



Bureau of Land Management Kremmling Field Office Solid Minerals Inspection Report

General Information	
Date	6/22/2018
Project Name	Evenstad Trespass/Unauthorized Occupancy
Operator	Christopher Evenstad
Serial Number	COC-078704
Project Classification	Mineral Trespass and Unauthorized Mining-Related Occupancy
Project Location	T11N R81W Sec23, Jackson County
Inspection Purpose	Site inspection
Time Period Onsite	2 hours
Attendees	Jessica Lopez Pearce, BLM Geologist
	Darren Entrican, BLM Law Enforcement Officer
	Christopher Evanstad, mining claimant
	Eric McFarland, associate of mining claimant

New Remarks

On June 22, 2018 at 12:10pm, Darren Entrican and I met with Christopher Evanstad and Eric McFarland at the Yooper Placer mining claim. The weather was clear and breezy with temperatures in the 70's. The purpose of the site visit was to inspect the unauthorized occupancy and mineral trespass that I first observed and inspected on August 21, 2017. The BLM-Kremmling Field Office sent Christopher Evanstad a Notice of Non-Compliance on September 26, 2017. Christopher Evanstad responded with a letter dated October 18, 2017 which stated that the camp and signage had been removed. During a November 11, 2017 phone call, Christopher Evanstad stated that one large trench near the Mitchell Placer pond and several smaller trenches were part of his operation. He also stated that he planned to reclaim these trenches and dig another trench west of the camp area.

After an initial discussion about BLM regulations and required authorizations, Christopher Evanstad, Eric McFarland, Darren Entrican, and I walked around the reclamation. First, we walked over to the east side of Mitchell Placer pond, where I observed a shallow circular depression 15 feet in diameter with small willows within it. Christopher Evanstad stated that the hole used to be approximately 6 feet deep and he had recently backfilled the excavation and planted the willows and grasses. To the southeast of the backfilled excavation, there was a 3-foot tall white post that had the word "MINE" spelled vertically on it. This post is the claimant's discovery marker.

We then walked down to the site entrance at the junction of BLM Route 2510 (also known as Three Mile Creek Road) and BLM Route 2511 (which is designated and administrative use only). This was the former location of the unauthorized gate and signage that I observed on August 21, 2017. All of the 4-foot tall wooden posts with signs, the chain gate and wood posts, and associated signage and solar-powered lighting that were located on the west side of BLM Road 2510 were no longer present at the time of my inspection. Christopher Evanstad stated that these items were removed shortly after he received the BLM correspondence dated September 26, 2017.



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In the October 18, 2017 and during the November 11, 2017 phone call, Christopher Evanstad stated that he was not responsible for the disturbance of the historic item within Threemile Creek and the open trenches located on the east side of BLM Road 2510. These locations were not inspected as they are not considered part of the operation or associated surface disturbance.

The group then walked north of the camp area and observed three smaller trenches that had been backfilled and/or regraded. The backfilled area for one trench was approximately 1 foot wide and three feet long. The two other trenches, which were side-cuts into a very large and previously excavated trench not associated with this operation, were approximately 1 foot wide and 2 feet tall.

In the camp area, immediately south of BLM Route 2511 and approximately 200 feet west of BLM Route 2510, the items that I had observed during my August 21, 2017 inspection: a small, white, single-axle camper; a brown tarp that covered unknown items; a blue tarp; and a portable toilet in a 5-gallon bucket were no longer present. A rock fire ring and several tree stumps for seating or firewood remained.

We then took an established path through the forest to an existing open trench. This trench was approximately 7 feet long, 3 feet wide, and 18 inches deep. It was located directly south of an unnamed seasonal stream and was filled with water and algae. Christopher Evanstad refused to backfill and reclaim this trench. He stated that he was working on this trench and it would make no sense to reclaim it before his exploration work was complete. I expressed to him that this open trench could not be considered casual use and he must submit a Notice for this operation as well as an occupancy request under 43 CFR 3715 for the proposed camp facilities. Additionally, a reclamation bond must be in place before this operation could be authorized.

Recommended Changes to Operations or Corrective Actions Needed

- The mining claimant, Christopher Evanstad, must immediately cease operations on the existing trench and submit to the Kremmling Field Office a Notice and occupancy request for the existing operation and proposed camp and signage facilities. An acknowledged Notice and occupancy concurrence are required before any surface disturbing activities exceeding casual use (as defined by 43 CFR 3809.5) and occupancy may occur.



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Photo Summary



Photo 1. Looking northwest at reclaimed trench (center) and mining claim location marker (left).



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Photo 2. Looking north to intersection of BLM Route 2510 (right) and BLM Route 2511 (left). The chain gate and signage that used to be located here has been removed.



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Photo 3. North of the camp area, looking north to the reclaimed trench (right of the boulder). File for scale.



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Photo 4. North of the camp area, looking east and downslope to the second reggraded trench.



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Photo 5. North of the camp area, looking east and downgradient to the third regraded trench.



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Photo 6. Looking south from BLM Route 2511 to the camp area. The camper, equipment, and tarps that were observed during my August 21, 2017 inspection have been removed.



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Photo 7. Looking west to the open trench. This trench is not reclaimed and full of water and algae. It is directly south of an unnamed seasonal stream that runs west to east.



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Site Map

