



United States Department of the Interior  
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
Reclamation and Enforcement  
BROOKS TOWERS  
1020 15TH STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202



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March 27, 1987

TO: Robert Ruesink, Field Supervisor  
Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Salt Lake City, Utah

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

FROM: Robert Schueneman, Chief *Robert Schueneman*  
Biological Sciences Branch

SUBJECT: Amendment to the Biological Assessment for the Trail Mountain  
Mine, Emery County, Utah

This memorandum was prepared to amend our April 1984 biological assessment for the Trail Mountain mine in which a water depletion of 4.53 acre-feet per year was identified. At this time, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is reviewing a request for additional mining at the Trail Mountain mine. The proposed mining would allow Trail Mountain Coal Company (TMCC) to underground mine 641 acres adjacent to their existing operation near Orangeville, Utah.

The proposed action would not result in any new surface disturbance since existing surface facilities would be utilized for coal removal. Therefore, OSMRE has concluded that the proposed action would not affect any terrestrial species protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended. Regarding impacts on the endangered fishes of the Upper Colorado River Basin, OSMRE has evaluated the anticipated effects of the proposed action on surface water flows. Based upon the best estimates available, the proposed action would decrease the average annual flow of Cottonwood Creek at Orangeville. This would result in a water depletion of 72 acre-feet per year. Therefore, OSMRE requests a biological opinion on the effects of this additional water depletion on the endangered fish species of the Upper Colorado River Basin.

Please contact Don Henne, Wildlife Biologist, at (FTS) 564-2718 if you have any questions. The address of the project sponsor is: Trail Mountain Coal Company (a subsidiary of Diamond Shamrock), P.O. Box 370, Orangeville, Utah 84537-0370 - Phone: (901) 748-2140.

cc: Lowell Braxton, UDOGM ✓  
R. Hagen, Albuquerque FO