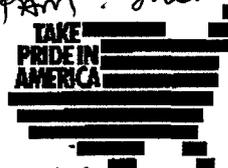




United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

UTAH STATE OFFICE
 2060 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
 1745 WEST 1700 SOUTH
 SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84104-5110

ACT/015/009 #2
 Copy Pam = Guadalupe



FAX to Val
RECEIVED

MAY 19 1993

DIVISION OF
 OIL, GAS & MINING

In Reply Refer To
 (ES)

May 17, 1993

Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor
 Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
 355 West North Temple
 3 Triad Center, Suite 350
 Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203

Dear Ms. Grubaugh-Littig:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed your letter and submittal of April 19, 1993 containing the application for the proposed 1993 Trail Mountain Exploration Drilling Program.

There are errors in Table 1, "Threatened, endangered and sensitive species occurring in the Price and Ferron Districts of the Manti-LaSal National Forest" which should be corrected. The spotted frog is a category 1 candidate species under the Endangered Species Act, and the Ute ladies'-tresses was listed as a threatened species in January of 1992. The application does not discuss the Service's Recovery Implementation Program for the four species of fish (Colorado squawfish, razorback sucker, humpback chub, and bonytail chub) listed as endangered in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Under this program any water depletion from the basin is considered to "jeopardize the continued existence" of the fish and thus requires a formal consultation with the Service under the Endangered Species Act.

Since this project includes the use of 2.58 acre-feet of water (Attachment 6) which would otherwise contribute to the Colorado River flow, formal consultation will be required. The Forest Service, as the federal land management agency with jurisdiction over the property will initiate the consultation with the Service. The project applicant should be made aware that once a request for consultation has been received from the Forest Service, the Service has a maximum of 90 days to complete consultation plus another 45 days to prepare a Biological Opinion.

If you have any questions please contact Susan Linner, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at (801) 975-3630.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Williams
 State Supervisor

cc: Dale Harber, Manti-LaSal National Forest, Price, UT