



COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety


Department of Natural Resources

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.

MINE NAME: Stirrup Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1990-138	MINERAL: Gravel	COUNTY: Fremont
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Timothy Cazier, P.E.	INSP. DATE: November 18, 2021	INSP. TIME: 11:10
OPERATOR: Fremont County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Sterling Rife	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$0.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: Colo. Land Board	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: February 24, 2022

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: Signs & Markers

PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION: Problem: The in place boundary markers do not coincide with those of the proposed permit boundary in the approved permit.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: Submit a technical revision (along with the required \$216 fee) with a map clarifying the permit boundary not to exceed 9.6 acres.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 5/25/22

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted by Tim Cazier (DRMS) as part of the regular monitoring program. The Permittee (Fremont County) was represented by Mr. Sterling Rife, who was present for the inspection. This is a 110c gravel mine located approximately 30 miles north of Cotopaxi in Fremont Co. It is accessed from County Rd 2. The pit showed signs of recent activity, but was not active at the time of inspection.

Availability of Records: Annual fees are paid through January 2022. The previous inspection was on April 27, 2017. The approved post-mine land use is wildlife habitat. There were no open infractions prior to the inspection. Both the surface and minerals are managed by the State Land Board (SLB).

Acid And Toxic Materials: No acid or toxic materials are stored on site or involved in this operation

Backfilling and Grading: Sufficient backfill material appeared to be available to push down from the crests as highwalls were observed to be between 2H:1V and 2.5H:1V.

Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste: No overburden piles were observed, all stockpiled cover material is considered topsoil (see **Photos 1 and 2**).

Financial Warranty: As the site is permitted by the County, no bond is required.

Fish and Wildlife: No impact to wildlife was observed.

Hydrologic Balance: No standing water was observed in the pit and no exposed groundwater was observed.

Gen. Compliance with Mine Plan: The mining operation appeared to be in compliance with the approved mine plan. The maximum allowed disturbed area is 9.6 acres. Google Earth was used to measure the disturbed area, which was estimated to be five acres, based on 2019 imagery. Highwalls were estimated to vary between five and 15 feet in height and appeared stable.

Off-site Damage: The operation appeared to be confined to the permit boundary as delineated by field markers. However, these markers were appear to be inconsistent with the DRMS approved boundary (see Signs and Markers below).

Processing Waste: A few oversized rocks were observed on the north side (see **Photo 3**).

Roads: Haul and access roads did not appear to be a source of sediment that could be tracked offsite.

Right of Entry: Mr. Rife indicated their lease with the SLB was current at the time of the inspection.

Reclamation Success: No reclamation has been initiated.

Revegetation: No noxious weeds were observed.

Sediment Control: No erosion problems were observed and no BMPs were needed at the time of the inspection.

Support Facilities On-site: None observed on site.

Signs and Markers: The permit sign was properly posted (see **Photo 4**). Four of the expected six boundary markers (see **Photo 5**) were found and locations collected using a handheld Trimble Juno 3B GPS unit (see attached post inspection map). The site disturbance was determined to be within the marked boundary, but the field delineated boundary is shifted to the northeast; of a different shape (perhaps due to not being able to locate the two expected interior corners along the south boundary); and the entrance is on the east side, off CR 2A, rather than as approved on the south side, off CR 2. Based on discussions with Mr. Rife, it appears the current configuration of the boundary has not been altered since it was first mined in the early 1990's. **The discrepancy in the permit boundary between that marked in the field and that in the 1990 application is cited as a Problem on page 1 of this report.**

Permit Stipulations: There are no permit stipulations.

Storm Water MGT Plan: No oil or fuel spills observed. Mr. Rife stated the stormwater management plan is kept the County office in Cañon City. Stormwater either drains to the pit and infiltrates, or discharges thru the gap in the topsoil stockpile on the west side (see **Photos 2 and 6**).

Topsoil: A topsoil stockpiles were observed on the perimeters of the pit.

Structures: The closest power transmission poles to the south is over 300 feet from the current affected area.

Please contact Tim Cazier (303)866-3567 ext. 8169 or email at tim.cazier@state.co.us if you have any questions regarding this report.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. Topsoil stockpile on north side (looking east).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 2. Topsoil stockpile on west side (looking south, note stormwater outlet gap).



Photo 3. Pit floor (looking WNW, note oversized boulders).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 4. Permit sign at entrance off CR2A.



Photo 5. Typical boundary marker (NW corner, looking east).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 6. Stormwater outlet gap in west side topsoil stockpile (looking west).

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>NA</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>NA</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>Y</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>Y</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</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>PB</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>NA</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>Y</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>Y</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>Y</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

Sterling Rife
Fremont County
1170 Red Canyon Road
Cañon City, CO 81212

Enclosure: Post Inspection Map

ec: DRMS file
Ben Teschner, SLB

Satellite imagery from 10/5/2019 - Overlay map from original October 1990 permit application
GPS data collected 11/18/2021 using a Trimble Juno 3B hand held unit
CUP boundary overlaid to PLSS 1/4 section monument records

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-  M-90-138 2019 disturbance
-  M-90-138 Boundary based on markers
-  M-90-138 CUP Boundary
-  M-90-138 Permit Boundary
-  Marker locations collected via GPS
-  PLSS Monument Records

