



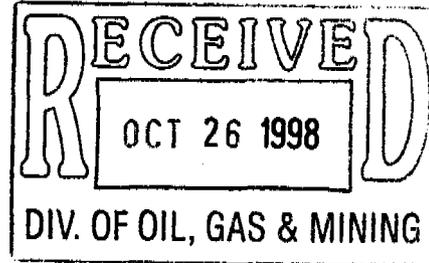
State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Ted Stewart
Executive Director
John Kimball
Division Director

Southeastern Region
475 West Price River Drive, Suite C
Price, Utah 84501-2860
801-636-0260
801-637-7361 (Fax)

Oct 20, 1998

Paul Baker
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1594 W. North Temple
SLC, UT 84114-5801



Re: West Ridge Mine Technical Analysis - Permit Application, Chapter 3-Biology

Dear Mr. Baker,

*Copy Paul
Pro/007/041 #2*

We have reviewed the West Ridge Mine Permit Application Package for the C Canyon mine. For your information, we have changed the Game Management Unit numbers in the area of the West Ridge Mine (see page 3-3 section 322.200). Presently, the area is in the Anthro/Range Creek herd unit #11. Paragraph 6 of page 3-4 (section 322.200) states that the closest elk herd is the Book Cliffs-Unit #21, over 40 miles away. This information is outdated. There is currently a small number of resident elk, and a moderate number of wintering elk in the general area of C Canyon. This area has a high potential carrying capacity for wintering elk, however, it is currently at the population objective. These differences should be corrected in the permit application.

We felt that the seed mixtures specified in tables 3-2 (A-C) were a quality, diverse mix, which would work well for restoration of these sites. We suggest including winter fat (*Ceratoides lanata*) at 1.0 lbs/acre to the seed mixture for Pinyon/Juniper communities. This native species is a very palatable browse plant for wildlife and would add to the diversity of the seed mix. For questions, or concerns please contact Chris Colt (Habitat Biologist) at (435)636-0279.

Sincerely,

Miles Moretti
Regional Manager

