




**MINERALS PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT**  
**PHONE: (303) 866-3567**

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety has conducted an inspection of the mining operation noted below. This report documents observations concerning compliance with the terms of the permit and applicable rules and regulations of the Mined Land Reclamation Board.

<b>MINE NAME:</b> Mask Ranch Pit #2	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2018-015	<b>MINERAL:</b> Aggregate and grave	<b>COUNTY:</b> Archuleta
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Surety Release Inspection	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Lucas West	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> August 24, 2021	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 16:45
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Fremont Paving & Redi-Mix, Inc.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b>	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 111 - Construction by Government Agency	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Surety Release Requested	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$16,822.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> September 21, 2021	

**GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS**

This list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each. No problems or possible violations were noted during the inspection. The mine operation was found to be in full compliance with Mineral Rules and Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board for the Extraction of Construction Materials and/or for Hard Rock, Metal and Designated Mining Operations. Any person engaged in any mining operation shall notify the office of any failure or imminent failure, as soon as reasonably practicable after such person has knowledge of such condition or of any impoundment, embankment, or slope that poses a reasonable potential for danger to any persons or property or to the environment; or any environmental protection facility designed to contain or control chemicals or waste which are acid or toxic-forming, as identified in the permit.

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>N</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>N</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>N</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>N</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>N</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>N</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>N</u>	

Y = Inspected / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / PB = Problem cited / PV = Possible violation cited

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted in response to the Operator's request for full and final release of the entire permit area. The Mask Ranch #2 Pit is a 111 Permit that is in final reclamation located in Archuleta County, approximately 1.5 Miles South of Pagosa Springs. The entrance to the site is located on County Road 119, Light Plant Road and public access to the site is controlled by a locked gate. The site consists of 7.5 acres that have been mined and configured to support a Post Mining Land Use of Recreation. The Division currently holds a Financial Warranty in the amount of \$16,822.00. A reclamation cost estimate update was not performed as a result of this inspection. Four Photos accompany this report to illustrate the current site conditions.

The mine identification sign was not posted at the entrance to the site, however this is not considered a problem at this time as the mining activities have concluded on site. The 7.5 acre portion of the permit that makes up the site contains a large pond with undulating shoreline as well as upland areas that were used for stockpiling and processing of material. The grading and earthwork has been completed and is in excellent condition. No evidence of settling, slumping or erosion was noted. The pond is also in good condition, the undulating shoreline aids in defending against erosion and evidence of heavy wildlife traffic was observed. The upland areas exhibit positive drainage and showed no signs of impounding storm water. The pond, shoreline and upland areas can be seen in Photos One through Three.

Throughout the site, evidence of revegetation efforts were observed. Evidence included drill seeding track marks as well as the presence of reclamation species. The riparian species that were seeded around the banks of the pond is in good condition, several reclamation or beneficial species were identified. In the upland areas however, the reclamation species become more sparse with areas filled in with a mixture of annual and Noxious Weeds. A good majority of the area is dominated by Russian thistle (tumbleweed) and Kochia. Some of the noxious species identified in large populations included Meadow Knapweed (A list), Oxeye Daisy (B list) and Canada thistle (B-list). Also, the upland area located at the north end of the permit area, shown in Photo Four, is sparsely vegetated and with very few reclamation species present.

Based on the large populations of State Listed Noxious weeds as well as dominating annual weeds, the Division has determined that further revegetation and weed control efforts are required prior to full and final release of the permit area. The request for full and final release of the entire permit area has been denied. Please see the enclosed Surety Release (SL-1) Denial Letter for more details. In an effort to facilitate coordinated weed management, this report has been copied to Ethan Proud, Archuleta County Weed and Pest Supervisor for possible consultation and assistance with the Operator. The Operator should contact Mr. Proud at 970-264-6773 or by email at [eproud@archuletacounty.org](mailto:eproud@archuletacounty.org).

Despite the struggles of the revegetation efforts, the overall footprint of the site is in good condition. So signs of settling, slumping or erosion was noted and the site exhibits positive drainage. No trash or debris was noted on site. All responses to this report should be directed to Lucas West at the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety at 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215 Denver, CO 80203, by phone at 3030-866-3567 Ext. 8187 or by email at [lucas.west@state.co.us](mailto:lucas.west@state.co.us).



## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

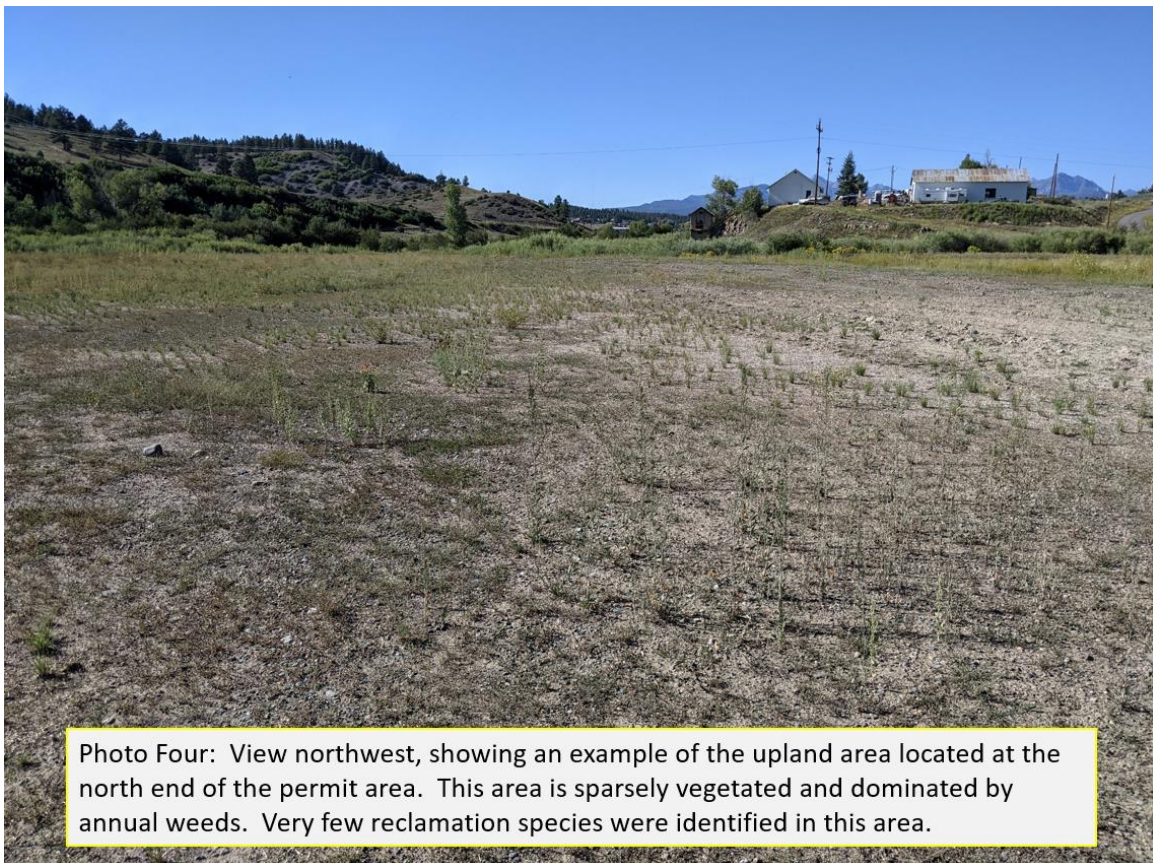


Photo One: View south, showing the eastern banks of the pond, the pond and upland areas. The banks of the pond are in good condition and better vegetated however the upland areas are sparse and weedy.



Photo Two: View south showing the upland area, road and pond banks on the west side of the pond. Several State Listed Noxious Weeds were noted throughout the site.





**Inspection Contact Address**

Jodi Schreiber  
Fremont Paving & Redi-Mix, Inc.  
839 Mackenzie Ave  
Canon City, CO 81212

Enclosure          SL-1 Denial Letter

CC:      Travis Marshall, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

Ec:      Ethan Proud, Archuleta County Weed and Pest Supervisor