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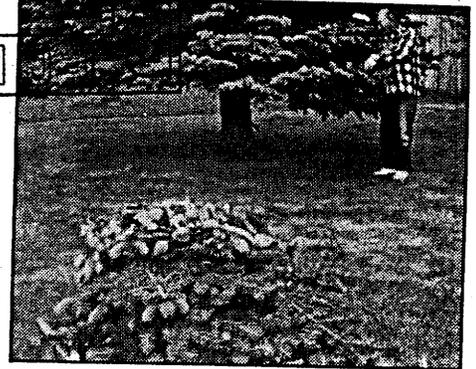
STATE OF UTAH

DEPARTMENT OF OIL, GAS & MINING

100 SOUTH STATE STREET

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84119-9154

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Price, Utah 50¢

Tree trimming highlights yard care on page 2A

## Wilderness comment period drawing to end for BLM study project

Carbon and Emery County residents have until June 21 to submit comments on the United States Bureau of Land Management's wilderness study project in Utah.

The BLM has identified 36,500 acres in Carbon County as having wilderness characteristics. In Emery County, the federal agency's proposal for WSA designation involves 413,680 acres.

Locations encompassed by the BLM wilderness study area recommendations include Desolation Canyon, Cedar Mountain, the San Rafael Reef, Mussentuchit Badlands, Sids Mountain and Wild Horse Mesa. Related questions have created mounting concerns in the two-county area.

The BLM inventory has prompted officials, citizens, recreationists and stock producers to hit the local deserts to verify existing roads, trails and mining activity.

For example, Lila Canyon coal mine developers recently discovered that the facility's proposed portal has been included in the WSA inventory.

In addition, the BLM's inventory delineations overlap part of the locations where Lila Canyon developers have obtained federal coal leases and/or have applied for rights of ways for roads, utilities and surface coal mining facilities.

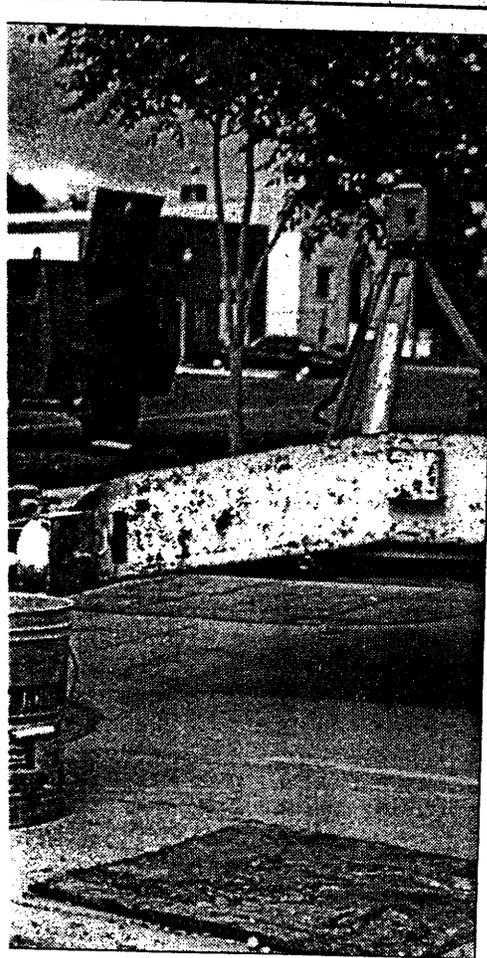
If the boundaries stay where published, a mining operation projected to produce 4.4 million tons of coal annually and employ 130 workers will be in jeopardy of never getting off the ground.

What has aggravated the Lila Canyon mining project organizers is the difference between what was recommended to be excluded by field teams and what was included in the proposed WSA by officials who made the final decision.

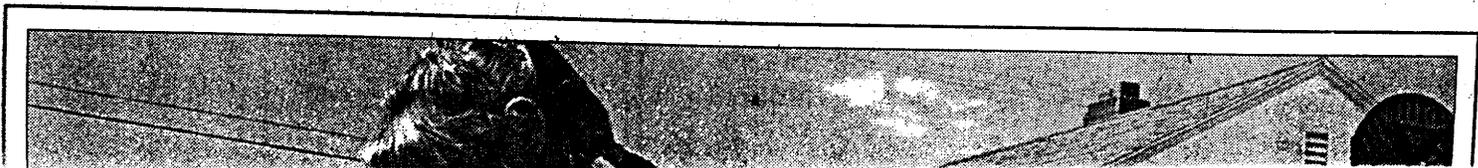
The field teams worked around the portal property and access to the Lila Canyon mine. In fact some \$3 million dollars has been spent already in preparing the underground operation to produce coal.

The map presented to the public effectively moved the lines to include the Lila

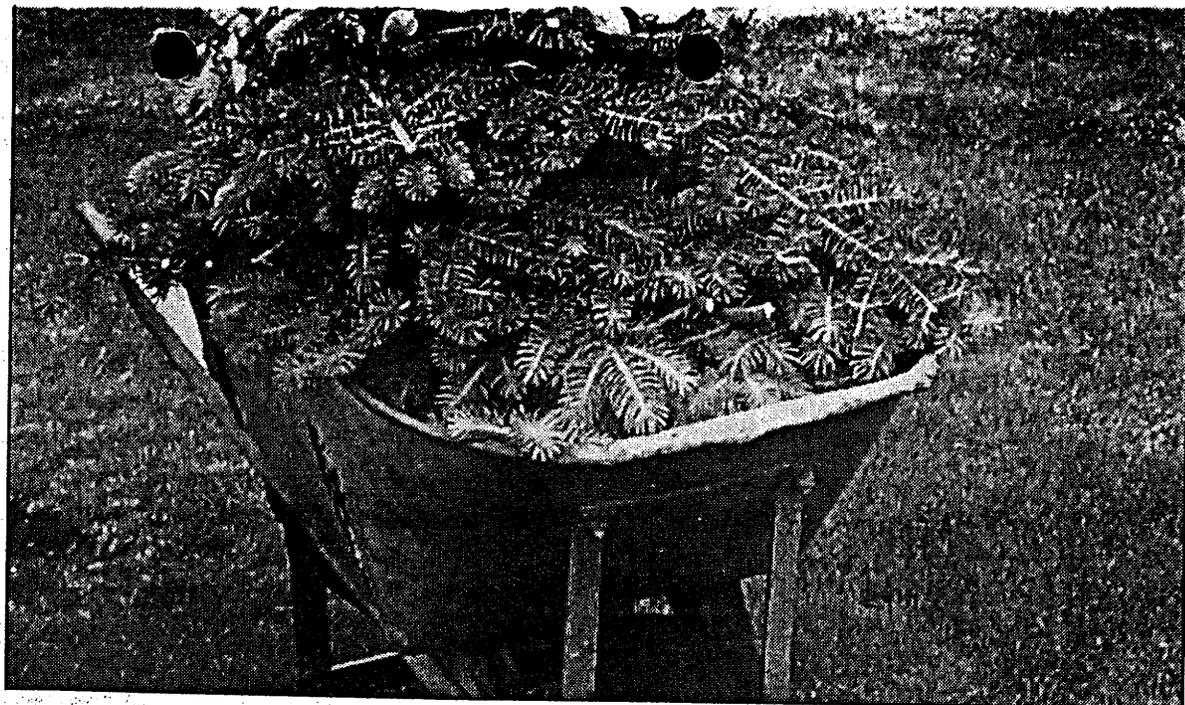
(Continued on page 2A)



**Instruction, improvement**  
Improvement Project. The scope of development owners.



ack Diamond rodeo. In the past, a number of grand prize winners were selected from the annual Black Diamond committee. Grand prize winners include Quinton, Bill Peterson, Howard and Jim Simone. Other grand prize winners have been Dea Thayne, Allred, Newell Nelson, and MaeVon Adams and Mills. Both Poncho Segura and Delma Jones were Grand prize winners posthumously. The chamber appreciates the people who have served on committees over the last 11 years, and indicates Abrams. Their hard work and dedication to make the Black Diamond Stampede successful did not go unnoticed. Without the committees and efforts of volunteers in Carbon County, the rodeo would not have existed. Grand prize winners are honored to be chosen as the 19 Black Diamond Stampede marshal and encourage continued support," concludes Abrams.



**Tree trimming continues despite threat of stormy weather conditions**

Eugene Croco dons his warm flannel shirt and braves the afternoon trimming a pine tree in his yard north of Price. The wind, cool temperatures and threat of rain to spend Price.

**Wilderness comment period ending:**

(Continued from page 1A) Canyon portal and coal reserves into the proposed WSA.

The BLM reports claim it is unlikely coal will be mined in the area as it is more than 3,000 feet underground. But developers indicate core tests show that the maximum cover found on the coal leases in question are at an average depth of 1,700 feet.

Developers have subleased six federal coal tracts located in four and portions of the Desolation Canyon inventory area. In addition, Lila Canyon officials have an active mine reclamation plan in place for the area.

Even the Intermountain Power

Agency has existing federal coal leases that are underlying in the two inventory units. Coal mining and related activities have been ongoing since the early 1940s.

Additional questions arise from the expertise of the BLM field teams who were hired to complete the re-inventory process. Members consisted of individuals concerned with surface rights. Below surface rights were not addressed.

Maps are available at the BLM office in Price for Carbon and Emery County residents to review. The maps specify what roads and trails have been identified for inclusion or remain unchanged.

Scoping is the first opportunity for public involvement in the WSA planning process. The BLM indicates that the initial scoping input will be used by planners to develop a draft environmental impact statement and plan amendments.

Carbon-Emery residents should direct written comments to the Utah BLM Office, WSA Planning Project, PO Box 45155, Salt Lake City, UT 84145.

According to the federal agency, a second extensive formal campaign to gather public feedback will be conducted once the WSA draft is released next winter.

**Economic slowing to continue throughout '99:**

(Continued from page 1A) ing 1999.

The Utah economy added roughly 26,000 jobs (up 2.6 percent) over the most recent 12 month period. This compares to average

employment growth of 45,000 jobs annually during the robust 1993-97 period. Job growth during 1999 is likely to continue at a 2.3 percent to 2.8 percent rate, before a modest acceleration the following year.

More than 21,000 new homes, condominiums and apartments received building permits in 1998, ranking as the fourth strongest year on record. Utah nonresidential construction activity exceeded \$1 billion for only the second time. Legitimate concerns exist regarding overbuilding of apartments and hotels, primarily within Salt Lake County.

The Utah information technology (IT) sector has experienced explosive growth in recent years.

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