



**COLORADO**  
Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety  
Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

July 18, 2017

Amy Titterington  
US Forest Service  
P.O. Box 219  
Fairplay, CO 80440

RE: Purple Hill; DRMS File No. P-2012-004; Notice of Financial Warranty Release Request

Dear Ms. Titterington,

On July 13, 2017, the Division received a request for release of the financial warranty (copy enclosed) for the above referenced site. The Purple Hill prospecting operation is located on lands managed by the US Forest Service (USFS). Therefore, the Division is providing you with notice of the release request pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Division and USFS.

Currently, the Division holds a financial warranty in the amount of \$100.00. The Division will conduct an inspection of the operation to determine if the site has been reclaimed in accordance with the approved Reclamation Plan and the Hard Rock/Metal Mining Rules. A copy of the inspection report will be forwarded to your office for review. The Division requests that USFS make a determination as to whether the site should be released and that such determination be submitted in writing to the Division.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (303)866-3567 x8116.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Cunningham  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosure

CC: Wally Erickson, DRMS



**RECEIVED**

JUL 13 2017

DIVISION OF RECLAMATION  
MINING AND SAFETY

Tom Miller  
5260 Garrison Street #12  
Arvada, CO 80002  
Phone: (303)420-3606

To:  
Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety  
c/o Michael Cunningham  
1313 Sherman Street  
Denver, CO 80203

**MAC WHE**  
**P-2012-004 SL02**  
**✓ Annual Fee/Report: CW**  
**✓ No Violations**

June 29, 2017

Re: Request for reclamation responsibility release, Purple Hill operation, P-2012-004

Dear Mr. Cunningham,

I would like to request release from reclamation responsibility for the Purple Hill operation under permit # P-2012-004.

You inspected the site on September 17, 2015. At that time you assessed that the seeded and planted vegetation has not yet reached an extent comparable to the natural vegetation of the surrounding area.

Since that time I have continued to attend to the site and further re-seeded barren areas. Further aided by ample and regular precipitation in 2016, the vegetation has spread considerable and is now fully comparable to the surrounding area. Where sparse, especially on steep south facing slopes, it is equally so naturally on similar slopes outside the disturbed areas. The site is free of non-native plants. There are no signs of any erosion.

Please find attached an updated Reclamation Report with recent photos. It shows that all reclamation requirements of the prospecting notice have been satisfied.

You still hold a bond in the amount of \$1,000. I would likely to request release and repayment of the bond.

Thank you very much for considering my request and I look forward to a favorable reply.

Sincerely,

## **Reclamation Report**

**June 20, 2017**

**Name of Operation: Purple Hill**

**Name of Owner/Operator: Tom Miller**

**Prospecting Notice of Intent: P-2012-004**

**Contact Information: Tom Miller**

**5260 Garrison Street #12**

**Arvada, CO 80002**

**Phone: (303)420-3606**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1. Project Area Description
2. Surface Disturbing Activities
3. Site Preparation and Seeding
4. Monitoring

Topsoil was stripped and collected from the uppermost horizon and piled uphill from the disturbed area and protected by a silt fence. Pile height was limited to 2 yards to avoid compaction and anaerobic conditions to avoid soil degradation.

Excavation pursued along pegmatite seams. Approximately 200 cubic yards of spoil was generated during excavation and piled. In part continuous backfilling occurred in mined out area of pit already during the operation.

During operation only one major rain event occurred, leading to no erosion.

### 3. Site Preparation and Seeding

Reclaiming proceeded by first backfilling the pit with excavated saprolite/gruss. Few boulders were redistributed for natural appearance. Surface was reclaimend to natural contours.

Subsequently the soil was redistributed across the disturbed area.

The reclaimed topographic conditions are similar to the pre-disturbed conditions. The reclaimed landscape blends with the surrounding contours.

Fallen timber was replaced over the access track and minimally disturbed surface reclaimend and recontoured. Some brush and grass sods were replanted.

The timber and braches were redistributed onto the topsoil, with a preferred orientation perpendicular to the slope direction to aid in erosion control.

Seeding: Seeds were acquired from Western Native Seed, Coaldale, CO per specification furnished by Marcia Rose-Ritchie, Free Agent, USFS, Pueblo, as shown in Table 1.

		% seeds/acre	Seeds/pound	Seed size ratio	Seed % ratio	Pounds	Pounds	Ounces	Seeds/acre	% seeds/acre
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	Blue grama	25%	825,000	1.0	0.0421	0.40	0	7	325,967	25%
<i>Bromus ciliatus</i>	Fringed brome	35%	80,000	10.3	0.6074	5.70	5	12	456,354	35%
<i>Elymus trachycaulus</i> ssp. <i>trachycaulus</i>	Slender wheat	30%	135,000	6.1	0.3085	2.90	2	15	391,161	30%
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little bluestem	10%	130,000	6.3	0.1068	1.00	1	1	130,387	10%
	Totals	100%		23.8	1.0648	10.00	8	35	1,303,869	
								Seeds per square foot:	30	

Table 1: Seed mix specifications.

Seeding occurred in early April 2013. For seedbed preparation, after contouring and spreading the topsoil, the surface was left in rough surface conditions as preferred method for seedbed preparation. Seeds were broadcasted evenly, followed by light harrowing to increase soil to seed contact.





Figure 2: Site conditions mid May 2015, photographed from Matukat road looking north across Molly Gulch.



Figure 3: Site conditions as of July 2015. Looking east across draw from west of the project area.

Site monitoring continued through 2016 and into 2017. With regular rainfall, aiding in further spread of vegetation which is now firmly established. There are no signs of any erosion.



The comparably smaller and patchy vegetation density in the lower areas of the disturbed area towards the gully bottom is due to the steeper slope angle. This is typical for the region as seen in Fig. 7. As can be seen in the gully in center and foreground bottom left, especially steeper areas with a southern or western slope aspect do not hold much vegetation naturally. These areas are naturally just as barren as the formerly disturbed area as can also be seen in Fig 6 comparing the notably stepper section in the gully just inside and outside the disturbed area near the two large boulders.



Figure 7: Site conditions as of May 2017, photographed from Matukat road looking north across Molly Gulch.

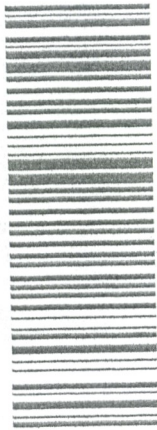
In summary, with the firm establishment of vegetation, the absence of erosion, and the site in the fourth year after the operation having reached a natural appearance almost indistinguishable from its original condition and surrounding, the reclamation can be considered complete.

T. Miller  
52006 Garrison St. #12  
Arvada, CO 80002

7017 0530 0000 8986 1702

PLACE STICKER AT TOP OF ENVELOPE TO THE RIGHT  
OF THE RETURN ADDRESS. FOLD AT DOTTED LINE.

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State of Colorado, Dept. of Natural Resources  
Division of Reclamation, Mining, & Safety  
1313 Sherman St., Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

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JUL 13 2017

DIVISION OF RECLAMATION  
MINING AND SAFETY

Athys M. Cunningham

RETURN RECEIPT  
REQUESTED

