



OIL, GAS & MINING

# Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program PROJECT SUMMARY

## Sediment Ponds Project Carbon County, Utah

AMR/007/921

### Project Location and Background

The Sediment Ponds Project reclaimed abandoned slurry ponds at the Castle Gate mine in Price Canyon approximately 3 miles north of Helper, Utah.

The project addressed coal refuse in the Price River floodplain deposited by an old prep plant at the Castle Gate mine. The sediment ponds were located between the Price River and the embankment of the Rio Grande Railroad tracks. A 10-15 foot high berm constructed of soil, rock, and coal formed three basins. The elevations of the basin floors were below the adjacent river elevation. A breach of the berms would have caused flooding that would threaten the railroad and wash coal fines into the river.

The coal was excavated and hauled by scraper to the Barn Canyon refuse disposal site on the active Castle Gate mine property. The Schoolhouse Canyon Disposal Site was a SMCRA Title V approved head-of-hollow fill site used by the Castle Gate mine for disposal of waste rock and coal. Clean fill was imported to the sed ponds from a borrow site at Emma Park in order to raise the elevation of the floodplain above the river. The railroad embankment was armored with riprap to protect it from high floods.



Castle Gate mine between 1920 and 1930. The sed ponds would be between the small butte (left edge) and the railroad cars. Photo: George Beam

*The AMRP in the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, Utah Department of Natural Resources was created in 1983 to address physical safety hazards associated with abandoned mines as authorized by the Surface Mining Reclamation and Control Act (SMCRA) of 1977. The Program is funded by The Utah Coal Producers who pay an abandoned mine reclamation fee to the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) on each ton of coal mined in Utah.*

**Land Owner: Private**

**General Contractor: Ned B. Mitchell Inc.**

**AMRP Project Manager: Chris Rohrer**

**AMLIS Key: UT000151**

**Funding: OSM Grant**



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## Construction Summary

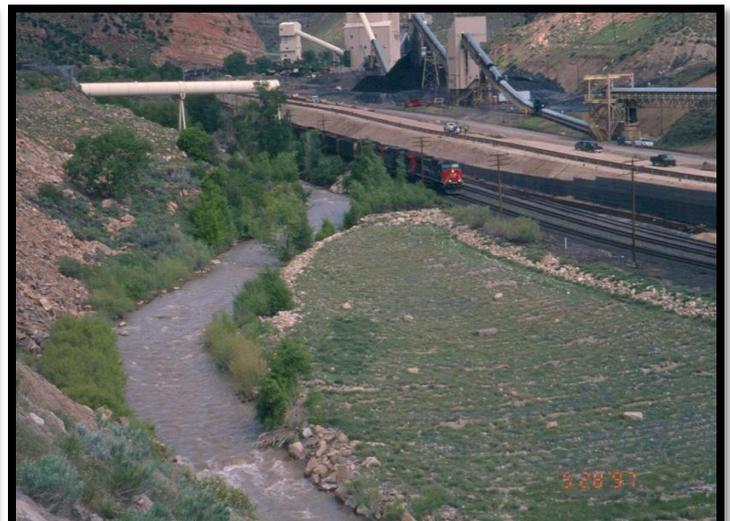
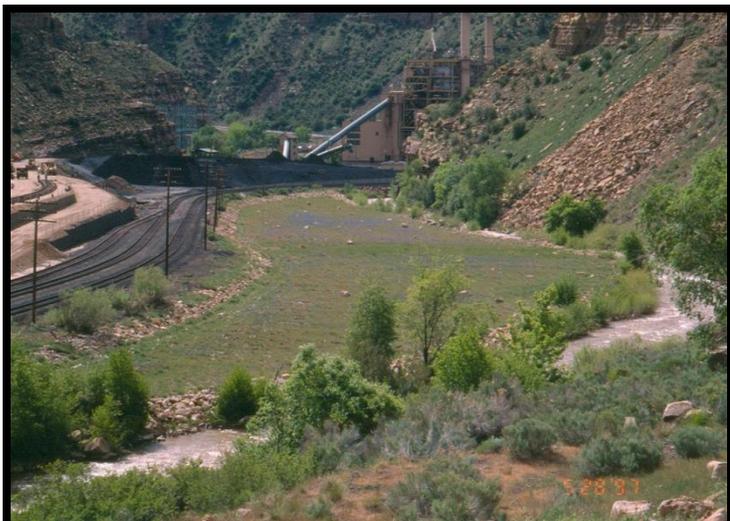
### Accomplishments

**20,800 CYD Earthwork**  
**23,700 CYD Material Transport**  
**4,020 CYD Rip-Rapping of River Bank**  
**Re-vegetation of Sites**

<i>Cost Category:</i>	<i>Initial Closure/Project Costs</i>
Access Cost	\$3,750.00
Bonds Cost	\$12,100.00
Consultant Field Survey	\$583.00
Demolition Cost	\$600.00
Drainage Control Cost	\$39,446.39
Earthwork Cost	\$159,181.00
General Consulting Servi	\$41,187.60
Mine Closure Cost	\$243,757.00
Mob Cost	\$34,818.00
Other	\$927.00
Reveg Cost	\$11,630.00
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$547,979.99</b>



Above: Down- and up canyon views of the sed ponds during (L) and before (R) reclamation.



Above: Down- and up canyon views the first growing season after reclamation.