



STATE OF
COLORADO

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

Adequacy Review No. 2, TR-2, Sheep Mtn. Ranch, M2017-022

Dawn Brady <dawnbrady@applegategroup.com>

Wed, Sep 1, 2021 at 11:35 AM

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

Cc: Steve Smith <stevesmith@applegategroup.com>

Hi Patrick,

Attached is an updated map for TR-2 and the photograph appendix from the TR-2 application. From appendix photo no. 14 and aerial imagery, it appears the outfall rip rap for the irrigation pipe is outside of the permit boundary, emptying into a small retention pond south of the permit site. This has been indicated on the map.

Please let me know if you have any other concerns. Thank you.

Dawn

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

Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 6:37 AM

To: Dawn Brady <dawnbrady@applegategroup.com>

Subject: Adequacy Review No. 2, TR-2, Sheep Mtn. Ranch, M2017-022

Good Morning,

[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments



Site Photos Appendix.pdf

11437K



SMAF DRMS Tech Revision signed.pdf

633K



Water Resource Advisors for the West

August 13, 2021

Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety
c/o Patrick Linnberg
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

Sent via email:

RE: Reclamation of Sheep Mountain Ranch, Permit M2017-022

Dear Mr. Scott:

Reclamation for Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility (SMAF) in Huerfano County has been completed in compliance with the Reclamation Plan in the 112 Permit Application¹. There are eight steps required for revegetation per the approved Reclamation Plan. These steps are as follows:

1. Topsoil removed and stockpiled.
2. Area should be banksloped at 3:1 slope. Areas greater than a 3:1 slope need to have a Rolled Erosion Control Product (RECP) applied.
3. Seedbed should be well settled and firm, but friable enough for seed placement.
4. Proper fertilizer requirement determined by soil test or fertilize entire area with forty pounds per acre of each of available elemental Nitrogen (N) and Phosphoric Acid (P205).
5. Seed mix should consist of species listed in table of step 5 above. Seeding should be uniformly distributed over ground surface.
6. Mulch should be applied to reseeded area. Mulch can consist of grass hay or cereal grain straw. No fine materials.
7. Supplemental water should be supplied, and irrigations should begin no later than May 15th and continue until late July.
8. All tillage, seeding, and crimping should be performed across the slope when practical. The seeding should be protected from grazing and trampling for at least 2 years.

Phase III of the SMAF development project was completed in October 2019. The Final Report for Phase III² was completed in February 2020. Phase IV was completed July 2021. Applegate Group has reviewed the Final Report for the Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility, which indicates that construction was completed in conformance with the plans, specifications, and change orders approved by HCWCD. A copy of the Final Report is attached to this letter. Based on our review of the Final Report for the facility, and interviews with

¹ TZA Water Engineers. 2017. Construction Material Regular (112) Operation Reclamation Permit Application Package. Prepared for Huerfano County Water Conservancy District.

² Allis, Jr., P.E., John D. 2020. Final Report, Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility, Phase III: Reservoir and Embankment. Lamp Rynearson. Prepared for Huerfano County Water Conservancy District.

the HCWCD facility manager, it is our opinion that all items in the approved reclamation plan were completed except the following:

- A pile of leftover topsoil was placed at west side of the reservoir. HCWCD may sell/use some in the future if needed for revegetation onsite and other locations. The property owner (Grady Grissom, Manager of Sheep Mountain Ranch) has approved the topsoil can remain in place as long as the pile will be rounded off and revegetated³.
- Seeding was completed in late fall 2019. Weed management has not been completed because poor soils and windy conditions have minimized the potential for weed establishment.
- The Reclamation Plan indicates that a fence will be installed to keep cattle out of the reservoir and off the reservoir slopes. An electric fence has been installed and a permanent fence is currently in planning. The permanent fence will be approximately 1/3-mile-long cow fence with 5 wires, 7 corners, 16 mid posts, one river crossing, and two access gates⁴.

We request a Technical Revision to the Reclamation Plan to include the pile of leftover topsoil west of the reservoir. The attached map indicates the location of the topsoil pile that will remain in place and be rounded off and revegetated.

Pictures of the completed reclaimed site are attached to this letter. It is our opinion that reclamation activities in the approved Reclamation Plan have been completed, based on review of the Final Report for the SMAF and based on photos and interviews from HCWCD's facility manager. With this letter, we request:

1. Technical Revision to the Reclamation Plan including the pile of revegetated leftover topsoil.
2. Approval from DRMS for successful completion of the activities required in the Reclamation Plan and ask for the 112 permit M2017-022 be closed out.

Please contact me at (303) 452-6611 or dawnbrady@applegategroup.com with any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,
Applegate Group, Inc.



Dawn Brady
Water Resource Engineer

Attachments:
Map for Technical Revision of Reclamation Plan
Site Photographs
Final Report, Sheep Mountain Augmentation Facility, Phase III
Email from Sheep Mountain Ranch re Topsoil Stockpile

cc: Scott King, HCWCD
Ryan Farr, Monson, Cummins & Shohet, LLC
AG#: 21-107

³ Email correspondence from Grady Grissom (Sheep Mountain Ranch) to Kent Mace (HCWCD), August 13, 2021.

⁴ Email correspondence between Dawn Brady (Applegate Group, Inc.), and Kent Mace (HCWCD), July 30, 2021.

Sheep Mountain Ranch Site Photographs

1. Entry from CR 550 Looking South



2. Entry from CR 550 Looking East



3. Entrance Road Looking back NE from Top of Dam Embankment to CR 550



4. From Dam Embankment Looking SW



5. Western Dam Embankment Looking NE towards CR 550



6. Top of Dam Embankment Looking SE



7. Top of Dam Embankment Looking E Across Spillway



8. Top of Dam Embankment Looking NE Across Reservoir



9. View of W Dam Embankment Road and N Towards Topsoil Stockpile and CR 550



10. In Spillway Looking N Over Reservoir and Topsoil Stockpile



11. Top of W Dam Embankment Looking South



12. From SW End Looking North



13. From Water Retention Pond Looking South



14. From Water Retention Pond Looking North



15. From Road at Reclaimed Spoils Looking North

