



STATE OF  
COLORADO

Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>

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## Elk Creek Mine - April 2022 Partial Inspection Report

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**Zeller, Brook J** <bzeller@osmre.gov>

Thu, Apr 14, 2022 at 4:42 PM

To: "Simmons - DNR, Leigh" <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>

Cc: "Mackinnon, Daniel K" <dmackinnon@osmre.gov>

Good Afternoon Leigh,

Please see my inspection report attached from the April 5<sup>th</sup> inspection at Elk Creek.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you!

**Brook Zeller**

Environmental Protection Specialist

OSMRE – Denver Field Branch

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**Final Inspection Narrative - Elk Creek April 5 2022.pdf**  
4461K

## Denver Field Branch Inspection Narrative

Permittee:	Oxbow Mining, LLC
Facility:	Elk Creek Mine
Permit No:	C-1981-022
Date of Inspection:	April 5, 2022
Inspection Type:	Partial oversight
Weather:	Partly cloudy, mild, and windy
Representative(s):	Doug Smith
DRMS:	Leigh Simmons
OSMRE Official(s):	Dan MacKinnon (Badge #554) and Brook Zeller

### Background

This was a partial oversight inspection focused on the areas requested for phase II bond release as part of SL-6. Although the mine is in full reclamation, it is considered 'Active' by DRMS. No action items or violations resulted from this inspection.

**Methane recapture/power generation pad.** This area was stable and active at the time of inspection. The pad area is permitted as a permanent facility within the permit boundary but is currently regulated by the Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) rather than DRMS.

**Upper and lower reclaimed Elk Creek channel.** Both the upper and lower portions of the reclaimed Elk Creek channel was stable at the time of inspection. See figures 1-3. Vegetation was beginning to fill in, though much had been browsed by wildlife. Vegetation sufficiently controlled erosion with no erosional features identified. Work had been recently done to mitigate undercutting of the culvert in a lower portion of the Elk Creek channel, and it was fully functional at the time of inspection. See figure 4.

**East yard coal waste pile.** The East Yard was stable at the time of inspection with no signs of erosion. Vegetation was slightly sparse in some areas due to heavy wildlife browsing and it being early in the growing season; however, it appeared sufficient to control erosion and consistent with the vegetation mix of surrounding phase III released areas. See figure 5.

**Upper and lower portions of west valley fill.** Both the upper and lower portions of the west valley fill waste pile were stable and well vegetated with no erosional features. There were signs of heavy wildlife browsing and deer were seen nearby. See figures 6 and 7.

**Reclaimed road from west valley fill to II west fill.** The reclaimed road was stable and well vegetated with signs of wildlife browsing. No water was flowing in the constructed drainages at the time of inspection. See figure 8.

**II west fill and topsoil storage area.** Both the II west fill and topsoil storage areas were stable and well vegetated with no signs of erosion. Vegetation appeared sufficient to control erosion even with signs of heavy wildlife browsing. See figures 9-12.

**Programmatic compliance**

No violations or action items were issued as a result of this inspection.





figure 1 – Upper portion of reclaimed Elk Creek Channel looking southeast.



figure 2 – Lower portion of reclaimed Elk Creek channel looking south.





figure 3 – Lower portion of reclaimed Elk Creek channel looking east.



figure 4 – Mitigation of culvert undercutting with concrete on the upper portion of the reclaimed Elk Creek channel.





figure 5 – East Yard looking north.



figure 6 – Upper portion of west valley fill looking north.





figure 7 – Lower portion of west valley fill looking southeast.



figure 8 – Reclaimed road looking west towards II West fill.





figure 9 – II west reclaimed topsoil pile in the foreground looking west with the II west reclaimed fill in the background outlined by constructed drainage channels.



figure 10 – II west reclaimed topsoil storage area looking east.





figure 11 – II west reclaimed fill looking northeast.



figure 12 – II west reclaimed fill looking southeast.