

Orlando Pit Annual Progress Report 2019
By the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Department

Date of Review: 12-9-19

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. Active mining operations had resumed during 2018 and ceased in early 2019. 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. The area has seen a minimal amount of vehicle traffic outside of the haul road\material pile areas.

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: 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 75sq. ft. and was senesced given the season. This site was documented in the 2018 report and was treated in May of 2019 with herbicide. Standing dead plants are still visible as it appears a number of plants had emerged after this treatment was made.

Orlando Pit Annual Progress Report 2019

By the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Department

The 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 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 again early in the 2020 season. 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.

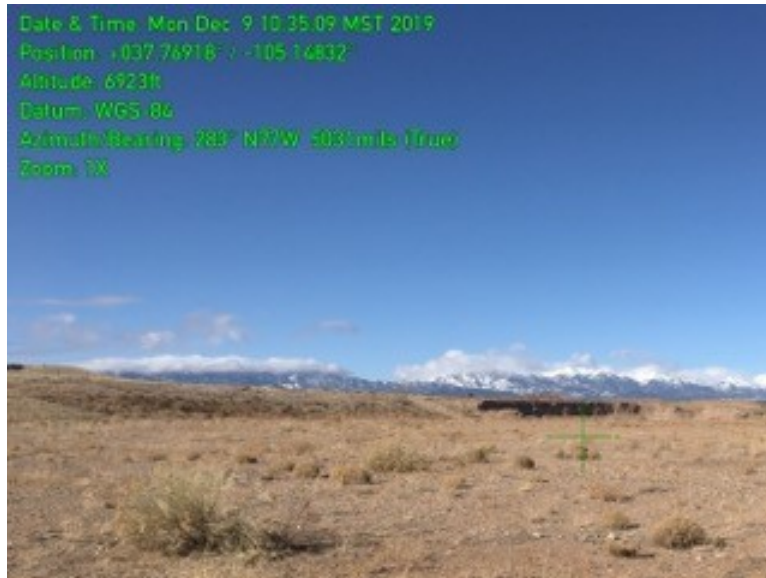
C. CONCLUSION OF ANNUAL REVIEW

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.

Orlando Pit Annual Progress Report 2019

By the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Department



Eastern Perimeter looking West 1



North central pit bottom looking South

Orlando Pit Annual Progress Report 2019

By the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Department



Northwest corner looking east 1



South central pit bottom looking North

Orlando Pit Annual Progress Report 2019
By the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Department



Southeast corner



Southwest corner looking east

Orlando Pit Annual Progress Report 2019
By the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Department



Southwest corner view from North



West central highwall looking east