

## **Kennecott Utah Companies Donate \$210,000 to Support The Nature Conservancy**

*Funding supports future world-class research center for climate change study*

(Salt Lake City, Utah – Thursday, May 1, 2008) – Kennecott Utah Copper (KUC) and Kennecott Land Company (KLC), wholly owned subsidiaries of Rio Tinto, have donated \$210,000 to support The Nature Conservancy’s Dugout Ranch Climate Change Initiative. The contribution is a part of an ongoing effort by the Kennecott Utah Companies to support climate change initiatives and reduce its harmful impacts.

Kennecott’s donation to the Conservancy will help establish the Canyonland’s Research Center, a world-class research site that will provide critical information about climate and land use interactions to scientists and decision makers around the globe. The Conservancy hopes to use the research to inform and influence arid land use decisions and policies, helping Utahns’ address issues such as diminished Colorado River water quantity and quality, and invasive species and wildfires, which could be exacerbated by climate change.

The Kennecott Utah Companies have a long relationship with the Conservancy dating back 20 years. Kennecott has been a longstanding member of the Conservancy’s Corporate Alliance and contributed hundreds of thousands to preserve wetlands, open space and address climate change.

"We are extremely grateful to Rio Tinto's Utah Companies for their generous contribution to the Dugout Ranch Climate Change Initiative," said Dave Livermore, The Nature Conservancy's Utah State Director. "Climate change is one of the most serious threats facing humans and nature around the world, and the Dugout Ranch Climate

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Change Initiative will provide powerful new tools to help us prepare for and adapt to its impacts."

The Dugout Ranch Climate Change Initiative and Canyonland's Research Center will be based at the Dugout Ranch, a key property purchased and protected by the Conservancy in 1997. Located at the mouth of Canyonland's National Park in the heart of the Colorado Plateau, this historic cattle ranch encompasses 5,200 acres of private land and 300,000 acres of associated public grazing allotments. Its ecologically important lands support a wealth of wildlife and rare wildflowers, spanning more than 42 miles of vital cottonwood/willow riparian forest. Today, the protected Dugout Ranch is proving to be a prime site to generate top-quality climate and land use data due to its location on the Colorado Plateau and its position along an important monsoonal climate boundary.

Currently in the design phase, the Dugout Ranch Climate Change Initiative is scheduled to commence research in 2009. The Conservancy is currently building partnerships, working on research facility design and defining scientific goals.

"We are proud to support The Nature Conservancy and their work to address climate change issues," said Alexis Cairo, Vice President of Communications and External Relations, Kennecott Utah Companies. "It is in the best interest of our company to support these initiatives and understand the science behind climate change."

In addition to supporting the Dugout Ranch Climate Change Initiative, KUC and KLC recently joined the Climate Registry as founding reporters to voluntarily report Green House Gas (GHG) Emissions. As founding reporters, both Rio Tinto companies can gain valuable experience in publicly reporting independently certified greenhouse gas emissions.

The Kennecott Utah Companies also joined The United States Climate Action Partnership (USCAP), which represents an alliance of major businesses and

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environmental groups encouraging federal policy to address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition to local and national partnerships, the Kennecott Utah Companies have a strong commitment to sustainability, which is laid out in their annual sustainability reports that can be found online at [www.kennecott.com](http://www.kennecott.com) or [www.kennecottland.com](http://www.kennecottland.com).

### **About Kennecott Utah Copper**

As the second largest copper producer in the United States, Kennecott Utah Copper provides about 13 percent of this country's copper needs. Kennecott Bingham Canyon Mine is the largest man-made excavation in the world. It has produced more copper ore, 18.1 million tons, than any mine in the world. Every year, Kennecott produces approximately 300,000 tons of copper, along with 500,000 ounces of gold, 4 million ounces of silver, about 30 million pounds of molybdenum, and about 1 million tons of sulfuric acid, a by-product of the smelting process. Rio Tinto purchased Kennecott Utah Copper in 1989 and has invested about \$2 billion in the modernization of KUC's operations. KUC has also spent more than \$350 million on the cleanup of historic mining waste and \$100 million on groundwater cleanup. KUC employs 1,800 people and hundreds of contractors. [www.kennecott.com](http://www.kennecott.com)

### **About Kennecott Land**

Kennecott Land was established by parent company Rio Tinto in April 2001 to protect and develop Kennecott Utah Copper's 93,000 acres on Salt Lake Valley's West Bench. Daybreak is the first testament to that vision. Daybreak is situated on 4,126 acres in South Jordan City where 20,000 homes are planned. At Kennecott Land, sustainable development is at the heart of every business decision by balancing the complex interaction of environmental, economic and social factors. Kennecott Land does this in a way that protects and strengthens what matters most to our community: strong and safe neighborhoods, quality education, a healthy and renewable environment, and a vibrant local economy. [www.kennecottland.com](http://www.kennecottland.com) and [www.daybreakutah.com](http://www.daybreakutah.com)

### **About The Nature Conservancy**

The Nature Conservancy is the leading conservation organization working to protect the most ecologically important lands and waters around the world for nature and people. To date, the Conservancy and its more than one million members have been responsible for the protection of more than 15 million acres in the United States and have helped preserve more than 102 million acres in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific. Visit The Nature Conservancy on the Web at [nature.org](http://nature.org). In Utah, The Nature Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 900,000 acres of critical lands and waters. Visit The Nature Conservancy in Utah on the Web at [nature.org/utah](http://nature.org/utah).

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