




## 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> Mahogany Research Project - Public Land Prospecting	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> P-2003-018	<b>MINERAL:</b> Oil shale	<b>COUNTY:</b> Rio Blanco
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Amy Yeldell	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> May 31, 2022	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 09:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Shell Frontier Oil & Gas Inc.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Samantha Baker	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> MP - Mineral Prospecting	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$2,656,462.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> U.S.BLM	
<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b>	

### 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>Y</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>NA</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>NA</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>NA</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>NA</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>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>NA</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>Y</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>NA</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>NA</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 Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety normal monitoring program. The Mahogany Research Project-Public Land Prospecting is a Hard Rock NOI located in Rio Blanco County. Amy Yeldell of the Division conducted the inspection. Samantha Baker represented the Operator.

The permitted NOI includes a total of 12.3 acres and has a required bond of \$83,151. The Division still holds \$2,573,311 in financial warranty for this site since a replacement bond has not been submitted following the approval of SR-1 (5-10-2021). Following the approval of AR-2 (10-25-2021) the following pads permitted remain permitted; 58-14-199, 62-23-199(B6-23) and access road, 66-26-199, 5-18-298, 8-3-298, 9-9-298, 10-32-198, and 13-14-298.

All hydrology wells have been abandoned and pads have been reclaimed. The last reclamation efforts were completed in 2015 and now are awaiting adequate vegetation establishment. The past winter was extremely dry with very little snow/ moisture. This spring/ early summer has been very cold with limited precipitation. Generally plants are behind schedule in germination and inspection timing is more comparable to typical March/April site conditions. Wild horse populations have significantly increased and vegetation throughout the Piceance Basin is showing signs of overgrazing. Over all pads are stable with no signs of erosion. All mining related debris has been removed from the site(s). Specific observations of each pad are listed below,

Pad 9-9-298: Pad is right off roadway and is fenced off from cattle. Evidence of horse grazing within fenced areas. Pad has very sparse vegetation, approx. 10% overall cover. Very few grasses have been established with a hand full of low rabbit brush. No sage shrubs have volunteered to date despite being surrounded by mature sagebrush. No noxious weeds were observed.

Pad 10-32-198: Russian Thistle has been extensively treated, very little new establishment was observed (still early yet). Pad is nearly barren with less than 5% overall cover. Mostly only shrubs (sagebrush) left, most of the remaining grasses has been grazed off. Of the remaining grasses some of them are showing a liming in color. This may be due to injury from residual chemical in the soil from treating weeds or a nutrient imbalance in the soil. Given this pads struggle to establish vegetation prior to grazing pressures, soil testing is recommended to see if there is an underlying cause.

\*\*\*Note Pad 64-28-199 was inspected but the Division's records show that it was released under AR-1 in 2020.

Responses to this inspection report should be directed to Amy Yeldell at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Room 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave, Denver, CO 80216. Direct contact can be made by phone at 303-866-3567 Ext 8183 or via email at amy.yeldell@state.co.us

### **Inspection Contact Address**

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EC:  
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James Roberts, White River Field Office, BLM

**PHOTOGRAPHS**





