




**MINERALS PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT**  
**PHONE: (303) 866-3567**

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety 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> Greeley West Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1977-081	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Weld
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Peter S. Hays	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> June 28, 2019	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 12:30
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Cottonwood Land and Farms, LLC	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Michael Hart, Whitey Glasser	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Partial Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$134,415.00
<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 1, 2019

**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:** Reclamation Success

**PROBLEM:** There are state-listed noxious weeds 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 Rule 3.1.10(6).

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The Operator shall implement the approved weed control plan and provide proof of treatment to the Division by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 8/27/19

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Revegetation

**PROBLEM:** The Operator failed to follow the approved reclamation plan, or current reclamation plan needs to be updated and clarified pursuant to C.R.S. 34-32.5-116(1). The Operator must provide sufficient information to describe or identify how the Operator intends to conduct reclamation.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The Operator shall submit a Technical Revision, with the required \$216 revision fee, to update and clarify the currently approved reclamation plan to reflect the change in the reclamation seed mixture used to revegetate the site by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 8/27/19

## OBSERVATIONS

The Tract D portion of the Greeley West Pit was inspected by Peter Hays with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS) at the request of the Operator to evaluate the tract prior to submittal of an acreage reduction request by the Operator. Tract A was not inspected during this inspection. Mr. Whitey Glasser with Cottonwood Land and Farms, LLC, Mr. Mike Hart with Hart Environmental and Mr. Bill Schenderlein with Blue Earth Solutions were present during the inspection. The site was previously inspected by the Division on September 30, 2016 for the required succession of operator (SO-05) process inspection.

The site a permitted 112c operation for 76.65 acres. Tract D is 38.16 acres and is in final reclamation. The tract is located southeast of the permitted City of Greeley 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue mine site, Permit No. M-2002-020. The Division holds a reclamation bond in the amount of \$134,415.00, which is adequate to complete reclamation based on this inspection. A mine sign and boundary markers were observed during the inspection as required by Rule 3.1.12. The tract was reseeded with the approved seed mixture in 2015. The Operator reported the tract was reseeded with a revised seed mixture for the past 3 years. The seed mixture was revised based on the success of the initial revegetation effort. As cited as a problem, the Division will require the Operator to submit a technical revision to the approved Reclamation Plan to revise the seed mixture for the site prior to approving the pending acreage reduction request for the tract.

The approved post-mining land use for the tract is recreation with open water lakes and upland rangeland areas. The revised seed mixture contains slender wheatgrass, green needle grass, thickspike wheatgrass, sideoats grama, western wheatgrass and indian ricegrass. All species included in the mix except the sideoats grama were observed during the inspection. The observed grasses were mature, contained seed heads and appeared well-established with several years of growth. The reclamation vegetation was consistent or better than the surrounding rangeland vegetation. The Division has not received an approved substitute water supply plan (SWSP), since the 25<sup>th</sup> Ave Site was amended to include portions of the Greeley West site. Please provide a copy of an approved SWSP for the site with the pending acreage reduction request for the tract.

The Tract D is divided into 2 areas; east and west. The lake shorelines in both areas were estimated at 3H:1V, no erosion features were observed and the shorelines appeared stable. The water levels in both lakes was low due to the on-going dewatering in the adjacent mine site. The vegetation in the west area was well-established and contained only a few annual and noxious weeds. The vegetation in the east area was not as well-established compared to the west area, but still appear self-sustaining. Annual and noxious weeds including; downy brome (cheat grass), kochia, field bind weed, sweet yellow clover, bull thistle and diffuse knapweed were observed during the inspection. The bull thistle and diffuse knapweed were limited to a few plants. The downy brome, kochia and sweet yellow clover had developed into patches. As cited as a problem, the Division will require the Operator to implement the approved weed control plan for the site and provide proof of weed treatment prior to submitting the pending acreage reduction request for the tract. The landowner stated the site would continue to receive weed treatment as part of the management of the private land. The land is zoned as light industrial and may be developed in the future by the landowner.

The landowner stated the tract would be mowed following the weed treatment once the appropriate amount of time for the chemical treatment to be effective had passed. The Division will require the Operator to submit an acreage reduction request for Tract D within 60 days of this inspection to allow the Division to use this inspection as the required acreage reduction inspection, August 27, 2019.

## PHOTOGRAPHS



View of the north shoreline of the northeast lake looking west



View of vegetation in the south portion of the east area





View of vegetation in the south portion of the east area east of the lake



View of vegetation in the south portion of the east area southeast of the lake





View of vegetation in the south portion of the east area southeast of the lake



View of typical vegetation in the west area looking west





View of the west area from the west side looking east



View of typical vegetation in the middle of the west area looking east





View of typical vegetation in the middle of the west area looking north



View of the lake in the west area looking west from the southeast corner

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

If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me at Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, by telephone at 303.866.3567 x 8124, or by email at [peter.hays@state.co.us](mailto:peter.hays@state.co.us).

#### Inspection Contact Address

Whitey Glasser  
Cottonwood Land and Farms, LLC  
P.O. Box 229  
Boulder, CO 80306

Ec: Michael Cunningham, DRMS  
Mike Hart, Hart Environmental