

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steve Frost, Coal Geologist, NMBMMR

FROM: H. B. Nickelson, Mining Geologist, Consultant, NMBMMR

SUBJECT: Reclamation evaluation for OSM, Gallup Field, Catalpa Mine,
Bread Springs Quad.

* Catalpa Mine 1800' NL, 900' EL, 34-15-18, Locations BS-5, BS-3, and
BS-4

The Catalpa Mine was opened in 1897 by the Crescent Coal Company. By 1898-1899 the mine was developed and producing 58,000 tons per year, and the main slope had reached a length of 2400'. The Crown Point and the Thatcher beds, both having coal 5' to 6' thick, were mined. The mine was well developed, and the surface facilities were very good. A mining camp including 75 comfortable dwellings, several boarding houses, a large store, an office, and storerooms made up a village of considerable pretensions. The mine was connected to the railroad with a spur.

The mine was purchased in 1900-1901 by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company and operated under the American Fuel Company. This Company continued to develop and add improvements to the mine until February, 1902, when it ceased operations. By 1904 all the equipment and houses had been removed and put in use at the Heaton or Weaver mines. These two mines could supply all the coal that was in demand. Production from the Catalpa amounted to 279,000 tons, and from the information in the mine inspector reports the mine was developed to produce probably over a million tons of coal.

The examiners found two slopes and two shafts, as shown on the map. The main vertical shaft for ventilation, Location BS-3, is open for at least 40'. The ranch family who live in the immediate vicinity have put up a temporary fence around the opening. They would certainly like to have this shaft filled because they have expensive stock grazing over the area. The main slope, which bears S. 70° W., has an opening 1' or so in diameter, Location BS-5.

The second main slope to the east, which bears S. 25° W., is open

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for 15' or more. A ventilation shaft 60' east of the second slope is sealed with the remains of a furnace, which was used to aid ventilation, over the opening. Considerable dump remains on the site, but the main dump has fired and now provides a good source of road ballast.

Photos taken over the site are as follows:

* G-19-11 This is a view of the shaft at Location BS-3. The opening was fenced by the land owner, but it is a temporary closing at best. The shaft is estimated to be at least 40' deep. The land owner expressed a desire to have the opening filled.

G-19-12 View of the dump and furnace at the eastern openings, Location BS-4. The rock work in the foreground is the furnace. The photo was taken looking N. 30° E.

* G-20-1 This is a view of the eastern slope, which is open but well guarded by a sleeping rattlesnake. The slope bears N. 25° W. and is open for at least 15'. It should be filled. The snake was not disturbed and he will be there when the adit is backfilled.

G-20-2 View of the main dump taken from the furnace shaft site, looking N. 65° W. The dump has provided considerable red dog for road ballast.

* G-20-3 View of the main slope. The slope bears S. 70° W. and is open with a hole a foot or so in diameter.

* The reclamation recommended is to backfill the shaft at BS-3 and the two slope openings. The shaft at ES-3 should be considered a priority.

H. B. Nickelson



G-19-11



G-19-12



G-20-1



G-20-2



G-20-3