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# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## Technical Analysis and Findings

### Utah Coal Regulatory Program

September 3, 2015

**PID:** C0250005  
**TaskID:** 4962  
**Mine Name:** COAL HOLLOW  
**Title:** ANNUAL SAGE GROUSE REPORT

### Operation Plan

### Fish and Wildlife Protection and Enhancement Plan

#### Analysis:

On August 3rd the Division received the response to the deficiencies noted in the review of the applicant's previous submittal, task # 4934. This memo will include a review of that information.

The 2014 Annual Sage Grouse Report prepared by Dr. Stephen Petersen for Alton Coal Development Company LLC and submitted to the Division does not include an adequate commitment to support the monitoring and research of the populations of sage grouse in the Sink Valley area in conjunction with the activities associated with the near-by surface and underground mining activities. This is a critical component of the protection and enhancement plan contained in the Coal Hollow MRP. The efforts of those involved with the monitoring and research of the grouse have and will continue to provide valuable information used by research academia and biologists to reduce threats and improve habitat for the birds.

In order to approve and adequate protection and enhancement plan for ACD's Coal Hollow MRP the following information is required:

ACD will need to provide verification in writing that the appropriate amount of funding has been provided to the Utah State University extension sage grouse research program under the direction of Dr. Nicki Frye for three GPS collars for the 2015 trapping season (July 15, 2015-February 28th, 2016).

ACD will need to include the following commitments in the Partnership and Collaboration section of the 2014 and subsequent reports:

ACD will provide the requisite amount of funding annually for one GPS collar that will be used to support the Utah State University extension sage grouse research program under the direction of Dr. Nicki Frye. Funding for this collar and any additional collars will be provided annually by no later than April 30 of the calendar year.

ACD will assist the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) by providing the requisite amount of funding annually for one aerial survey to be conducted during the sage grouse breeding season. That dollar amount may also be used to support Dr. Frye's monitoring and research program with concurrence from Dr. Frye, DWR and DOGM. Copies of invoices and payments will be sent to DOGM within 30 days of notification.

#### Deficiencies Details:

The information in the 2014 annual sage grouse report in its present form is not adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations. Prior to approval the following information is required in accordance with R645-301-322.100 and

301-333;

The information will need to be included in the Partnership and Collaboration section of the 2014 annual Sage Grouse report:

ACD will need to provide verification in writing that the appropriate amount of funding has been provided to the Utah State University extension sage grouse research program under the direction of Dr. Nicki Frye for three GPS collars for the 2015 trapping season (July 15, 2015-February 28th, 2016).

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