compiled by the BLM.

6. Mention made of Plate 34 on page 87 and Appendix A on page 92:

Plate 34 involved the Centennial Mine, and was mistakenly referred to in the Wildcat PAP. Appendix A was a DWR publication not included as part of the PAP.

During the tour of the loadout, I observed six fresh sets of deer tracks in the snow within the permit area. Mike Glasson said that as many as 15-18 deer had been observed on site at one time. However, no seasonal migration through the site was believed to occur.

Page 3
Memo to J. Whitehead
ACT/007/033
January 28, 1988

The Wildcat Loadout is situated within critical valued mule deer and elk winter range. I drove the Gordon Creek drainage at midday and again that evening, and observed numerous sets of tracks in the snow, suggesting the presence of several hundred deer. Deer-vehicle accidents are the most noteworthy short-term impacts to the Gordon Creek drainage. Andalex reports road-kills to DWR, so that carcasses can be removed as a precaution against killing scavenging bald and golden eagles.

The Wildcat Loadout has almost no potential for nesting raptors, with the possible exception of marsh hawks. Juniper trees in the vicinity of the loadout could conceivably be used as nesting habitat, but better nesting opportunity is afforded by the escarpments north and west of the site.

djh
cc: M. Glasson
1369R/21-23