

The Duck Crusher Landslide Site



Gunnite collapse in 2005 that destroyed duck.

On the morning of January 29th, 2005, a rock fall occurred in the parking lot across the street from the Arlington Hotel (Fig 10 and 11A). Unlike other landslides in the area, this slide involved little, if any, of the natural rock outcrop. This fall was caused by the separation of gunnite (sprayed-on concrete) from the nearly vertical highwall at the back of the parking lot. In the pictures below, it can be noted that the failing gunnite was evident over a period. Fortunately, no one was injured or killed by this collapse. The gunnite was first employed in the 1950's as a means of mitigating the landslide issue.

Unfortunately, the gunnite has only created a greater problem. Gunnite seals some of the fracture and joint planes, preventing water from escaping. The trapped water will lubricate and weaken the joint planes, and can accelerate the landslide potential (McElwaine, 1966). Future rock failures are inevitable and visitors should think twice before using this parking facility.

Reference:

McElwaine, 1966, The Southern Club Rock Slide of April 25, Consulting report, *recipient unknown*, 1966.