



State of Utah
 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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TO: File

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist 

Re: Seed Mixture, U. S. Fuel Company, Hiawatha Mine, ACT/007/011, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

On September 3, 1996, the Division received a letter from Mike Watson of U. S. Fuel addressed to Pete Hess, Reclamation Specialist based at the Price Field Office. A memorandum attached to the letter indicated seed of certain species would either not be available or would be available in limited quantities for seeding this fall. The memo recommended certain substitutions and reductions in the seeding rate.

Specifically, the memo from Kelly Ellis of the Stephen B. Ellis Company recommended reducing the seeding rate for northern sweetvetch from 2 to 0.5 pounds pure live seed (PLS) per acre, substituting Saskatoon serviceberry for Utah serviceberry and reducing the rate from 5 to 2 pounds PLS per acre, and reducing the seeding rate for antelope bitterbrush from 5 to 2 pounds PLS per acre.

An unusually dry summer has reduced the supply of wildland-collected seed in Utah. In addition, there have been numerous large fires where land management agencies want to seed. This has created a situation with high demand for seed and low quantities available.

Given the nature of the current seed market, it appears the proposed substitutions and reductions are unavoidable. While northern sweetvetch is a very desirable species that performed well in Hiawatha's test plots, seed of this species has commonly been in limited supply in the past. The seed mix already includes three other legume species, so no substitutions are recommended to make up for the reduced seeding rate.

For the slurry pond areas, serviceberry can be deleted from the mixture altogether. Saskatoon serviceberry would probably not grow in these areas.

While the Ellis Company only recommended a reduction in the seeding rate for bitterbrush, this species could also be deleted. In its place, it is recommended that the seeding rates for fourwing saltbush and winterfat be increased by two and one pound PLS per acre respectively.

