Suzanne Steab <suzannesteab@utah.gov>

Re: Sage-grouse consultation - Star Point Refuse- Location Sections 10/15, Township 15 S, Range 8 E., Carbon County, UT

Lisa Reinhart <lreinhart@utah.gov> Thu, Apr 28, 2016 at 3:09 PM
To: Daniel Eddington <danieleddington@utah.gov>, rnetz@sscogen.com
Cc: Makeda Hanson <makedatrujillo@utah.gov>, "James, Bill" <billjames@utah.gov>, Suzanne Steab <suzannesteab@utah.gov>

Thanks Daniel, I will note it for the file.

Lisa Reinhart
Environmental Scientist
Utah Coal Program
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
(801) 538-5437, (801) 359-3940 (Fax)

Web site: http://ogm.utah.gov

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On Thu, Apr 28, 2016 at 2:36 PM, Daniel Eddington <danieleddington@utah.gov> wrote:

> Hi Lisa,
> Thank your for contacting UDWR and the opportunity to comment regarding this mid year review of the Star Point Refuse Mining Permit. UDWR agrees the less than 4-acre overlap with the Carbon Sage Grouse Management Area and the Star Point Refuse does not impose any significant risk to the Carbon sage grouse population. This area is at best opportunity habitat and will not destroy or fragment existing habitat. UDWR does not see any reason to implement changes for this permit.
>
> Thanks
>
> Daniel Eddington
> Habitat Manager
> Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
> 319 N Carbonville Rd
> Price, UT 84501
> 435 613-3709
> danieleddington@utah.gov
>
> On Wed, Apr 6, 2016 at 10:35 AM, Lisa Reinhart <lreinhart@utah.gov> wrote:
>
>> Hi Daniel,
>>
>> Pursuant to the MOU between UDWR, PLPCO, and DOGM for Implementation of the Utah Conservation Plan for Greater Sage-grouse, I am consulting with DWR in regards to performing a mid-term evaluation of the Start Point Refuse Mining Permit. Although it's not a typical mining operation, the refuse site is permitted under our program. Basically, Sunnyside Cogen owns the property and they just load and haul refuse from the waste rock pile from Start Point over to the Sunnyside plant in Sunnyside. For the mid-term, we take a look at their operations and make sure they are meeting all their requirements mid-way through their permit term which runs for 5 years. Since the MOU is new, we have never had to consult on this before.

I don't think it's necessary to require the mine to implement any monitoring or mitigation actions for sage-grouse because the mine is not disturbing any new surface and there is no potential to destroy or fragment existing habitat. They are simply loading and hauling away existing coal fines from the waste rock site and using all previously disturbed areas. Also, the permit area that overlaps with the Carbon Co. Sage-grouse Management Area is roughly 3.3 acres and is adjacent to the Wattis Rd. I walked through the permit area yesterday and did not see any evidence of sage-grouse... though I did see a Golden Eagle in the area.

Please forward your comments through PLPCO and let me know if you think we need to implement any changes for this permit.

Thanks,

See shapefile and attached map of area.

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