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State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

007/041

Incoming

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28 January 2002

Darron Haddock, Permit Supervisor  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining  
1594 W. North Temple #1210  
PO Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

RE: Absence of adequate yellow-billed cuckoo habitat on Whitmore Canyon Tract

Dear Mr. Haddock,

It is our understanding that Westridge mine has applied to lease the Whitmore Canyon Coal Tract. We have reviewed the lease area from both from the ground, fixed-wing aircraft and on U.S.G.S 1:24,000 maps. With regard to yellow-billed cuckoo, we do not believe that there is sufficient habitat to support nesting yellow-billed cuckoos. Cuckoos require fairly large, undisturbed riparian areas for nesting. In the Whitmore Canyon Drainage, there is little riparian habitat. The existing cottonwood/willow habitats along the creek are thin scattered stringers, not likely to support a breeding population of yellow-billed cuckoos. Therefore, we would not recommend a survey for this species be undertaken for the lease of the Whitmore Canyon Coal Tract. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Chris Colt at 435-636-0279.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kevin Christopherson".  
Kevin Christopherson  
Regional Supervisor