

0050



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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June 2, 1992

Dr. Dianne R. Nielson, Director
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

Dear Dianne:

The Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) has reviewed the proposal from PacifiCorp Electric Operations to drill six surface exploration drill holes. In addition to reviewing this document, Ken Phippen, Regional Habitat Manager, attended an on-site meeting with personnel from the Bureau of Land Management, PacifiCorp, Manti-LaSal National Forest and your division. We have the following comments and recommendations.

This project area is considered critical elk habitat due to the aspen/conifer vegetation coverage. This area would likely be used for calving. Typically our recommendations for activities such as proposed would be a seasonal restriction from May 15 to July 5. After evaluating the proposal and conducting the on-site evaluation, it is the DWR's belief that the project could commence as of June 26. In a typical year, snow pack would limit the available area elk can use for calving. This year, due to the lack of snow, a much larger area is available.

The project area is potential goshawk (sensitive species) habitat. The Manti-LaSal Forest is planning on determining the presence of goshawks. If a goshawk nest is located within the project area, seasonal restrictions will apply.

The DWR recommends the proposed seed list be expanded. On-site discussions with the Forest personnel suggests the inclusion of more shrub and forb species is appropriate. We recommend that PacifiCorp follow the recommendations that the Forest will provide. At a minimum a planting should consist of six species each of grasses, forbs and shrubs. Past reclamation projects have been successful.

orig. memo from North Shore h. Bangerter
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Dr. Dianne R. Nielson
June 3, 1992
Page 2

Reclamation of the new roads should occur as soon as possible. One impact to wildlife from these temporary projects is increased access which results in human disturbance. PacifiCorp should work with the Forest on reclaiming these roads.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these recommendations. The DWR will continue to work with the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest throughout their NEPA process.

If you need any further information, please contact Ken Phippen, Regional Habitat Manager in Price (637-3310).

Sincerely,


Timothy H. Provan
Director