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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Norman H. Bangertter
Governor
Dee C. Hansen
Executive Director
Timothy H. Provan
Division Director

1596 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116-3195
801-533-9333
801-533-7073 Fax

*12/90 one mine file
LRS [unclear] [unclear]
cc P. Crahaugh Letty*

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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

*Act 10151025
#2*

December 6, 1990

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 has reviewed Coop Mining Company's Bear Canyon five-year permit renewal (Responses to Technical Deficiencies). We would like to offer the following updated information pertaining to raptor nest locations in the permit area. Coop Mining Company should in the future address the need to continue monitoring the status of nest territories.

The mine plan addresses the presence of buteo nests of 281.80, 281.85 and 281.86 in the mine area. It is stated that all three of these nests have remained inactive. It should be noted that nest 281.86 was active when surveyed in 1988.

Specifically, the mine plan should address the presence of the nest territories listed in Table 1. A map of the nest locations is enclosed. Nest territories 281.78 and 281.83 are located in the permit area. The other nests are located outside the permit boundary. However, the 0.5 mile radius buffer zone that is required for protection from human disturbance (during the February 1 - July 15 breeding season) overlaps the permit area. Mining operations, therefore, need to give considerations to these nests.

The Division would also like to offer recommendations concerning revegetation of disturbed areas. Seeding of grass and forb species along with the designated woody species (Table 9.5 - 2, Section 9.5.5) in the riparian-creek bottom will facilitate the establishment of vegetative soil stabilization. We recommend seeding the following species, although substitutions may be made if necessary:

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Plant Material Pounds of
Pure Live Seed/Acre

GRASS SPECIES:

Basin wildrye (<u>Elymus cinereus</u>)	1.0
Intermediate wheatgrass (<u>Agropyron intermedium</u>)	1.0
Orchard grass (<u>Dactylis glomerata</u>)	1.0
Smooth brome (<u>Bromus inermus</u>)	1.0
Tall fescue (<u>Festuea arundinaceae</u>)	1.0

FORB SPECIES:

Yellow sweetclover (<u>Melilotus officinalis</u>)	0.5
Palmer penstemon (<u>Penstemon palmeri</u>)	1.0
Richardson geranium (<u>Geranium richardsoni</u>)	1.0
Utah sweetvetch (<u>Hedysarum boreale</u>)	1.5

Section 9.5.5 also lists tree species that will be planted. Experience has shown that pinyon pine (Pinus edulis) does not transplant well. Therefore, we would recommend transplanting true mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus montanus) instead. This species provides valuable forage for wildlife and is often used in reclamation attempts.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment.

Sincerely,


Timothy H. Provan
Director

Enclosures

Table 1: Raptor Nest Locations

Nest No.	Species	Status
181.238	Golden Eagle	1981 - tended; 1982 - active; 1986 - inactive; 1987 - tended; 1988 - tended; 1989 - inactive; 1990 - tended
181.239		1981 - tended; 1982 - inactive; 1986 - inactive; 1987 - inactive; 1988 - inactive; 1989 - inactive; 1990 - inactive
181.240		1981 - inactive; 1982 - inactive; 1986 - tended 1988 - inactive; 1989 - inactive; 1990 - inactive
181.241		1981 - inactive; 1982 - inactive; 1986 - tended; 1987 - tended; 1988 - inactive; 1989 - inactive; 1990 - tended
187.275		1987 - inactive; 1988 - tended; 1989 - inactive; 1990 - tended
281.78	Unknown Buteo	1981 - inactive; 1982 - inactive; 1987 - inactive
281.79		1981 - inactive; 1982 - inactive; 1983 - active 1987 - inactive; 1988 - inactive
281.80		1981 - inactive; 1988 - inactive
281.81		1981 - inactive; 1987 - inactive
281.83		1981 - inactive; 1987 - inactive; 1988 - inactive
281.84		1981 - inactive; 1987 - inactive; 1988 - inactive
281.85		1981 - inactive; 1982 - inactive; 1987 - inactive 1988 - inactive
281.86		1981 - inactive; 1982 - inactive; 1987 - inactive; 1988 - active

Note that the term "active" means that a brooding adult, eggs, and/or young were observed in the nest. The term "inactive" means that no evidence existed to show eagle use during that year. The term "tended" means that evidence existed in the form of greenery that an eagle was maintaining the nest in good repair even though a nesting attempt was not obvious.

