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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Manti-La Sal  
National Forest

599 West Price River Dr.  
Price, Utah 84501  
Phone # (801) 637-2817  
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*Pan -  
cc Dara  
Mike  
3-24-97*

File Code: 2820/2670

Date: March 14, 1997

Ms. Mary Ann Wright  
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining  
1594 W. North Temple, Ste. 1210  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

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*Act 10/15/03 2#2*

Dear Ms. Wright:

As you may be aware, the Manti-La Sal National Forest has been working closely with your staff, the Division of Wildlife Resources, the Division of Water Rights, and Genwal Coal Company to finalize mitigations of downstream impacts to National Forest resources associated with Genwal's expanded portal facility proposal. It appears that agreement has been reached with a Memorandum of Understanding forthcoming to outline the mitigations needed to offset the impacts of stream channel alterations.

We have only recently become aware that Crandall Creek, in the proposed disturbance area (and upstream on National Forest System lands), supports the only known population of Colorado River cutthroat trout remaining in the Wasatch Plateau. Biologically, this is very significant since we had previously believed that this subspecies was extinct throughout that portion of its historic range. The Colorado River cutthroat trout have been classified by the Intermountain Region of the Forest Service as a "Sensitive" species. Forest Service policy directs us to ensure the viability of these species; thereby precluding trends toward endangerment that would result in Federal listing under the Endangered Species Act.

We request that the expanded portal facilities proposed at Genwal's Crandall Canyon mine not be approved until the Forest Service and Division of Wildlife Resources are assured there will be sufficient habitat in Crandall Creek to ensure viability of this Colorado River cutthroat trout population, upstream of the proposed disturbance area.

We look forward to working with the Division of Wildlife Resources and Genwal Coal Company to identify workable alternatives necessary to provide adequate habitat, on either private or National Forest System lands, to ensure viability of this sensitive species in Crandall Creek.

Please contact us at (801) 637-2817 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

*Janette S. Kaiser*  
for

JANETTE S. KAISER  
Forest Supervisor

- cc: Mr. Miles Moretti, UT DWR
- Mr. Dave Shaver, Genwal
- Mr. Mark Page, UT - Water Rights
- Mr. Greg Mladenka, UT - Water Rights