




**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> Moore's Agg Fields	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2023-044	<b>MINERAL:</b> Unknown commodity	<b>COUNTY:</b> Mesa
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Illegal(Unpermitted Operation)	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> December 19, 2023	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 11:05
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Moore's Ranching	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Leon Moore's	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> IM - Is it Mining	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Citizen Complaint	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> None	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> DRMS	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Amy Yeldell Travis Marshall	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> January 2, 2024	

**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>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>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>NA</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>NA</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>NA</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>N</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</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**

On December 14, 2023, the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) received an anonymous citizen complaint regarding the potential illegal or off-site mining. The complaint was forwarded to the landowner/operator Moores Mining, LLC on December 14, 2023. Given that the landowner/operator has a permit, the complaint (CT-1) was originally indexed under the Permit No. M-1980-178. The Division later determined that the area in question was separate from the permitted mining operation and thus a new File No. M-2023-044 was created.

On December 14, 2023, the Division spoke on the phone with Ray Moores of Moores Mining, LLC to set up an investigation inspection. During the phone call it was explained by Mr. Moores that they are building/expanding their hay fields on the south side of Highway 141 (across) from the mine site. The site is located in Mesa County at approximately 38°46'28.21"N and 108°52'30.34"W. Installation of agricultural fields requires them to remove large rocks and grade the land. They are importing fines from their pit to level everything.

On December 19, 2023, the Division conducted a site inspection of the area pertaining to the citizen complaint. Amy Yeldell and Travis Marshall of the Division conducted the inspection. Leon and Ray Moores accompanied. The Anonymous complainant was not present for the inspection.

Leon Moores explained to the Division that in order to maintain their existing water rights they need to irrigate more land, 'use it or loose it'. In order to use it they need to create more irrigated fields. Two lower fields (east) have been created/expanded to add 3 additional acres of irrigated land to their ranch (Photo One and Two). In total they need a minimum of 5 more acres to remain in compliance. All disturbances are located on private land.

To the west of their existing fields are the new fields that are the subject of the complaint. The fields will be 2 tiered (Photo Three) with a lower collection ditch to the far north to intercept waste irrigation water. The Division estimates that approximately 3 acres is associated with the western fields. The southern most tier/field is nearly complete and will result in a half-acre field. Irrigation piping is in place and only final grading and planting remains (Photos Four – Six). The northernmost field is currently being constructed; no irrigation is in place to date (Photo Seven).

Excess rocks from clearing and building of the fields are stored in several piles throughout the ranch. One main rock pile is to the east of new field and will need to be removed if the field expands to the east (Photo Eight). It was indicated that excess rocks may be imported to the pit across the highway (M-1980-178) as a means of getting rid of them. Any encountered topsoil is also salvaged and replaced after final grading. Located on site are several pieces of heavy equipment such as loaders and excavators. Work on this project is conducted as the landowner has time and is generally after hours and weekends. The Division does not regulate hours of operation. Additional discussions with the complainant were in regard to noise, which is also non-jurisdictional for the Division.

During the inspection the Division explained the process to permit the site if the landowner wished to conduct mining in the future or expand their operation beyond agricultural development. On December 19, 2023, the Division also provided the Moores with the "Is it Mining?" questionnaire. The Division received the completed form on January 2, 2024. The landowner provided a detailed map (attached) clarifying their plans regarding agricultural development on their land. A formal determination regarding the need for a permit will be sent under a separate cover.

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**

Leon Moores  
Moores Ranching  
32905 Highway 141  
Gateway, CO 81522

EC: Travis Marshall

**PHOTOGRAPHS**











Photo 4: Mostly completed southern field



Photo 5: Mostly completed southern field





Photo 6: Mostly completed southern field, irrigation pipe on site.



Photo 7: Future northern field area







