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# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER  
Executive Director

### Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA  
Division Director

June 29, 2015

Karin Odendahl, Resident Agent  
West Ridge Resources, Inc.  
P.O. Box 910  
East Carbon, Utah 84520-0910

Subject: Final Approval of Raptor Survey File Location, West Ridge Mine, West Ridge Resources, Inc., C/007/0041, Task ID #4904

Dear Ms. Odendahl:

The above-referenced amendment was conditionally approved on June 29, 2015 upon receipt of clean copies. We received the requested clean copies on June 29, 2015. Enclosed is a stamped incorporated copy for insertion into your copy of the Mining and Reclamation Plan.

Thank you for your help during this process. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (801) 538-5350.

Sincerely,

Steve Christensen  
Permit Supervisor

SKC/sqs  
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storage area and small part of the mine material storage yard. Once the topsoil pile has been established there will be minimal activity in this portion of the mine yard. During the May 1998, DWR personnel evaluated the nest locations with respect to the location of the topsoil stockpile area in order to evaluate the potential impacts of the mine construction and operation. It was determined that, due to the usual screening between the nests and the mine site offered by the high trees and the cliff lines within the canyon, mine construction/operation would have no effect on the nest sites in the right fork of C Canyon. A site specific buffer zone was established for the nest sites in C Canyon and is depicted on map 3-4A. The site specific buffer zone was addressed and recommended in the EA prepared by the BLM. Since the mine site disturbance will be outside of the site specific buffer zone, a take permit will not be required for the nests in the right fork. Mine construction and operation can proceed outside the site specific buffer zone and the construction season will not be affected. DWR did recommend, however, that annual monitoring be continued for the C Canyon area.

The same raptor survey (DWR 1997) also re-located an inactive golden eagle nest in the left fork of C canyon in the southeast quarter of Section 10, T 14 S, R 13 E. Most of the minesite lies within ½ mile of this nest. Because this nest site has been inactive when it has been monitored during raptor surveys conducted in 1981, 1997, and 1998, it is classified as abandoned under the established BLM guidelines and no take permit is required. Mine construction and operation will not negatively impact this nest.

In the spring of 2001, DWR conducted its annual raptor survey of the West Ridge mine area. (Refer to Appendix 3-10 for the results of this survey) The survey included the cliff escarpments and canyons within the permit area southwest of West Ridge. It is this area that contains the majority of raptor nesting activity and is the area underlain by current active mining activities. The Whitmore Canyon area on the northeast side of West Ridge was not covered during this latest survey although it has been covered within the last several years. The Whitmore Canyon area contains considerably less nesting activity than the area southwest of the ridge and mining related subsidence is not scheduled to occur in this area until the year 2005. WEST RIDGE Resources will coordinate with DWR to ensure that the Whitmore Canyon area is included in the annual raptor survey prior to mining in this area. An updated raptor survey (June 17, 2004) has been included in Appendix 3-2A. Current raptor surveys can be located on-site, in the Confidential Raptor Survey Binder.

The proposed topsoil borrow area is a site that may be utilized at the time of final reclamation if need. Because it is fairly likely that the proposed topsoil borrow area will not be required fo final reclamation, the operator commits to mitigate for the disturbance when and if it occurs.

In coordination with DWR, WEST RIDGE Resources, Inc. Commits to conducting wildlife education sessions for their employees and their contractors employees to develop an awareness of the wildlife in the area.