



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

AREA OFFICE COLORADO-UTAH

1311 FEDERAL BUILDING

125 SOUTH STATE STREET

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84119

**RECEIVED**  
MAY 5 1980

IN REPLY REFER TO:

May 1, 1980

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

Mr. Cleon B. Feight, Director  
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining  
1588 West North Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

#2

Attention: Mary Ann Wright  
Reclamation Biologist

RE: Fish and Wildlife Plan Review  
Utah Power & Light Company  
**Cottonwood Portal**  
ACT/015/027

Dear Mr. Feight:

We have examined the Fish and Wildlife Plan and associated information provided by the Utah Power & Light Company for the Cottonwood portal proposal. The company has inferred from baseline information acquired for the Wilberg operation to evaluate coal development relationships with wildlife at the Cottonwood portal. The information for the Cottonwood portal area is not adequate for making determinations of potential impact upon elk, various raptor species, and migratory birds of high federal interest. The proposal indicates that there will be forest areas disturbed by the portal development. The forest areas are of a coniferous type and may provide nesting habitat for raptor species and woodpeckers. A better level of data should be available for the company to make an adequate determination of possible impacts of their proposal on these species.

The Service is concerned about the potential impact of the loss or change of distribution of small seeps, wet meadows and other insignificant water sources as a result of underground mining. We want to be sure that these water sources are monitored adequately so if they are lost or dispersal effected, that adequate replacement can be initiated.

The Cottonwood Canyon area provides a high use wintering area for large game mammals. The Service is concerned about the possible impacts of the planned conveyor system upon those animals. We recommend that the Fish and Wildlife Plan include a proposal for monitoring the conveyor system to determine if significant detrimental impacts do result.

We also propose to monitor the coal haul trucking activity from the terminal of the conveyor down the canyon to determine if there is a significant mortality to game animals resulting from vehicle collisions. Should this be demonstrated, the company should be required to initiate corrective measures to eliminate these losses.

Upon examination of the vegetation map prepared, we found this to be lacking in sufficient detail.

It would be our suggestion that within the reclamation plan the company be called upon to revegetate soil stockpiles and cutbanks with species of high wildlife value for small birds and mammals.

That completes our comments in regard to this Fish and Wildlife Plan of this mining proposal. If we can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert H. Shields". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Robert H. Shields  
Area Manager