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*News briefs from Utah NRCS*

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## NRCS SHARES EARTH DAY AWARD FOR AMERICAN FORK HOME RIVERS PROJECT

Last week the Utah Board of Oil, Gas and Mining recognized NRCS and other partners with its Earth Day Award for work completed last year on the American Fork Home Rivers Project. The annual award, presented since 1992, honors entities for excellent partnership work in pursuit of reclamation and natural resource development. The American Fork Rivers Project



Earth Day Award Recipients



Pacific Mine and Mill Site, 1916



Pacific Repository Constructed, 2006

represented a unique partnership and effective cooperation among federal, state, non-profit and commercial parties. The overall objective of this project was to remove mine wastes on private land that were still impacting public waters and the fishery in the North Fork of American Fork Canyon.

Ted Fitzgerald of Trout Unlimited (TU) provided overall coordination and worked closely with Kerry Goodrich representing NRCS Area I. (Kerry received special commendation at the ceremony from EPA for his involvement.) Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort contributed the labor involved in the earth moving activities and, under contract with TU, provided the heavy equipment and fuel to perform the work. Snowbird rented the heavy equipment from Wheeler Machinery at a reduction in normal rental rates of 20 percent which was passed on to the project.

Contaminated material was excavated from the Blue Rock and Scotchman #2 locations and deposited in a repository above retention ponds that were constructed. The \$55,000 cost for earth moving was included for reimbursement from NRCS under a special one-time authority provided to the Department of Agriculture and NRCS by Congress under the leadership of Senator Bob Bennett. The cost of constructing the repository and the seeding and fertilizing was made available by NRCS

under this special authority over a two year period.

The work began on August 7 and the final work, including an interpretive kiosk for the public, was completed October 17, 2006.

Other partners, not mentioned, included the Uinta National Forest and EPA. The accompanying photo shows award recipients (including NRCS State Conservationist Sylvia Gillen) with members of the Oil, Gas and Mining Board. Other photos show before and after results from the project.

 Periodic news reports from NRCS Utah

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