

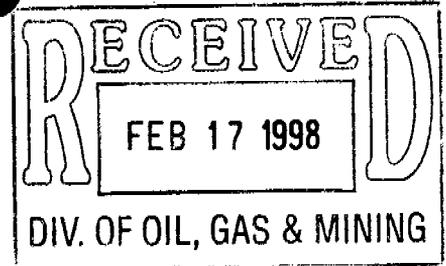
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State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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February 3, 1998

Johnny Pappas  
Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation  
Post Office Drawer PMC  
Price, Utah 84501

Re: 1997 Fish and Macroinvertebrate Studies, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Johnny:

*ACT/007/038 #2.  
Copy Karen?  
Paul  
Susan*

We just received a copy of the Aquatic Biology Monitoring Report for the Willow Creek Coal Mine. The report gives the results of fish and macroinvertebrate studies conducted before and after rechanneling of portions of Willow Creek. Rechanneling occurred during 1996, and pre- and post-channeling aquatic studies were conducted during 1995 and 1997. We requested that the studies be performed to determine effects of rechanneling on fish and macroinvertebrate populations, and to monitor recovery of those populations. We would like to offer the following comments and recommendations:

- (1) Fish numbers have not recovered yet in lower segments of the rechanneled stream. We request that additional monitoring be done in these segments until recovery of fish abundance to pre-channelization levels can be shown. Fish sampling should be conducted in June and October of 1998, to match up with dates when monitoring was conducted in 1995.
- (2) The report stated that cutthroat trout collected in Willow Creek were the Yellowstone strain. This is impossible to determine without conducting genetic tests. Our records do not indicate any stocking of Yellowstone cutthroat trout, a nonnative strain. It is quite possible that any cutthroat trout represent the native Colorado River strain, which is on Utah's Sensitive Species List. To obtain an adequate sample size (30 fish) for accurate determination of genetic purity of the cutthroat trout in Willow Creek, sampling is needed above the mine near the headwaters of the stream. We would like to do this sampling this year. Is it possible for the mine to provide two individuals for one day during June or October to assist our agency with this sampling, or contribute financially? Genetic sampling will cost about \$4000.

(2)

Johnny Pappas

February 13, 1998

- (3) A table showing abundance of various fish species sampled in 1995 (something similar to Tables 3-2 and 3-3) should be added to the report. Data on trout collected in 1995 need to be separated by species somewhere in the document, similar to what is done for 1997.
- (4) Further macroinvertebrate monitoring is not needed.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the report, and commend HydroBios (the consultant who did the work) on its quality. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Louis Berg, Aquatic Manager, at 435-636-0260.

Sincerely,



Miles Moretti  
Regional Supervisor

copy: Darrin Haddock, Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining  
Habitat, SLO  
Aquatics, SLO