



COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety


Department of Natural Resources

## 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> Coal Creek Resources	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1988-044	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand	<b>COUNTY:</b> Arapahoe
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Jared L. Ebert	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> July 18, 2018	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 09:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Schmidt Construction Company	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Dan Chavez with Schmidt Construction Company, Mark Heifner	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$352,530.82
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None
<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> July 25, 2018

**The following inspection topics were identified as having Problems or Possible Violations. OPERATORS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING PAGES CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PERMIT AND APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS. If a Possible Violation is indicated, you will be notified under separate cover as to when the Mined Land Reclamation Board will consider possible enforcement action.**

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Signs & Markers

**PROBLEM:** The mine identification sign was not posted at the entrance of the mine site. This is a problem for failure to post a mine identification sign as required by Section 3.1.12(1) of the rule.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall, at the entrance of the mine site, post a sign which shall be clearly visible from the access road with the following: the name of the operator, a statement that a reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board; and the permit number. The operator shall submit photo documentation that a proper sign has been posted by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 8/24/18

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This was a monitoring inspection of the Coal Creek Resources site, DRMS permit no. M-1988-044, operated by Schmidt Construction Company (Operator or Schmidt). I, Jared Ebert with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS or Division) conducted the inspection. Mr. Mark Heifner, a consultant for the Operator, and Dan Chavez with Schmidt accompanied me during the inspection. The weather was clear and warm at the time of the inspection.

This is a 715 acre 112c mining operation. The commodity mined at the site is sand and the approved post mining land use is approved as rangeland and wildlife habitat.

### **Backfilling and Grading:**

A portion of the active mine area located in the southeast portion of the site has been backfilled and graded. The location of this area is depicted on the annual report map submitted in March of 2018. The area graded has a gentle slope that appeared to be set at a 5H:1V angle or less.

### **Financial Warranty:**

The Division currently holds a financial warranty in the amount of \$352,530.82. This amount is found to be adequate to complete reclamation at this time.

### **Hydrologic Balance:**

The Division observed the series of four sediment ponds located west of the processing area. This is a closed water system where water from processing flows to the southernmost pond and then travels through the three lower sediment ponds and is then pumped back to the processing area. The final pond in the series does not discharge off-site.

### **Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan:**

Active mining is occurring in the southeast portion of the permit area. The access road enters the site from the east and drops down into the pit. The pit excavation consists of a series of highwalls that are about 20 to 30 feet in height creating a small bowl. The highwalls were vertical to near vertical in angle. The location of the highwall were collected using the ArcCollector application and are depicted on the enclosed map. The operator was actively mining at the southern end of the active mine area. The Division estimates about 3,400 feet of highwall exists at the site.

An excavator was active in the pit at the time of the inspection and the Operator was hauling material from the pit to the processing area. A small area was stripped of topsoil in advance of mining at the southern end of the affected area.

### **Processing Waste:**

Wash sand is stockpiled north and east of the sediment ponds adjacent to the processing area.

### **Reclamation Success:**

An area about 32 acres in size shown on the latest annual report map as being planted in 2014 was observed. The area appears stable with very gentle slopes that have a western aspect. Dense vegetation has established throughout this parcel that include a diverse mixture of native grasses and forbs. The dominant native grasses

observed was western wheatgrass, blue grama and sand dropseed. Several noxious thistle species were observed, but were not well established. The Operator is encouraged to monitor this area and treat the weeds in accordance with the approved weed control plan. Cheatgrass was established in this area as it is throughout adjacent un-affected land. The Division encourages the Operator to seek bond release on this parcel.

Revegetation:

The desired species have established throughout the 2014 planted area as discussed above.

Support Facilities On-site:

The processing area was observed and no problems were noted.

Topsoil:

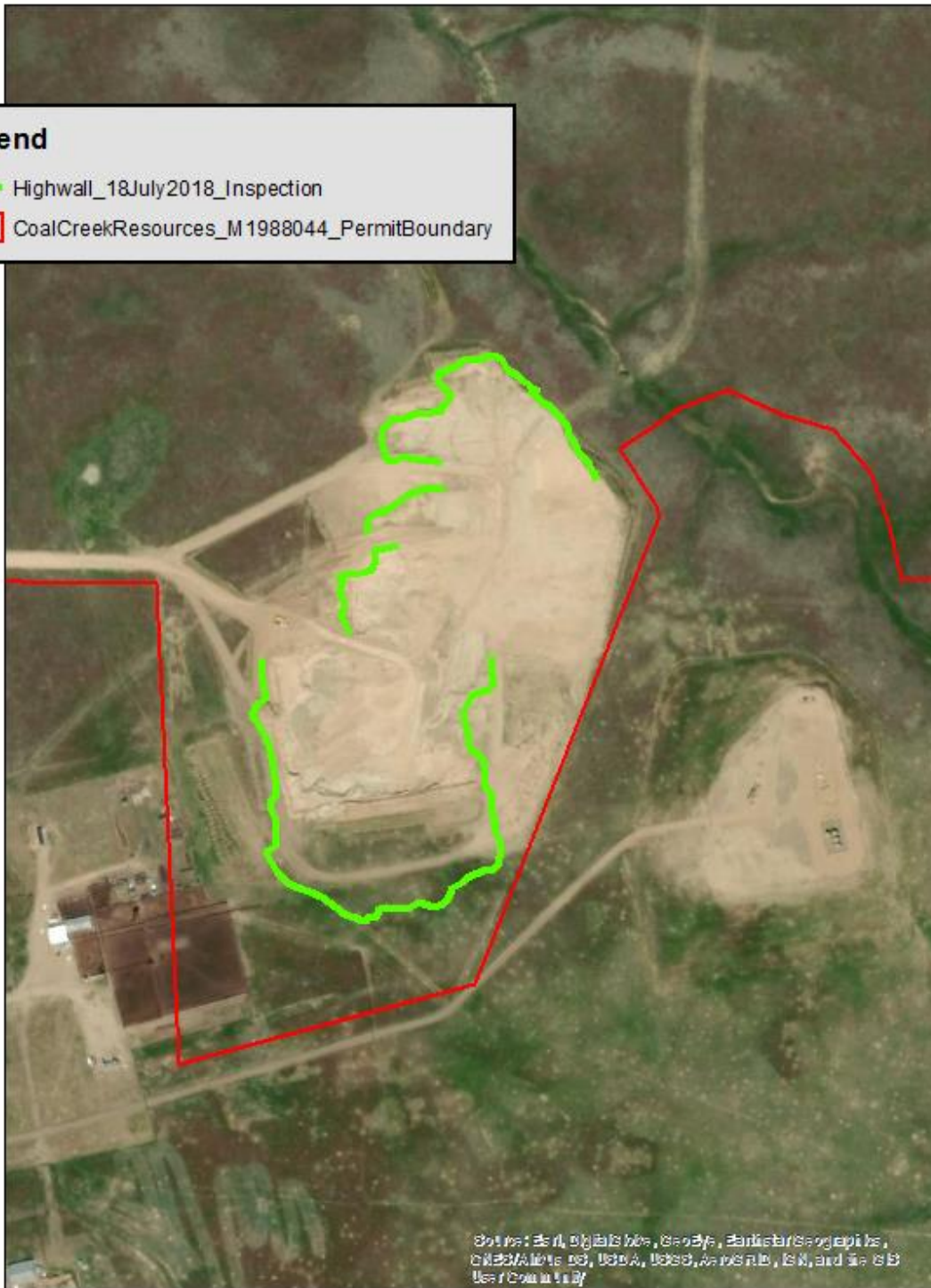
Topsoil and overburden has been stripped and stockpiled adjacent to the active mine area and also adjacent to the processing area. The topsoil stockpiles were vegetated and stable.

## Coal Creek Resources, M-1988-044

Inspection, July 18, 2018

### Legend

- Highwall\_18July2018\_Inspection
- CoalCreekResources\_M1988044\_PermitBoundary



0 250 500 1,000 Feet

Map Created: July 25 2018  
Jared Ebert, DRMS  
Data collected: July 18, 2018

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Figure 1. From the north end of the active mine area looking south.**



**Figure 2. From the north end of the active mine area looking southeast.**



Figure 3. Area stripped of topsoil at the southeast corner of the active mine area.



Figure 4. From the southeast corner of the active mine area looking north.



Figure 5. Backfilled and graded area on the east side of the active mine area.



Figure 6. From the east side of the active mine area looking northwest.



Figure 7. From the east end of the 2014 reclaimed area looking west.



Figure 8. From the south end of the first cell of the sediment ponds west of the processing area.



**Figure 9. Last cell in the series of sediment ponds. Water pumped back up to the processing facilities.**

### GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>Y</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>Y</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>Y</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>Y</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>PB</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>NA</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>NA</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>Y</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>NA</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <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

#### Inspection Contact Address

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Enclosure

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