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Technical Analysis and Findings
Utah Coal Regulatory Program

PID: C0250005
TaskID: 4504
Mine Name: COAL HOLLOW
Title: ADDITION OF ANNUAL SAGE GROUSE REPORT

Operation Plan

Fish and Wildlife Protection and Enhancement Plan

Analysis:

On January 23rd the Division received the annual Sage-grouse report from Alton Coal Development (ACD). This memo will include a review of that information.

The report will be added to Chapter 3, Appendix 3-6 of the MRP. The purpose of the report is to present the 2013 sage-grouse population and vegetation monitoring data and habitat treatment work that has been completed thus far to DOGM, DWR and FWS for comment and review. The report also includes Sage-grouse population monitoring and habitat mitigation proposals for 2014.

13 of the 37 observations noted in Table 1 do not include the time of observation. Time of observation is critical to understanding the behavior of the sage-grouse during their life cycle in context of mining -wildlife conflicts.

Lek Monitoring, page 10, Paragraph 1 indicates that there were no reports of birds displaying at the original lek in 2013. However DWR biologist Dustin Schaible reported seeing 3 birds on the Lek East of the mine in 2013. The report needs to include this lek count information.

Habitat Mitigation, Page 16, Juniper Removal, the report needs to include written verification from the surface management agency (BLM) that ""This treatment included removal of trees in all size classes"".

Predator Control Activities, Page 17, the report needs to include a map showing the locations of the distribution of the eggs and where the coyotes were either denned or killed.

Deficiencies Details:

The deficiencies in the 2013 sage-grouse progress are listed as follows:

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