

**Orlando Pit Annual Progress Report 2018**  
**By the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Department**

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**Date of Review:** 11-27-18

**Site:** Orlando Pit ( Lat. 37.769720095273826, Long. 105.14983534812927)

**Status:** Active

**County:** Huerfano

**State:** Colorado

**Type:** Non-metallic surface

**Reviewed By:** C. Bryant      CDA Applicator License#: 33222

**A. SITE OBSERVATIONS**

The Orlando Pit covers an area that is approximately 36.46 acres and is currently active. Mining operations resumed during 2018. Disturbed areas have seen the establishment of limited native vegetation, with large bareground areas occupying most of the acreage, as reclamation efforts have yet to be implemented.

**B. COLORADO STATE LIST NOXIOUS WEEDS PRESENT**

While conducting the reclamation process review, a number of state list noxious weeds were encountered in isolated areas, but were within acceptable economic and aesthetic thresholds. While the density and number of noxious species was negligible, control efforts will still be undertaken to control the two **B** list species (Scotch thistle, Russian olive) that were encountered. The **C** List noxious weed species found onsite include: Kochia, perennial sowthistle, field bindweed, cheat grass, redstem filaree, and common mallow.

**1. Distribution of Noxious Species**

Scotch thistle was encountered in only one area, lying outside of the Northwestern perimeter. This colony was relatively small, occupying less than 100 sq. ft. and was senesced given the season.

The greatest density of Kochia and other C list species were encountered along the perimeter and in a few other isolated areas that seem to be consistent with quantities found elsewhere in the undisturbed, non-mine areas immediately surrounding the site. Russian thistle, Kochia and

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Perennial sowthistle did not appear to be forming any monocultures as is common with these varieties, and their overall threat level was deemed insignificant.

#### 2. Anticipated Treatment Methods

Chemical treatment for Scotch thistle will be performed early in the 2019 season. Chemical treatment was scheduled in the 2017 report to take place during 2018 season, however, due to the Spring Fire; plants were unable to be treated in 2018 being that they had already flowered while county resources were assigned fire related duties. The three of the six immature Russian olive trees encountered during the 2017 review have been mechanically removed as mining operations have resumed. Follow up observations will be made to monitor for the reestablishment of Russian olive trees, however site operations are anticipated to exert enough pressure to preclude any further growth or establishment. All other C list species will be monitored and control efforts will be taken should the overall density and coverage increase beyond tolerable thresholds, unless control is otherwise directed by the presiding regulatory authority.

#### C. CONCLUSION OF ANNUAL REVIEW

After a comprehensive review of site conditions and plant inventory, the overall site condition has been deemed **satisfactory**. The satisfactory progress status was determined due to the following factors:

1. An absence of noxious weed species with the exception of those areas\species as described above.
2. The amount and density of native vegetation present onsite.
3. The absence of soil erosion within the pit and surrounding slopes.
4. The absence of noxious weed species encountered beyond permit boundaries in the immediate area.