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June 7, 2013

TECHNICAL MEMO

July 17, 2013

TO: Internal File
THRU: Daron Haddock, Coal Program Manager
FROM: Priscilla Burton, CPSSc, Environmental Scientist III
RE: SCWMA Whiskey Creek to Clear Creek weed spray day July 23, 2013

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SUMMARY:

Robert Aycock (surface landowner representative for the reclaimed White Oak mine) and I met with the Skyline Cooperative Weed management Association (SCWMA) in January to outline a proposal for using the expertise and experience and resources of the SCWMA to help control musk thistle at the White Oak mine site and on adjacent lands. Mr. Aycock has obtained landowner approval granting SCWMA right of entry on the Hammond and Oman lands within the White Oak mine site and from the Clear Creek Homeowners Association for the Clear Creek area. In addition Mr. Aycock has secured \$1,000 in funding from Questar and the Clear Creek Homeowners Association for the purchase of chemicals and an additional \$1,000 from private landowners.

The project will treat approximately 108 acres adjacent to the jeep trails and paved roads within a 6 square mile area. The White Oak mine and loadout occupy approximately half of the acres to be treated. The SCWMA recommends the use of the chemical Milestone for controlling musk thistle. The rate of application is 7 oz/ac. For the 50 acres of the White Oak mine and loadout, this calculates to 3 gallons of Milestone. This product can be purchased at a wholesale cost of \$91/32 oz. or \$364/gal. For the White Oak mine site, this equates to \$1,092.00.

To date, I have not been able to reach the Union Pacific Rail Road for their consent to spray along the tracks.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The total cost of chemicals (6 gallons of Milestone) for this project is expected to be \$2,149. SCWMA is providing an estimated in-kind donation of \$10,000 in labor and equipment.

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I recommend that the Division authorize a donation of \$1000 towards the purchase of chemicals using White Oak bond forfeiture funds. If authorized, this money would be payable to Castleland Resource Conservation & Development which is the parent organization to SCWMA and which handles SCWMA funds.

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