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OGMCOAL DNR <ogmcoal@utah.gov>

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## 0410002 SUFCO Quitchupah Rd cattle trail

1 message

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**Priscilla Burton** <priscillaburton@utah.gov>

Tue, Jan 15, 2013 at 3:21 PM

To: "Beagley, Kyle -FS" <kbeagley@fs.fed.us>, OGMCOAL DNR <ogmcoal@utah.gov>

Hello Kyle

Thanks for coming with Mr. Petty and myself yesterday to hear his concerns about trailing cattle across the Convulsion Canyon Road.

I have attached my meeting notes with pictures. Thank you for bringing these issues forward to the Interagency Coal Task group and to the Fishlake National Forest.

The documents found at the following link may be helpful to that discussion as well.

[ROD and FEIS Quitchupah Creek Road](#)

Priscilla Burton

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 **01142013 Mtg Notes and Photos.pdf**  
10996K

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## UTAH OGM COAL PROGRAM MEETING NOTES

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**Date:** January 14, 2013

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Location:** Quitchupah Road, Sevier County

**To:** Internal File, SUFCO, C/041/0002

**From:** Priscilla Burton

**Attendees:** Priscilla Burton (DOGM), Kyle Beagley (Minerals Specialist, Manti La Sal NF), Gary Petty (Quitchupah Cattle Assoc).

**Purpose:** Discuss the location of the cattle trail, cattle underpass on the Convulsion Canyon Road, and the cattle trail location in relation to the proposed SUFCO loadout along the Sevier County Quitchupah Creek Road.

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### MEETING SUMMARY:

The road is in Sevier County and construction of the road is managed by the Sevier County Special Service District Number 1 (SSD)

The following website provides The 2006 Record of Decision Quitchupah Creek Road (2006) and the Final EIS Quitchupah Creek Road (2006).

[http://www.fs.usda.gov/projectdetail/fishlake/landmanagement/projects?cid=FSM9\\_019938](http://www.fs.usda.gov/projectdetail/fishlake/landmanagement/projects?cid=FSM9_019938)

The ROD selected the alignment shown in Alternative D for the Quitchupah Road. The ROD describes protection measures for livestock in App. A. The measures include a holding facility at Broad's Hollow (not yet constructed), a gated, fenced trail within the road right of way on the north side of the road alignment between the underpass at Broad Hollow and Station 60+00 (in the vicinity of the Spring Collection and Drain Field), a holding facility at the USFS boundary (not yet constructed). The construction of culvert crossings and bridge crossings for wildlife is described in the ROD App A, and specific locations are provided in Table A-2, including a 60" culvert at Station 11+00 (Broads Hollow). This culvert was under discussion today.

#### Cattle Crossing

There are four permittees using the cattle trail on the USFS allotment. They have organized into the Quitchupah Cattle Association. As described in the FEIS, Section 3.8, they run cattle along the trail twice a year, spring and fall. They run their cattle separately. Use of the trail may be over the course of a month during each season. The FEIS acknowledges that cattle losses occur regularly on the Convulsion Canyon road (Section 3.8), but does not specify a design. In

discussions with the SSD, the cattlemen requested a box culvert type underpass, similar to those installed on I 70 and similar to those described in the ROD for wildlife passage. The SSD upgraded the 60" culvert specified in the ROD at station 10+00 to an 84" culvert. Mr. Petty provided a map created by the SSD showing the location of the 84" culvert cattle underpass at Station 10+00 which was installed in 2012.

We photographed the 84" culvert underpass. The culvert is approximately 150 long. The culvert bottom is covered with sand, but it is very narrow and dark, and Mr. Petty says nine horseback riders could not get cattle to enter it.

Mr. Petty was advised that construction of this road and underpass are under the jurisdiction of Sevier County and the Fishlake National Forest, as such a remedy might be found through discussion with those entities.

#### New Proposal for Coal Loadout in Spring Canyon

The USFS is in the beginning states of evaluating a revision to the Special Use Permit for the SUFCO mine for a new coal loadout in the vicinity of the spring drainage system just south of the current disturbed area boundary. Mr. Petty is concerned about managing cattle access through the coal loadout which he believes will span the cattle trail. The FEIS states on page 3-71 that "Utah is a fence out state," meaning that it is the responsibility of landowners must fence livestock out from their lands. Mr. Petty is concerned that this issue be part of the Special Use Permit review. He proposed a new alignment for the cattle trail cross on the south side of the Quitcupah road to avoid a conflict with the proposed new loadout. This would require a cut into the steep north facing slope to widen the road on the south side and would still place cattle in harm's way while crossing the Convulsion Canyon road.

An alternative solution may be to avoid the proposed coal loadout and the Convulsion Canyon road altogether by encouraging the cattle to stay along the north side of Quitcupah Creek and go past the substation, up East Spring Canyon (see attached google earth map). The road past the substation is open, wide and would avoid both the coal traffic and the proposed coal loadout.

However, Mr. Petty stated that the cattle do not like the hum of the substation and will not pass this way.

#### Follow-up:

Priscilla will brief DOGM management prior to the Interagency Coal Conference call.

Kyle will raise these issues during the Interagency Coal Conference call this Thursday, Jan 17, and discuss them with the Fishlake National Forest Minerals Manager, Rob Hamilton.

Mr. Petty was asked to contact UDOT for a typical box culvert design for future discussions with the USFS and the SSD. Mr. Petty should sign up with Sevier County to be automatically notified of all future meetings regarding to roads, county commission meeting agendas and minutes, and SSD meeting agendas and minutes. Follow directions at the link below to sign up <http://www.sevierutah.net/list.aspx>

The following contact information may also be helpful.

Sevier County Commissioner Gary Mason, (435) 893-0452. He also serves on SSD Board and is the commissioner responsible for roads.

Sevier County Road Supervisor, Mark Rickenbach, 435-896-4831.

8/2012 8/24/2012 1 pm 1/14/2013 3 pm 1/2013

Navigation controls: compass, street view, zoom in (+), zoom out (-)

SUFACO MINE

East Spring Cyn access trail

proposed loadout

Broads Hollow

84" culvert

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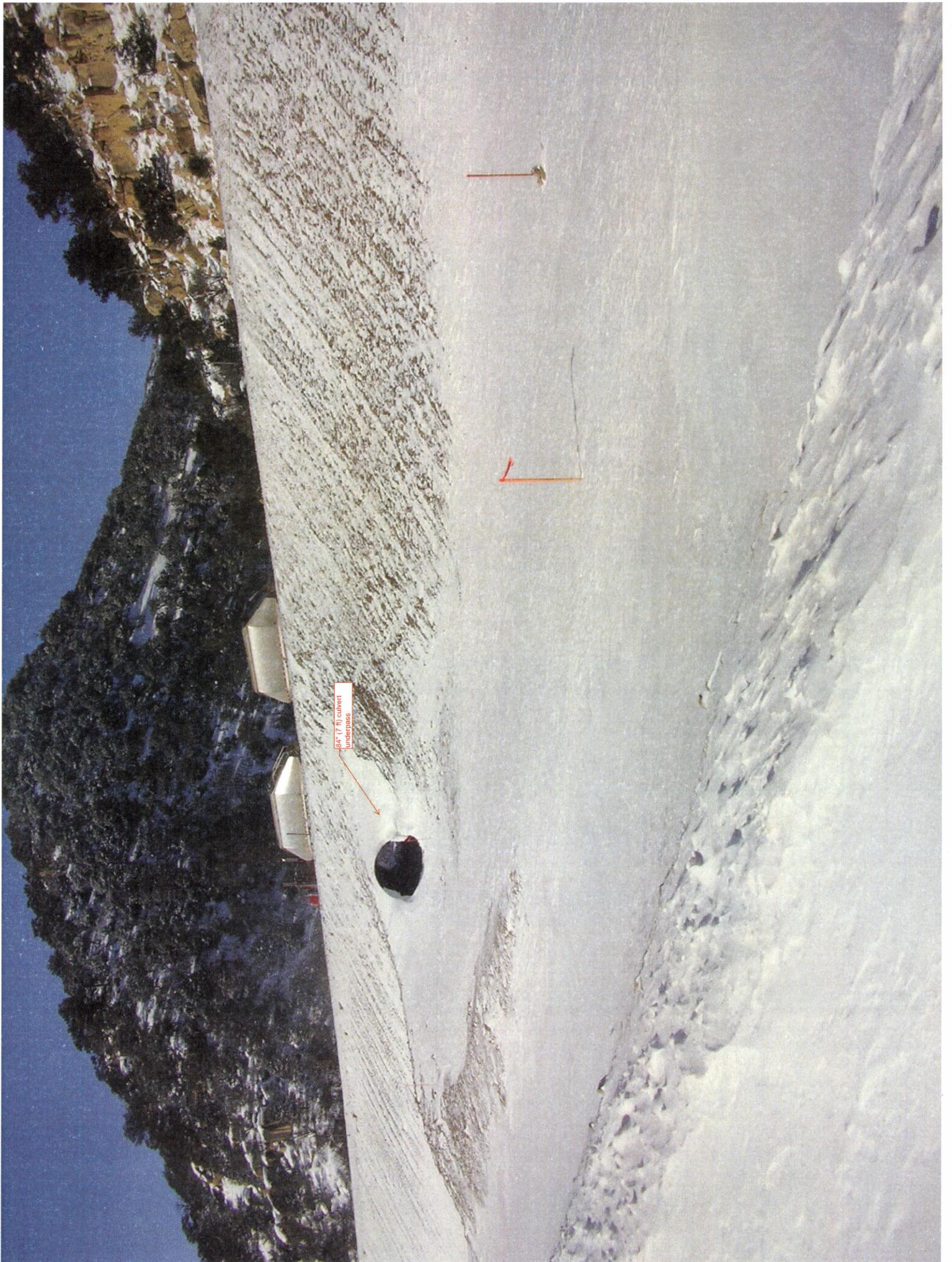
Image © 2013 GeoEye

38°54'40.29" N 111°25'21.08" W elev 8123 ft



Eye alt 13129 ft

Imagery Date: 6/6/2010 1997



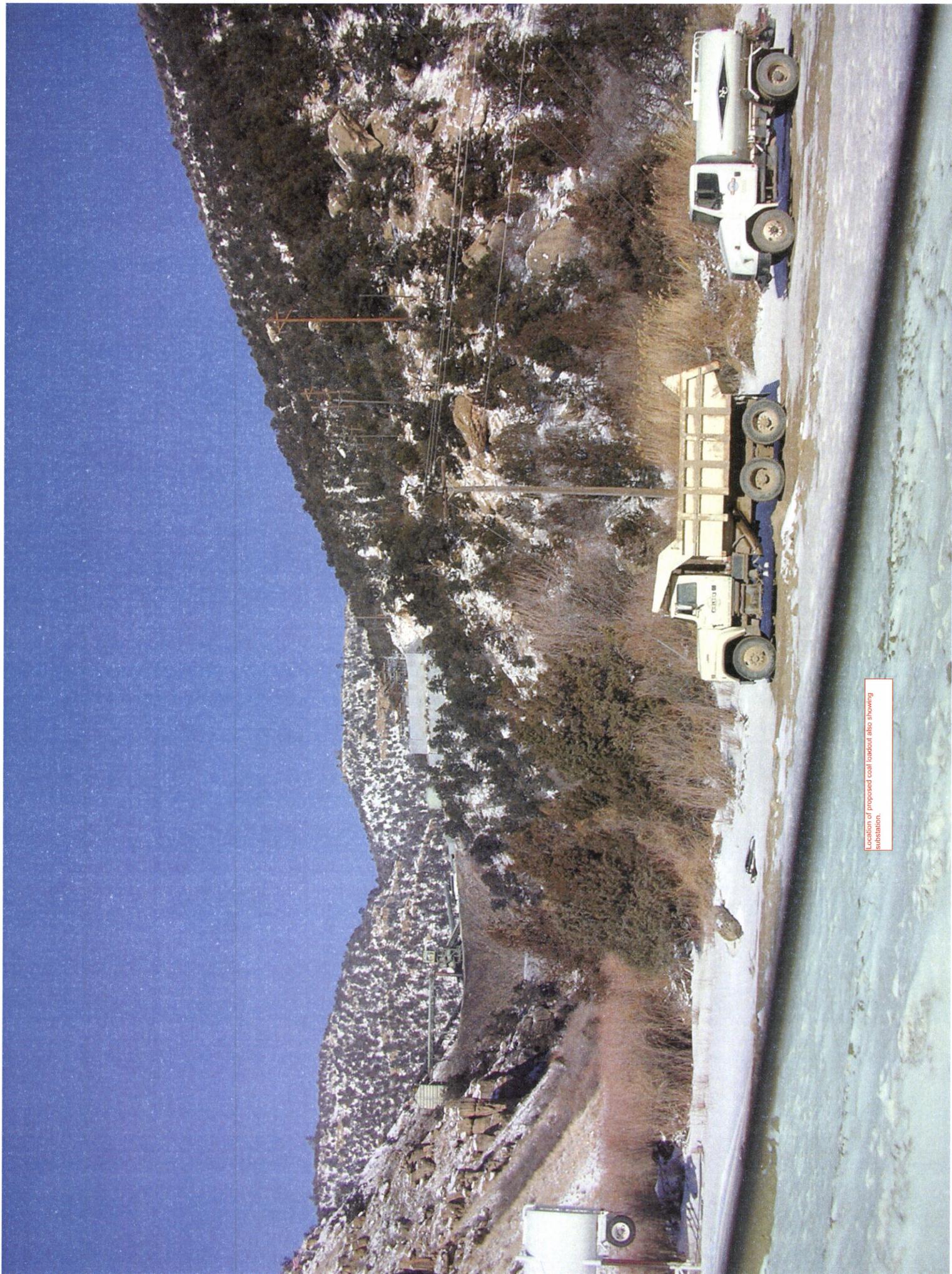
84' (7 ft) culvert  
underpass

5' 4" person inside  
culvert



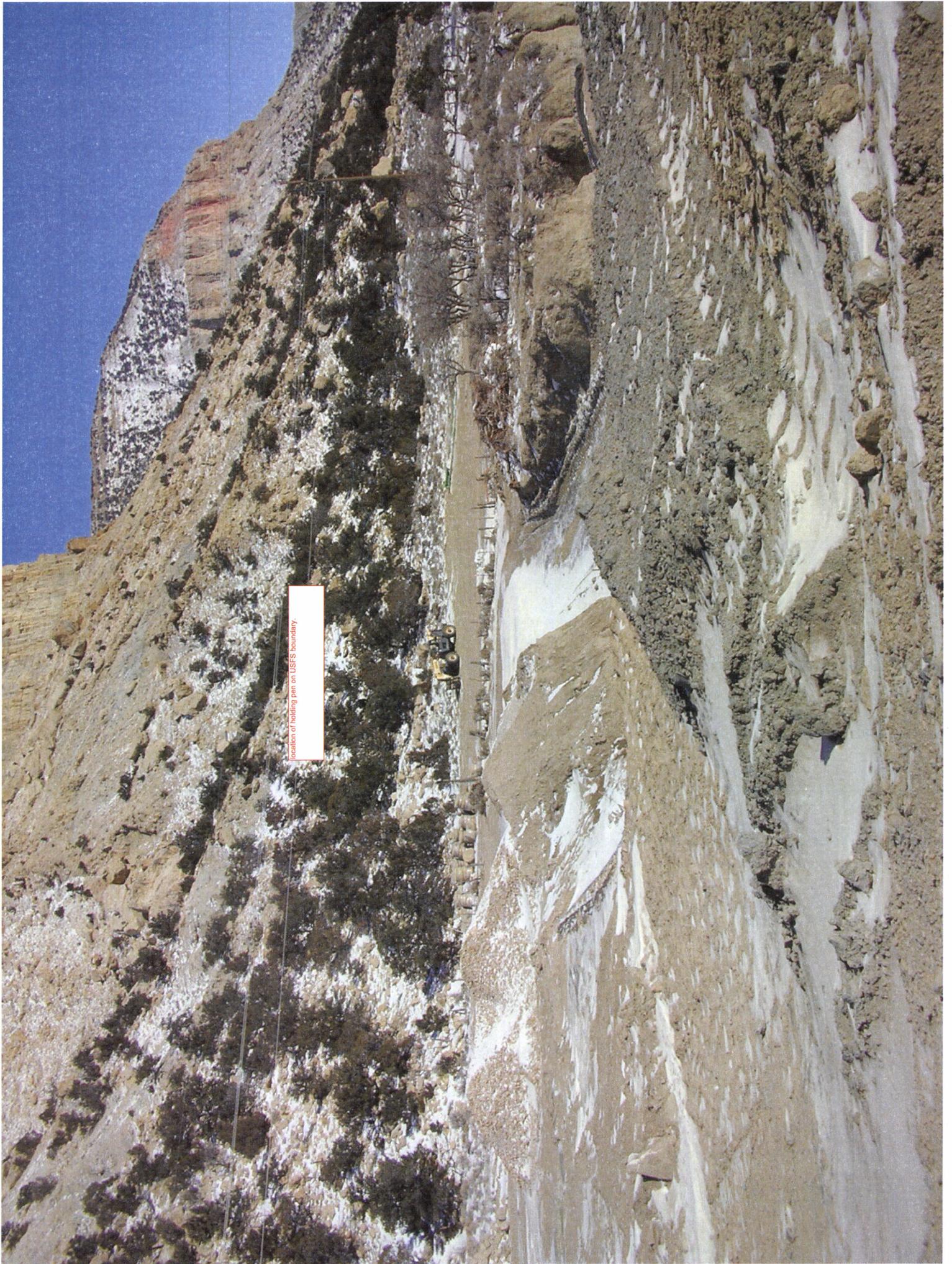


view inside 84" culvert



Location of proposed coal loadout also showing  
situation.

location of holding pen on USFS boundary.



Culvert on Quilchupah at USFS boundary.

