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Subject: Subsidence Fractures, EFBC, Need to mitigate

Yesterday, (January 14th) an inspection was conducted on the EFBC as part of SUFCO's monitoring plan. Access to the area was achieved by snowmobile. Snow depth is about 12 to 14 inches. Weather was sunny and cool.

People in attendance were: Chris Hansen, Mike Davis, Eric Petersen, Neil and Garth Frandsen (SUFCO), Craig Walker (DWR), Jerriann Ernsten, Steve Fluke (DOGM), Tom Lloyd, Justin Bingham (USFS).

The first area visited was north east edge of the Canyon above the Elusive Peacock Shelter. Since mining induced subsidence has occurred along the ridge above the Elusive Peacock shelter, several large tension cracks have opened up. These are big enough that people can fall into them. (Some have fallen into them including me). The area is extremely hazardous especially with the snow cover that is on the ground now. With increased interest in the area, the public could go into the area and fall into these fractures. We want to prevent that situation.

In an attempt to mitigate the situation, at least 2 temporary warning signs, DANGER__KEEP OUT__SUBSIDENCE AREA are required. These should be placed as soon as possible. Hopefully no wildlife will fall into the cracks during the winter. Fencing is not practical right now during the winter months as increased activity will only further stress the elk herds that are in the area. These cracks need to be filled and reseeded as soon as possible during the next field season.

The second area visited was the south side of the canyon, at confluence of the east fork of the east fork. Snow depths are such that further attempts to monitor spring and stream flows are no longer practical or safe. It is recommended that further monitoring be postponed until spring.

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