



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Manti-La Sal  
National Forest

Supervisor's Office  
599 West Price River Drive  
Price, UT 84501  
Phone # (435) 637-2817  
Fax # (435) 637-4940

File Code: 2360-3  
Date: September 16, 2003

*J. [unclear]*  
*c/041/002*

Dear Interested Party:

I am writing this letter to inform you of the potential for adverse effects to site 42SV2430, also referred to as the Elusive Peacock Shelter, as a result of proposed undermining in the vicinity of the East Fork of Box Canyon on the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Archeological-Environmental Research Corporation recorded 42SV2430 in 1997 during the inventory conducted for the Pines Coal Lease Tract. The site consists of two overhanging ledges, or alcoves, situated one directly over the other, in an unnamed tributary drainage of the East Fork of Box Canyon. The interior of the lower alcove is very wet with extensive deposits of mud forming the floor and a perennial seep flowing down the back wall. No evidence of past human occupation was found in the lower alcove. The upper alcove is dry and was utilized in prehistoric times as evidenced by the presence of stone artifacts. Animal bone and charcoal that may be associated with its use were also observed at the time the site was originally documented. Although not formally tested, the depth of the deposits within the upper alcove, coupled with the prehistoric cultural materials, suggests that the site has the potential to yield information important in prehistory. As a result of these findings, the Forest Service determined that the site was eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The original mining plan for the Pines Coal Lease Tract did not include undermining the area beneath 42SV2430. However, we have been advised that recent changes in the circumstances involving the mining operations in this area may result in an amended mining plan that will allow undermining of the location. Subsidence and escarpment failure associated with the undermining have the potential to cause adverse effects to 42SV2430. The potential effects range from minor cracking and spalling of the overhanging ledge that forms the roof of the upper alcove, to a complete collapse of both the overhanging ledge that forms the roof of the alcove as well as its floor (which forms the roof of the lower alcove). The latter scenario would result in an irretrievable loss of any cultural deposits and their contexts within the upper alcove.

In accordance with the terms of a Memorandum of Agreement regarding cultural resource protection in the Pines Coal Lease Tract, the Forest Service is seeking your comments and input into the development of a mitigation plan that would prevent damage to, or loss of the archaeological deposits associated with 42SV2430 in the event that operations are allowed to undermine this location. If you have comments or concerns regarding 42SV2430, or wish to provide input into the development of the mitigation plan please forward them to me at the address given above. We have enclosed an excerpt from the original inventory report

RECEIVED  
*now*  
SEP 18 2003  
*9/19/03*  
DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING



Interested Party

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depicting the general location of the project area. If you require additional, more detailed information please contact Bruce Ellis, 435-636-3571.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alice B. Carlton".

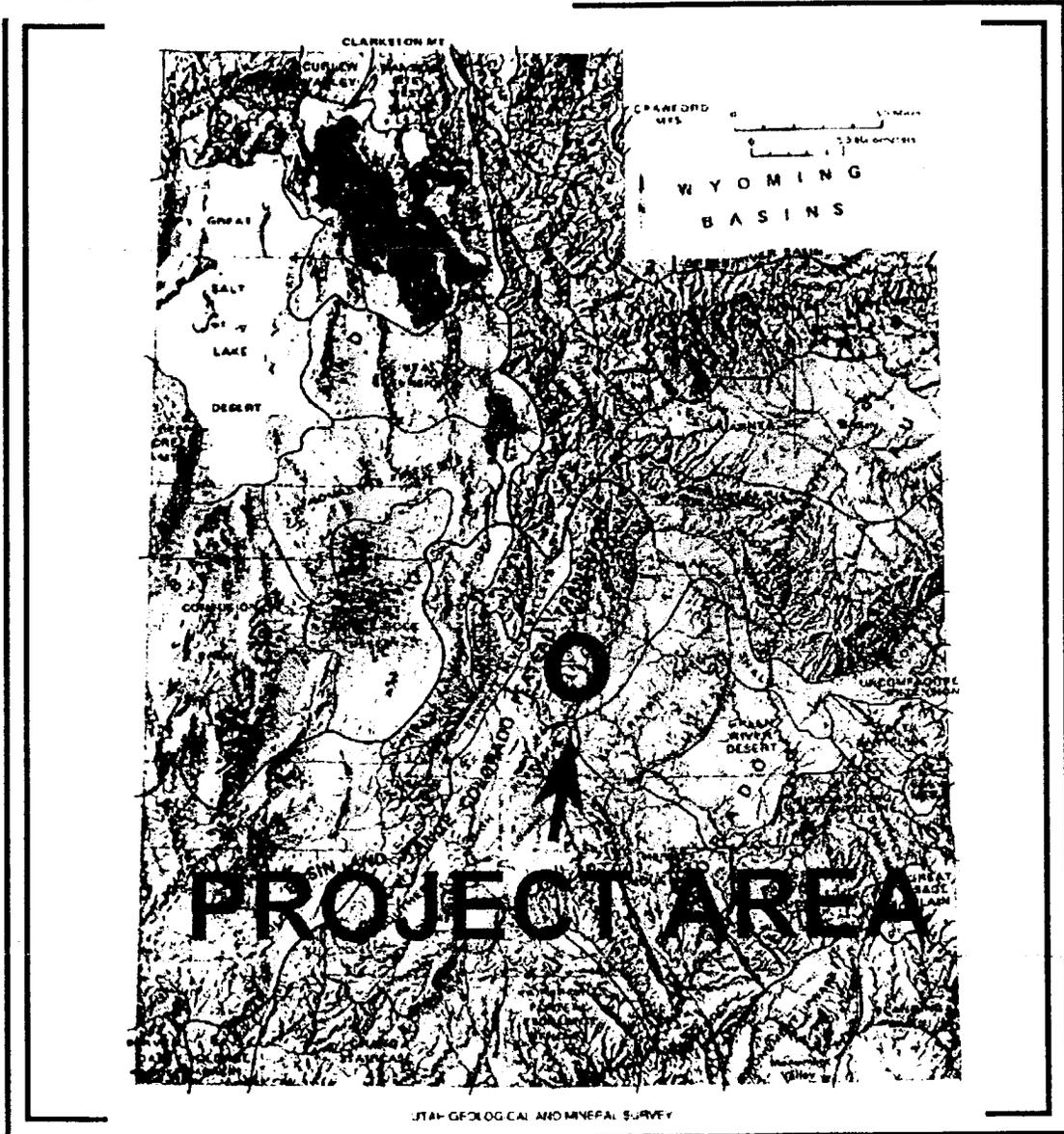
ALICE B. CARLTON  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

cc:  
Joe Gallagher  
Mesia Nyman

**MAP 1a: GENERAL PROJECT LOCALITY  
IN  
SEVIER AND EMERY COUNTIES,  
UTAH**

**PROJECT:** SUFC-97-3  
**SCALE:** see below  
**DATE:** October 21, 1997



UTAH GEOLOGICAL AND MINERAL SURVEY



**TOWNSHIP: MULTIPLE**  
**RANGE: MULTIPLE**  
**MERIDIAN: SALT LAKE & UINTAH B. & M.**