m/037/023


# State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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October 21, 2003

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist

SUBJECT: Site Inspections; UMETCO; Calliham, Wilson/Silverbell, and Deremo/Peterson Mines; M/037/023, M/037/027, and M/037/025; San Juan County, Utah

Date of Inspection: August 8, 2003
Time of Inspection: About 8:30 to 11:15 a.m.
Conditions: Mostly clear, 80's
Participants: Rahe Junge, Tony Bates, and Frank Barnet, UMETCO; Doug Jensen and Paul Baker, DOGM

**Purpose of Inspection:**

The primary purpose was to look at revegetation at Calliham and decide whether the vegetation is adequate to release the site. We also wanted to look at revegetation results at the other mines.

**Observations**:

I took vegetation measurements in the reclaimed and undisturbed areas at the Calliham Mine. The values obtained were 42.0 percent for the undisturbed area and 28.4 percent for the reclaimed area.

There has been some erosion on the waste pile and in a few other areas, and the operator installed erosion control matting in an attempt to control this erosion (Photos 3 and 4). There were erosion rills a few inches deep in other areas.

At the Wilson/Silverbell Mine, there was some Russian knapweed that the operator has been attempting to control with an herbicide called Curtail (Photo 8). The herbicide appears to have been effective in some areas, but the knapweed had hardly been affected in others. Herbicide applications on Russian knapweed tend to be most effective later in the summer, so there was still time to spray to try to control this persistent weed.

Part of the Wilson Mine was reseeded last year, and the vegetation has not done well. I believe there is less desirable vegetation than there was a year ago (Photo 5). Vegetation seems to be doing well at the Silverbell Mine.

Part of the Deremo/Peterson Mine was also reseeded last fall (Photos 9-11), and it is also not looking too good. The north-facing slope has a fair amount of cover from perennial species, but there is little but weeds in the rest of the site.

**Conclusions and Recommendations:**

Vegetation at the Calliham Mine did not meet revegetation success standards, but I was rushing to complete the sampling and did not feel the measurements were necessarily accurate. I need to go back when possible and take more measurements, particularly in the undisturbed area.

The operator needs to continue to try to control the Russian knapweed. I also suggest that portions of the Wilson and Deremo-Peterson Mines be seeded once again. I believe the reason for having so little vegetation is simply the dry weather the area has experienced the last few years.

PBB:jb
cc: Rahe Junge, Operator
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**ATTACHMENT**

**Photographs**
**M/037/023, M/037/027, and M/037/025; Calliham, Wilson-Silver Bell, and Deremo-Peterson Mines; UMETCO**
Inspection Dated: August 8, 2003; Report Dated: October 21, 2003

**Photo 1. The waste pile at Calliham. Note the ATV tracks on the left side of the photo.**

**Photo 3. One of the erosion control blankets at Calliham.**

**Photo 2. Typical vegetation at Calliham.**

**Photo 4. Another erosion control blanket at Calliham.**

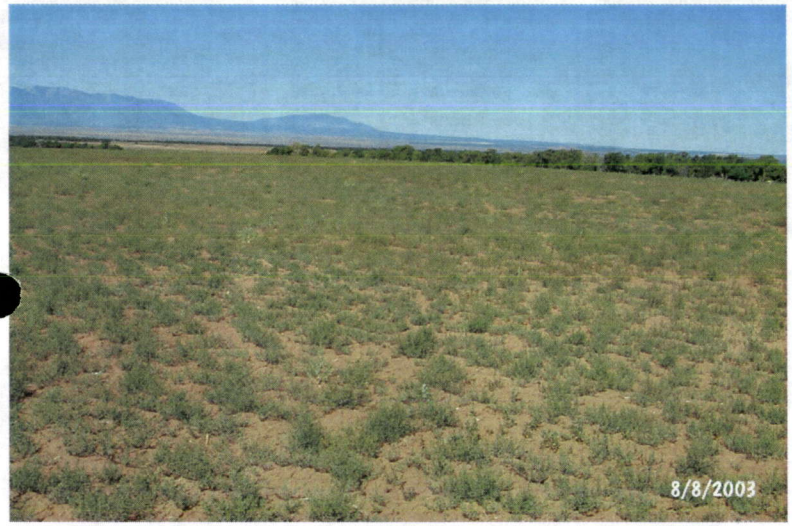


**Photo 5. Waste pile at the Wilson Mine.**

**Photo 6. Waste pile at the Silverbell Mine.**

**Photo 7. A closer view of vegetation on the Silverbell waste pile.**

**Photo 8. Sprayed Russian knapweed at, I believe, Wilson.**

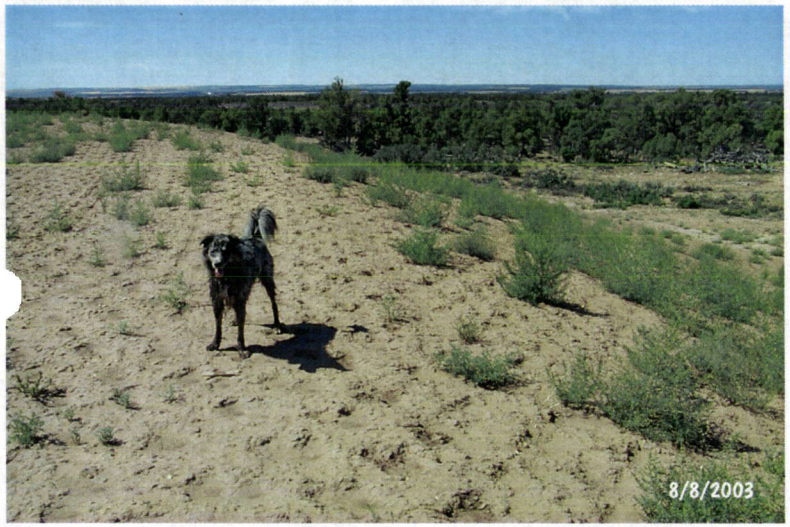


**Photo 9. The top and west slope of the waste pile at Deremo-Peterson.**

**Photo 10. North slope at Deremo-Peterson.**

**Photo 11. Another view of the Deremo-Peterson waste pile.**