

November 5, 1987

TO: File

FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Reclamation Biologist *lk*

RE: Reference Area Vegetation Cover, Summit Coal Company, Boyer Mine, ACT/043/008, Folder #2, Summit County, Utah

During a partial inspection at the referenced mine site on Oct. 30, 1987, Rick Summers and Lynn Kunzler conducted a spot check to verify the level of vegetation cover on the reference area.

Several questions were raised in review of the cover study. The purpose of this visit is to substantiate or disclaim the level of vegetation cover as reported in the study conducted in August of 1987.

Ten plots, using a quarter-meter square plot, were randomly placed in the reference area with cover visually estimated. Photos were taken of several of the plots. % cover for plots 1 thru 10 was estimated at 28%, 24%, 40%, 74%, 15%, 67%, 17%, 23%, 83% and 34%, respectively. Mean vegetation cover from these samples is 40.5%. While sampling does not meet statistical adequacy requirements for establishing the baseline cover level, it was sufficient to determine the August, 1987 study is in error.

As a result of this sampling and general observations of this site, cover is indeed significantly greater than the 11.6 percent as reported in the vegetation cover study conducted in August of 1987. Cover on three of the plots would possibly be slightly higher because of leaf drop of deciduous shrubs. Overall, in estimating the cover on this site, it appears that at the height of the vegetation growing season, overall cover of the reference area would be approximately 30-40 percent, considering the near bare drainage channels that transect the reference area.

djh

cc: J. Blonquist  
S. Linner  
R. Summers

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