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## Local mines complete reclamation cycle

Two Carbon County coal operations have achieved the distinction of becoming the first in the western United States to complete the reclamation cycle since passage of the federal coal mining act 20 years ago.

Completion of the cycle means that Utah's Canyon Company affiliate, Mountain Coal Company, will have its financial security bonds released. Posted with the state in 1969 and 1977, the bonds totaled \$706,104 when the mines were operational.

Under federal and Utah laws, a mining company must post a reclamation bond with the

state before operations begin and, when disturbed land is returned to pre-mining condition, the bond is released back to the company.

"This marks a great success in a cooperative relationship between Utah's coal mining companies and the state," commented Mary Ann Wright, Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining associate director.

"The company has mined the resource, reclaimed the surface land disturbances and the land has been returned to wildlife and grazing uses. This is how the process is intended to work and in this case it has

worked well," added Wright.

Located about 20 miles from Price, Huntington Canyon four and Gordon Creek three and six mines operated intermittently since the 1940s. Huntington Canyon closed in 1984 and the Gordon Creek mines closed in 1980.

Reclamation work by the mining company began shortly after shutdown with portal sealing, reshaping the land and planting for wildlife species. The vegetation then had to be established for 10 years before the bond could be released.

"We're pleased our commitment to responsible mining

practices is so ably demonstrated by the work at this site," pointed out Dick Pick, Canyon Fuel president. "It's gratifying to know that precious natural resources can be mined and the land returned to a usable, pre-mined condition afterward."

Before a bond may be released, the reclaimed site must pass established state and federal standards and rigorous scientific testing and long-term monitoring.

State and company officials will tour the site June 17 prior to an evening celebration to formally release the bonds on the reclaimed mining sites.

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# Milestone Achieved in Mine Reclamation

126  
Two Carbon County coal mines have achieved the distinction of becoming the first mines in the western United States to complete a mining through reclamation cycle since passage of the federal coal mining act 20 years ago. The successful completion of this cycle means that Utah's Canyon Company, L.L.C. affiliate, Mountain Coal Company, will have financial security bonds fully released, which were posted with the state in 1969 and 1977. When the mines were fully operational the bonds totaled \$706,104.

Under both federal and state laws, a mining company must post a reclamation bond with the state before operations begin, and when disturbed land is returned to pre-mining condition that bond is released back to the company.

"This marks a great success in a cooperative relationship between Utah's coal mining companies and the state," said Mary Ann Wright, associate director for mining for the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. "The company has mined the resource, reclaimed the surface land disturbances and the land has been returned to wildlife and grazing uses. This is how the process is intended to work and in this case it has

worked well," she added.

Located about 20 miles from Price, Huntington Canyon #4 Mine and Gordon Creek #3 and #6 Mines operated intermittently since the 1940s. The Huntington Canyon mine closed in 1984 and the Gordon Creek mines closed in 1980. Reclamation work by the mining company began shortly after shutdown with portal sealing, reshaping the land and planting for wildlife species. The vegetation then had to be established for ten years before the bond could be released.

"We're pleased our commitment to responsible mining practices is so ably demonstrated by the work at this site," said Dick Pick, president and CEO of Canyon Fuel. "It's gratifying to know that precious natural resources can be mined and the land returned to a usable pre-mined condition afterward."

Before a bond may be released, each reclaimed site must pass established state and federal standards and rigorous scientific testing and long-term monitoring.

State and company officials will tour the site June 17, 1998, prior to an evening celebration to formally release the bonds held on the sites.

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## 2 Carbon County mines first in West to be restored

<sup>124</sup>  
By JOSEPHINE ZIMMERMAN  
The Daily Herald

**CARBON COUNTY** — Two coal mines in Carbon County are the first in the West to be reclaimed and restored to wildlife and grazing uses.

Mary Ann Wright, associate director for mining for the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, said the two mines are the first in the West to complete restoration projects since passage of the federal Coal Mining Act 20 years ago. They will receive a total of \$706,104 in financial security bonds posted when the mines were opened in 1969 and 1977.

Utah's Canyon Company LLC, Mountain Coal Company began restoration of the mines shortly after its

Huntington Canyon Mine No.4, and Gordon Creek No. 3 and No. 6 closed. The areas have now been returned to a usable pre-mined condition, according to Dick Pick, president and CEO of Canyon Fuel. Pick said the company is pleased that its commitment to responsible mining practices was so ably demonstrated by work at the sites.

Located about 20 miles from Price, the Huntington Canyon and Gordon Creek mines operated intermittently since the 1940s. The Huntington Canyon mine closed in 1984, and the Gordon Creek mines in 1980. Reclamation work by the mining company began shortly after shutdown, with portal sealing, reshaping the land and planting for wildlife species.

The vegetation then had to be estab-

lished for 10 years before the bond could be released.

"This marks a great success in a cooperative relationship between Utah's coal mining companies and the state," Wright said. "The company has mined the resource, reclaimed the surface land disturbances and returned the land to wildlife and grazing uses. This is how the process is intended to work, and in this case it has worked well."

Before a bond may be released, each reclaimed site must pass established state and federal standards, and rigorous scientific testing and long-term monitoring.

State and company officials will tour the sites June 17, prior to an evening celebration to formally release the bonds held on the sites.