



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor
GREG BELL
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA
Division Director

Technical Analysis and Findings

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

PID: C0250005
TaskID: 4943
Mine Name: COAL HOLLOW
Title: RESPONSE TO NOV #18150

Operation Plan

Fish and Wildlife Protection and Enhancement Plan

Analysis:

On June 23rd the Division received an amendment for the remaining abatement measures for NOV 18150. This memo will include a review of that information.

According to the information in the application quote Alton Coal Development LLC (ACD) has proposed a rabbitbrush treatment project on neighboring properties in the Sink Valley Area. The areas (Figure 1) being considered by ACD were proposed to the local sagegrouse working group (CCARM) at the April 22, 2015 meeting in Panguitch. CCARM members agreed that the project would be beneficial to the area Sage-grouse. Farm Bill Biologist Curtis Roundy with UDWR/NRCS agreed to assist ACD with designing the most effective project and negotiating with the property owners to allow access to their properties to treat rabbitbrush. end quote This process also included input from DWR biologists Rhett Boswell and Josh Pollock.

Figure 1 shows the locations of the acreages to be treated that are near or within the buffer areas of both the old and new Leks and nesting and brood rearing areas. Figure 2 illustrates a comparison of the proposed mitigation to the current mitigation. In summary the Division concurs with ACD's proposal and recommends approval with a minor adjustment in the proposed acreage for mitigation. The 422 acres referenced in paragraph 3 of the text and Figure 1 of appendix 3-9 should be changed to 443. This figure was calculated by subtracting the 1601 mitigation acreage noted in the cover letter from the 2044 total acreage.

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