

TR-30 Old Barn Staging Area and Access Road

Technical Revision TR-30 proposes to use an area surrounding the ‘old barn’, located 0.86 miles east on County Road 120 of the King II mine site driveway, as a staging area (Old Barn Staging Area) for materials and equipment to be used during a Low-Cover Crossing construction project located within OSMRE permit CO-0106C. Also, TR-30 proposes to use the existing two-track road which extends from the barn to the north boundary of Section T36N R12W, N.M.P.M (CDRMS permit boundary C-1981-035/OSMRE permit boundary CO-0106C) as an access road to the aforementioned construction project. This road is an historic access to adjacent properties and will not be reclaimed at the termination of the construction project.

Surface drainage features for the Old Barn Staging Area and two-track road segment are shown on Map King II-005 Mine Plan.

The Colorado Natural Areas Program (CNAP) at Colorado State University conducted a search of their database of natural heritage elements (“occurrences of significant natural communities and rare, threatened or endangered plants and animals”) for the area within and 1.5 miles outside the permit area. The results of that search identified the wolverine (presumed extirpated in Colorado since 1979) and the Townsend’s big-eared bat (a species of concern for the BLM and Forest Service). No candidate or federally listed species were identified within or adjacent to the permit area. The June 15, 2017 CNAP report can be found in Appendix 8(3).

An endangered species field assessment for the construction access road was performed on October 22, 2018 by SME Environmental Consultants as part of an OSMRE permit revision addressing a low-cover crossing and access route. This report is included as King II Appendix 8(8).

This report concluded:

In summary, SME personnel did not observe suitable habitat for any species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 in the project area for the proposed low cover crossing, along the access route to the low cover crossing site, or in the vicinity (minimum 330 feet) of the project area or access route. SME feel that the project is unlikely to have any impact on the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse or southwestern willow flycatcher.