



Interwest Mining Company
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Huntington, UT 84528

Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
Coal Program
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

RECEIVED

MAY 30 2019

DIV OF OIL, GAS & MINING

#5874

May 28, 2019

Subject: Clean Copy Submittal to Revise the White Fir/Aspen Reference Area, PacifiCorp, Deer Creek Mine, C/015/0018, Emery County, Utah

PacifiCorp, by and through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Interwest Mining Company (as mine manager), hereby submits the approved clean copies to include information concerning the location revision of the White Fir/Aspen Reference Area for the Deer Creek Rilda Canyon 1st Right Facility. The reference area was relocated as a result of the Trail Mountain Fire that completely incinerated the historic location.

As part of the Mid-Term Review of the Deer Creek Mine, the Division required the White Fir/Aspen reference area to be moved to a location where the area was not burned and could be used as the standard for the vegetation comparison with the reclaimed disturbed area.

In October 2018, Interwest Mining obtained the services of Mt Nebo Scientific to evaluate potential reference area location in close proximity to the 1st Right Facility. Dr. Patrick Collins assessed the area and determined the area immediately west of the current White Fir/Aspen reference area compared well for vegetation, soils, aspect, climate, and elevation. Dr. Collins presented a letter to Interwest Mining detailing his assessment. This letter is being added to MRP and located in the same map sleeve as Plate 300-2.

The revisions are as follows:

- ◆ Replace Volume 11, R645-301-300: Biology, Maps Section, Plate 300-2
- ◆ Add Mt. Nebo Scientific letter dated Nov. 26, 2018 and place into same map sleeve as Plate 300-2.

The original C2 form is included. With the submittal, all deficiencies noted by the Division in their Mid-Term Review of the Deer Creek Mine should be resolved. If additional information is required by the Division, or if you have any concerns regarding the Mid-Term Review, please contact me at 435-687-4712 or Dennis Oakley at 435-687-4825.

Sincerely,


Kenneth S. Fleck

Geology and Environmental Affairs Manager

Encl

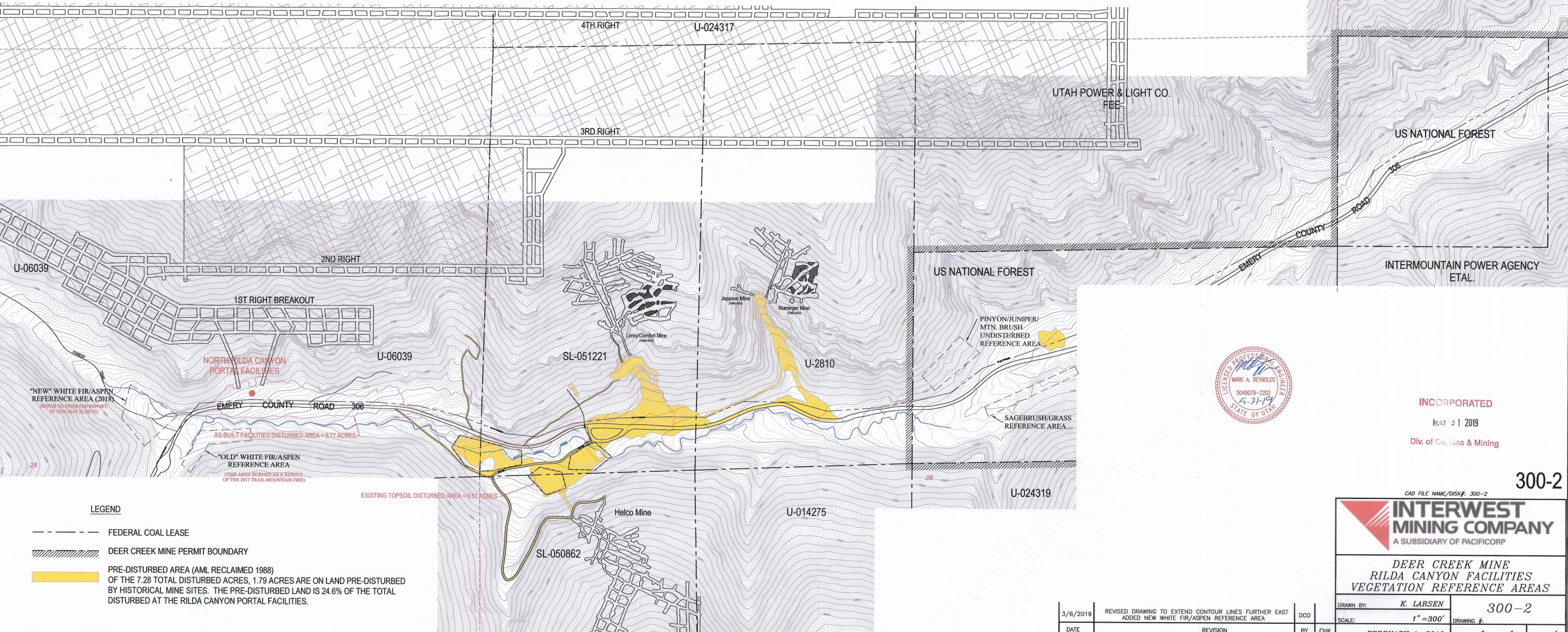
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UTAH POWER & LIGHT CO.
FEE

UTAH POWER & LIGHT CO.
FEE

US NATIONAL FOREST

INTERMOUNTAIN POWER AGENCY
ETAL.



U-06039

U-024317

4TH RIGHT

3RD RIGHT

2ND RIGHT

1ST RIGHT BREAKOUT

U-06039

SL-051221

U-2810

U-024319

U-014275

SL-050862

"NEW" WHITE FIR/ASPEN
REFERENCE AREA (2018)
(REFER TO INSERTED REPORT
IN THIS DRAWING SHEET)

NORTH RILDA CANYON
PORTAL FACILITIES

AS-BUILT FACILITIES DISTURBED AREA = 6.77 ACRES

"OLD" WHITE FIR/ASPEN
REFERENCE AREA
(THIS AREA BURNED AS A RESULT
OF THE 2017 TRAIL MOUNTAIN FIRE)

EXISTING TOPSOIL DISTURBED AREA = 0.51 ACRES

Lerry/Comfort Mine
(1960-2000)

Jeppson Mine
(1940-2000)

Rominger Mine
(1940-2000)

Helco Mine

PINYON/JUNIPER/
MTN. BRUSH
UNDISTURBED
REFERENCE AREA

SAGEBRUSH/GRASS
REFERENCE AREA



INCORPORATED

MAY 31 2019

Div. of Oil, Gas & Mining

300-2

CAD FILE NAME/DISK#: 300-2



DEER CREEK MINE
RILDA CANYON FACILITIES
VEGETATION REFERENCE AREAS

DRAWN BY:	K. LARSEN	DRAWING #:	300-2
SCALE:	1" = 300'	DATE:	FEBRUARY 1, 2010
DATE:	3/6/2019	BY:	CHK
REVISION:	REVISED DRAWING TO EXTEND CONTOUR LINES FURTHER EAST ADDED NEW WHITE FIR/ASPEN REFERENCE AREA	DCO:	
SHEET:	1 OF 1	REV:	1

LEGEND

- FEDERAL COAL LEASE
- //// DEER CREEK MINE PERMIT BOUNDARY
- PRE-DISTURBED AREA (AML RECLAIMED 1988)
OF THE 7.28 TOTAL DISTURBED ACRES, 1.79 ACRES ARE ON LAND PRE-DISTURBED
BY HISTORICAL MINE SITES. THE PRE-DISTURBED LAND IS 24.6% OF THE TOTAL
DISTURBED AT THE RILDA CANYON PORTAL FACILITIES.



MT NEBO SCIENTIFIC, INC.

research & consulting

November 26, 2018

Dennis Oakley
Senior Mine Engineer
Huntington Office:
15 North Main Street
P.O. Box 310
Huntington, Utah 84528

INCORPORATED

MAY 31 2019

Div. of Oil, Gas & Mining

RE: Vegetation Reference Area Change in Rilda Canyon

Dear Mr. Oakley:

At your requested, and because a wildfire severely impacted one of the vegetation reference areas that was to be used for revegetation success standards at the time of final reclamation in Rilda Canyon, a new reference area has been chosen that could replace it.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Previous Vegetation Studies

Rilda Canyon, a tributary of Huntington Canyon in Emery County, Utah, has a long history of coal mining operations. In 2003, Energy West Mining Company first proposed, and later constructed, new mine operation facilities in North Rilda Canyon. Vegetation field studies of the areas proposed for new disturbances to the plant communities were conducted by *Mt. Nebo Scientific, Inc.* in 2003 and 2004. These studies provided baseline data as well as data for reference areas to be used at the time of final reclamation. A new mine portal was proposed in Rilda Canyon at that time. One of the plant communities chosen to represent revegetation success standards of the proposed new portal was called the White Fir/Aspen Reference Area. Results from quantitatively sampling this reference area and statistical tests that compared the data with the area proposed for disturbance were provided in a previous report called "*Plant Communities of the New North Rilda Canyon Portal Facilities Area*" (July 2004).

Wildfire Impacts

A wildfire called the "Trail Mountain Fire" started June 5, 2018 and burned through the White Fir/Aspen Reference Area in Rilda Canyon. Not only did the Trail Mountain Fire burn in Rilda Canyon, it also quickly spread to East Mountain and affected Crandall, Mill Fork, Meetinghouse, and Deer Creek canyons in the Huntington Canyon drainage system. The fire was finally contained in the early fall of 2018.

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PROPOSED NEW REFERENCE AREA

On October 16, 2018 a trip to the burn site in Rilda Canyon was made by Dennis Oakley (*Interwest Mining Company*) and Patrick Collins (*Mt. Nebo Scientific, Inc.*). The purpose of the trip was to assess the damage of the fire to the existing White Fir/Aspen Reference Area and to choose a new

reference area for the revegetation success standards of the portal area in Rilda Canyon, if needed.

The fire severely damaged the existing reference area, however, there was a White Fir/Aspen community located near the existing reference area that had little impact from the fire (Figure 1).

After a review of the existing data of the proposed disturbed



Figure 1

area for the portal as well as the burned reference area, the unaffected and similar plant community was chosen to be the new White Fir/Aspen Reference Area. Coordinates for the new reference area are shown below (Figure 2). A map showing the old (2004) and new (2018) reference areas has also been provided (Figure 3).

Figure 2: GPS corner coordinates for the new (2018) White Fir/Aspen Reference Area in Rilda Canyon (UTM NAD 27)

Northwest	12 S 486208 E. 4361598 N.
Northeast	12 S 486278 E. 4361539 N.
Southwest	12 S 486191 E. 4361535 N.
Southeast	12 S 486235 E. 4361481 N.

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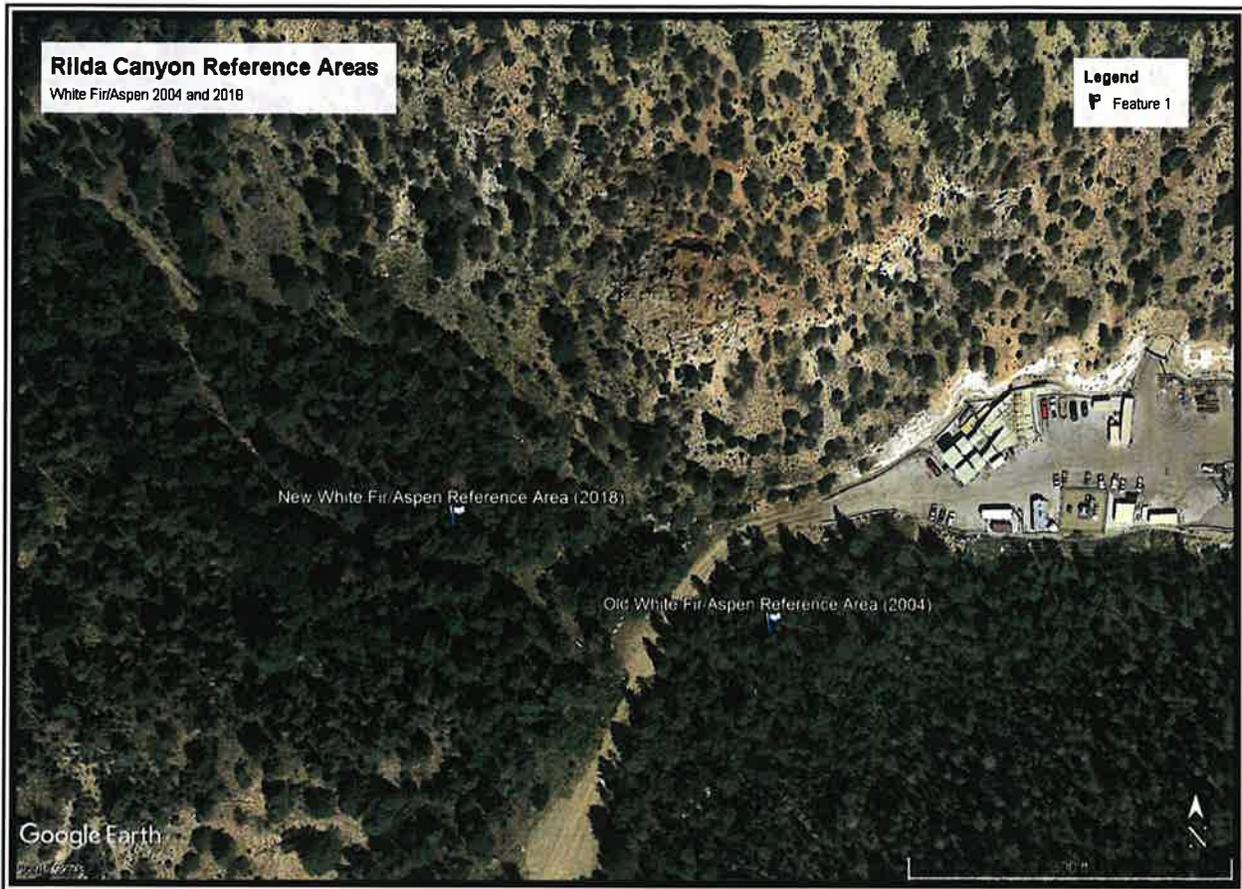


Figure 3

In conclusion, biologists from the State of Utah, Division of Oil, Gas & Mining (DOG M) and other regulatory agencies may need to approve the proposed new (2018) White Fir/Aspen Reference Area in Rilda Canyon. Please feel free to have them contact me if they have questions, comments or additional concerns.

Sincerely,

Patrick D. Collins, Ph.D.
Botanist/Environmental Consultant