

May 6, 1986

TO: File

FROM: James S. Leatherwood, Reclamation Soils Specialist *JS*

RE: Price River Coal Co., Goose Island Revegetation,  
ACT/007/004, Carbon County, Utah

#2

On May 2, 1986, Lynn Kunzler and James Leatherwood of the Division accompanied by Ken Hutchinson, Price River Coal Co. representative visited the Goose Island reclamation site. Vegetation growth was generally fair throughout the site, with exception to shrub growth, which was poor. All shrubs showed signs of having been heavily browsed by wildlife. A high density of wildlife tracts was evident at the site. Most recent vegetation growth was evident at the base of the shrub stalks. Major shrubs includes: rose, servicberry, snowberry, pine, chokecherry, oregon grape and juniper. Based on a visual estimate, over one-half of the junipers and pines will not survive.

Many shrubs, such as servicberry, chokecherry, and oregon grape had a purplish tint in leaf color. Also noted was the high production of grasses and compacted calcitic soils. Due to the leaf color, compacted soil, calcium content and high grass growth, the Division summarize that available phosphorous levels are low and nitrogen levels too high for good shrub growth. The shrubbery may be deleteriously affected due to the synergistic effect of improper fertility levels and extreme wildlife browsing. A fall season site visit is recommended to document the vegetation growth prior to possible winter wildlife browsing.

Soil erosion was evident alongside the riprap in the drainage way and nearby the drainage on the steep slope. The silt fences were effective in containing most of the surface erosion. A maintenance crew was up-grading the eroded area alongside the drainage riprap.

crh  
cc: Lynn Kunzler  
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