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To: Tiffany Olsen <TOlsen@binghamid.gov>

Subject: IDFG Comments - BJ Livestock CUP

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Hi Tiffany,

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project and provide technical assistance. Since the project is adjacent to unique habitat associated with Hell's Half Acre lava flow, we offer the following recommendations for reclamation.

The seed mix proposed by the Applicant for revegetation during reclamation is essentially a grass monoculture. We recommend a seed mix with grasses, forbs, and a shrub component for successful establishment of vegetation that will benefit both wildlife and livestock after reclamation, for example:

- Blue flax (forb) 2 lbs PLS/acre
- Annual sunflower 3 lbs PLS/acre
- Western Yarrow (forb) – 1 lb PLS/acre
- Sand dropseed 3 lbs PLS/acre
- Bottlebrush squirreltail 3 lbs PLS/acre
- Bluebunch wheatgrass 3 lbs PLS/acre
- Sandberg bluegrass 4 lbs PLS/acre
- Basin Wildrye 1 lbs PLS/acre
- Basin big sagebrush .5 lbs PLS/acre
- Mountain big sagebrush .5 lbs PLS/acre

Other recommendations for successful reclamation:

- Consider timing of seeding to coincide with the earliest and latest months proposed to take advantage of spring moisture (March), or potential fall moisture (September) rather than seeding during the hot months of summer – if there should be a moisture burst during the summer, it could trigger germination, but without subsequent moisture, that germination will fail.
- Consider applying supplemental water after seeding to insure successful germination and establishment.
- Evaluate the presence of noxious or undesirable vegetation on the site currently. Since this is a formerly disturbed area, it may contain a significant seed bank of undesirable plants (i.e., cheatgrass or other annual grasses, annual mustards, knapweed or another noxious weed, etc.). It will be important to address the undesirable plant seed bank as part of restoration;

seeding desirable plants alone won't prevent the undesirable plants from germinating first and negatively impacting the restoration work.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions. Thank you!

Becky Johnson

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