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State of Utah
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DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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December 23, 1992

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DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

Susan White
Division Oil, Gas and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

Dear Susan:

The Coop Mine and I reviewed their plans to construct a bathhouse and a new access road. I have the following comments concerning these actions.

The permit area is classified as critical deer and elk winter range. Numerous golden eagle nests occur along the cliffs in Huntington Canyon. The cliff formation, where the proposed access road will be built, is potential Townsend's Big-eared bat habitat. These bats would use the lower cliff area where numerous crevices occur.

At this time, I do not have mitigation recommendations for the bathhouse caused loss of approximately 2 acres of critical deer and elk winter range. The road will also be a source of disturbance. The mine's alternate road route, which was described as traversing up the bottom of the canyon and then winding up the side further up canyon, appears to be a greater impact.

The known eagle nests that occur within one-half mile of the road and bathhouse are not located in direct line of site with either structure. There should not be any impacts due to construction or permanent structures. Bear Canyon will not likely be selected for a nesting site due to the numerous territories in Huntington Canyon.

Sediment and runoff from the new bathhouse parking area should be controlled. Bear Creek is a highly erosive drainage so careful design should go into the bathhouse discharge structure.

If there are any questions concerning these issues, please give me a call. I have not seen any designs or documents concerning either of these proposals. If there is additional information that you feel I should review, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Phippen
Regional Habitat Manager

Copy: Ralph Miles, DWR
Charles Reynolds, Coop Mine

ACT 1015/025 #2
cc. S. White
P. Grubbs-Litt

