




**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> Thomas Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1976-020	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> La Plata
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Lucas West	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> March 9, 2022	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 09:30
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Oldcastle SW Group, Inc. dba Four Corners M	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Matt Carnahan	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$26,295.00	
<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> April 4, 2022	

**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>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</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>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</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>N</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

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted as part of the normal monitoring program established by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). The Thomas Pit is a 112c operation in final reclamation in La Plata County. The site is located approximately Nine miles north of Durango and is accessed by a small private road that previously served as the haul road, but is now a private road for the residences adjacent to the permit area. The Division currently holds \$26,295.00 in Financial Warranty for the site. A reclamation cost update was performed based on current site conditions and staff calculations determined that the currently held Financial Warranty is sufficient to conduct reclamation of the site in accordance with the approved plan. Seven photos accompany this report to illustrate the current site conditions.

The site was not active at the time of the inspection, and in addition to Division Staff, Matt Carnahan of Four Corners Materials as well as Jim Bryce, the landowner representative were present during the inspection. The site consists of 34.8 permitted acres that have been almost fully reclaimed. The post mining land uses include Industrial Commercial, Wildlife Habitat and Cropland. Photo One shows the appropriate Mine Identification Signage was observed at the entrance to the site, also visible are the office and shop facilities which will remain on site for landowner use. All grading and earthwork on site has been completed throughout the site in accordance with the approved reclamation plan. As stated above the site is approved for mixed post mining land uses. The northern pit area, shown in Photos Two and Three has been reclaimed to support an industrial commercial land use. The areas have been graded to achieve positive drainage, and are sparsely vegetated with volunteer species. The center portion of the site has been reclaimed to support an agricultural land use, which is shown in Photo Four. The southern portion of the permitted area includes a large pond, approximately three acres in size. The pond is properly permitted through the landowner to remain on site. The side slopes and area around the shores have been reclaimed to support wildlife habitat. Photos Five and Six show the pond area which has graded and sufficiently revegetated. The northern most area of the permit has been reclaimed to a small pond adjacent to the Animas River. The pond is in good condition, the banks appeared stable and well vegetated. Photo Seven shows the north pond area.

The Animas River runs through a significant portion of the eastern side of the site. Since the completion of the mining activities on site, the flow regime and channel of the Animas River has changed significantly. On site discussions with the Operator and Landowner regarding the river channelization still centered on the improper installation of an instream structure. The landowner states that the structure was installed incorrectly causing the bed load of material to be deposited upstream, creating a large mound of boulder sized material in the channel. The result is stream migration towards the west, eroding bank of the Animas River. Permit review indicates that all instream structures were installed in accordance with the Army Corps of Engineers 404 Permit, and any modification, removal or repair of the structure would be handled between the Operator, the Landowner and the Army Corps of Engineers.

The overall footprint of the site was in good condition and is free from trash and debris. No noxious weeds were observed during the inspection and discussions with the landowner indicate that weed management is ongoing. No problems or possible violations were noted during this inspection. All responses to this report should be directed to Lucas West at the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety at Room 215, 1001 E. 62<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Denver CO, 80216, by phone at (303)-866-3567 Ext. 8187 or by email at [lucas.west@state.co.us](mailto:lucas.west@state.co.us).

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

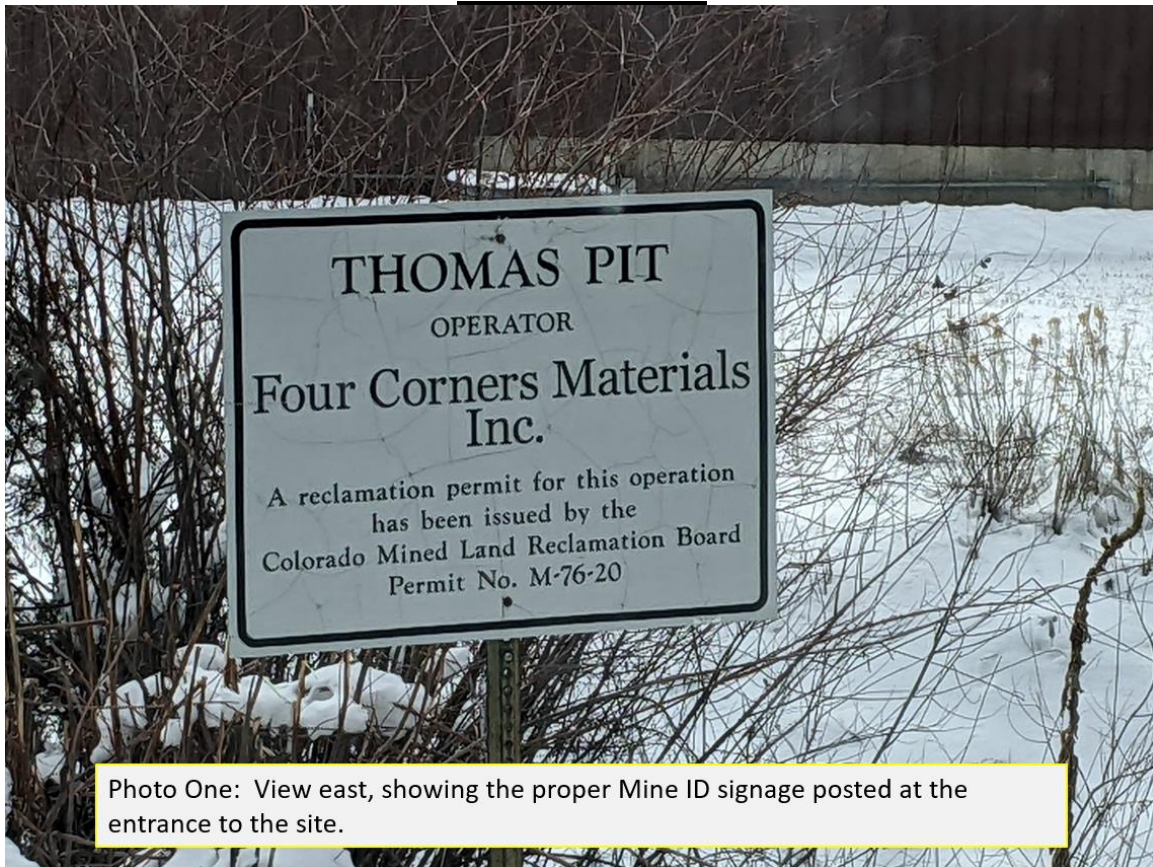
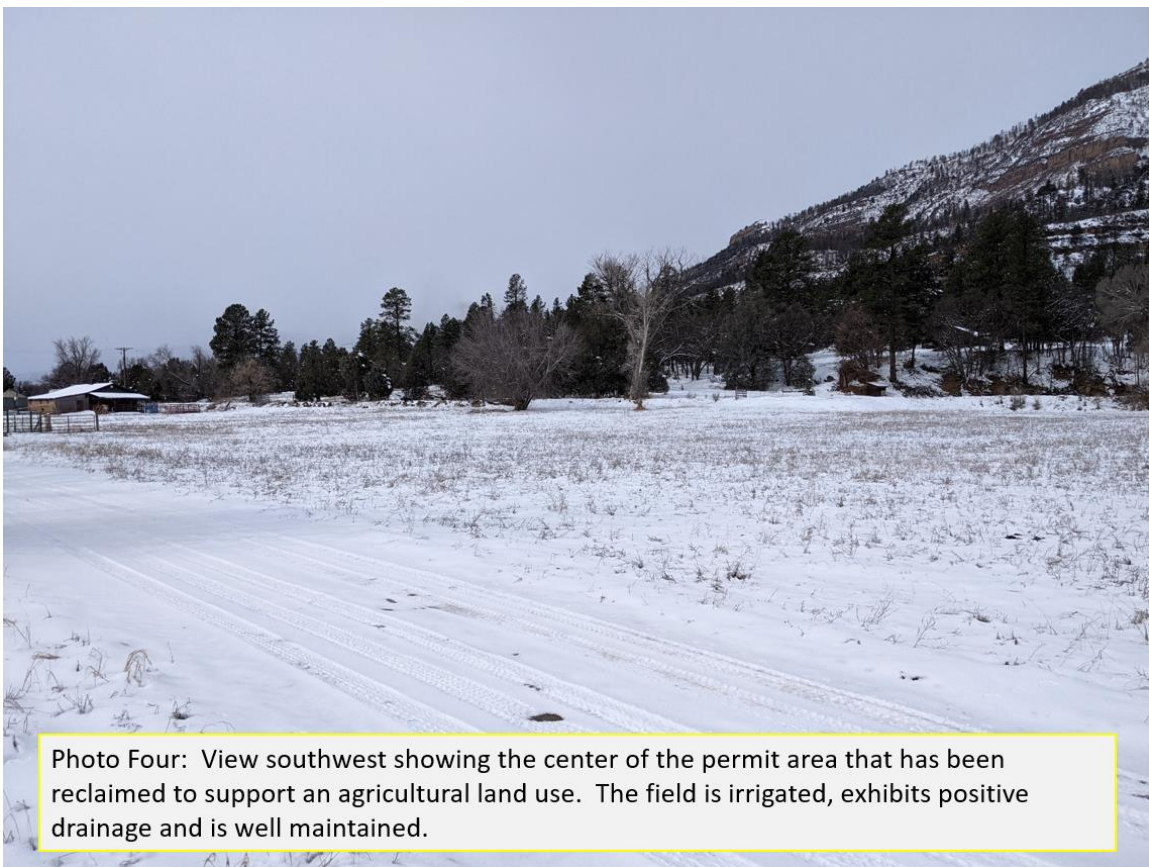


Photo One: View east, showing the proper Mine ID signage posted at the entrance to the site.



Photo Two: View southwest, showing the remaining facilities on site that has been reclaimed to support a light industrial post mining land use. Areas around the facilities are also used for materials stockpiling for use on the property by the landowner







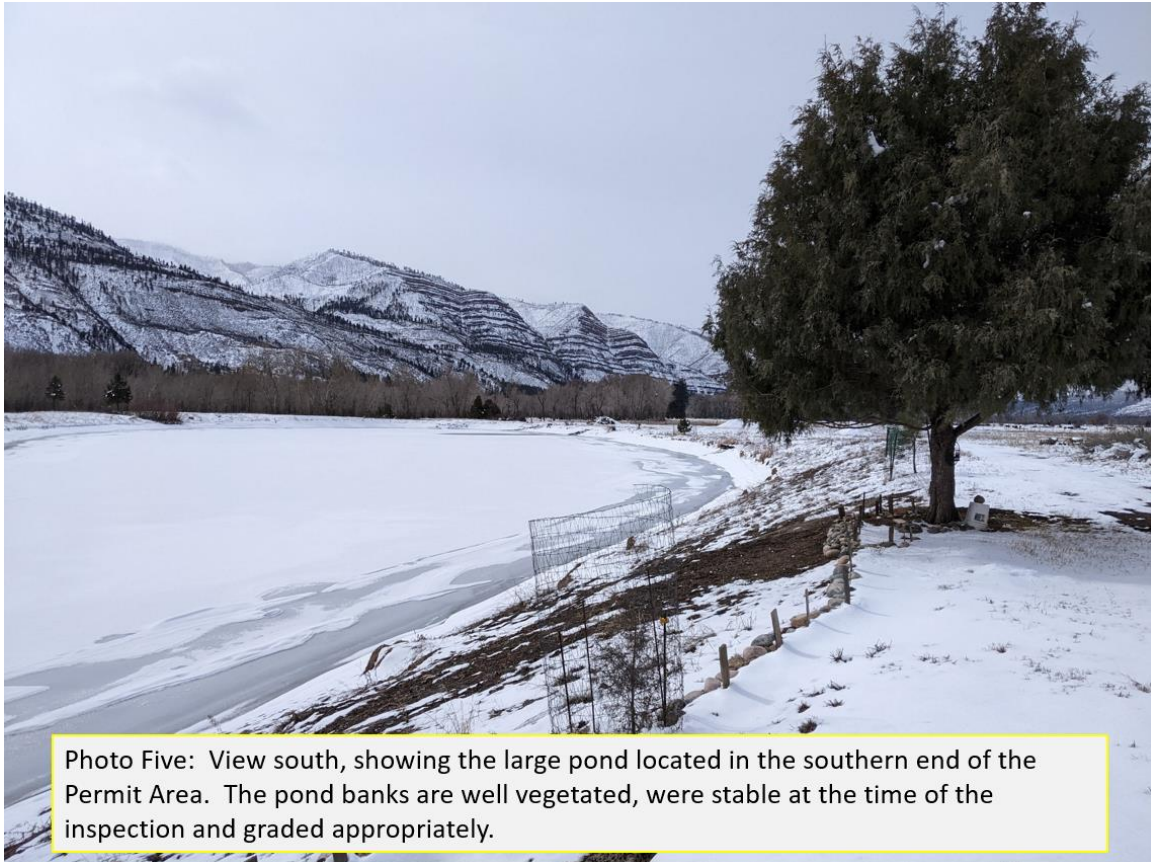


Photo Five: View south, showing the large pond located in the southern end of the Permit Area. The pond banks are well vegetated, were stable at the time of the inspection and graded appropriately.

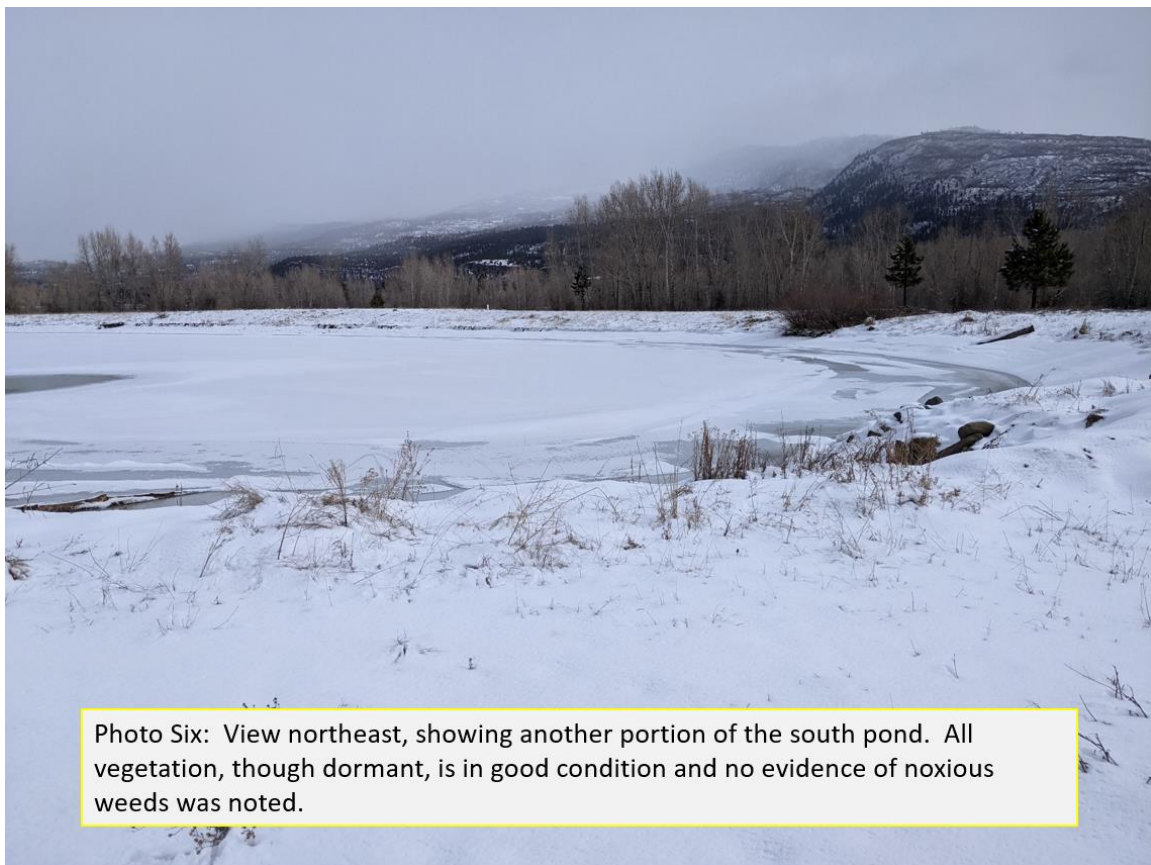


Photo Six: View northeast, showing another portion of the south pond. All vegetation, though dormant, is in good condition and no evidence of noxious weeds was noted.



Photo Seven: View northwest, showing the north pond area. The north pond is in excellent condition, well vegetated with stable banks.

**Inspection Contact Address**

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Enclosure

CC: Travis Marshall, DRMS  
Dustin Czaplá, DRMS