please file
M/001/027

From: Paul Baker
To: Auer, Donald
Date: 2/24/03 11:40AM
Subject: Seed Mix, Raptors

Attached is a seed mix I put together based on a recommendation we made about seven years ago and also on a mix the BLM recommended.

The reason I called Bruce was because we received comments a few years ago from DWR through RDCC that the area contains ferruginous hawk and critical mule deer habitat. I don't know that these issues were ever resolved.

After we spoke this morning, Ed Ginouves with the BLM faxed me a report from Steven Hedges about wildlife in the area. The report contains the following statements:

"State sensitive animals that occur in the general project area include ferruginous hawk, Swainson's hawk, peregrine falcon, and burrowing owl. No habitat for any state sensitive species was found on an inspection of the project area on 16 September 2002. . . . Other raptors that may be present in the area include golden eagle, red-tailed hawk, and Cooper's hawk. No raptor nests were found during the field inspection."

"Expansion of this project would have no affect [sic] on T/E, state sensitive, and other raptor species or their habitat."

I'd like your comments about these conclusions.

The current proposal is to expand the mine from 24.16 acres to 33.85 acres. Assuming there are no nests that would be destroyed directly by the expansion, my feeling is that this is an ongoing disturbance and that there would be no additional impacts to raptors other than the loss of habitat. Any birds that are nesting in the area should be accustomed to the disturbance, so the expansion should not lead to nest abandonment.

Please let me know if you think we need to pursue this issue. If necessary, I could write an explanatory letter and ask for more formal comments.

Thanks for your help.

Recommended seed mix for Basin Perlite

Species	Pounds PLS/Acre
Bluebunch Wheatgrass	2
Sandberg Bluegrass	0.5
Indian Ricegrass	2
Palmer penstemon	0.25
Small Burnet	1
Fourwing Saltbush	1
Wyoming Big Sage	0.5
Cliffrose	2
Bitterbrush	2
Curlleaf Mountain Mahogany	2

From: Donald Auer
To: Paul Baker
Date: 2/24/03 3:34PM
Subject: Re: Seed Mix, Raptors

Paul,

I think you're right on in terms of the raptors--as long as the raptor and T/E suveys have been completed we should be fine. And it sounds like the biologist from BLM has already completed those. If this were an initial proposal, we would request more thorough raptor protection measures as outlined in the Utah Field Office Guidelines for Raptor Protection from Human and Land Use Disturbances (Romin and Muck 1999).

I appreciate you taking our suggestions for a recommended seed mix. I've attached an updated list with species varities and pounds/acre. In addition to seeding, we strongly suggest the planting of certain browse species. Drought, and the spread of invasive annuals, can severely retard the establishment and growth of these species, especially when started by seed. Therefore, I've also included a recommended seedling list in the attachment.

Let me know if you need any other information.

Donald

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Donald Auer
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Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Southern Region
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CC: Bruce Bonebrake

GRASS SPECIES

Bluebunch wheatgrass	2.0
Sandberg bluegrass	0.5
Indian ricegrass	2.0
Thickspike wheatgrass	1.5
Bottlebrush Squirreltail	1.0

FORB SPECIES

Palmer penstemon	0.5
Small burnt	1.0
Yellow Sweetclover	1.0
Northern Sweetvetch	1.0 (out of hull)

SHRUB & TREE SPECIES

Wyoming big sagebrush	0.25
Fourwing saltbrush	1.0
Cliffrose	1.0
Bitterbrush	0.5
Curleaf Mountain Mahogany	0.5
Forage Kochia	0.5
Winterfat	1.0

NURSERY & TRANSPLANT STOCK

Fourwing Saltbrush
Curleaf Mountain Mahogany
Forage Kochia
Utah Serviceberry

STEMS/ACRE (SPACING)

Plant 545 of each species per acre randomly placed 4 feet apart to reach a goal of 2,722 stems/acre.