



STATE OF  
COLORADO

Zuber - DNR, Rob <rob.zuber@state.co.us>

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## Inspection report for Ferris Pit

1 message

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**Zuber - DNR, Rob** <rob.zuber@state.co.us>  
To: Dawna Peck <kiowa1889@gmail.com>

Fri, Nov 12, 2021 at 1:01 PM

Hello -

Please see the attached report, and let me know if you have any questions.

Rob

Rob Zuber, P.E.  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Active Mines Regulatory Program



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

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**INSP-REPORTMWP\_M1991073.pdf**  
1239K




**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> Ferris Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1991-073	<b>MINERAL:</b> Gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Cheyenne
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Robert Zuber, P.E.	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> November 9, 2021	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 13:15
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Kiowa County	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Shane Lessenden, Tim Wolf	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 110c - Construction Limited Impact	

<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$0.00
<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> November 12, 2021

**The following inspection topics were identified as having Problems or Possible Violations. OPERATORS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING PAGES CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PERMIT AND APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS. If a Possible Violation is indicated, you will be notified under separate cover as to when the Mined Land Reclamation Board will consider possible enforcement action.**

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Revegetation

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: There are state-listed noxious weeds present on site. This is a problem for failure to employ weed control methods for state listed noxious weed species within the permitted area, and to reduce the spread of weeds to nearby areas as required by Section 3.1.10 (6) of the rule.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** Implement approved weed control plan and provide proof to the Division that this has been done. If a weed control plan is not already in place, the operator shall develop a weed control and management plan in accordance with Section 3.1.10 (6) of the Rule. This plan should be developed in consultation with the county extension agency, or weed control district office and should include specific control measures to be applied, a schedule for when control measures will be applied and a post-treatment monitoring plan. This weed control plan shall be submitted to the Division as a Technical Revision to the approved plan with the appropriate Technical Revision fee of \$216.00 by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 4/29/22

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Signs & Markers

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: The affected area boundary markers are missing in many locations. This is a problem for failure to maintain boundary markers around the affected area as required by Section 3.1.12(2) of the rule.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall conduct a survey and replace the boundary markers in the correct location(s). The operator shall provide proof to the Division that this has been done by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 1/07/22

## **OBSERVATIONS**

Rob Zuber of DRMS inspected the Ferris Pit on November 9, 2021 as part of the routine monitoring program. Two representatives of Cheyenne County, Shane Lessenden and Tim Wolf, were present. The site is approximately 13 miles southwest of Wild Horse, Colorado.

The site is a 110C operation (DRMS Permit Number M-1991-073) that is designated as currently active. The permit area is 9.8 acres. The approved post-mining land use is rangeland/pasture land.

At the time of the inspection, no mining activity was in progress, and there was no sign of recent activity. No equipment or fuel tanks were on site. .

The weather was clear, and the temperature was warm. The ground was dry.

### **Hydrologic Balance:**

There was no indication that runoff from the site is causing problems on adjacent lands.

### **Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan:**

In general, the disturbance area at the site matches the reclamation map and the annual report map. There is no mining disturbance beyond the approved affected area.

### **Reclamation Success:**

No erosion was seen at the reclaimed areas around the site.

Thistle plants are an issue as discussed in the Revegetation section of this report.

### **Revegetation:**

The reclaimed slope north of the pond contains good vegetation cover with grasses and other desirable species. The slope south of the pond is not as good; it is largely bare with plants such as Russian thistle.

Many thistle plants were seen around the site. They appear to be Canada thistle, and should be treated by the operator.

### **Signs and Markers:**

The entrance sign does not meet all of the requirements of Rule 3.1.12. If this sign is updated in the future, it should include a statement that the site holds a permit with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety.

Clear boundary markers are needed at all sides of the permit area, especially at corners. Where applicable, fence lines can be used as markers, but where fences do not delineate the boundary, T-posts or other markers are needed. Dirt piles are not good markers. (Note that the permit area is the same as the affected area at this site.)

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Pond area (dry)**



**Thistle plant – likely Canada thistle**



**Reclaimed area south of the pond with poor revegetation success**

### GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>Y</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>N</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</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>PB</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>PB</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>N</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>Y</u>	

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

#### Inspection Contact Address

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Kiowa County  
P.O. Box 591  
Eads, CO 81036

CC: Michael Cunningham