

# INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

## Meeker Sand & Gravel: M-1976-038

The Meeker Sand & Gravel pit is a dry pit located on the top of a hill on what is known as the “Mesa” area approximately 3 miles southeast of Meeker in Rio Blanco County. The mine holds a 112 c Reclamation Permit #M-1976-038. The mine was originally permitted by Bob Dearman. In 1975, Dearman successfully sought a special use permit with Rio Blanco County for the entire gravel pit acreage. In later years, the pit was operated by Tesoro, White River Aggregates and Frontier Materials. In 1982 Joe Conrado with Meeker Sand & Gravel took the permit over. Prior to transfer of the permit, all of the overburden and topsoil had been stripped and moved to current storage locations.

In 1992, AM-1 increased the permit acreage to 78.8 acres with a maximum of 65 disturbed acres. In 2013, mine owner Joe Conrado sold the operation to children, Dan Conrado and Katie Conrado. At this time, all areas had been previously stripped of overburden and topsoil. The mine continued actively mining with reclamation taking place as soon as feasible and in 2018, under AR-1, 17.11 acres were released: 6.11 acres reclaimed and 11 acres (TR-3) which would remain un-reclaimed to allow for continued use of batch plant, shop, office, ancillary storage buildings and truck/vehicle/equipment storage following completion of mining. This brought the current total permit area to 61.69. On June 8, 2023, AR-2 was submitted and filed with the DRMS and final release was granted on 14.48 acres.

The majority of the aggregate reserves in the current permitted mine have been mined, pushing mining toward the edges of the present boundary. We seek to amend the mining permit to allow for mining up to the mine boundaries, while keeping safe slopes intact, in an effort to extract all of the gravel reserves which exist and can be mined.

A lease has been negotiated with property owner Joe Conrado to expand and mine the pit westerly following extraction of the remaining gravel reserves along the edges of the current permit have been mined. This will be the 47.18 acre tract we are seeking to expand to within our permit.

Aggregate quantities necessary to supply demand in the area vary greatly from year to year and has affected the timing of mining in the current permit and will affect the timeline for the proposed mine expansion. Active mining follows regional demand for product, which can cause the required mined aggregate to be less in some years, followed by years with greater demand. This influx of demand has been a primary reason why the current mine permit has been able to supply the aggregate necessary to the area for 45 years.

At this time, we are filing an amendment to the current reclamation plan to allow for:

- Increasing Permitted Acreage to 111.20 acres (49.85 of which is currently affected)
- Expanding Mine to Include 47.18 acres of mineable acreage to the West of current mine, which has been approved for mining previously through Rio Blanco County
- Allowing for mining to take place up to permit boundaries in an effort to utilize all gravel reserves available as the edges are cleaned up, while maintaining a 3:1 slope for final reclamation of these areas
- Expanding the area that will remain un-reclaimed following completion of mining to allow for continued use of batch plant, truck/equipment storage, office and shop area from 11 acres to 11.43 acres
- Revising acreages to correctly reflect updated, surveyed mapping that was done in 2023