




**MINERALS PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT**  
**PHONE: (303) 866-3567**

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety has conducted an inspection of the mining operation noted below. This report documents observations concerning compliance with the terms of the permit and applicable rules and regulations of the Mined Land Reclamation Board.

<b>MINE NAME:</b> Cotton Creek Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2013-054	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Saguache
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Amy C. Yeldell	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> October 4, 2016	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 13:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Boyce Land & Cattle Co., LLC	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Ken Skoglund	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$10,120.74	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>WEATHER:</b> Windy	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> October 14, 2016	

**GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS**

This list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each. No problems or possible violations were noted during the inspection. The mine operation was found to be in full compliance with Mineral Rules and Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board for the Extraction of Construction Materials and/or for Hard Rock, Metal and Designated Mining Operations. Any person engaged in any mining operation shall notify the office of any failure or imminent failure, as soon as reasonably practicable after such person has knowledge of such condition or of any impoundment, embankment, or slope that poses a reasonable potential for danger to any persons or property or to the environment; or any environmental protection facility designed to contain or control chemicals or waste which are acid or toxic-forming, as identified in the permit.

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>Y</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>NA</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>NA</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>NA</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(CI) COMPLETE INSP---- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>NA</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>NA</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>Y</u>

Y = Inspected and found in compliance / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / PB = Problem cited / PV = Possible violation cited

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted as part of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety normal monitoring program. The Cotton Creek Pit is a 110c sand and gravel operation that consists of 9.9 acres with a max disturbance of 5 acres. Ken Skoglund represented the operator and accompanied Amy Yeldell of the Division on the inspection. The site is located in Saguache County approximately ten mile southeast of Villa Grove, Colorado and is accessed from Road CC.

This is the first formal inspection since the permit was issued in 2014. The site was inspected on August 14, 2014 by IMP in order to develop a reclamation plan for Permit No. M-2001-081 which was revoked. No follow up was conducted by IMP since the site was re-permitted to Boyce Land & Cattle Co., LLC and reclamation would be covered under Permit No. M-2013-054.

The mine identification sign and affected area boundary markers are in place and in compliance with Rule 3.1.12. The entrance off of CC Road is gated and well-marked with a mine sign. The permit boundary is partially fenced and the remainder is marked with stakes.

The site was inactive at the time of the inspection but recent activity was evident. No permanent structures are erected. No equipment was observed on site. No fuel is stored. A small amount of debris still remains. It is neatly stacked in one spot out of the way of mining.

The pit has been excavated to a depth of approximately 10-15 ft. To date no ground water has been exposed. It is unclear how much deep mining may occur before ground water is exposed. If the operator does expose ground water, they shall backfill to at least 2" above the water or obtain the necessary permit/water rights before moving forward.

It is noted that the Cotton Creek runs just south of the permit boundary. Water was observed flowing in the creek at the time of the inspection despite being late fall. Also a large wetland/riparian area is located just west, adjacent to the site. A pond has been created from excess irrigation water being impounded and is not related to the mining activities. Satellite imagery makes this pond look like disturbances related to mining which it is not. The operator is encouraged to regularly monitor the creek and the pond to avoid accidental flooding.

Approximately 10,000 cy of processed material is stockpiled throughout the site. Of which approximately half is stored outside of the pit excavation to the south and will need flattened. Approximately 1 ½ - 2 ac is compacted from roads and various stockpiles and will need to be ripped upon final reclamation. The main access road is to remain post reclamation. All slopes throughout the pit are sloped to 3:1 or less and will require very minor finish work prior to topsoil application. Topsoil is stored in berms around the site. These berms help act as stormwater features to prevent run on from entering the pit as well. Max push distance to any disturbance is 350 ft. though the average is much less.

Large amounts of Russian thistle and kochia were observed throughout the site. Given the time of year it is too late in the season to effectively treat the weeds and therefore it is not cited as a problem at this time. The operator is highly encouraged to more aggressively manage all noxious weed species in the future to avoid potential future enforcement actions and delay of reclamation success. The operator will likely benefit from

monthly surveys/treatments of all noxious weeds throughout the active growing season. The operator is encouraged to contact their local weed manager for additional assistance.

It mentioned that the topsoil piles have previously been seeded however little germination has occurred. Keeping vegetation established on topsoil piles is crucial for maintaining topsoil viability through long-term storage. Given that mining is mostly completed along the mine perimeter on the north and west side the operator may wish to do some reclamation work this fall. It is unlikely that the pit floor will be reclaimed at this time.

The Division currently holds a financial warranty amount of \$10,120.74 for this site. The bond was last calculated in 2013 with the permit application. In an effort to ensure the Financial Warranty adequately, reflects the actual current cost of fulfilling the requirements of the approved reclamation plan the Division will be updating the reclamation cost estimate. You will be notified under a separate cover if the financial warranty is found to be insufficient.

No problems or violations were noted during this inspection.

Responses to this inspection report should be directed to: Amy Yeldell at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203. Direct contact can be made by phone at 970-254-8511 or via email at amy.yeldell@ state.co.us

### PHOTOGRAPHS



















**Inspection Contact Address**

Ken Skoglund  
Boyce Land & Cattle Co., LLC  
1075 Broadway Ave.  
Moffat, CO 81143

Enclosure

EC:  
Russ Means, Senior EPS, GJFO DRMS  
Stephanie Mitchell, EPS, GJFO DRMS