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*File ACT/015/009#2  
and ACT/015/019 #2*

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Manti-LaSal National Forest  
Ferron Ranger District

P.O. Box 310  
Ferron, Utah 84523

Reply to: 2820

Date: February 8, 1993

*Copy FARM*

Ms. Pamela Grubaugh-Littig  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
355 West North Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

Dear Pam,

Floyd McMullen of OSM suggested I contact you and invite you, or another DOGM representative, to participate on the ID Team for an environmental analysis of PacifiCorp's application for a right-of-way between the Cottonwood/Wilberg and Trail Mountain mines. I am enclosing a copy of the scoping document on the project for your review.

I had originally planned to have an ID Team meeting on February 18th, but PacifiCorp has requested a meeting that day. They want to discuss the possibility of using an above-ground tube conveyor as an alternative to the underground right-of-way. There is no point in holding our ID Team meeting until after we have met with PacifiCorp, so I will reschedule it and give you a date later.

Please give me a call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Dale L. Harber*  
Dale Harber  
District Geologist

enclosure  
cc: C.Reed

**RECEIVED**

MAR 05 1993

DIVISION OF  
OIL GAS & MINING

**MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST  
PROJECT SCOPING DOCUMENT**

DATE: 12/22/92

DISTRICT NAME: Ferron

FILE CODE: 2820

1. **PROJECT NAME:** PacifiCorp Underground Right-of-Way Application through Federal coal between the Cottonwood and Trail Mountain Mines.
2. **RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:** Forest Supervisor, Manti-La Sal National Forest.
3. **PROPOSAL:** PacifiCorp has applied for an underground right-of-way through approximately 199.66 acres of unleased Federal coal to connect operations of the Cottonwood Mine in federal coal lease U-083066 with the Trail Mountain Mine in federal coal lease U-49332 (see Location Map). A combination of 2,800 feet of three entry system and 3,800 feet of five entry system mining would be used through the right-of-way, within the Hiawatha coal seam. Entries would be approximately 20 feet wide by 8 feet high and 500 to 2,000 feet below the surface. The right-of-way would pass under Cottonwood Creek.
4. **TIERING OPPORTUNITIES:**

USDA Forest Service, Manti-La Sal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), November 5, 1986, and Environmental Assessment for Coal Lease Application UTU-64375, South Trail Mountain Tract, April, 1990.

5. **OTHER AGENCIES OR PUBLICS INVOLVED:**

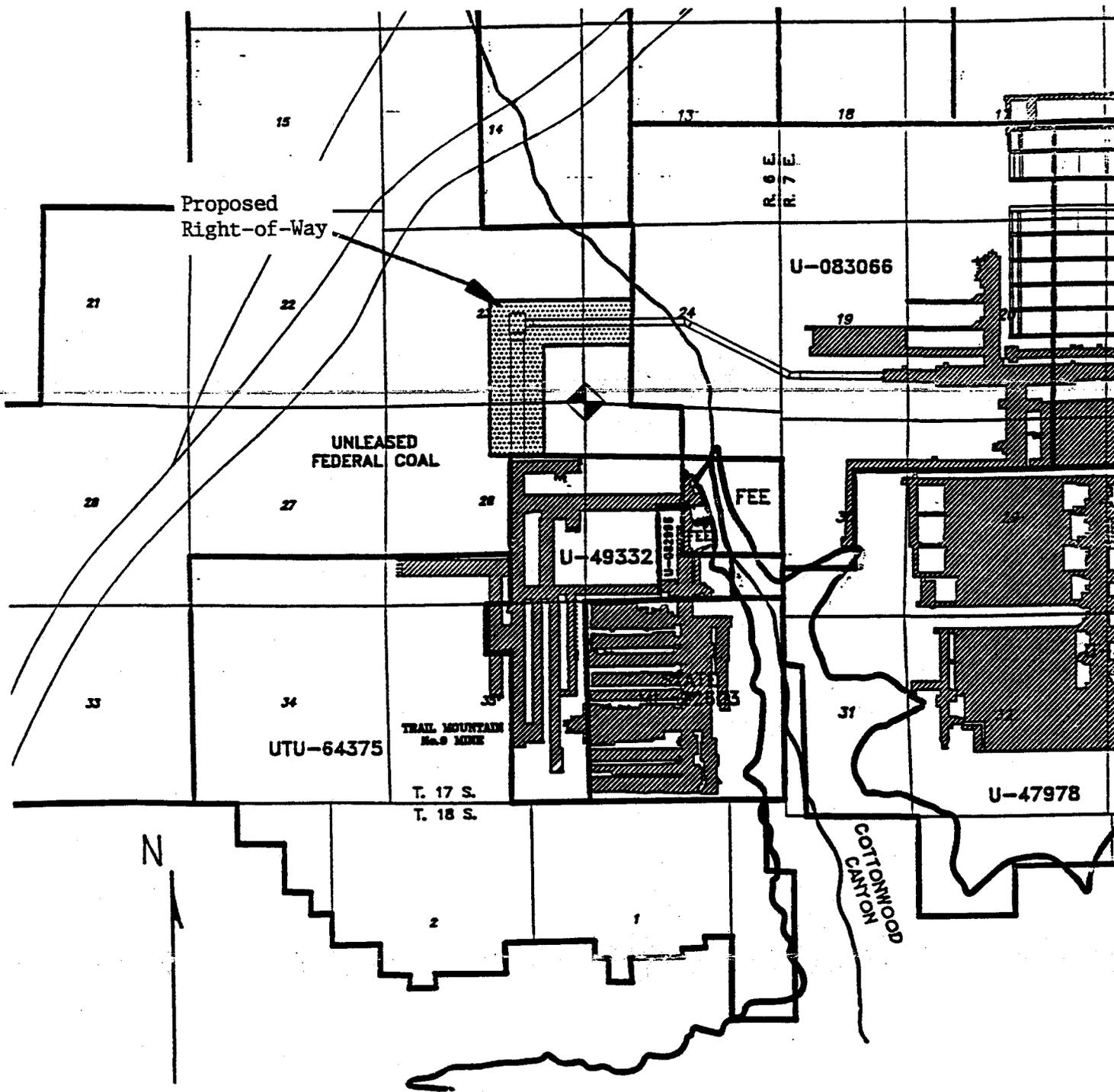
The Bureau of Land Management is the responsible agency for administration of coal leases under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, and Federal Regulations 43 CFR 3410.

The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining is the responsible agency for permitting of mining operations under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 and Federal Regulations 30 CFR 700 to end.

The Forest Service, as the surface management agency, is responsible for evaluation of the proposal under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. The Forest Supervisor has authority to issue or not issue a Special Use Permit for the proposed right-of-way.

The proposed project is located on the Ferron Ranger District of the Manti-La Sal National Forest. The Ferron Ranger District will prepare the necessary NEPA documentation.

Public comment will be invited through notices in local newspapers and by letter from individuals and organizations which have expressed an interest in the past.



Location Map - Proposed Right-of-Way for Access Between the Cottonwood and Trail Mountain Mines

6. POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF THE PROJECT:

- a. The right-of-way would pass beneath Cottonwood Creek, a perennial stream. Subsidence or surface fractures could impact the creek.
- b. The proposed right-of-way passes through the only other reasonable access site for the coal in Trail Mountain. This could create a "captive" coal situation which could decrease the competitiveness of the remaining coal.
- c. The proposal states water encountered during mining could be pumped out of the mine into either Cottonwood Creek or Grimes Wash. Diversion of water between drainages may have impacts to surface water resources.
- d. Other potential effects may be determined during the scoping process.

7. ISSUES:

Same as above.

8. SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVES:

- a. No Action Alternative - Under this alternative the Forest Supervisor would not issue a Special Use Permit for the right-of-way.
- b. Approve the Request - Under this alternative the Forest Supervisor would issue a Special Use Permit for the right-of-way.
- c. Overhead Tube Conveyor - Under this alternative an overhead tube conveyor spanning Cottonwood Creek and located on fee lands would be used in lieu of an underground right-of-way.

9. ANALYSIS AND DECISION CRITERIA:

- a. Consistency with the Manti-La Sal National Forest LRMP.
- b. Consistency with Forest Service Handbook 2709.11, Special Uses Handbook, and Forest Service Manual 2700-2720, Special Uses Management.
- c. The project must be evaluated consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.
- d. There are no unacceptable impacts on the environment.

10. ANALYSIS SKILLS:

<u>Specialty</u>	<u>Specialist</u>	<u>Role</u>
Minerals/Geology	Dale Harber	ID Team Leader
Hydrology	Dennis Kelly	ID Team Member
Mining Engineering	a BLM representative	ID Team Member

11. SCHEDULE:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a. Functional Status Report: <u>  </u> / <u>  </u> / <u>  </u> | f. Review Draft Meeting <u>  </u> / <u>  </u> / <u>  </u>   |
| b. Initial Meeting: <u>  </u> / <u>  </u> / <u>  </u>          | g. EA Final: <u>  </u> / <u>  </u> / <u>  </u>              |
| c. Field Review: <u>  </u> / <u>  </u> / <u>  </u>             | h. R.O. Decision Notice <u>  </u> / <u>  </u> / <u>  </u>   |
| d. ID Team Meeting: <u>2/18/93</u>                             | i. Project Implementation <u>  </u> / <u>  </u> / <u>  </u> |
| e. ID Team Review Draft: <u>  </u> / <u>  </u> / <u>  </u>     |   |

12. RANGER DECISION:

- Requires further assessment:   X    
Requires no further assessment:     
Categorical Exclusion:

for Bob L. Fisher  
District Ranger

Dec. 23, 1992  
Date