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United States Department of the Interior

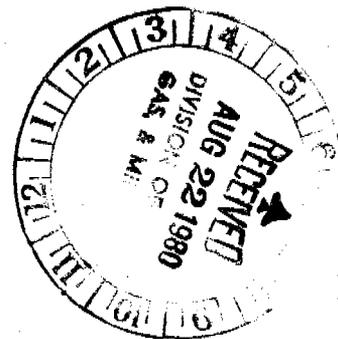
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
AREA OFFICE COLORADO-UTAH
1311 FEDERAL BUILDING
125 SOUTH STATE STREET
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84138

IN REPLY REFER TO:

August 19, 1980

Mr. Cleon B. Feight, Director
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Attention: Mary Ann Wright

RE: Soldier Creek Coal Company
Hidden Valley Mine
UT-0037

Dear Mr. Feight:

The following constitutes the Fish and Wildlife Service response to the requested Pre-design Wildlife Consultation concerning the Hidden Valley Mine.

This planned mining development is situated in a area of low value habitat for wildlife and would have limited impacts upon the surface terrain. However, because of the size of the waste disposal area, and possible subsidence of the surface terrain, and associated effects on the surface hydrology, we suggest that a detailed vegetational map be developed for the entire permit area.

A raptor survey should be conducted in the areas of the mine portal, the access road, and the proposed waste disposal area that would indicate the utilization of these areas by nesting raptors. We observed, in the immediate vicinity of the portal, what appeared to be a nesting site for a species of owl.

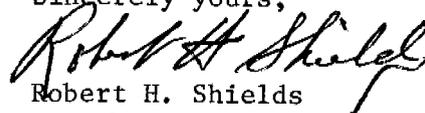
Those areas of the mine permit area that would be specifically impacted by development of the mine or subject to disturbance by mining activities should be examined to determine the presence of the following migratory bird species of high federal interest: ferruginous hawk, golden eagle, burrowing owl.

The Company should be made aware of the value of the riparian habitat along Ivie Creek adjacent to the mine portal area and instructed to prevent any degradation of that habitat. In this arid part of the state, natural occurring water such as this creek or other water areas that occur in the permit area, are of extremely high importance to wildlife and should be protected. Water sources that occur on the permit area should be identified and recorded on the vegetative map. If they are impacted by any underground interruption of the hydrologic cycle they must be replaced.

The Service is not aware of any, other than incidental, occurrence of threatened or endangered wildlife species in the area. However, there are two plant species that do occur in the general area that are either listed or are being considered for listing as threatened or endangered species. The Company should examine all lands in the permit area to determine the occurrence of these species; they are: Wright fishhook cactus, Sclerocactus wrightiae, last chance townsendia, Townsendia aprica.

This completes our comments on the proposed coal mining operation at the Hidden Valley Mine. If we can be of assistance to the Company or the Division during the preparation of the fish and wildlife and reclamation plan for the mine permit we would be most happy to provide that assistance.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert H. Shields".

Robert H. Shields
Area Manager