

Hayman Fire Recovery

On October 15 the Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company (CC&V) announced a \$10,000 donation to the Teller/Park Soil Conservation District for Hayman Fire recovery efforts. The Hayman Fire was the largest ever in Colorado's history, burning over 137,000 acres in Teller, Park, Douglas and Jefferson Counties. The fire started near Lake George in Park County on June 8, 2002. The fire burned throughout the area until it was contained on July 2, and considered controlled July 18.

The donation will be used to assist private property owners in obtaining federal matching money for reclamation and erosion control efforts. The governmental assistance requires a 25 percent match by the property owner. Many of the fire victims have lost everything and are unable to raise the required match. With this donation, \$30,000 of additional funds from the federal government may be secured to pay for stabilization and reclamation of fire damaged lands in Teller, Park, and Douglas Counties. Reclamation of these lands will also assist in protecting regional water quality.

Leon Kot, district conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, described the donation as "very important to our recovery efforts. There are many severely burned properties that are in danger of massive erosion next spring if we don't do something."