

Wayland, Joshua

From: Mike Mckee <mmckee@7county.utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 3:33 PM
To: Wayland, Joshua
Subject: Sage Grouse Correspondence
Attachments: 3210_001.pdf

Hi Josh

Please see the letter to Kathleen Clarke in the attachment below.

Thank you

Mike McKee

September 10, 2020

Submitted via electronic mail: kathleenclarke@utah.gov

Kathleen Clarke
Director
Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office
5110 State Office Building
P.O. Box 141107
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-1107

**Subject: Uinta Basin Railway Project:
Mitigation Compliance for Greater Sage-grouse**

Dear Director Clarke:

Thank you for your July 23, 2020 letter setting forth the State of Utah's mitigation steps associated with anticipated disturbance to Greater Sage-grouse habitat within the Carbon Sage-grouse Management Area (CSGMA).

As you know the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition (Coalition) has been thoroughly engaged in the development of Greater Sage-grouse mitigation strategies for the past 12 months. This has been done in collaboration with Uinta Basin Railway, LLC (owner and operator of the railway). There have been different iterations of proposed strategies as engineering, site locations, and various categories of land (federal, state, private) have been analyzed. However, the stated interest has remained consistent; construct and operate a railway while responsibly addressing impacts.

To this end, we have appreciated the time the State of Utah has spent to understand the scope of this project and potential impacts. These conversations have led to the issuance of the above mentioned letter. That letter has been submitted to the Surface Transportation Board, via email, to be included in its environmental review. The Coalition also acknowledged its support of "PLPCO's described recommendations for GSG mitigation."

This letter serves as receipt of these recommendations and continued support to the State of Utah regarding mitigation compliance for Greater Sage-grouse as related to the Uinta Basin Railway Project. When the final route is selected and engineered, we anticipate formally accepting mitigation requirements with appropriate documentation and contracts.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to work with your office. If you have any questions, please reach out at any time.

Sincerely,



Michael J. McKee
Executive Director
Seven County Infrastructure Coalition



Mark W. Hemphill
Uinta Basin Railway, LLC