

state of utah



DOUGLAS F. DAY
Director

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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Reply To SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
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June 8, 1984

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DIVISION OF OIL
GAS & MINING

Mr. Steve Smith
Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
4241 State Office Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Dear Steve:

In regard to the new 460 foot long channel being constructed in Eccles Creek as a result of an April 18, 1984 slope failure associated with the Belina Mine access road, the following is offered for your information. By May 11, 1984 the new channel was nearly completed. Late in the afternoon on that date the mudslide that had originally created a problem caved in over the top of the existing stream channel, thus backing up water and compromising the integrity of the adjacent new channel being constructed. As a result, Valley Camp's crews worked through the night to essentially complete the new channel and cut water into it by the early morning hours of May 12, 1984.

The Division designed the channel and our biologists (Larry Dalton and Walt Donaldson) have been working on a regular basis with the mine's crew. We had hoped that the channel would be complete and inspected before water was cut into it. But due to the circumstances that arose on Friday, May 11 and that fish spawning was due to start any day, based upon rising water temperatures, it was decided that water should be cut into the new channel immediately.

Monitoring of water temperatures in the Scofield area indicated that fish spawning would probably be initiated sometime during the week of May 13 through 19 or early in the week of May 20 through 26. On May 1, 7, 14 and 24, 1984 the temperature of Eccles at its confluence with Mudd Creek was 37, 39, 40 and 43 F, respectively. As you know, cutthroat trout initiate spawning at 44 F.

The final placement of rip rap and dressing up of the sides and top of the berms associated with the channel has now been completed. However, fill material needs to be placed in the old channel to stabilize the toe of the slope. Note that the fill should not compromise the berm on the south side of the stream and that a catch basin for future slides, if any, should be maintained. Additionally, there needs to be one or two hydraulic steps placed in the stream immediately below the "cat crossing" to facilitate fish movement.

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Copy to Steve Lynn.
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Steve, the Division is anxious that the entire disturbed area, including the three slope failure areas, should be revegetated as soon as practical. Additionally, willow shoots should be planted along the new stream channel at a rate approximating 1,000 stems per acre. The willow planting should not occur until after run-off waters have subsided and a thalweg in the stream channel has developed. Your assistance in encouraging the mine to expeditiously complete the project and reclaim the area would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

John Livesay for John Livesay

John Livesay, Supervisor
Southeastern Region

JL:LBD:db

cc: Darrell Nish
Bruce Schmidt
SERO Fisheries