

## **Denver Field Branch Mine Site Evaluation Narrative**

Company:	Bowie Resources, LLC
Site:	Bowie No. 1 Mine
Permit No:	C-1981-038
Date of Inspection:	November 8, 2018
Inspection Type:	Oversight partial
Weather:	Overcast and cold with dry ground conditions
Operator Representative(s):	Basil Bear
State Official(s):	Janet Binns (Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety)
OSMRE Official(s):	Tom Medlin (#562)

### **Background**

This was a partial oversight inspection at the Bowie No. 1 Mine in Delta County, Colorado. Prior to and following this inspection, I performed an administrative review of pertinent documentation including recent DRMS inspection reports (which indicate no enforcement actions taken or pending), the 2017 Annual Hydrology Report, and various maps and drawings of the mine's surface configuration. Approximately 156 acres of surface area have been disturbed by mining activities to date. The mine is divided into four main areas: Loadout, Run of Mine (ROM), East Mine, and West Mine. Coal extraction at the Bowie No. Mine 1 ceased in 1997. The mine is currently in reclamation status. There was no activity at the time of inspection.

### **Mine and Permit Identification Signs (Rule 4.02.2)**

Mine and permit identification signs were located at all points of public access and contained the required information. See Figure 1.

### **Perimeter Markers (Rule 4.02.3)**

Perimeter markers in the form of two-inch PVC pipe over steel t-posts clearly identified the permit area. See Figure 2.

### **Topsoil Markers (Rule 4.02.7), Topsoil Storage (Rule 4.06.3)**

The topsoil stockpile at the Loadout area was properly marked, well-vegetated, and no evidence of resource loss was noted. See Figure 3.

### **Disposal of Noncoal Waste (Rule 4.11.4)**

Conditions throughout the permit area were generally orderly and tidy. A dumpster was stationed at the Loadout area for control of noncoal waste. Limited instances of public dumping were observed at the Highway Coal Stockpile portion of the Loadout area. Mr. Bear collected an automobile wheel and tire during the inspection and mentioned he would return with help to dispose of a large abandoned tractor tire. See Figure 4. Nearby on private land within the permit area a trash pile had formed; Mr. Bear agreed to address this issue as well. See Figure 5.

**Diversions (Rule 4.05.4), Sediment Control Measures (Rule 4.05.5), Sedimentation Ponds (Rule 4.05.6), Discharge Structures (Rule 4.05.7), Impoundments (Rule 4.05.9)**

The Team inspected all active and reclaimed sediment ponds throughout the mine site: two functioning ponds at the Loadout area, six reclaimed ponds at the East Mine, and two active ponds at the West Mine. With the exception of the pond at the Highway Coal Stockpile portion of the Loadout area, which contained a small amount of water, all ponds were completely dry. All active ponds exhibited stable embankments vegetated with perennial species, unobstructed inlets and spillways, and ample sediment storage capacity; the ponds would function as designed during precipitation events. See Figures 6 and 7. Sediment control ditches, undisturbed area diversions, and related culverts throughout the site were also inspected and found to be in good repair.

No issues were noted with the reclaimed sediment ponds at the East Mine. Straw-mesh matting had been laid in the reclaimed ponds to aid in germination and control against erosion. The matting was in good condition and functioning as designed: no erosion was noted and desirable perennial grasses, forbs, and shrubs were establishing. See Figure 8.

**Revegetation (Rule 4.15)**

Vegetation throughout the permit area was well established, likely due to recent, favorable weather conditions and extensive surface pocking implemented during initial reclamation. Species of note included winterfat, fourwing saltbush, small burnett, antelope bitterbrush, and Woods' rose. See Figure 9.

The Team noted minor occurrences of cheatgrass and jointed goatgrass on the eastern outslope of the Loadout area. We discussed various treatment options and Mr. Bear indicated he planned to apply herbicide (Roundup) the following week.

**Protection of Fish, Wildlife, and Related Environmental Values (Rule 4.18)**

Several instances of elk and deer scat, possible coyote tracks, and a mule deer shed were observed, indicating protection of the wildlife resource.

**Programmatic compliance**

No violations were issued as a result of this oversight inspection nor are any pending.

**Photos →**



Figure 1. Typical mine and permit identification sign, Loadout area.



Figure 2. Typical mine site perimeter marker, Loadout area.



Figure 3. Topsoil stockpile and marker, Loadout area.





Figure 4. Abandoned tractor tire, Highway Coal Stockpile portion of Loadout area.



Figure 5. Trash pile on private land, on-permit; Highway Coal Stockpile portion of Loadout area.



Figure 6. Unobstructed principal spillway, Loadout Pond.



Figure 7. Ponds W-1 and W-2, West Mine.





Figure 8. Reclaimed Pond 4, East Mine.



Figure 9. Reclaimed/revegetated East Mine slope, looking toward ROM area in far midground.