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File ACT/015/015



**Consolidation Coal Company**

Western Region  
2 Inverness Drive East  
Englewood, Colorado 80110  
303-770-1600

November 3, 1981

Mr. Lynn Kunzler  
State of Utah  
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining  
1588 West North Temple  
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Dear Lynn:

Thank you for returning my call concerning density numbers for vegetation sampling on the Emery Deep Mine Permit area. As we discussed, Tamarix pentandra is an introduced noxious weed and should not be included in premining vegetation inventory sampling. Unfortunately, our consultants did count this species during their 1980 Vegetation Survey, which is evident in the extremely high density figures shown for the "Riparian Shrubland" Communities. Because this species is undesirable, I propose to throw this density figure out of the inventory data. The result will be to make our goal of putting back the pre-mine shrub densities after mining much more realistic. The new density figure for "Riparian Shrublands" would then be 2,458 shrubs/hectare, instead of the old figure which was over 100,000 shrubs per hectare.

Since this is a matter of importance to Consol and we have discussed and agreed upon this subject earlier, I would appreciate a letter of verification from you as a final step in resolving this problem.

Sincerely,

*Rick L. Williamson*

Rick L. Williamson  
Regional Reclamation Biologist

RLW/bap

cc: Rick Holbrook

NOV 06 1981

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING