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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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DIVISION OF OIL GAS & MINING FIELD VISIT FORM TECHNICAL

Date: November 12, 1998

Time: 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM

Mine: Willow Creek

File Number: ACT/007/038, Folder #2

DOGM Staff: Paul Baker

Other Attendees: Johnny Pappas, Reclamation Contractor's employees

Purpose: To try to establish better vegetation along Willow Creek. Parts of Willow Creek near the mine were relocated in 1996, and the revegetation efforts in the channel have not been very successful. The channel slopes up steeply then flattens before going up to the level of the road. Vegetation in the lower part just up from the stream consists primarily of cheatgrass or downy brome, an introduced annual weed. Where the slope flattens, there is relatively good vegetation growth with numerous perennial grasses, fourwing saltbush, and rabbitbrush. The purpose of the revegetation work was to try to eliminate as much cheatgrass as possible and establish desirable vegetation in part of the channel area.

Observations: The work we did was on the west side of the lower part of the relocated stream from the culvert to the guard rail at the sediment pond emergency spillway. We intended to gouge the area, seed it, and mulch with straw and wood fiber. The trackhoe was not able to reach all the way to the bottom of the channel, but it was able get most of it. The other problem was that the area has riprap under a few inches of soil, so deep gouges were not possible. The soil was dug up as much as possible, but this still didn't allow for the cheatgrass to be completely dug up and buried. Also, the soil is moist, so most of the cheatgrass that was dug up will probably survive. Nevertheless, I believe enough open spaces were created for the desirable vegetation to become established.

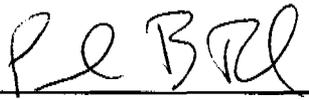
We spread 75 lbs. of sugar in an area about 100 feet long and the width of the gouged area, about ten feet. I placed rock piles at the beginning and end of the area where sugar was spread, and this stretch was also flagged with bamboo stakes and red flagging. The area was then seeded with the upland seed mix. The seed mix for riparian areas consists of species adapted to moist situations, and this area is up away from the creek enough that I felt the seed mix for upland areas was more

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appropriate. In fact, the reason for the initial revegetation effort failing may be that the riparian seed mix was used.

After seeding, the area was mulched with straw then hydromulched with wood fiber and tackifier to hold the straw.

Signature:  on November 13, 1998
Paul B. Baker, Reclamation Biologist

cc: Robert Davidson
Pete Hess

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