


**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.

MINE NAME: Willow Creek Mine	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1983-011	MINERAL: Gold	COUNTY: Lake
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Dustin M. Czaplá	INSP. DATE: August 8, 2018	INSP. TIME: 16:00
OPERATOR: Mt. Elbert Mining Co., LLC	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Angela Bellantoni	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112 - Hard Rock Regular Operation	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Complete Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$42,467.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: August 14, 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.

1. INSPECTION TOPIC: Other

PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION: Problem: Trash and refuse was noticed on the site. This is a problem at this time for failure to dispose of refuse in a manner that controls unsightliness or deleterious effects of such refuse pursuant to C.R.S. 34-32-116(7)(d).

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The operator shall submit a written notice to the Division, with photo documentation, that the trash has been removed from the site by the corrective action date.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 10/12/18

2. INSPECTION TOPIC: Revegetation

PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION: Problem: There are state-listed noxious weeds (musk thistle) present on site. This is a problem for failure to employ weed control methods for state listed noxious weed species within the permitted area, and to reduce the spread of weeds to nearby areas as required by Section 3.1.10 (6) of the rule.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: Implement weed control methods to remove the noxious weeds and provide proof to the Division that this has been done.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 10/12/18

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted as part of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety's (Division) normal monitoring program. Angela Bellantoni, representing the Operator, was present during this inspection. Photographs are included with this report in order to illustrate some of the conditions observed.

The Willow Creek Mine is located approximately 9.6 miles southwest of Leadville and accessed from CR 24. The site is a 112 operation that includes a total of 43.38 permitted acres. The Division currently holds a financial warranty amount of \$42,467.00 for this site. The operator anticipates submitting an amendment application to the Division within the next several weeks. The required financial warranty amount will be updated during the amendment review process.

Adequate mine identification signage was posted at the entrance to the site.

The affected area is marked by t-posts and fencing that are clearly visible and adequate to delineate the permit area.

The shop building and shed were locked and appeared secure. Several shipping containers have been placed in the parking area near the shed. The containers were both locked. Mrs. Bellantoni was unsure of what was stored in the containers. An excavator, loader, camp trailer and other various equipment were parked around the shop area. The fuel tanks near the shop area are placed in stock tanks as adequate secondary containment.

Trash and refuse continue to accumulate throughout the site. This has been noted as a problem for failure to dispose of refuse in a manner that controls unsightliness or deleterious effects of such refuse pursuant to C.R.S. 34-32-116(7)(d), with a corrective action and deadline on page one of this report.

Soil samples from the recent drilling operations (P-2008-045) were observed stored in 5-gallon buckets and 55-gallon drums in the camping area on the east side of the mine.

Stormwater berms have been constructed on the north "downstream" end of the pit that appear to be in good shape and functional.

Musk thistle, a state listed noxious weed was noted on some of the soil piles throughout the site. This has been noted as a problem for failure to employ weed control methods for state listed noxious weed species within the permitted area as required by Rule 3.1.10 (6), with a corrective action and deadline on page one of this report.

Vegetation is becoming well established on the USFS slope on the west side of the permit area. Stormwater control structures along the USFS boundary, including the rip-rap channel and detention pond appear to be in good condition and functional.

A highwall exists in the northwest part of the mining area with an approximate 1H:1V slope. A rip-rap stormwater channel is in place above the highwall to direct "run-on" into the detention pond.

No noticeable changes were observed in the processing area. Equipment all seems to be in the same place as in previous inspections. The process pond held less than approximately one foot depth of water. Slopes around the pond appear stable. No signs of seepage around the pond were noted.

No other problems or violations were noted during this inspection.

Responses to this inspection report should be directed to Dustin Czapla at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Grand Junction Field Office, 101 South 3rd Street, Room 301, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501, phone number (970) 243-6299.

PHOTOGRAPHS









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>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>N</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>N</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>Y</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>PB</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>N</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>N</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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Evergreen, CO 80439