

north facing slopes, approximately 1/4 mile from the majority of the nesting locations, this effect is expected to be minimal. Those species, such as Coopers hawk (Accipiter cooperii) and sharp-shinned hawk (Accipiter striatus), that prefer the mountain shrub community on the north facing slopes for nesting will be forced to adjacent areas where suitable habitat is available. The use of shrub transplants will restore nesting and hunting habitat for these species on revegetated areas.

Special care will be exercised when operating in the southeast corner of the permit area. The prairie falcon aerie (Nest Site 39 on Map M25A) lies within the permit perimeter and within a buffer zone established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (appendix E, Part I). As requested, no surface activity will be permitted within this area between March 1 through July 31 each year. Permit term 2023-2027 mine plans indicate that we will be conducting reclamation activities within the buffer zone. Activities will be restricted by the timeframe noted above.

Powerline Construction

REA Bulletin 6140, Powerline Contacts by Eagles and Other Large Birds, describes acceptable powerline construction to protect birds of prey and concerns itself mainly with low voltage powerlines rather than high voltage such as are in service at Trapper Mine. Clearance from phase to phase or phase to ground wires is much greater on Trapper's high voltage lines than the minimum acceptable per the Bulletin. No known powerline contacts have occurred with eagles or other large birds with the present structures.

Four different types of structures are in use on the mine property. (Refer to Section 3.8 for additional discussion on powerline structures.)

- 1) The Flat Top Structures have a set of crossarms, 12 feet long, mounted 6 feet below the top of the pole as shown in Figure 3.8-2. Two of the three phases are run beneath the outer ends of the crossarm while the third phase is run above the crossarm midway between the pole and one end of the crossarm. There is a lightning rod at the top of the pole and an insulated wire runs from this rod to the ground. The rod is mounted on the side of the pole top and thus does not obstruct the pole top as a perch. The ground wire is attached to the side of the pole about 6 inches below the top. On this structure, a bird would likely choose to land on the unobstructed side of the crossarm or on the pole top, and there is no chance of powerline contact in either of these positions.