

6646 Dry Fork Canyon  
Vernal, UT 84078  
January 16, 2007

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SALT LAKE

Gentlemen:

RE: Dry Fork Creek, Uintah County, Utah

The Mosby Mountain and Trout Creek moisture content at the present time is approximately 95-110 percent of normal. If Dry Fork flows this spring at only 85 percent, we will have major problems. The creek or river is now in worse condition than prior to the 1997 Mosby Mountain collapse. It contains more downed timbers, more debris, more pollution, mud bars, and insufficient water channels to carry the spring run off. We have more snow at lower elevations this year which will bring more pollution of silt, sand and mud from the steep slopes of Mosby Mountain. This pattern occurs each year when the snow is piled on the slopes at low elevation levels. Loose materials coming down from the slopes combined with loose material in the creek will create more eroding of the banks and current channels. The current channels are always temporary from year to year due to the rock and mud flow which always builds new channels. Snow levels on Mosby mountain and Trout Creek will probably send more water into Ashley Creek with greater amounts of energy than Ashley Creek normally would have. Dry Fork Creek or River will again threaten private properties and has done so since 1997 when Mosby Mountain caved into Dry Fork Creek. I want you to also know that the eagles have never returned to this area since their cotton wood trees were wasted away in 2005. The only one that I have seen was at the mouth of the canyon sitting on a power pole. The Dry Fork people kind of enjoyed their return each year in January and February. Letting these problems go unsolved causes more damage each year especially to private property owners and wildlife along the creek. I am expressing concern because more snows will be expected in January, February and March.

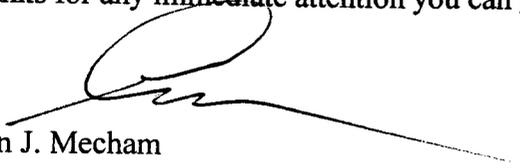
We have not heard anything yet from Dr. Tom Hardy at Utah State University on how his study is coming along. This prompts my idea that J. J. Brown, Senator Hatch's office, and others may want to walk the creek with me early this spring. We can visit the Mosby Mountain disaster and Dry Fork Creek. Then you would know the condition and mess the creek is in before the spring run off of 2007.

I really feel that if we could solve the problems of Dry Fork Creek and limit its flow, this would solve the problems of Ashley Creek each spring. Dry Fork Creek most often flows more water and has a steeper grade which creates greater energy in the water and more problems for Ashley Creek below.

The people along the creek wish that the federal and state governments would protect all along the creek from its damaging flow each spring. The people along the creek have not been allowed to make changes to protect their properties. The state permits issued have been worthless to property owners and we have been threatened with jail sentences when trying to protect our own properties. We would like the two government agencies to come together the way they should

and repair the creek providing protection to property owners and wildlife. It was not the Dry Fork people that caused the problems on Mosby Mountain, when the mountain caved off going into Dry Fork Creek.

Thanks for any immediate attention you can give this pressing matter.



Glen J. Mecham

cc: Gary R. Herbert, Lt. Governor of Utah  
J. J. Brown, Senator Hatch's office  
Ron Dear, Environmental Officer for Senator Hatch  
Chris Cannon, House Representative  
Jerry D. Olds, State Engineer/Division Director  
Nathan Green, Biologist, U.S. Corps of Engineers  
Kevin Elliott, Forest Service/Supervisor  
Dr. Tom Hardy, Utah State University  
Senator Kevin VanTassell  
Representative John Mathis  
NRCS, Vernal Office  
Greg Witbeck, Farm Services, Vernal  
Scott Ruppe, Conservancy District, Vernal