



State of Utah
 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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February 28, 2002

TO: Internal File

THRU: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor *pgl*

FROM: Susan M. White, Sr. Reclamation Biologist *SMW*

RE: Wildlife Review, Consolidation Coal Company, Emery Deep Mine, C/015/015

Other Attendees:

Seth McCourt, Consol
 Stephen Demczak, DOGM
 Chris Colt, DWR
 Leroy Mead, DWR

Date & Time:

February 19, 2002
 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this visit was to review any wildlife issues prior to the mine reopening.

OBSERVATIONS:

Cliffs around surface facilities are suitable habitat for red-tail hawks and prairie falcons. This area and any area proposed for disturbance should be surveyed for raptors this spring. Initial surveys should include an area of a one-mile radius around the disturbance.

We thought that the area likely fit the criteria for requiring Mexican spotted owl surveys but didn't think it was Mexican spotted owl habitat. Surveys will not be required for the Mexican spotted owl around the facilities.

The DWR representatives did not think that the riparian area through the mine site was suitable for southwest willow flycatcher habitat.

The cliffs likely contained bats but are not likely large colonies of bats.

TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

Macroinvertebrate studies should be done in Quitchupah Creek, immediately below the confluence with Christiansen Wash. A qualified person should conduct baseline surveys in the spring and fall, on standardized dates. The surveys should be done every year for two years and then every third year after that.

A fish survey should be done in Quitchupah Creek at the facilities area. Louis Berg, DWR, should be contacted concerning the survey. Ivie Creek contains flannelmouth suckers, bluehead suckers, leatherside chubs, speckled dace, and fathead minnows. The first three of these species are on Utah's sensitive species list. Quitchupah Creek is a tributary to Ivie Creek.

The proposed 4th East breakout area was observed and DWR had no concerns.

An extensive wildlife review and surveys were done in 1980 and reported in the MRP. A burrowing owl, a state sensitive species, was observed at a prairie dog burrow in June and October within the permit area during the 1980 survey. Surveys for burrowing owls should be conducted prior to any surface disturbing activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

The Operator should conduct the above recommended surveys.

cc: All Attendees
Price Field Office
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