



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Manti-La Sal  
National Forest

Supervisor's Office  
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File Code: 2820-4

Date: August 8, 2006

Dennis Oakley  
Sr. Environmental Engineer  
Energy West Mining Company  
P.O. Box 310  
Huntington, UT 84528

*Sharing*  
CO150017

Dear Dennis:

My staff has reviewed your request for consent to a change in the post-mining land use for 20 acres of the Des-Bee-Dove Mine Permit Area. Based on our analysis of the reasonably foreseeable activities in the area, including the proposed gas well, and the current Forest Plan, changing the post-mining land uses by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining as required by the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act will be consistent with the Forest Plan.

The Des-Bee-Dove Mine surface disturbance is within a Minerals Management Area (MMA). The proposed XTO well site is also within this MMA. The MMA is completely surrounded by a General Winter Range (GWR) area. The reclamation at the Des-Bee-Dove Mine has been to return the area to forage production for wildlife and livestock. As you can see in the attached management prescriptions for MMA and GWR areas, the proposed grazing, wildlife habitat, recreation, and mineral development uses are consistent with the prescriptions. The XTO federal oil and gas lease already contains timing and threshold stipulations for operations within the GWR area.

Please contact Dale Harber, Forest Geologist, at (435) 636-3548 if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

*Eileen F. Richmond*

EILEEN F. RICHMOND  
Acting Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

✓ CC: Pam Grubaugh-Littig, Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING



**MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION CAR  
(EMPHASIS IS ON GENERAL BIG-GAME WINTER RANGE)**

Management emphasis is on providing general big-game winter range. These are areas wildlife traditionally use. Treatments of various types are applied to increase forage production and plant species composition. This may include chaining, cutting, prescribed burning, seeding, spraying, planting, and other treatments. Selected browse species are regenerated to maintain a variety of age classes.

Investments in compatible resource activities may occur. Livestock grazing is generally compatible and is managed to favor big-game habitat. Structural range improvements will be designed, where possible, to benefit wildlife. Range structures will be designed to minimize adverse wildlife impacts.

Permanent roads and special uses may be permitted. Short-term or temporary roads are obliterated and rehabilitated within one year after intended use. Motorized use is managed as appropriate to prevent unacceptable stress on big-game animals during the primary use season.

Specific cover opening ratios, opening width, and stand design are maintained in pinyon-juniper chaining areas.

**(EMPHASIS IS ON GENERAL BIG-GAME WINTER RANGE)**

**MANAGEMENT UNIT DESCRIPTION CAR**

**MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS**

**MANAGEMENT  
ACTIVITIES**

**GENERAL  
DIRECTION**

**STANDARDS &  
GUIDELINES**

**VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (A04)** 01 Meet Forest Direction Visual Quality Objectives except where habitat improvement activities occur. Treated sites must be returned to the planned VQO within 10 years.

**DISPERSED RECREATION MANAGEMENT (A14 AND 15)** 01 Manage recreational activities so they do not conflict with wildlife use of habitat.

**WILDLIFE AND FISH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (C01)** 01 Provide big-game habitat needed to help achieve the big-game population objectives identified in interagency herd unit plans.

**RANGE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (D02)** 01 Manage livestock grazing to complement big-game habitat.

**MINERALS MANAGEMENT GENERAL (C00)** 01 Modify, delay, or deny mineral leasing, exploration, and/or surface occupancy, where applicable, if they cause unacceptable stress on big game or unmitigated damage to their habitat.

**MANAGEMENT UNIT DIRECTION GMR**

- a. Restrict snowmobile use to designated routes if conflicts with wintering animals occur.
- b. Restrict vehicular travel on non-roaded areas if conflicts with habitat needs develop.

a. Maintain at least 30 percent of shrub plants in mature age, and at least 10 percent in young age classes.

b. Maintain at least two shrub species on sites capable of growing two or more shrub species.

c. Maintain habitat capability at a level at least 50 percent of potential for big game.

d. Activities or uses which induce human activity within the area may be modified, rescheduled, or denied if the combination of accumulated impacts on vegetation, behavior, and/or mitigation reduce effective habitat use below 80 percent of base year 1980 capacity of this unit.

a. Establish proper use criteria that should maintain or enhance habitat for wildlife. Limit livestock use to this level.

a. Prohibit activities during critical periods of big-game use.

b. Approved activities must be short-term and prompt reclamation must be assured.

MANAGEMENT  
ACTIVITIES

GENERAL  
DIRECTION

STANDARDS &  
GUIDELINES

- SPECIAL USE  
MANAGEMENT NON-  
RECREATION)  
(J01)
- 01 As appropriate, permit special uses if they do not conflict with big-game wintering.
- RIGHTS-OF-WAY  
AND LAND  
ADJUSTMENTS  
(J02, 13, 15,  
16, 17, AND 18)
- 01 Acquire private lands or obtain wildlife habitat easements needed for big-game winter range.
- TRANSPORTATION  
SYSTEM  
MANAGEMENT  
(I01 AND 20)
- 01 Allow new roads to meet management needs. Obliterate and rehabilitate temporary roads within one season after planned use ends.
- a. New roads may be constructed when;
- (1) There is no acceptable alternative to build the road outside the unit, and the road is essential to achieve priority goals and objectives of contiguous management units, or to provide access to land administered by other government agencies or to contiguous private land.
- (2) Winter road use will not significantly disturb wintering big-game animals.
- (3) Roads cross the winter range in the minimum distance feasible to facilitate the needed use.
- 02 Close and/or restrict road use as appropriate to reduce stress on big-game animals.

**MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION M4A  
(EMPHASIS IS ON LEASABLE MINERALS DEVELOPMENT)**

Management emphasis is on making land surface available for existing and potential major mineral developments. This prescription is applied where the land surface is or will be used for facilities needed for the extraction of leasable minerals over an extended period. The areas associated with known, potential, development sites are included in this unit. Additional areas may be added to this unit as mines or fields are located and developed. As the developments are removed and restoration is completed, these areas may be changed to other appropriate management units.

In units where mineral development is pending, renewable resource activities strive to be compatible with the management goals of adjacent management units. Long-term investments, such as timber planting, generally are not made. However, short-term investments, such as range and wildlife revegetation projects, may be made on these units.

**(EMPHASIS IS ON LEASABLE MINERAL DEVELOPMENT)**

**MANAGEMENT UNIT DIRECTION M4A**

MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

MANAGEMENT  
ACTIVITIES

GENERAL  
DIRECTION

STANDARDS &  
GUIDELINES

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (A04) 01 VQO is modification, except after dark the VQO may be maximum modification owing to artificial lighting.

DISPERSED RECREATION MANAGEMENT (A14 AND 15) 01 Manage dispersed recreation opportunities:  
(1) On potential MFA units consistent or compatible with prescriptions from adjacent management units;  
(2) On existing MFA units to avoid conflicts with mineral activities and provide for public safety.

WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE (C02, 04, 05 AND 06) 01 Manage to the extent possible potential or existing long-term impacts on potential or existing units consistent or compatible with wildlife and fish habitat prescriptions from adjacent management units.

RANGE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (D02) 01 Manage the forage resource on potential units and existing units consistent or compatible with range prescriptions from adjacent management units. On existing units, manage forage with emphasis on establishment of vegetative cover and long range rehabilitation to support appropriate range prescriptions.

SILVICULTURAL EXAMINATION AND PRESCRIPTION (E03, 06, AND 07) 01 On potential units manage forest cover types consistent or compatible with prescription from adjacent management units unless a specific use requires special forest cover management.

02 Maintain forest cover types on undisturbed sites with emphasis on long range establishment of stands compatible with adjacent management units. As appropriate, rehabilitate disturbed lands using forest cover types.

03 Utilize forest products through both commercial and noncommercial methods.

MANAGEMENT UNIT DIRECTION MFA

**MINERALS  
MANAGEMENT  
LEASEABLES  
(G02 TO 07)**

01 Coordinate the various leaseable mineral activities to minimize or eliminate conflicts.

02 Upon completion of the planned surface use, restore disturbed sites to their predisturbed conditions unless otherwise directed in the document authorizing the use.

**SPECIAL USE  
MANAGEMENT (NON-  
RECREATION)  
(J01)**

01 Coordinate developments that may conflict with the intended purpose of existing or potential units to minimize or eliminate the conflict.

02 Issue special-use permits for off-lease facilities consistent with policy and guidelines.

**TRANSPORTATION  
SYSTEM  
MANAGEMENT  
(101 AND 20)**

01 Reduce or remove transportation facilities to a kind and standard compatible with the transportation section of the Forest Plan when mineral activity is complete and the unit is rehabilitated.