

0012

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
1311 FEDERAL BUILDING  
125 SOUTH STATE STREET  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84138

File  
ACT/041/002  
Copy to Sue

JIM

JUN 23 1982

June 11, 1982

MEMORANDUM

TO: Acting Deputy Administrator, Tech Service Center West  
Office of Surface Mining  
Denver, Colorado  
Attention: Richard Davies

FROM: Acting Area Manager, Fish & Wildlife Service  
Salt Lake City, Utah

SUBJECT: Review of 1981 Amendment and Addendum to the SUFCO Mining and  
Reclamation Plan UT-0026

We have reviewed the above documents and found them to be generally of high quality. We have compared them to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' (UDWR) data that we have on file and our own data, and have attached maps showing this comparison.

As a matter of record, we found the data on big game to differ from that provided by UDWR. As no surface disturbances are planned, we believe these differences are academic. We recommend, however, that the Company address and attempt to consolidate data from UDWR so that conflicts that may arise due to surface activities such as exploration or subsidence monitoring can be mitigated.

During the latter part of the 1981 raptor breeding season the FWS conducted nest inventories in the vicinity of the permit area. Nests of ten golden eagles (Aquila chrysaetos), one prairie falcon (Falco mexicanus), and two identified only as inactive stick nests were found within or immediately adjacent to the permit boundary. The prairie falcon eyrie was active in 1981. Although two of the golden eagle nests were tended in 1981, neither could be confirmed as to an attempt at nesting. An active golden eagle nest occurs within 1 km. of the permit area boundary. This nest and the cluster of golden eagle nests adjacent to it in section 12 give us some cause for concern. There should be little conflict with the permanent facilities due to distance and topographic barriers, however, Company use of the two track road or activities near the site during the breeding season should be avoided if possible. No stopping or prolonged activities should be allowed near the nest sites when an active nesting attempt or nest site selection is in progress.

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DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

Our inventories also located active golden eagle eyries adjacent to the main access road but outside of the permit area. Should Company activities be significantly increased, or significant work be required to maintain or improve the access road, the situation should be studied to determine if nesting could be impacted.

It was noted in the plan that the western bluebird (Sialia mexicana) and Grace's warbler (Dendroica graciae) were located and presumably breed on tract. Should breeding areas for these species be located, we recommend that they be fully protected from Company-caused disturbances. We would be interested in the location of breeding areas for western bluebirds. There may be opportunities for habitat enhancement if nesting cavities are lacking.

We also noted that certain fences may be a hazard to big game movements. Although they are not associated with the Company's activities, modification of these to provide safe passage of big game may assist avoidance of the facilities and haul road with reduced dangers to big game. We would also recommend an off-tract monitoring program for mule deer (Odocoileus hemionus) mortality along haulage ways. Methods to reduce mortality are available and should be implemented where problem areas exist. We noted the remains of ten deer between the mine and I-80. We would suggest signing, and use of reflectors to warn deer of approaching vehicles where preferred crossing areas are identified, such as within one mile of I-80 and certain stretches of road in section 18, T. 22S., R. 4E.

It was not clear if any mitigation was committed in the Company's plan for replacement of surface water sources should flows be interrupted or reduced due to subsidence. As indicated in previous correspondence, we do believe that these springs and other surface waters are significant to wildlife use of surrounding habitats. It was concluded in Volume 6 under Aquatic Resources that flow patterns could possibly be altered in the North Fork of Quitchupah Creek and several small springs. We solicit a commitment by the Company to provide comparable flows of alternative sources of water dispersed in a pattern similar to the original sources should their flows be interrupted.

If you require further clarification of our comments, please contact Bruce Waddell of this office. We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on this mine plan.

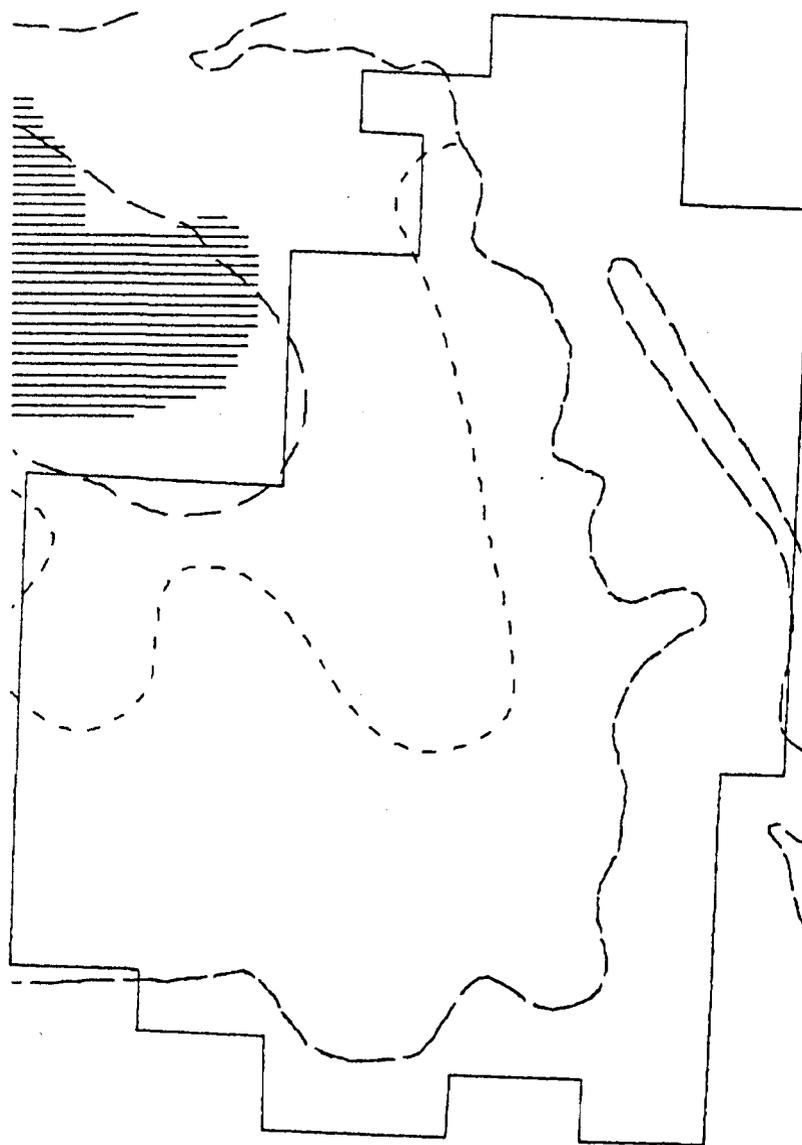
ROBERT D. JACOBSEN

Attachment

cc: DWR, Salt Lake City  
DWR, Cedar City  
✓ OGM, Salt Lake City

ENTER MAPID FOR DISPLAY? WLDRECEKWR  
REENTER MAPID FOR DISPLAY? WLDRECEKHS

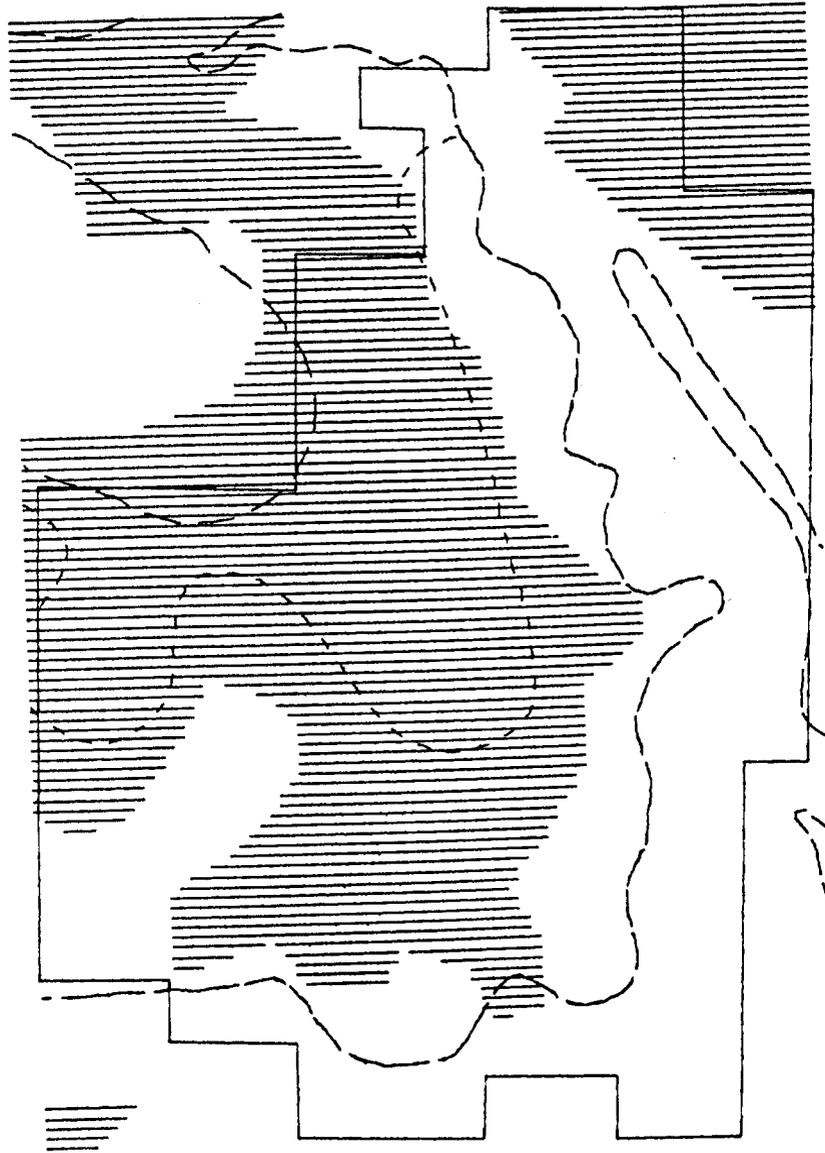
? GRID



Elk high priority summer range as  
designated by UDWR

? GRID

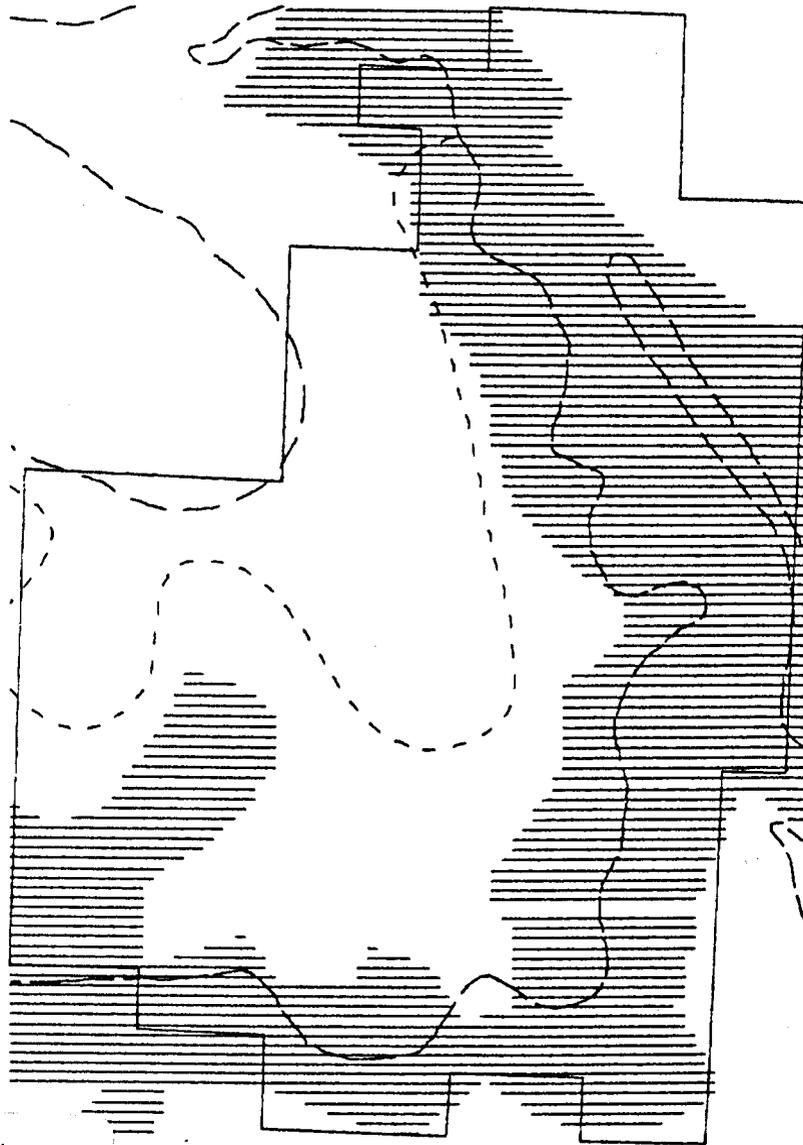
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WLDRECEKCW



UDWR designated elk critical winter  
range (GRID) overlain SUFCO designated  
winter ranges

ENTER MAPID FOR DISPLAY? WLDRECEKHW

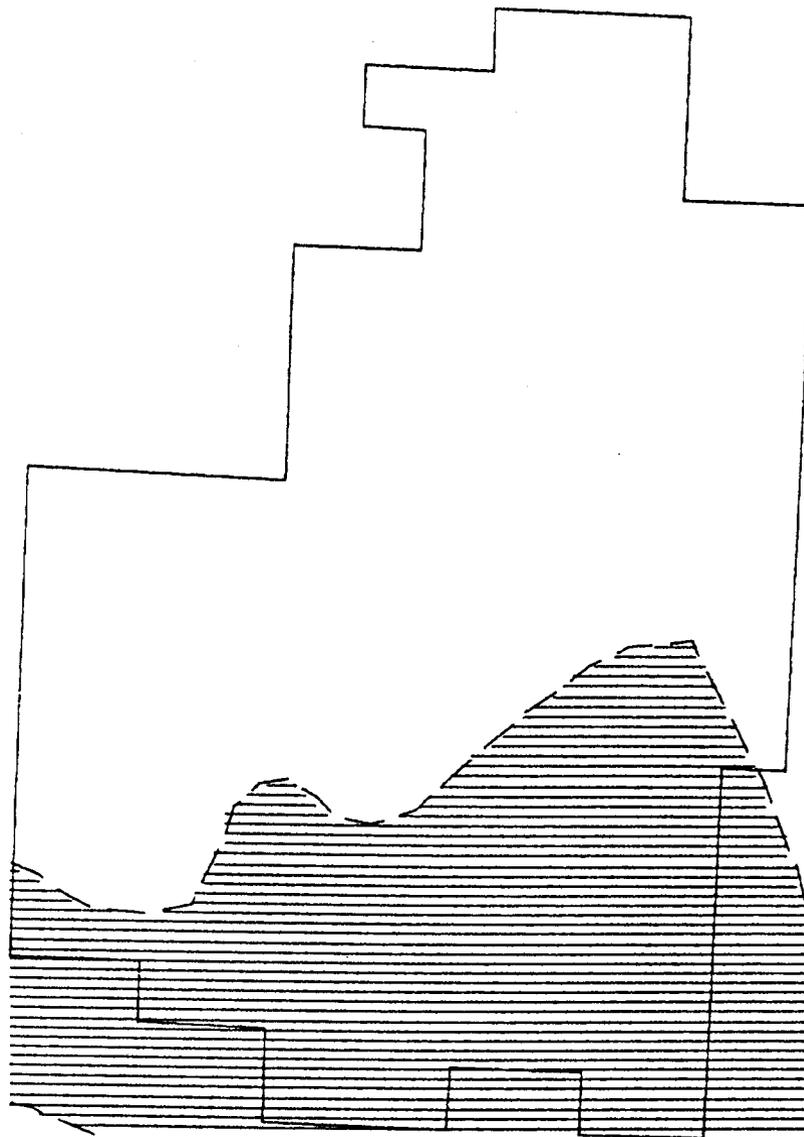
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UDWR designated high priority elk  
winter range (GRID) as overlain on  
SUFCO designated elk ranges

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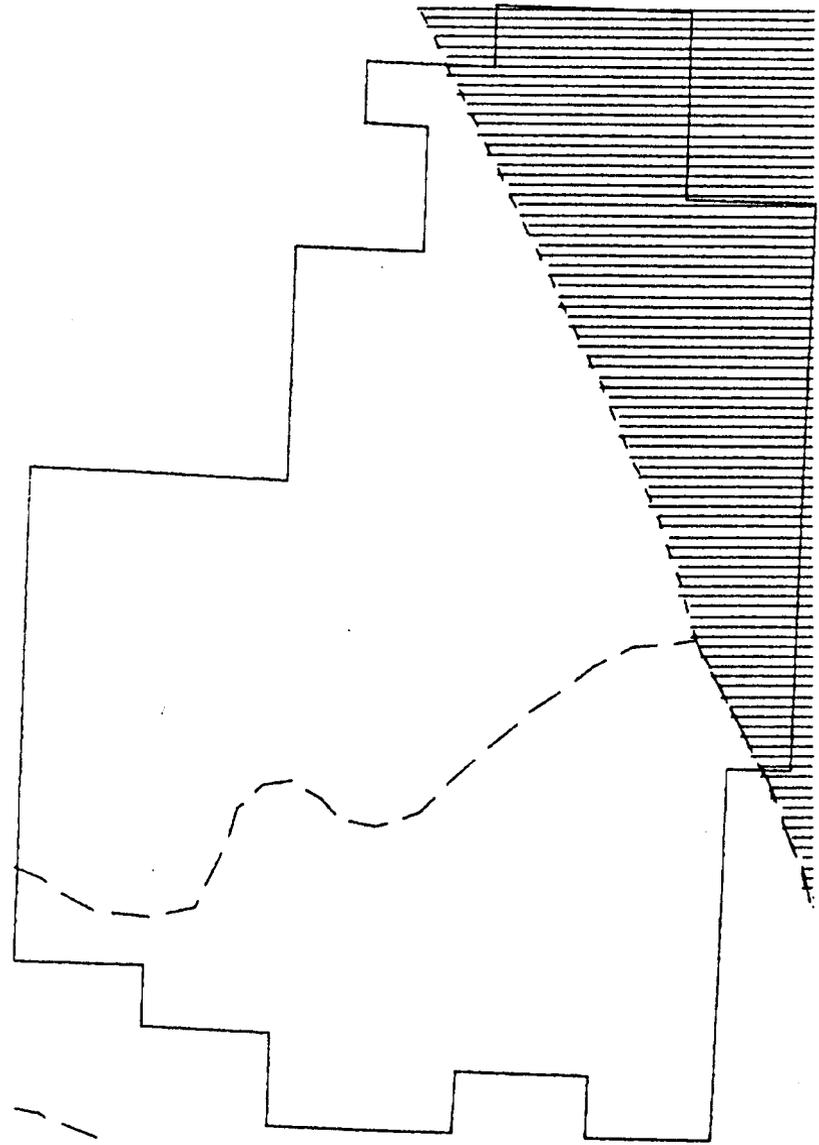
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UDWR designated high priority mule  
deer winter range

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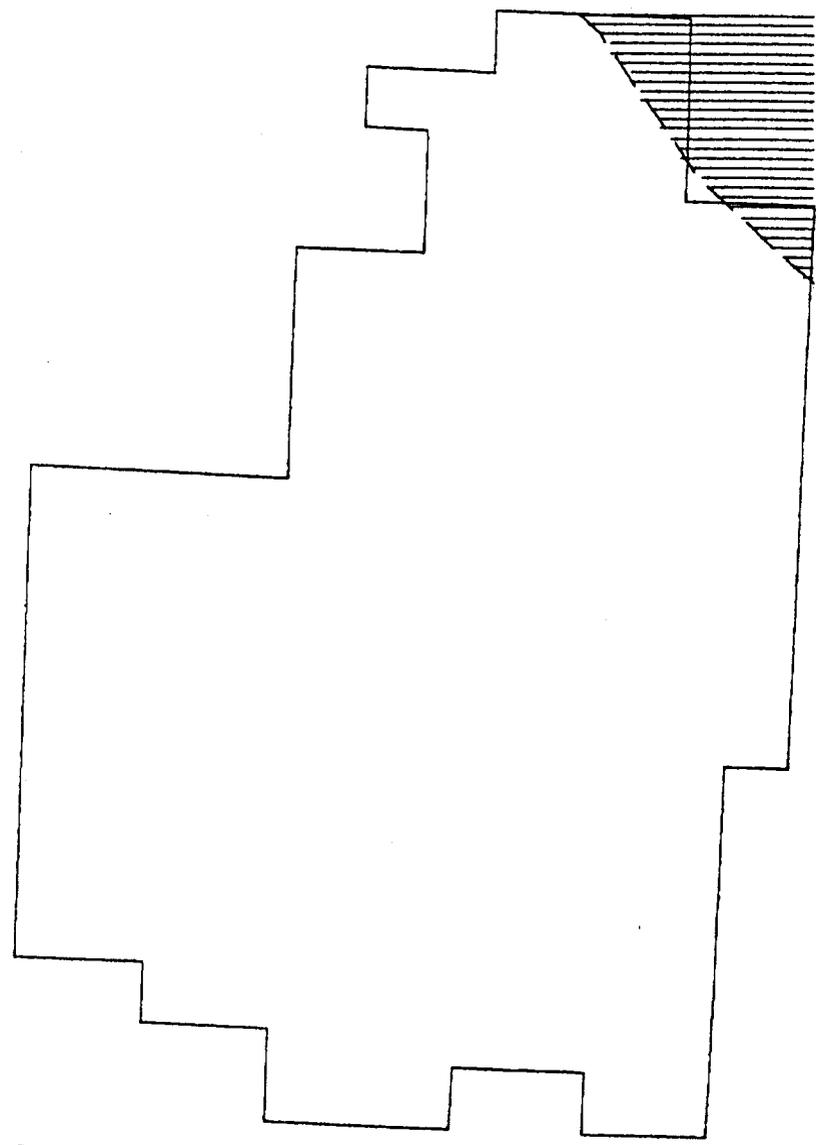
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UDWR designated limited value mule deer yearlong range

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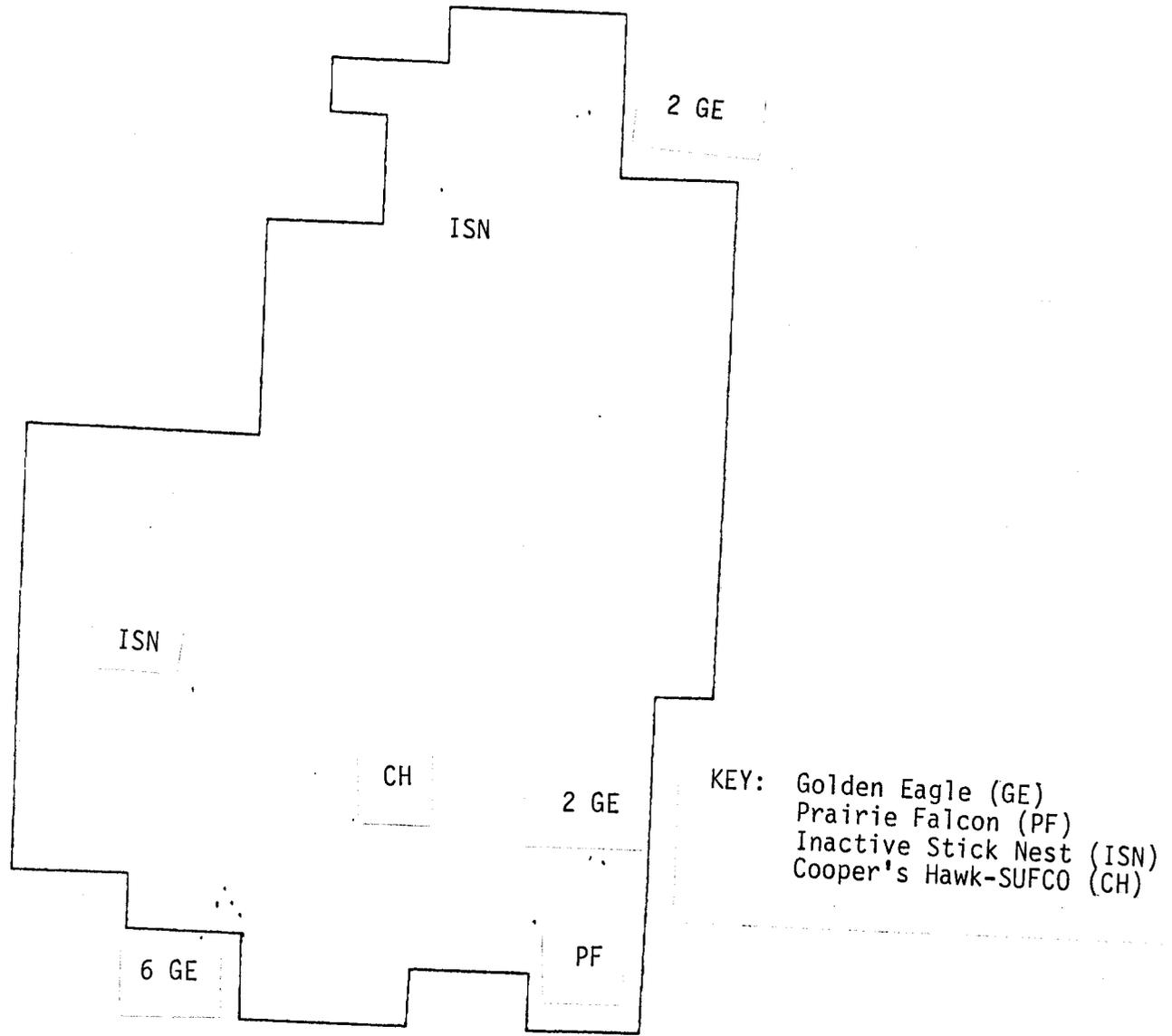


UDWR denoted sage grouse substantial  
value yearlong, high priority summer  
range

ENTER NEWMAP, OVERLAY, REDRAW, SCALE, AUDIT OR MISC? OVERLAY

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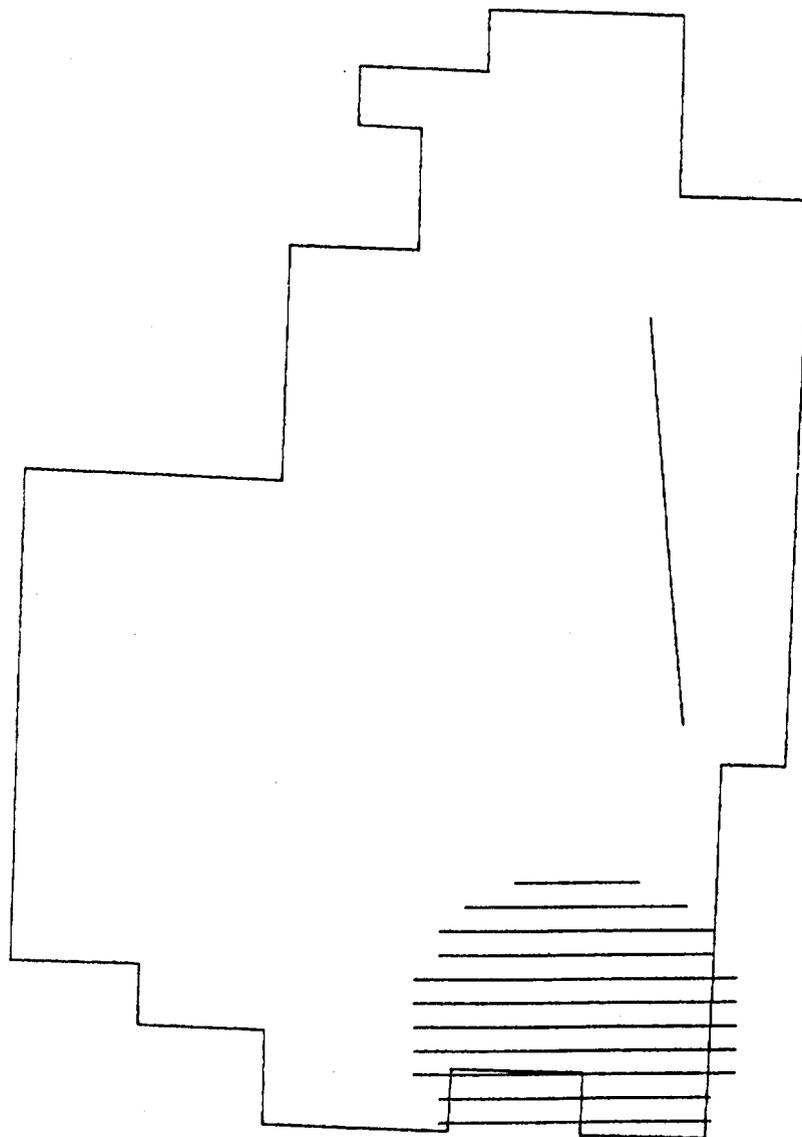
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Raptor nest sites occurring on the SUFCO mine site. Sites include two small stick nests, ten golden eagle nests, one falcon eyrie and one Cooper's hawk nest

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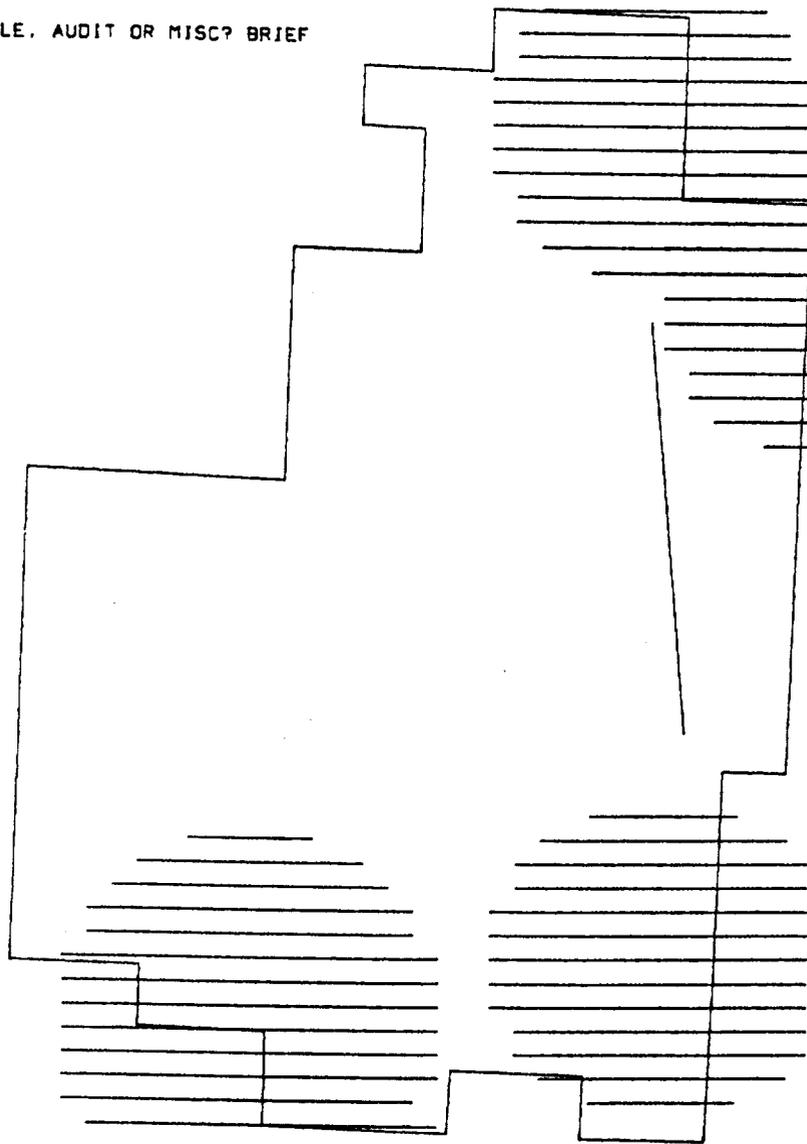
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Location of a prairie falcon eyrie  
(active in 1981) relative to  
proposed breakouts

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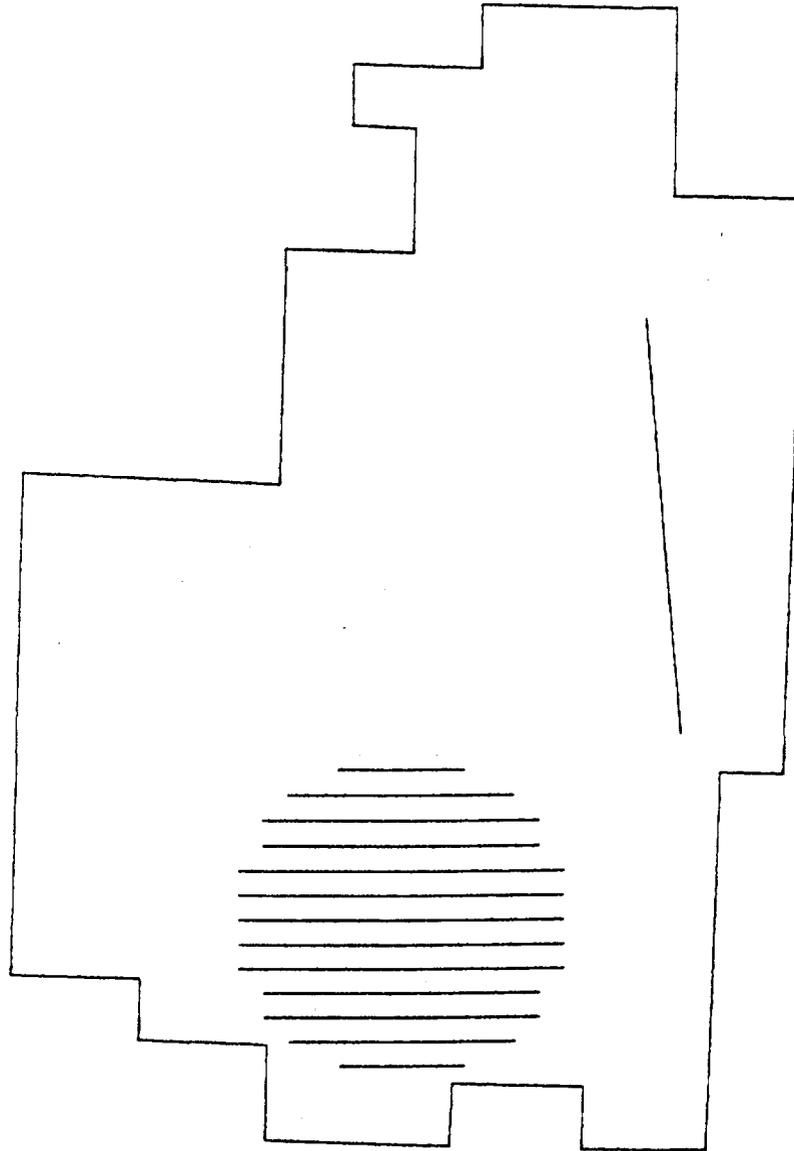
? OVERLAY



Relationships of eagle nest sites with  
1 km radius buffer zones to proposed  
breakouts

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? COOPBUF



Relationship between 1 km buffer zone  
surrounding the Cooper's hawk nest and  
proposed breakouts

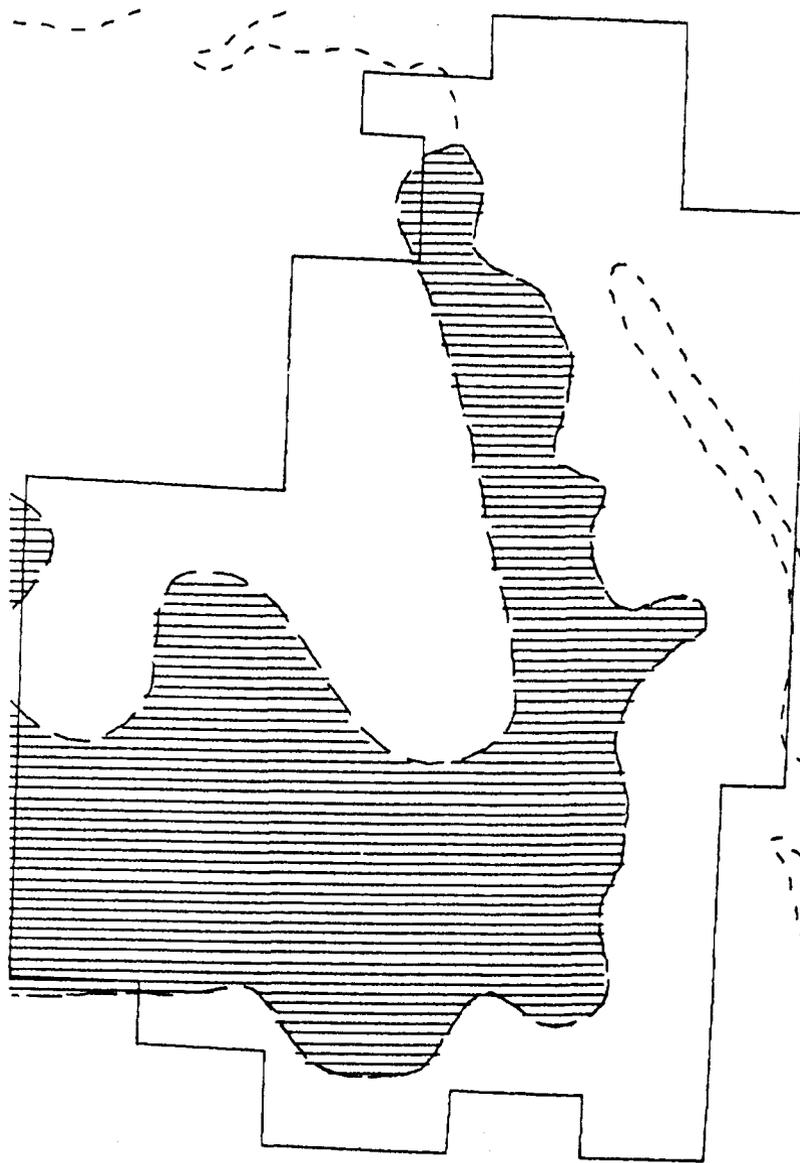
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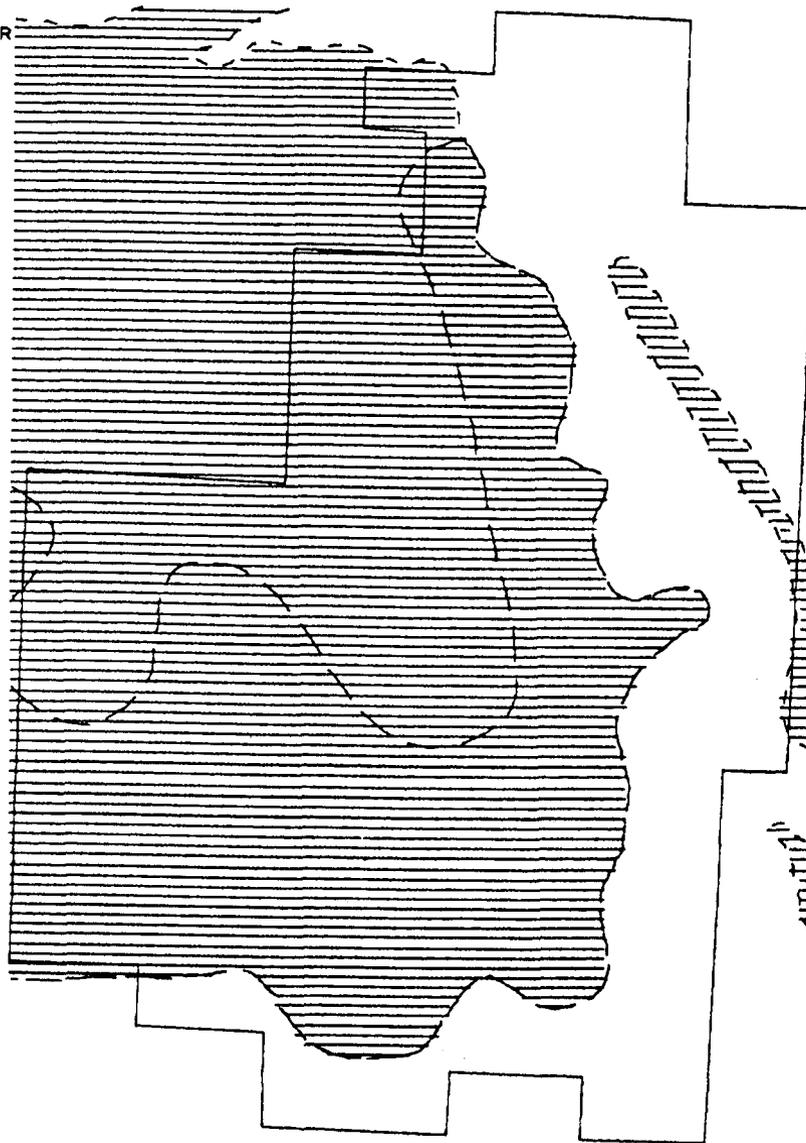
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Critical winter range for elk as  
determined by SUFCO studies

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Combined winter range and critical  
winter range for elk as determined  
by SUFCO studies