

Orphan View Pit Annual Progress Report

By the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Department

Date of Review: 4-30-20

Site: 37.74548 -104.85540

Permit #: Orphan View- #M-2013-016

Status: Active\Idle

County: Huerfano

State: Colorado

Type: Non-metallic surface

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

A. SITE OBSERVATIONS

The mined\disturbed area of the Orphan View Pit is approximately 6 acres. This site is currently idle, but still considered active. Mining operations will resume at an undetermined future date. 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 is extremely dry as the region has been experiencing drought conditions.

B. COLORADO STATE LIST NOXIOUS WEEDS PRESENT

While conducting the reclamation process review, a number of state "C list" noxious weeds were encountered throughout the area along with one "B list" species. The observed "C list" species were: Redstem filaree and cheatgrass. The one "B list" species encountered was tamarisk rossima (salt cedar).

1. Distribution of Noxious Species

Kochia, cheatgrass and Redstem filaree were encountered along the perimeter of the haul road and in a number of other areas that seem to be consistent with quantities found elsewhere in the undisturbed, non-mine areas immediately surrounding the site. Redstem filaree and Kochia monocultures are scattered throughout the site, however their overall threat level was deemed insignificant. Tamarisk rossima was found in the western and eastern portions of the pit bottom in an area where the subsurface water table seemed to be highest. During the summer of 2019 the overall number and density of tamarisk increased. Due to this fact the tamarisk

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was treated in March of 2020 with an **imazapyr injection (Copperhead shells)** to curtail the growth.

2. Anticipated Treatment Methods

Follow up foliar treatments may be needed for the tamarisk treated within the site. These treatments are anticipated to take place in late summer\early fall of 2020. While site operations were anticipated to exert enough pressure to preclude any further growth or establishment during active operation, the increased amount found within the site needed to be controlled to prevent the transportation of viable seed\plant materials when mining operations resume. All state list noxious weed 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 bureau of reclamation.

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.
5. Final reclamation practices have not been practiced given the active status of the pit.

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Date & Time: Thu Apr 30 11:30:00 MDT 2020
Position: +037.74552° / -104.85464°
Altitude: 6052ft
Datum: WGS-84
Azimuth/Bearing: 266° S86W 4729mils (True)
Zoom: 1X

