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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-LaSal
National Forest

599 West Price River Dr.
Price, Utah 84501

in - needs to L. Braxton
mine file

*we should inspect that drill
sites, the lead is BLM if outside
of mt
area.*

Reply to: 2820

Date: June 5, 1990

James M. Parker
Utah State Office
Bureau of Land Management
324 South State, Suite 301
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111-2303

RECEIVED
JUN 07 1990
DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Mr. Parker:

Enclosed is a copy of the Forest Service Decision Memorandum for Utah Power and Light Company's Coal Exploration License Application UTU-66524. The Decision Memorandum documents the Forest Service environmental analysis and consent decision.

As stated in the Decision Memorandum, the Manti-La Sal National Forest consents to approval of the coal exploration license, subject to the attached Forest Service special stipulations and posting of a reclamation bond in the amount of \$11,000. This decision is appealable to the Forest Service and will be published in the Emery County Progress on June 5, 1990, and the Sun Advocate on June 7, 1990. The project can not be initiated before June 15, 1990, nor prior to issuance of the required Forest Service Road-Use Permit (Stipulation #2) and completion of the pre-work meeting (Stipulation #1).

If you have any questions, please contact the Forest Supervisor's Office in Price, Utah.

Sincerely,

/s/ Aaron L. Howe

for
GEORGE A. MORRIS
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

cc:
G. Nodine, BLM - Moab
L. Braxton, Div. of Oil, Gas and Mining
C. Reed

DECISION MEMO

Utah Power and Light Company
Coal Exploration License UTU-66524

Manti-LaSal National Forest
Price, Utah

I have decided to allow Utah Power and Light Company (UP&L) to drill six coal exploration holes under coal exploration license UTU-66524 (see map, Attachment 1). All holes will be located on the Ferron Ranger District of the Manti-LaSal National Forest, and will be used to determine coal quality and quantity.

The proposed action falls within category 5 (mineral and energy activities of limited size, duration, and degree of disturbance, such as preliminary exploration and removal of small mineral samples) and no extraordinary circumstances exist that might cause the action to have significant effects. Based on the UP&L proposal, this action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment (FSH 1909.15, section 26.2). This type of coal exploratory drilling is a routine practice on the Wasatch Plateau. Many holes have been drilled on the Ferron Ranger District in the past, with no resource damage, and the sites have been successfully rehabilitated.

The area immediately to the south of the area covered by UP&Ls exploration license UTU-66524 (see map, Attachment 1) was also evaluated for drilling in the Environmental Assessment for Beaver Creek Coal Company, Trail Mountain Mine, 1988 Coal Exploration Drilling Project, Coal Exploration License U-64233. The drilling program was conducted during the summers of 1988 and 1989 with no resource damage.

The six sites are on the eastern side of the Wasatch Plateau, in relatively flat areas with elevations varying from approximately 8,300 to 9,370 feet. The sites are located on exposures of the Price River and North Horn Formations, which consist of interbedded sandstones, claystones, and siltstones. The soils are sandy with some colluvium derived from the North Horn and Flagstaff Formations. A brief description of each site and the required access roads is in Attachment 2.

Scoping letters were mailed to 21 individuals and organizations (see Attachment 3). A notice was also placed in the Emery County Progress newspaper. The only comments received were from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources concerning impacts to wildlife habitat. All of their concerns have been addressed and are included in the special stipulations for drilling (Attachment 4). There are no unresolved comments.

This project is consistent with the management directions, including standards and guidelines, in the Manti-LaSal National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (pages III-4, III-12, and III-34 through III-36). The management prescription of the sites is for forage production. Mineral activities are allowed with mitigation to assure continued livestock access and use.

This decision may be implemented on June 15, 1990.

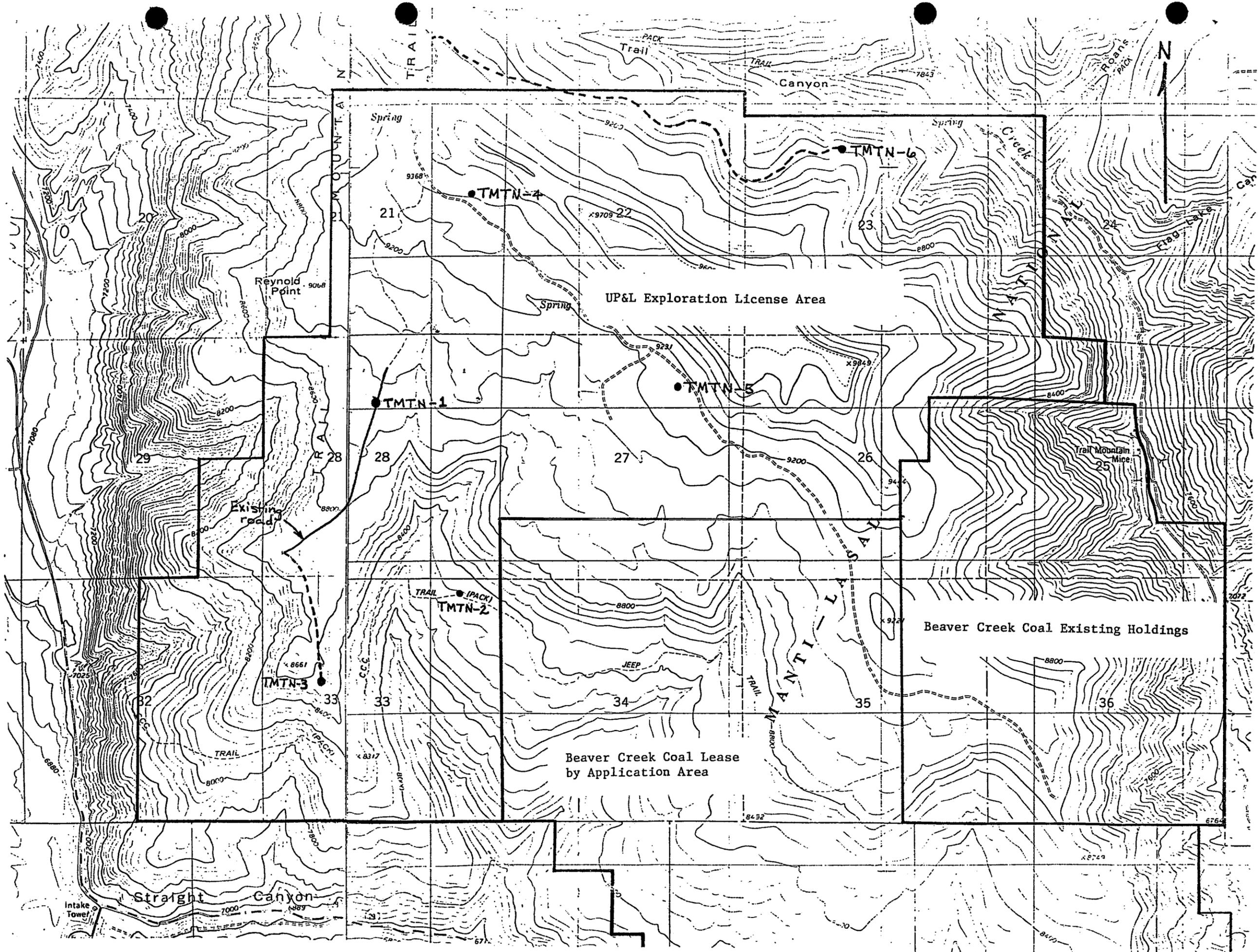
This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217. Any written notice of appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 217.9 "Content of Notice of Appeal," including the reasons for appeal, and must be filed with Regional Forester Stan Tixier, 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401, within 45 days of the date specified in the published Legal Notice in the Sun Advocate. Simultaneously send a copy of the Notice of Appeal to Forest Supervisor George A. Morris, 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501.

For further information contact Dale Harber at telephone (801) 384-2372.

fan
Sharon Metzler

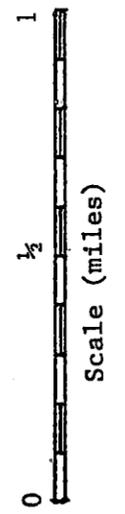
GEORGE A. MORRIS
Forest Supervisor
599 West Price River Drive
Price, Utah 84501

Date *6/5/90*



TMTN-4 Proposed Drill Hole

--- New Access Road



ATTACHMENT 1 - Location Map

Scoping letters were sent to the following individuals and organizations:

Trail Mountain Allotment
City of Orangeville
Emery County Economic Development
Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments
Maughan Guymon
Lee McElprang
Arva M. Smith
Bountiful City Light and Power
Emery County Commissioners
Beaver Creek Coal Company
Coastal States Energy Company
Meridian Oil - William C. Mitchell
Meridian Oil - Charlie Byerly
East Carbon Wildlife Federation - Kent Hintze
East Carbon Wildlife Federation - Shefton Gordon
Emery Water Conservancy District
The Nature Conservancy
Utah Wilderness Association
Department of Natural Resources
Utah Bureau of Water Pollution Control
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources - Larry B. Dalton

The following is a brief description of each of the six drill sites and the access roads required:

TMIN-1

The site is 90% bare, and slopes to the southeast at 5%. The sparse vegetation consists of limber pines (approx. 4 feet tall), small serviceberry and mahogany shrubs, and a few grasses. It is adjacent to an existing 2-track road.

TMIN-2

This site is on a 5% slope in a sagebrush-grass opening among scattered large serviceberry shrubs. 200 yards of an existing 2-track road must be improved where it crosses a 20% side slope. The road must be closed after the project is completed.

TMIN-3

This site is in an area of scattered pinyon, juniper, sagebrush, and hardgrasses. 80% of the surface is bare soil. 1.27 miles of access road will be required to reach the site. Approximately half of the access road must be constructed across furrows in a watershed improvement area. The other half of the access road will be a previously closed road to a drill site which must be reopened. The new road will have a grade of less than 8% and crosses side slopes of less than 20%. The roads must be closed and reclaimed at the close of the project.

TMIN-4

The site is on an 8-10% slope in a sagebrush-grass opening, surrounded by aspens. Ground cover is poor. 200 feet of access road, across a 10% slope and through light aspen, will be required. The road must be closed and reclaimed at the close of the project.

TMIN-5

This site is on a 5% slope in a sagebrush-grass opening. Brome grass was seeded in the area in the past. 200 feet of access road, crossing a 5% slope covered with sagebrush, will be required. The road must be closed and reclaimed at the close of the project.

TMIN-6

The drill site is on a 5-10% slope, above a steep slope, in an area of sagebrush and hard grass. There is very poor ground cover. 2.03 miles of access road, with an elevation change of 600 feet, will be required to reach the drill site. The first one-half mile of road will pass through aspen stands and sagebrush-grass openings. Approximately 3/8 mile of road will be through aspen stands, much of which is very decadent with few live trees. Grades of the road will be generally less than 8%, except for a few short sections with 10-12% slopes. Side slopes are generally less than 20%, with a maximum of approximately 30%.

Special Stipulations

1. A pre-work meeting including the responsible company representative(s), contractors, and the Forest Service must be conducted at the project location prior to commencement of operations. Site-specific Forest Service requirements will be discussed at this time.
2. A road-use permit must be obtained from the Forest Service before equipment is transported onto National Forest System lands.
3. All surface disturbing activities including reclamation must be supervised by a responsible representative of the permittee who is aware of the terms and conditions of the project permits. A copy of the appropriate permits must be available for review at the project site.
4. The Forest must be notified 48 hours in advance that heavy equipment will be moved onto National Forest System lands and that surface disturbing activities will commence.
5. Establishment of campsites and staging areas on National Forest System lands in support of this project is subject to Forest Service approval.
6. The Forest Service must be notified of any proposed alterations to the plan of operations. Any changes to the existing plan are subject to Forest Service review and concurrence.
7. Fire suppression equipment must be available to all personnel working at the project site. Equipment must include at least one hand tool per crew member consisting of shovels and pulaskis and one properly rated fire extinguisher per vehicle and/or internal combustion engine.
8. All gasoline, diesel, and steam-powered equipment must be equipped with effective spark arrestors and mufflers. Spark arrestors must meet Forest Service specifications discussed in the USDA Forest Service Spark Arrestor Guide, June, 1981. In addition, all electrical equipment must be properly insulated to prevent sparks.
9. The permittee will be held responsible for damage and suppression cost for fires started as a result of operations. Fires must be reported to the Forest Service as soon as possible.
10. The Forest Service reserves the right to suspend operations during periods of high fire potential.
11. Water needed in support of operations must be properly and legally obtained according to state water laws. The location of diversion, if on National Forest System lands, is subject to Forest Service review and approval.
12. Unauthorized off-road vehicular travel is prohibited.

13. Section corners or other survey markers, including claim corners, in the project area must be located and flagged for preservation prior to commencement of surface disturbing activities. The removal, displacement, or disturbance of markers must be approved by the proper authority.
14. If cultural or paleontological resources are discovered during operations, all operations which may result in disturbance to the resources must cease and the Forest Service must be notified of the discovery.
15. Gates must be closed after entry unless otherwise notified.
16. The permittee will be held responsible for all damages to fences, cattleguards, resource improvements, roads, and other structures on National Forest System lands which result from operations. The Forest Service must be notified of damages as soon as possible.
17. All trees and brush must be cleared as the first step for new access and site construction. Topsoil must be stripped and stockpiled at a location where loss and contamination is minimized.
18. Disturbed areas must be reclaimed by the end of the field season. Exceptions require Forest Service approval.
19. Contaminated soil and gravel must be stripped and placed in the mud pit prior to site reclamation.
20. Mud pits must be allowed to dry before they are backfilled and reclaimed. They must be enclosed by a 4-strand barbed wire fence while they are left to dry.
21. When dry, mud pits must be reclaimed by selectively backfilling excavated materials, topsoil last, such that the disturbed area is replaced to approximate original contour. The disturbed area must be seeded with the following seed mix immediately after the topsoil is replaced:

Species	pounds/acre
Intermediate Wheatgrass - <i>Agropyron intermedium</i>	3
Slender Wheatgrass - <i>Agropyron trachycaulum</i>	3
Crested Wheatgrass - <i>Agropyron cristatum</i> var. high crest or Ephraim	3
Smooth Brome - <i>Bromus inermis</i>	3
Yellow Sweet Clover - <i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	1
Ladak Alfalfa - <i>Medicago sativa</i> ladak	1
Small Burnett - <i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	1

This seed mixture must be 99 percent pure live seed, certified weed-free, and applied at the rate of 15 pounds per acre.

22. Roads to be obliterated must be reclaimed by ripping the surface to a depth of 12 to 15 inches, replacing the disturbed area to the approximate original contour, replacing stockpiled topsoil, and seeding with the specified seed mix. Seeding must take place when topsoil is replaced. Water diversion structures, if needed, must be constructed as specified by the Forest Service.

23. All disturbed drainages must be replaced to their approximate original configuration when the project area is reclaimed.
24. Reclamation will be considered complete when ground cover averages 80% of the ground cover of surrounding areas. Ground cover must be the seeded or desirable species, with no more than 10% weeds. There must be no noxious weeds. The permittee is responsible for the cost of controlling noxious weeds for 5 years after drilling is completed.
25. All significant groundwater encountered during drilling must be reported to the Forest Service, including the depth and formation at which it was encountered, and an estimate of flow.
26. The operator must clean up and remove all drilling equipment, trash, garbage, flagging, vehicles, and other such materials from National Forest System lands.
27. All trash, garbage, and other refuse must be properly contained on the project site prior to disposal.
28. All drill holes must be plugged in accordance with Federal and State regulations.
29. Operations must be coordinated with grazing permittees to prevent conflicts.
30. Harrassment of wildlife and livestock is prohibited.
31. All drilling fluids, muds, cuttings and water produced must be contained on site in mud pits or portable containers. Fluids must not be allowed to flow out over the ground or into drainages. The pits must not be used for disposal of garbage, trash, or other refuse.
32. Any trees to be removed larger than 8 inch diameter must be cut and not pushed over. The timber must be skidded or hauled before road construction begins to a point designated by the Forest Service. Trees longer than 33 feet must be cut into smaller sections before skidding. All trees must be cut into lengths not greater than 8 feet before stacking them at the designated point.
33. Outside berms will not be constructed on any roads.
34. Two culvert installations will be required on the access road for TMN-6 at the ephemeral drainage crossings. These culverts will be removed during reclamation of the road.
35. When it is necessary to fill in a watershed treatment furrow, the soil must be pushed into it from the downhill side.
36. Trees cut along the first 3/8 mile of the access road to TMN-6 will be scattered on the surface after reclamation. The remainder will be cut into 8 foot lengths and piled at a location designated by the Forest Service for fuelwood gathers.

37. The temporary roads shall be constructed as clearly marked in the field and on flagline approved by the Forest Service. Field-design methods shall be used.
38. The overall grade shall not exceed 8 percent. The maximum pitch grade, being less than 1,000 consecutive feet, shall not exceed 12 percent.
39. Cuts and fills shall be minimal, with alignment following land contours as closely as possible. Road may meander so as to achieve self-balancing earthwork sections and to avoid large growths of vegetation, slump and extreme soil creep areas, and other natural obstructions where possible.
40. The road shall be constructed to a 12 foot top width.
41. Sidecast construction of road cuts shall be used to form road embankments so as to achieve self-balancing earthwork sections. Road cuts shall be as nearly vertical as possible.
42. Topsoil shall be removed from the roadway, and stockpiled above the cut slope. In areas of no road construction, topsoil need not be removed.
43. Vegetation shall not be cleared for more than the width necessary to serve traffic needs. Care shall be used to avoid unnecessary damage to vegetation by cutting all trees necessary for clearing prior to dozing or blading.
44. Road maintenance shall be sufficient to insure minimization of the erosion for the life of the road. The temporary road shall not be used if conditions are such that usage may cause severe wheel rutting or degradation of water quality.
45. Immediately upon abandonment the roadway shall be rehabilitated. The natural drainage patterns shall be restored. Fill slopes shall be pulled into the cut and shaped to conform the site to adjacent terrain and meet natural drainage restoration standards. Cut slopes shall be reshaped to blend with the natural contour. Cross-drains, dikes, and waterbars shall be constructed to control erosion. Waterbar spacing will be as listed below:

2 percent slope	157 feet
4 percent slope	142 feet
6 percent slope	134 feet
8 percent slope	127 feet
10 percent slope	118 feet
12 percent slope	108 feet
46. Stipulations for Lands of the National Forest System Under Jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture.

The licensee/permittee/lessee must comply with all the rules and regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture set forth at Title 36, Chapter II, of the Code of Federal Regulations governing the use and management of the National Forest System (NFS) when not inconsistent

with the right and regulations must be complied with for (1) all use and occupancy of the NFS prior to approval of a permit/operation plan by the Secretary of the Interior, (2) uses of all existing improvements, such as Forest Development Roads, within and outside the area licensed, permitted or leased by the Secretary of the Interior, and (3) use and occupancy of the NFS not authorized by a permit/operating plan approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

All matters related to this stipulation are to be addressed

to Forest Supervisor

at Manti-LaSal National Forest
599 West Price River Drive
Price, Utah 84501

Telephone No. 801-637-2817

who is the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Stipulations to be Included in the Road Use Permit

47. Roads must not be used when they are wet and susceptible to damage.
48. The permittee is responsible for repair of any damages to roads which are caused by his operations.
49. All traffic must maintain safe speeds commensurate with existing conditions.
50. Roads must be watered if dust becomes a problem or if excessive loss of road material occurs.
51. Heavy equipment may not be moved on Forest Development Roads on the following dates: July 4 and 21-24, September 1-3, and October 3-8 and 19-22, 1990. If the project continues into 1991, restricted dates will be determined at that time.