

**Shamrock Honeycomb-Calcite Mining
Project**

**Duchesne County, Utah
September 2004**

**Supplement to the Environmental
Assessment
Dated July 2004**

SHAMROCK HONEYCOMB-CALCITE MINING PROPOSAL

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

This supplement to the July, 2004 Environmental Assessment is for the purpose of clarifying some aspects of the analysis and is the result of public comments received during the official comment period for this project.

Nothing in this supplemental EA changes the results of the analysis and evaluation in the EA, including the disclosed impacts. The information presented in this supplement is intended to further clarify aspects of the proposal and the resulting environmental effects of implementing the project.

3.4 Inventoried Roadless Areas

The July 2004 EA was unclear in some aspects of its discussion of the inventoried roadless areas status and analysis.

The project area has been an active mining and prospecting site for many years, but due to mapping errors when putting together the inventoried roadless areas for the Roadless Area Conservation Initiative (RACI), the mine site was erroneously included in the inventory. As it is included in the inventory, the effect of the project on roadless lands is included in the EA.

The discussion in the EA, particularly section 3.4(c), is correct as far as the effects on Natural Integrity, Apparent Naturalness, Remoteness, Solitude, and Opportunities for Primitive Recreation. These characteristics are analyzed for the purpose of determining the effect of the project on the future potential of the area for designation as a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The project will result in one to five acres no longer having the potential for future wilderness designation. The five acres represents about .0003 % of the inventoried roadless lands in the Uinta Mountains in Duchesne County.

The RACI Final Environmental Impact Statement, published in January 2001, identified several resources that define roadless character. Although at the time of this writing, the RACI is enjoined nationally from implementation, the identified attributes for defining wilderness character are useful for analysis of the impacts of the project on roadless character. For clarification purposes each of these is discussed below:

Soil, Water and Air Resources – these are described in the EA in Chapter 3 and 4 pages 18, 33, 40-45, and 78.

Sources of public drinking water – there are no sources of public drinking water in the project area.

Diversity of plant and animal communities – these are described in the EA in Chapters 3 and 4 pages 19-33 and 47-78.

Habitat for TES and species dependent of undisturbed area of land – these are described in the EA in Chapters 3 and 4 pages 19-21 and 48-52.

Primitive and semi-primitive classes of recreation – the project will not affect these classifications nor change the nature of the recreation opportunities in the area.

Reference landscapes for research study or interpretation – there are no reference landscapes within the project area.

Landscape character and integrity – the Shamrock Honeycomb-Calcite Mine has been a disturbed site for many years. This project will not alter the existing character or integrity of the landscape.

Traditional cultural properties and sacred sites – there are no traditional cultural properties or sacred sites within the project area.

There are no other locally unique characteristics.

Below are listed some clarifications in the Appendices for the EA.

Appendix A. Literature Cited

Oliver, George. Telephone interview. August 2004. Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Vernal Utah.

Oliver, George. Telephone interview. September 2004. Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Vernal Utah.

Bunnell, K. D.; J. J. Shirley; J. T. Flinders; M. L. Wolfe; J.A. Bissonette. 2004. Forest Carnivores Occurrence, Distribution and Limiting Factors: Canada Lynx and Wolverine Surveys in Utah, Final Report to Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Appendix C. Table of T&E, Sensitive Species, & MIS and Their Occurrence in the Project Area

Townsend's big-eared bat and Spotted bat –

The table on page 90 (Appendix C, Item 1) states that the small cave near the mine site is above the elevational limits for the Townsend's big-eared bat and spotted bat. The following section discloses additional information recently acquired regarding these two bat species.

Two unidentified bats were seen in the small cave in June of 2003. The likelihood of these bats being the Townsend's big-eared bat or the spotted bat is very low, because of the elevational limits (8851 ft. and 9200 ft. respectively) of these two bat species. Additional information about the Townsends' big-eared bat and spotted bat was acquired on August 8th, 2004 and September 1st 2004 through personal communication with George Oliver (UDWR Biologist and author of *The Bats of Utah a Literature Review*). George Oliver agreed that the small cave (approximately 10,500 ft. in elevation) near the mine site is above the elevations that these two bat species have been found and temperatures in caves at that elevation would likely exclude both these bats. George Oliver stated that the two bats that were seen in the cave in 2003 were likely the big brown bat or the long-legged myotis. Oliver also stated that because of the distance of the cave from the mine site (approximately 600 feet), noise disturbance from the mining activities is not likely to disturb bats roosting in the cave. (Oliver August & September 2004, pers. com.)

This additional information supports the determination in the table on page 90 of the EA, which states the small cave is likely above the elevational limits of the Townsend's big-eared bat and the spotted bat. Also, because of the distance of the cave from mining activities, bats roosting in the cave (regardless of species) would not be disturbed from activities of the proposed project.

Wolverine –

The table on page 90 (Appendix C, Item 1) states that local extirpation of the wolverine is likely. Recent studies summarized in a report recently released to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, US Forest Service, and US Fish & Wildlife Service documented a single set of tracks in 2003 and 2004 on the North Slope of the Uintas (Wasatch-Cache NF) to be either wolverine or fisher tracks. The report stated, though the tracks are not confirmed to be wolverine, it is the opinion of the author that there is evidence that the tracks were made by wolverine. The location of these tracks is more than 17+ air miles from the proposed project, is on the other side of the crest of the Uintas, and is not located on the Ashley NF. There has been no confirmed evidence that wolverine occur on the Ashley NF. Additionally the project area does not occur in remote areas, typical of wolverine habitat. It is therefore determined that the proposed project would not impact the wolverine because of the following reasons: the tracks mentioned above are not confirmed to be made by wolverine; the proposed project occurs on the other side of the crest of the Uinta Mountains, and is 17+ air miles away from the location of the tracks; the proposed project does not occur in remote areas, typical of wolverine habitat; and there is no confirmed evidence that wolverine occur on the Ashley NF.