




**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> Murdock Gravel Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1983-112	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Kiowa
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Surety Release Inspection	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> June 4, 2024	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 11:15
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Kiowa County	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Paul Stoker	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Surety Release Requested	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$0.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Joel Renfro	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> July 1, 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>N</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>N</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>N</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>Y</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>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>N</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>N</u>	

Y = Inspected / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / PB = Problem cited / PV = Possible violation cited

## **OBSERVATIONS**

The Murdock Gravel Pit was inspected by Joel Renfro with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS) on June 4, 2024. This site was inspected for a Full/Final Release as requested in SL-2. This site was previously inspected as a part of the Division's routine monitoring program on October 11, 2018. Paul Stoker with Kiowa County was present during the inspection. The site is located approximately 8 miles southwest of Sheridan Lake, Colorado in Kiowa County. Access to the site is from the northwest off Co Rd J. **Photos 1-10** taken during the inspection are included with this report.

This is a 110c operation permitted for 9.2 acres to mine sand and gravel for use in county road construction and maintenance. The post-mine land use is rangeland. SL-2 was filed with the Division on April 10, 2024, with a public comment period deadline of April 25, 2024. No comments or objections were received. Kiowa County requested the Full Release of the Murdock Gravel Pit in SL-2.

The earthmoving work was finished in 2017, and it seems that it was done in accordance with the approved reclamation plan, as the slopes have been graded to 3H:1V or flatter. No erosion issues were found on site, and the ground appears to be appropriately vegetated, with stable slopes.

Seeding on this site took place shortly after the earthwork was completed. The vegetation cover mainly consisted of native grasses along the slopes and top of slopes, and a mix of forb and grass species in the pit floor. The grass species observed were a combination of those found in the approved seed mix and volunteer grass species. There were few forbs observed, mostly found in the pit floor. All of the forb species found were volunteer species, including annual species like sunflowers. Few noxious weeds were observed, and the ones observed appeared to be typical for the surrounding area and were under control, not posing a threat to the success of native vegetation. The Division determined that a diverse and long-lasting vegetative cover has been established according to Rule 3.1.10(5) of the revegetation standards for release. This Division found that the Murdock Gravel Pit has met the requirements outlined in the rules for successful reclamation.

Based on the observations made during the inspection, the Division finds that the Murdock Gravel pit is ready for the full release of 9.2 acres. The notice of the Division's decision will be sent as a separate letter.

This concludes the report.

*Any questions or comments regarding this inspection report should be forwarded to Joel Renfro at the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, via telephone at (720) 812-2002, or email at joel.renfro@state.co.us.*

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Figure 1.** View of the site from the northwest corner, facing south.



**Figure 2.** Western edge of the site, facing south.



**Figure 3.** View of the pit floor from the western edge of the site, facing east.



**Figure 4.** View of the pit floor from the northern edge of the site, facing southeast.



**Figure 5.** View of the site from the southern edge, facing north.



**Figure 6.** Reclaimed pit floor, facing west.



**Figure 7.** Reclaimed pit floor, facing west.



**Figure 8.** Reclaimed pit floor, facing south.

**Inspection Contact Address**

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Eads, CO 81036

CC:  
Amy Eschberger, DRMS