



**COLORADO**  
Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety  
Department of Natural Resources

August 4, 2021

Michael Ferrero  
591 County Rd. 315  
Walsenburg, CO 81089

**Re: Problem Citation Abated, Inspection July, 28, 2021, Ferrero Pit,  
Permit File No. M-2000-028**

Mr. Ferrero:

On July 28, 2021, the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) performed an inspection of the Ferrero Pit, Permit File No. M-2000-028. During the inspection the Division identified what it thought was Yellow Starthistle, a List A Noxious Weed, and cited a problem to remove the weed. As part of the problem citation the Division contacted the Huerfano County Weed Manager, Charles Bryant, to assist in the eradication. Mr. Bryant performed a site visit on August 3, 2021 and determined the Division had misidentified the weed and the subject plant was actually a native plant, see attached. Therefore the Division has abated the problem cited in the inspection report.

If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me at Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, by telephone at **303-866-3567 x8114**, or by email at [patrick.lennberg@state.co.us](mailto:patrick.lennberg@state.co.us).

Sincerely,

Patrick Lennberg  
Environmental Protection Specialist

cc: Jared Ebert; DRMS

ec: Michael Ferrero, [michaelanthonyferrero@gmail.com](mailto:michaelanthonyferrero@gmail.com)



## **Attachments**



STATE OF  
COLORADO

Lennberg - DNR, Patrick <patrick.lennberg@state.co.us>

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## Ferrero Pit, M2000-028, Yellow Starthistle

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Charles Bryant <cbryant@huerfano.us>

Tue, Aug 3, 2021 at 12:56 PM

To: "Lennberg - DNR, Patrick" <patrick.lennberg@state.co.us>

Good afternoon Patrick, I spoke with the mine operator and checked out the yellow star thistle report. Good news, it is not yellow starthistle! It is the native lookalike **buffalo burr** *Solanum rostratum*. Buffalo burr is fairly widespread throughout the county and aside from being ugly, it is a member of the nightshade family and is highly toxic. I will make contact with Mike and let him know what I have found if you like. I have attached a photo of the plants that I found onsite just to make sure we were looking at the same thing.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Have a good day!



Charles Bryant -719-989-1353

-Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager

-Gardner Public Improvement District Manager

"To affect the quality of the day, that is the highest of arts."

-Henry David Thoreau

[Quoted text hidden]