

Bingham Canyon Mine made the news about a year ago when, on April 10, 2013, a massive landslide ripped down the big pit's northeast slope. The slippage was reported to have been recorded as a series of measurable earthquakes.

Owner Rio Tinto and Kennecott Utah Copper officials and workers knew something was up, closed the visitor center and moved workers out of the way before 165 million tons of earth swept thousands of feet downward, from the upper terraces to the unnatural amphitheater's bottom. No one was injured, though a few buildings and some pieces of machinery were damaged or lost. Some workers were back on the job within days. The smoother orange-red slope in the photo's center shows where the landslide occurred — and how far the mining operation has come over the course of one year.

Kennecott's popular visitor center above the mine has been closed since the landslide. However, this higher, adventurous view from the Oquirrh Overlook is open seasonally to capable vehicles via Butterfield Canyon on the Salt Lake Valley side of the mountains, and via Middle Canyon from Tooele, on the west. The big pit is also the subject of a current art exhibit, "Creation and Erasure: Art of the Bingham Canyon Mine," at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts, on the University of Utah campus, through Sept. 28, 2014. The exhibit features paintings from the steam-shovel and railroad eras, as well as historic and contemporary photography.

-Ray Boren