

**Orlando Pit Annual Progress Report 2020**  
**By the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Department**

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**Date of Review:** 12-18-20

**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 one **B** list species (Scotch thistle) that was 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 50 sq. ft. and was senesced given the season. This area was documented in the 2019 report. Chemical control efforts were made in June 2020 prior to plant bolting\flowering. A considerable stand reduction was apparent compared to densities found in 2019.

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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. 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 2021 season. The small number of Russian olive trees documented in the 2019 report has since been removed by mechanical means. No regrowth is apparent. 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.

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Date & Time: Fri Dec 18 08:56:55 MST 2020  
Position: +037.76943° / -105.14880°  
Altitude: 6924ft  
Datum: WGS-84  
Azimuth/Bearing: 292° N68W 5191mils (True)  
Zoom: 1X



Date & Time: Fri Dec 18 08:55:13 MST 2020  
Position: +037.77066° / -105.15053°  
Altitude: 6924ft  
Datum: WGS-84  
Azimuth/Bearing: 290° N70W 5156mils (True)  
Zoom: 1X

