

STATE OF
COLORADO

Hughes - DNR, Jim <jimo.hughes@state.co.us>

Thurston Property Correspondence

6 messages

Cowden, Shelly <scowden@rwpc.us>

Mon, Oct 5, 2015 at 9:14 AM

To: "jimo.hughes@state.co.us" <jimo.hughes@state.co.us>

Hi Jim,

As Katie and I stated on the phone; Red Willow has been in contact with Ms. Thurston and have not heard back from her. Please keep us in the loop. Thanks and have a great day.

Thanks,

Shelly Cowden

Environmental Compliance Specialist III

Red Willow Production Co.

14933 State Hwy 172

Ignacio, Colorado 81137

Desk: (970) 563-5194

Cell: (970) 442-1554

Fax: (970) 563-5271

E-mail: scowden@rwpc.us

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Cowden, Shelly" <scowden@rwpc.us>

To: Jennifer Thurston <weaselskin.institute@gmail.com>

Cc: "Stahnke, Graham" <gstahnke@sugf.com>

Date: Thu, 11 Jun 2015 14:32:10 +0000

Subject: RE: Thurston Property Spring

Hi Jennifer,

Thank you for your patience. It would be easier to meet here in Ignacio to better present our findings. We have discussed this with our geologist consultant and she seems to believe that it is the spring:

I think tree death in these locations is not due to oil and gas contamination of the perched aquifer within the terrace gravels. I reach this conclusion because the perched aquifer in the gravels is continuous throughout the terrace area shown (in fact it extends much farther to the north and south). The damage seems more likely due to some other cause such as changes in spring discharge (amount and location) over time. We also discussed the possibility that buildup of travertine deposits in shifting spots could trap moisture that eventually smothers roots. Much of the water in this aquifer probably comes from irrigation and changing conditions in this area during the last couple of decades. ~ Mary Gillam, Geology Consultant

Red Willow would like to provide you with some Google Earth Photos of the mesa and an opportunity to speak with our in house geologist. With the upcoming 4th of July holiday and summer vacations it will be difficult to gather the group again until mid July. Let me send out some requests for dates to the group and I will get back with you. I'm I correct in stating that the month of July is not going to work for you (due to youth camp at equestrian center)? Talk to soon.

Thanks,

Shelly Cowden

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From: Jennifer Thurston [mailto:weaselskin.institute@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 8:13 AM

To: Cowden, Shelly

Subject: Re: Thurston Property Spring

Shelly,

Thank you for your response as I am very concerned about the situation. Unfortunately, I will be out of town the week of the 23rd. I start youth camps at the equestrian center in July which will make it difficult for me to depart from the farm to meet in Ignacio. Is it possible to meet over here, I do have a meeting room etc. at the equestrian center to meet or at the site itself.

Please rely with suggested meeting dates. Does your team have any ideas on what is happening out there?

Jennifer THurston

On Mon, Jun 8, 2015 at 3:57 PM, Cowden, Shelly <scowden@rwpc.us> wrote:

Hello Mrs. Thurston,

Red Willow would like to meet and discuss with you the area that you are concerned about on your property. We would like to meet the afternoon of, June 23, 2015, at our office in Ignacio at 2:00PM. Please let me know if that day and time will work for you.

Thanks,

Shelly Cowden

Environmental Compliance Specialist III

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jennifer Thurston <weaselskin.institute@gmail.com>

To: "Cowden, Shelly" <scowden@rwpc.us>

Cc:

Date: Thu, 11 Jun 2015 14:13:03 +0000

Subject: Re: Thurston Property Spring

Shelly,

Thank you for your response as I am very concerned about the situation. Unfortunately, I will be out of town the week of the 23rd. I start youth camps at the equestrian center in July which will make it difficult for me to depart from the farm to meet in Ignacio. Is it possible to meet over here, I do have a meeting room etc. at the equestrian center to meet or at the site itself.

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Shelly Cowden

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Mary Gillam <gillam@rmi.net>

To: "Cowden, Shelly" <scowden@rwpc.us>

Cc:

Date: Mon, 8 Jun 2015 22:51:10 +0000

Subject: RE: Thurston Property

Hi Shelly,

As I said on the phone, I think tree death in these locations is not due to oil and gas contamination of the perched aquifer within the terrace gravels. I reach this conclusion because the perched aquifer in the gravels is continuous throughout the terrace area shown (in fact it extends much farther to the north and south). If contamination were involved, one would expect any vegetation damage along the terrace edge to be relatively continuous. Instead, any damage visible on the image you sent appears limited to the north-facing sides of small drainages that lead down the slope below the terrace. Therefore the damage seems more likely due to some other cause such as changes in spring discharge (amount and location) over time. We also discussed the possibility that buildup of travertine deposits in shifting spots could trap moisture that eventually smothers roots.

Much of the water in this aquifer probably comes from irrigation, so you may want to find out if any of the tribe's hydrologists are familiar with changing groundwater conditions in this area during the last couple of decades.

You may also want to visit the area with an experienced local arborist like David Temple, if he's available. Such a person might be able to distinguish damage from different causes by examining a few trees.

Please let me know if I can help in any other way.

Sincerely,

Mary Gillam

From: Cowden, Shelly [mailto:scowden@rwpc.us]

Sent: Monday, June 08, 2015 4:08 PM

To: Gillam@rmi.net

Subject: Thurston Property

Hi Mary,

Thanks again for taking the time to review the attached map. The spring on the mesa seems to be distressing vegetation and she feels is responsible for the dead trees. She believes that Red Willow's well drilled in 2007 is to blame. Any help with some local geology to help ease Mrs. Thurston's concerns is greatly appreciated.

Thanks,

Shelly Cowden

Environmental Compliance Specialist III

Red Willow Production Co.

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