

Orphan View Pit Annual Progress Report

By the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Department

Date of Review: 4-22-21

Site: 37.74548 -104.85540

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

Status: Active\In-Use

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 8 acres. Mining activities have resumed since the inspection in 2020 and the mine area has increased westward by 1.5 to 2 acres. Mining operations have resumed within the last sixty days. 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 fully implemented. Unlike during the 2020 season, the region has experienced somewhat average precipitation and overall site conditions have improved within the mine and surrounding area. Overall native species density and richness have improved greatly when compared to last season.

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 documented in previous seasons and was treated by

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injection in March of 2020. Follow-up foliar treatments were performed in June of 2020. Upon the return of mining activities in the spring of 2021, the tamarisk within the treatment area were removed by mechanical means during normal mining operations.

2. Anticipated Treatment Methods

Follow up foliar treatments may be needed for the tamarisk may emerge within the site. These treatments are anticipated to take place in late summer\early fall of 2020. 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 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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