



## DUCHESNE COUNTY COMMISSION

Greg Miles: Chairman, Tracy Killian: Member, Jeff Chugg: Member

P.O. Box 270

Duchesne, Utah 84021-0270

Phone (435) 738-1100

April 22, 2025

Ms. Lesley Tullis, Environmental Coordinator  
Ashley National Forest  
355 N Vernal Avenue  
Vernal, UT 84078

RE: Tesoro Exploration Project

Dear Ms. Tullis:

We are in receipt of the April 8, 2025 letter associated with the subject proposal for a small-scale mineral exploration activity in the Pole Mountain-Farm Creek area of the Ashley National Forest, within Duchesne County. Tesoro seeks authorization to use equipment to access and open an old, collapsed mine entry ("adit") to facilitate exploration and sampling for valuable minerals. Surface disturbance is expected to be less than one acre and would be reclaimed upon completion of the exploration.

The Duchesne County Resource Management Plan, which is part of our General Plan, contains the following policies associated with mining:

*Access to public lands for mineral development must be increased in the economic interest of the county citizens and government.*

*Mineral exploration and development are consistent with the multiple use philosophy for management of public lands. These activities constitute a temporary use of the land that will not impair its use for other purposes in the future. All oil and mineral exploration activities shall comply with appropriate laws and regulations.*

*Identification of energy and mineral potential and location is important for planning future energy needs and resource management. Agencies shall plan, fund, and encourage by way of policy management decisions relative to energy resources.*

*All management plans must address and analyze the possibility for the development of minerals where there is a reasonable expectation of their occurrence within the planning area.*

*Development of the solid, fluid, and gaseous mineral resources of the state should be encouraged. The waste of fluid and gaseous minerals within developed areas should be prohibited. Requirements to mitigate or reclaim mineral development projects should be based on credible evidence of significant impacts to natural or cultural resources.*

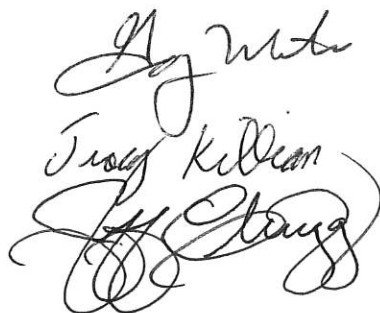
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We find that the proposed exploration operations are consistent with the policy statements of the Duchesne County Resource Management Plan as listed above. We agree with your plans to prepare an environmental assessment toward a likely finding of no significant impact. We agree that the proposal falls within exemptions permitted in inventoried roadless areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

DUCHESNE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Three handwritten signatures in cursive script, stacked vertically. The top signature appears to be "Dy White", the middle one "Troy Kildan", and the bottom one "Jeff Strong".A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Hyde".

Mike Hyde  
Community Development Department