
Gallatin National Forest News Release



For Immediate Release

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Reclamation of Travertine Quarries Near Gardiner Completed

Closure and reclamation work has now been completed on three travertine quarries that are located just above Gardiner, Montana. According to Pete Strazdos, project manager for Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), reclamation work on the quarry sites consisted of backfilling and re-grading, replacing top soil and vegetation, and reclaiming mining roads in the area. The reclaimed sites were seeded with grasses and forbs that are native to the Gardiner Basin.

The reclamation was one requirement of mining operating permits that are jointly administered by the Montana DEQ and the Forest Service. The reclamation work was performed by Kelly O'Hara of Recycler, Inc. of Livingston.

Fifteen years ago (1991), as part the Northern Yellowstone Elk Project, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Forest Service joined together to purchase the quarry sites - the "Gold", "Suntan" and "White Rubble", from the Strong family of Livingston. Those three parcels of land were added to the Gallatin National Forest.

Under terms of the 1991 Northern Yellowstone project, the Strong's reserved rights to mine travertine from the three quarries for a period of 15 years. That mining reservation expired in February 2006, and the reclamation work followed.

Ken Britton, District Ranger at Gardiner, said: "We are pleased with the travertine reclamation completed by Kelly O'Hara and his grandfather, Wally." They worked hard to complete reclamation in a timely manner and had some artistic fun



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along the way. I think people will enjoy wandering around the travertine blocks left at the Suntan quarry for years to come.”

In addition, the Elk Foundation and Forest Service acquired a Conservation Easement on two other quarry sites – the “Red” and the “White” in 1991. That easement provides for permanent protection of elk and other wildlife habitat, and it precludes subdivision and development of the private land.

For further information, please contact the Gardiner Ranger District.

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