



News Release

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The Kennecott Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve Celebrates its 10th Anniversary of Providing and Improving Bird Habitat

More than 100 bird species call the reserve home

(Magna, UT) – Kennecott Utah Copper is celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Kennecott Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve (ISSR). Kennecott has improved and protected a 3,700 acre shore area of the Great Salt Lake making it home for 120,000 birds each year.

Kennecott is the only private company with a reserve on the Great Salt Lake. The ISSR was created in 1997 and this year marks the 10th anniversary of building and preserving critical wetlands for nesting and resting migratory birds. The ISSR plays an important part in Kennecott's commitment to sustainability. This reserve is one of Kennecott's most significant achievements in protecting the environment in the Salt Lake Valley. By restoring and enhancing the wetlands, Kennecott has transformed it into a reserve that provides feeding, staging and breeding habitats for thousands of migratory birds.

Located about 20 miles west of Salt Lake City on the south shore of the Great Salt Lake, the Kennecott Inland Sea Shorebird is habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl as well as wildlife. Kennecott has been mining for more than 100 years and the reserve is mitigation for the loss of some nearby wetlands which were impacted by the expansion of the tailings impoundment.

The Great Salt Lake has always been an area of particular significance for birds. Birds are an indicator of the health of the ecology and surrounding environment. They are often the first to show the signs of poor environmental conditions and pollution.

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Kennecott monitors the bird populations to increase its understanding of the surrounding environment and continuously improve its management of the area. The number of bird species at the ISSR has grown from 50 in 1995 to more than 100 now.

“The ecology of the Great Salt Lake is a place for migratory shore birds and nesting shore birds to stop, eat and rest,” said Ann Neville, Wildlife Biologist, Kennecott Utah Copper. “Many of the birds fly thousands of miles to Alaska and Argentina. And this is a stopping place.”

While remaining a haven for birds, the reserve also has an important educational and community role. It's visited by birding groups, schools and university research teams. As part of the Rio Tinto BirdLife International program, an employee bird watching event was held on August 31st and drew more than 300 Rio Tinto employees and their families.

Kennecott Utah Copper recognizes and thanks the following organizations for their support and partnership in the creation of the Kennecott Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve:

- Dames and Moore
- National Audubon Society
- South Shore Coalition
- SWCA Inc. Environmental Consultants
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

About Kennecott Utah Copper:

As the second largest copper producer in the United States, Kennecott Utah Copper provides about 15% of this country's copper needs. Kennecott Bingham Canyon Mine is the largest man-made excavation in the world. It has produced more copper, 17.3 million, tons, than any mine in the world. Every year, Kennecott produces about 300,000 tons of copper, along with 400,000 ounces of gold, three million ounces of silver, about 24 million pounds of molybdenum, and about one million tons of sulfuric acid, a by-product of the smelting process.

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Rio Tinto purchased Kennecott Utah Copper in 1989 and has invested about \$2 billion in the modernization of KUCC's operations. KUCC has also spent over \$350 million on the cleanup of historic mining waste and \$100 million on groundwater cleanup. Kennecott Utah Copper has 1,600 full-time employees and 600 contractors. For 70 years it was the largest private employer in the State of Utah. www.kennecott.com

About Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto, the parent company to Kennecott companies, is a world leader in discovering, mining and processing the earth's mining resources in an economically, socially and environmentally responsible way. Wherever Rio Tinto operates, health and safety is the first priority. Group businesses also put sustainable development at the heart of their operations. They work as closely as possible with host countries and communities, respecting their laws and customs. For Rio Tinto, it is important that the environmental effects of its activities are kept to a minimum and that local communities benefit as much as possible from operations. The US businesses produce borates, coal, copper, gold, gypsum, lead, molybdenum, silver, talc and zinc. The company employs more than 30,000 people worldwide and 2,300 people in Utah. www.riotinto.com

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