



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

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**DIVISION OF OIL GAS & MINING
FIELD VISIT FORM
TECHNICAL**

Date: April 20 and 21, 1998

Time: 12:00 to 3:00 PM and 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Mine: Dugout

File Number: ACT/007/039, Folder #2

DOGM Staff: Paul Baker, Susan White, Robert Davidson, Steven Demczak on the 20th, Wayne Western on the 21st.

Other Attendees: Chris Hansen, Canyon Fuel Company

Purpose: The purposes were to document certain site conditions prior to construction and to look at a mitigation site upstream of the mine.

Observations: We looked under several rocks in the creek. About one-half to two-thirds had macroinvertebrates. We were able to identify some as stonefly and caddisfly larvae, but there were some wormlike ones we could not identify. There were not a lot compared to more pristine mountain streams. I did not see any macroinvertebrates under rocks where there was a lot of sediment.

On the east side of the creek is a pad area that was being used as a helicopter landing pad. The helicopter was being used in logging operations up the canyon--not for coal mining and reclamation activities. Also in this area was a 7500 gallon fuel tank which I assume contained jet fuel for the helicopter. The berm around it consisted of a row of straw bales with a plastic liner under the tank and over the bales. We measured the bermed area and estimated it would hold about 2300 gallons. This is in violation of the Clean Water Act, and Mr. Hansen agreed to have remedial action taken. Since it was not associated with mining and reclamation activity, we did not take enforcement action.

Ms. White and Mr. Davidson took several photographs along the creek and elsewhere to document the predisturbance conditions. They also made some notes about the condition of the channel, locations of rock outcrops in the channel, etc.

The mitigation site has been heavily affected by road construction for logging operations. Compared to other parts of the stream, the part we saw is a relatively flat stretch with several

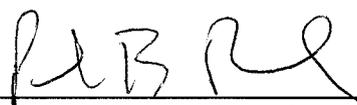
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large cottonwoods and a few dogwoods. It was hard to tell exactly what conditions were like because the snow was not yet completely gone. The permittee is considering planting willows in this area, but we saw no willows along any part of the stream.

We were constantly watching for raptors, and we made several golden eagle sightings. We had no way of knowing how many birds we actually saw, and we never saw one land. There was an eagle flying in the area of the logging operation, and it almost seemed as if it was attracted to the helicopter. At least twice, the bird appeared at the same time as the helicopter, and they were close enough I was concerned about the bird's safety.

Recommendations/Conclusions: For the mitigation project, the most valuable thing the permittee could do would be to revegetate the fill slopes of the road. It looked like the streambank itself was not in bad condition, but it appeared there were a few areas where some willow and dogwood plantings would be beneficial. After the snow melts, it should be possible to better assess the situation.

It definitely appears that raptors use the area at least for hunting if not for nesting. No nests have been found in Dugout Canyon, but there is at least one nest in an adjacent canyon.

Signature:  on April 24, 1998
Paul B. Baker, Reclamation Biologist