DIRECTOR’S FINDING AND ORDER

Under the authority vested in me by law as the Director of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), I hereby close to general public access all school and institutional trust lands within the following areas for which permits have been issued by or applied for with the Utah Division of Oil Gas & Mining (UDOGM):

1. Large mine areas permitted under Utah Administrative Code R647-4;
2. Small mine and exploration areas permitted by UDOGM under R647-3 and 647-2;
3. Surface facilities for coal mines permitted by UDOGM under R-645;
4. Well sites, injection well sites, gas processing sites, and produced water disposal sites permitted by UDOGM under R-649.

This closure order is issued to protect public health and safety; to prevent resource degradation; to prevent conflict with applicable uses of trust lands by trust lands mineral lessees; and to facilitate compliance by mineral operators on trust lands with occupational safety regulations requiring control over public access to mining and mineral extraction sites. This closure does not extend to SITLA and its employees and contractors, or lessees of trust lands and their employees, contractors and invitees.

This closure order is based on the following legal authority: (i) Utah Code Ann. 53C-1-302(broad authority and discretion of director to manages trust assets; (ii) Utah Code Ann. 53C-2-105 (withdrawal of trust lands); (iii) Utah Code Ann. 53C-2-301, -302 (trespassing on trust lands); and Utah Administrative Code R850-41-200(3) (non-commercial use of trust lands may not conflict with authorized uses).

Violation of this closure order may result in prosecution for trespass under Utah Code Ann. 53C-2-301 or under other applicable laws and regulations.

DATED THIS 7 DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2012

Kevin S. Carter, Director
School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration