Peak View Pit Annual Progress Report
By the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Department

Date of Review: 8-21-2020

Site: Peakview (Lat. 37.546520560125536, Long. 105.00683069229126)

Permit #: M-2014-028

Status: Idle

County: Huerfano

State: Colorado

Type: Non-metallic surface

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

A. SITE OBSERVATIONS

The Peak View Pit covers an area that is approximately 40 acres with an actual mined area of 7-10 acres. This site is currently idle. Disturbed areas have seen the establishment of limited native vegetation, with large bareground areas occupying most of the mined area. Reclamation thus far has been limited to the establishment of a desirable soil seed reserve by the incorporation of the reclamation seed mix listed in **table A** to the topsoil reserve on site. The establishment of desirable plant species on site has been greatly suppressed during the 2020 season given the extreme drought conditions.

COLORADO STATE LIST NOXIOUS WEEDS PRESENT

While conducting the reclamation process review, a number of state **C** list noxious weeds were encountered in isolated areas, but were within acceptable economic and aesthetic thresholds. The **C** List noxious weed species found onsite include: Cheat grass, field bindweed and redstem filaree.

1. Distribution of Noxious Species

Cheat grass was found throughout the site along the outer perimeter topsoil berm. Disturbed non-active areas within the pit bottom had limited amounts of cheatgrass in isolated areas. Cheat grass growth was confined to disturbed areas within the mine site and did not appear to have spread to the adjoining natural areas. Field bindweed and redstem filaree were found throughout the disturbed areas that were not actively used.

2. Problematic Non-Noxious Species Found On Site

In areas where cheat grass was encountered (perimeter berm and inactive disturbed areas), moderate amounts of Russian thistle and kochia were found.

3. Anticipated Treatment Methods

A follow up site visit in the spring of 2019 and the most recent site inspection in August 2019 did not find any Scotch thistle plants as were documented in 2017. The chemical treatment in 2018 seemed to have been successful. Areas that had cheatgrass were treated with a post-emergent herbicide in May of 2020. Other **C list species** documented on site will continue to be monitored; however site operations are anticipated to exert enough pressure to preclude any further growth or establishment during active operation. 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 presiding regulatory authority. The non-native Russian thistle documented along the berms\spoil piles was determined to be somewhat problematic given the limited amount of native\desirable species found on site. Department staff will treat these monocultures of Russian thistle prior to seed development this season. Growth of this species was somewhat delayed\suppressed early in the season due to the extreme drought conditions that our region has experienced.

B. CONCLUSION OF ANNUAL REVIEW

After a comprehensive review of site conditions and plant inventory, the overall site condition has been deemed satisfactory with the exception of the few large Russian thistle monocultures that will be treated immediately. 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.

Table A: APPROVED RECLAMATION SEED

SPECIES	% OF MIX	PLS/ACRE
Blue Grama	30	**.**9
Western Wheatgrass	30	4.8
Sideoats Grama	15	1.5
Needle & Thread	10	1.1
Indian Ricegrass	5	.6
Galleta Grass	5	.2
Purple Prarieclover	5	.3
Winterfat	*Added in addition to full rate*	**.5**


Date & Time: Fri Aug 21 10:05:48 MDT 2020
Position: +037.54575° / -105.01124°
Altitude: 7198ft
Datum: WGS-84
Azimuth/Bearing: 289° N71W 5138mils (True)
Zoom: 1X


Date & Time: Fri Aug 21 10:09:31 MDT 2020
Position: +037.54675° / -105.01275°
Altitude: 7211ft
Datum: WGS-84
Azimuth/Bearing: 183° S03W 3253mils (True)
Zoom: 1X


Date & Time: Fri Aug 21 10:09:34 MDT 2020
Position: +037.54677° / -105.01277°
Altitude: 7210ft
Datum: WGS-84
Azimuth/Bearing: 097° S83E 172Amils (True)
Zoom: 1X


Date & Time: Fri Aug 21 09:57:29 MDT 2020
Position: +037.54571° / -105.01460°
Altitude: 7222ft
Datum: WGS-84
Azimuth/Bearing: 084° N84E 1493mils (True)
Zoom: 1X


Zoom: 1X