



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

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September 9, 2002

TO: Internal File

FROM: Susan M. White, Sr. Reclamation Specialist/Biology *SMW*

RE: Technical Field Visit, Book Cliff's Blazing Star, Utah American Energy, Inc., Horse Canyon Mine, C/007/013

Other Attendees: Wayne Luddington (BLM) and Jay Marshall (UEI) attended the Lila portion of the field visit.

Date & Time: September 6, 2002 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this field visit was to look for *Mentzelia multicaulis* var. *librina* (Book Cliff's blazing star), a BLM sensitive species, in and adjacent to the disturbed area of the Lila Canyon Mine.

OBSERVATIONS:

We began by visiting the town of Columbia where a known population of the Book Cliff's blazing star occurs. The plant was found on naturally occurring slopes and railroad cuts on the Mancos Shale. A robust population was found growing on an area disturbed by the old Columbia Mine. This area had a veneer of coal waste on top of the Mancos Shale. The plant was in various stages of phenology, bud and fruit. No open flowers were found; we didn't know if this was due to the overcast and raining weather.

No Mancos Shale slopes are found on the proposed disturbed area at Lila Canyon. We briefly walked through the site and the plant was not found. Since the habitat wasn't right we didn't look very long.

TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

The south facing Mancos Shale slopes immediately north of the disturbed area were searched for the Book Cliff's blazing star. A population of approximately 15 individuals was found on these slopes. Many of the plants were skeletons of last year's plants. Since this year has been so dry it is assumed that the plants are dormant.

Some small Mancos Shale outcrops occur on the slopes to the south of the proposed disturbed area. We looked at those slopes and did not find the Blazing Star. Crossing the drainage to these slopes we found a sweetvetch. The sweetvetch was small and had not flowered this year. The sweetvetch in this drainage should be identified to determine if the plants are Canyon sweetvetch, a BLM sensitive species.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS:

- Rain had fallen the day of this site visit. A large storm had been through the area on August 30 (communication from Jay Marshall). Evidence of flows was observed in all drainages. The drainage through the middle of the proposed disturbed area also flowed.
- A piece of chert or chipping was observed in the area to be disturbed. The piece was worked on two sides.
- No evidence of big horn sheep was observed.

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS

The Book Cliff's blazing star should not be affected by the current proposed mine disturbance. The sweetvetch in the drainage to the south of the pediment should be identified.