

0084

Incoming
C0150018
task 2544 OK

From: Karl M Boyer <kboyer@fs.fed.us>
To: <pamgrubaughlittig@utah.gov>
Date: 7/19/2006 10:56:52 AM
Subject: Mill Fork West Extension Tract

Pam:

If the two attachments don't answer your questions, let us know. The Determination of Significance and Effect form shows SHPO's concurrence. The IDTAR contains Bruce Ellis's findings regarding his survey of the area (pages 1 and 2).

Thanks,

Karl

(See attached file: Archaeo Cultural Significance Determination.pdf)
(See attached file: IDTAR.pdf)

CC: Dale Harber <dharber@fs.fed.us>

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE AND EFFECT
USDA-Forest Service - Intermountain Region
(Ref FSM 2360)

R4-2300-4 (6/04)

To be completed by a cultural resource specialist and attached to the CR report and project EA. Type all entries.

Pacific Corp Mill Fork Federal Coal Lease Tract UTU-71307
 Extension, Emery County, Utah

ML-1189, U-06-FS-0588f

Project Title

Cultural Resource Report No.

A cultural resource investigation has been conducted for this project and cultural values have been identified. Based on the attached report, the Forest Service has made the following determinations:

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Class	No. of Sites	USFS Site Numbers
I - Eligible	0	
II - Unevaluated	0	
III - Not Eligible	0	

EFFECT - There will be no historic properties affected because:

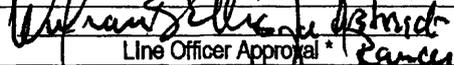
- They are outside the project area.
- They are outside impact zones.
- Final project plans will avoid them.
- National Register characteristics will not be changed.
- Other (explain below).

Check here if sites will be affected, and attach a detailed explanation.

COMMENTS AND COORDINATING REQUIREMENTS

The following actions are proposed to ensure the protection of known or suspected sites. None
 No sites in proposed project area.

FOREST SERVICE CERTIFICATION

	05-01-06 Date		05-01-06 Date
Professional CRM Specialist		Line Officer Approval *	

* Required when significant sites may be affected and/or when non-routine action is recommended.

S.H.P.O. COMMENTS

I have reviewed the documented provided by the Forest Service.
 I agree with the determinations. I disagree, as explained below or in the attached letter.

	Matthew T. Seddon, RPA Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer	5/8/06 Date
Signature	Title	

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS RECORD

Project Title: Mill Fork West Extension Tract Lease Application

NEPA Log Number:

File/Serial Number:

Project Leader:

FOR EAs: NP: not present; NI: resource/use present but not impacted; PI: potentially impacted
FOR DNAs only: NC: no change (anticipated resource impacts not changed from those analyzed in the NEPA document on which the DNA is based)

STAFF REVIEW OF PROPOSAL:

NP/NI/PI NC	Resource	Date Reviewed	Specialist/ Signature	Review Comments (required for all NIs and PIs. PIs require further analysis.)
CRITICAL ELEMENTS				
NI	Air Quality	5/13/06	Karl Boyer <i>Karl Boyer</i>	All proposed lease activities are related to underground mining. No ventilation shafts or portal facilities would be constructed. The only surface disturbance to take place would be subsidence. The lease is not in an air quality non-attainment area. Impacts would be negligible. Total mine emissions would be unchanged.
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	5/13/06	Karl Boyer <i>Karl Boyer</i>	The Mont E. Lewis Botanical Area is located approximately three miles north of the proposed lease tract. The area includes a wet meadow complex at the toe of Seeley Mountain, overlooking Scad Valley. This area would not be affected by the proposed lease tract.
NC	Cultural Resources	5/15/06	Bruce Ellis <i>Bruce Ellis</i>	The area had not been completely surveyed. The additional area was surveyed on April 27, 2006. No cultural resources were found. State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) consultation is required. The project may not be implemented until SHPO concurrence is obtained.
NI	Environmental Justice	5/16/06	Ann King <i>Ann King</i>	This project would not have any disparate impacts on individual groups of peoples or communities. Implementation of this project would produce no adverse effects on minorities, low-income individuals, Native Americans or women. No civil liberties would be affected.
NP	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	5/13/06	Karl Boyer <i>Karl Boyer</i>	There are no prime or unique farmlands in the area. The area is used for grazing allotments which would not be significantly impacted by underground mining.
NC	Floodplains	5/13/06	Karl Boyer <i>Karl Boyer</i>	Mining activities related to the lease would not involve development or occupancy of any floodplains. There are no floodplains within the proposed lease tract but there is a large floodplain nearby associated with the Indian Creek drainage. The tributaries to Indian Creek on the west slope of East Mountain are ephemeral. Mining related subsidence effects in the ephemeral streams contributing to Indian Creek would be mitigated by the depth of overburden (~1000 feet for the upper seam and ~1200 feet for the lower seam); however, if parallel faulting exists in a fault zone to the east of the main Joes Valley Fault, as indicated by the resistivity surveys, the effects of mining related tension cracks could be intensified by combining effects with the pre-existing natural faulting in the zone east of the main fault. This combined effect could disrupt some of the flow contributing to the floodplain associated with Indian Creek, resulting in a potential impact. Recently acquired in-mine drilling data have provided greater confidence regarding the location of the fault. This additional data and observance of Stipulation #19 of the Special Coal Lease Stipulations (22 degree angle of draw) reduces the likelihood of significant impacts occurring.

NP/NI/PI NC	Resource	Date Reviewed	Specialist/ Signature	Review Comments (required for all NIs and PIs. PIs require further analysis.)
NC	Invasive, Non-native Species	5/9/2006	Matthew Meccariello <i>M. Meccariello</i>	There would be no surface access for the proposed lease tract and therefore only limited potential to transport invasive or non-native species into the proposed lease area due to mining. Significant impacts would not be expected.
NC	Native American Religious Concerns	5/15/2006	Bruce Ellis <i>Bruce Ellis</i>	The area had not been completely surveyed. The additional area was surveyed on April 27, 2006. No cultural resources were found. Tribal consultation is required. The project may not be implemented until tribal concurrence is obtained.
NC	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	5/15/2006	Terry Nelson <i>Terry Nelson</i>	A BE/BA has been completed for the proposed lease. No threatened, endangered or candidate plant species occur within the proposed lease area.
NC	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	5/15/2006 5/3/06	Terry Nelson Pam Jewkes <i>Terry Nelson</i> <i>Pam Jewkes</i>	A BE/BA has been completed for the proposed lease. The proposed lease would not affect any threatened, endangered or candidate animal species or their habitat.
NI	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	5/8/06	Dale Harber <i>Dale Harber</i>	All federal and state laws on hazardous and solid waste apply. If the standard lease stipulations are included with the proposed lease, impacts would be negligible.
NC	Water Quality (drinking/ground)	5/3/06	Karl Boyer <i>Karl Boyer</i>	No developed drinking water sources are found in the proposed lease tract. The closest groundwater development is a developed spring on the west side of Joes Valley, about 1 mile west of the proposed lease tract, which is used for the Indian Creek Campground. The North Emery Water Users Association also has a water development in Rilda Canyon; approximately five miles to the southeast. It is not likely that water encountered in the mine would be associated with surface and near surface groundwater. It is anticipated that groundwater encountered during mining would be through the interception of paleo-sandstone channels in the tops of the coal seams and seepage from the mine floor where the hydrostatic pressure is above the bottom of the lower coal seam.
NC	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	5/3/06	Karl Boyer <i>Karl Boyer</i>	There is a wetland just west of the proposed lease tract associated with the Indian Creek drainage. The tributaries to Indian Creek on the west slope of East Mountain are ephemeral. Mining related subsidence effects in the ephemeral streams contributing to the wetland would be mitigated by the depth of overburden (~1000 feet for the upper seam and ~1200 feet for the lower seam); however, if parallel faulting exists to the east of the main Joes Valley Fault, as indicated by the resistivity surveys, the effects of mining related tension cracks could be intensified by combining effects with the pre-existing natural faulting in the zone east of the main fault. This combined effect could disrupt some of the flow contributing to the wetland associated with Indian Creek. If subsidence was intensified due to the combined effects of mining related tension faulting and pre-existing fractures, the riparian areas around the springs and seeps could also be impacted by a disruption of their recharge areas and supply paths. These potential impacts are not anticipated to be significant due to recently acquired in mine drilling data that has provided greater confidence regarding the location of the fault. This additional data and observance of Stipulation #19 of the Special Coal Lease Stipulations (22 degree angle of draw) reduces the likelihood of significant impacts occurring.
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	5/11/06	Ann King <i>Ann King</i>	There are no wild and scenic rivers in the project area. The nearest designated rivers are approximately five miles away, Huntington Creek and the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek. Mining in the proposed lease tract would not affect these streams.
NP	Wilderness	05/04/06	Marlene Depietro <i>Marlene Depietro</i>	There are no existing Wilderness or designated National Recreation Areas in or around the proposed lease tract. The Forks of the Huntington National Recreation Trail is 5 miles to the north. The Fish Creek National Recreation Trail is located 22 miles to the north. The nearest wilderness area is the Mt. Nebo Wilderness located on the Uinta National Forest approximately 35 miles to the

NP/NI/PI NC	Resource	Date Reviewed	Specialist/ Signature	Review Comments (required for all NIs and PIs. PIs require further analysis.)
				northwest. The proposed lease tract is within the East Mountain IRA. No construction of roads or surface facilities is planned.
OTHER RESOURCES / CONCERNS*				
NC	Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines	5/9/2006	Matthew Meccariello <i>Mat Meccariello</i>	Extending several longwall panels to the west may cause subsidence cracks, affecting seeps, springs and surface resources (over land flow) in the immediate and adjacent area. The rangeland impacts are not anticipated to be significant.
NC	Livestock Grazing	5/9/2006	Matthew Meccariello <i>Mat Meccariello</i>	Portions of two grazing allotments are found within this lease; Trail Mountain C&H and Crandall Ridge S&G allotments. Mining activities should have no effect on the control/management of livestock. <i>See attached maps & email for location of six troughs and flow rates.</i>
NC	Woodland / Forestry	5/15/06	Alan Lucas <i>Karl Boyer</i>	The surface area above the proposed mining activity consists of very steep to moderate west facing slopes with an elevation range of approximately 8800 - 9500 feet. Tree vegetation, both as to occurrence and species composition, varies widely, with soil depth, moisture, micro aspect, and elevation being the primary determining factors. Commercial species which may be found in the area include; ponderosa pine, white fir, alpine fir, Englemann spruce and aspen. Woodland type vegetation may include juniper, oak, and various shrub species. Currently no commercial or personal use forest product sales are planned for this area. The proposed mining activities and resultant subsidence should have no adverse effect on the general timber and woodland resource. In the immediate vicinity of significant tension cracks that have a surface expression, individual trees may be damaged by physical displacement or injury to root systems. Such situations are expected to be few in number and of minimal impact to the overall resource.
NC	Vegetation including Special Status Plant Species other than FWS candidate or listed species	5/15/2006	Terry Nelson <i>Karl Boyer</i>	A BE/BA has been completed for the proposed lease tract. No special status plant species are likely to occur in or near the proposed extension tract lease area. The proposed lease would not impact any special status plant species or their habitat.
NI	Fish and Wildlife including Special Status Species other than FWS candidate or listed species, e.g., migratory birds	5/15/2006 5/3/06	Pam Jewkes Terry Nelson <i>Pam Jewkes</i>	A Wildlife Resources Report has been completed for the proposed lease tract. The proposed lease would not impact any special status fish or wildlife species or their habitat.
NC	Soils	5/13/06	Karl Boyer <i>Karl Boyer</i>	Soils in the lease tract are derived from the Price River and North-Horn formations. Other than subsidence related effects there would be no impacts to the soils. The possibility exists that tension cracking on steep slopes with water saturated soil could be a contributing factor in promoting soil slumping. Some minor loss of topsoil could occur in areas in close proximity to tension cracks on hillsides.
NC	Recreation	5/3/06	Bill Broadbear <i>Bill Broadbear</i>	Operations will not interfere with access to the area. Indian Creek Campground is less than 1/2 mile from the projected subsidence zone. Dispersed camping occurs along Spoon Creek Road. Rockfalls from the Castlegate Sandstone would have a remote potential to disrupt campers and recreationalists.
NC	Visual Resources	5/8/06	Brent Hanchett <i>Karl Boyer</i>	Potential escarpment failures within view of recreation trails are in areas of Modification and would be well within the context of the surrounding landscape character. Existing Visual quality Objectives would continue to be met.
NC	Geology / Mineral Resource / Energy Productions	5/13/06	Karl Boyer <i>Karl Boyer</i>	Tension cracking in the Castlegate Sandstone is likely in the subsidence zone of full extraction areas on the western slope of East Mountain. The greatest potential for subsidence related surface cracks would be along the Joes Valley Fault. If full extraction mining took place within the 22 degree angle-of-draw, it would be possible that subsidence would be focused along the surface expression of the fault. New mining and photographic data indicate the Joes Valley Fault is located further west than originally thought. Based upon these

NP/NI/PI NC	Resource	Date Reviewed	Specialist/ Signature	Review Comments (required for all NIs and PIs. PIs require further analysis.)
				new data the old resistivity data was reinterpreted so that a second geophysical anomaly was chosen to indicate the new position of the fault rather than the anomaly (farther to the east) that was used in the Mill Fork Tract mining plan submittal. If the anomaly originally chosen to represent the fault position represents parallel faulting within a fault zone, the subsidence (and associated impacts to surface resources) could possibly be more pronounced in this area as the effects of mining related tension faulting combined with the naturally occurring faults/fractures. These new data may allow extending several longwall panels to the west, enabling recovery of approximately two million tons of additional coal. There are no existing oil and gas leases in the proposed coal lease tract and no new oil and gas leases would be offered within the proposed coal lease tract until the tract is mined out and subsidence has been determined to be substantially complete.
NC	Paleontology	5/8/06	Dale Harber <i>Dale Harber</i>	The proposed mining would extend subsidence several hundred feet to the west, but should have negligible impacts on paleontological resources. Forest Service Standard Stipulation #1 (included in the lease) describes the required protection of paleontological resources.
NP	Lands / Access	5/3/06	Jeff Alexander <i>JA</i>	No new road construction is associated with this project. There are no existing roads in the proposed lease tract; therefore, damage to any existing roads would not occur.
NI	Fuels / Fire Management	5/3/06	Karl Boyer <i>Karl Boyer</i>	The proposed underground mining activities would not present any fire hazards to surface resources.
NC	Socio-economics	5/3/06	Karl Boyer <i>Karl Boyer</i>	The proposed lease tract would allow extending several longwall panels to the west, enabling recovery of approximately two million tons of additional coal. The coal would be mined through the Deer Creek Mine with no need for additional surface disturbance. If the coal is bypassed it would be uneconomical for future mining. Royalties would be collected on the coal mined and distributed among the federal, state and county governments.
NP	Research Natural Areas	5/15/2006	Terry Nelson <i>Terry Nelson</i>	There are no Research Natural Areas located in or near the proposed Deer Creek Mine Mill Fork West Extension Tract Lease area.
NP	Wild Horses and Burros	5/15/2006	Terry Nelson <i>Terry Nelson</i>	There are no wild horse or burro populations inhabiting areas in or near the proposed Deer Creek Mine Mill Fork West Extension Tract Lease.
NI	Inventoried Roadless	5/3/06	Karl Boyer <i>Karl Boyer</i>	The proposed lease tract is located on the western edge of the East Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area. Road construction and surface facilities are not authorized as part of the proposed lease.

FINAL REVIEW

Reviewer Title	Date	Signature	Comments
Forest Service Coordinator	5/17/06	<i>Karl Boyer</i>	
Manager			

NOTE: Review Comments should include information explaining how the specialist came to their conclusion - how does he/she know the element/resource is not present (site visit and date of visit, familiarity with location, etc.). For all 'NIs' give a brief explanation as to why that element/resource would not be impacted.

* The list of Other Resources / Concerns to be considered may vary by individual field office. Note: Native American Trust Responsibilities should be considered for FO's with Indian Mineral interests.