




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.

MINE NAME: Peat Mine	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1994-081	MINERAL: Peat, sand and gravel	COUNTY: Alamosa
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: September 6, 2024	INSP. TIME: 10:00am
OPERATOR: Mortensen's Landscape & Irrigation LLC	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Brandon Garrison	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE:	BOND AMOUNT: \$12,017.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
INSPECTOR(S): Chris Girardi Jared Ebert	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: October 18, 2024

The following inspection topics were identified as having Problems or Possible Violations. OPERATORS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING PAGES CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PERMIT AND APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS. If a Possible Violation is indicated, you will be notified under separate cover as to when the Mined Land Reclamation Board will consider possible enforcement action.

INSPECTION TOPIC: Mine Plan

PROBLEM: The Operator is not adhering to the approved mining plan of conducting mining in 10-acre phases. The current mine plan needs to be updated and clarified pursuant to C.R.S. 34-32.5-112(1)(c)(VI). The operator must provide sufficient information to describe or identify how the operator intends to conduct the operation.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The Operator shall submit a Technical Revision (TR) to update the mining plan, with the required \$216 revision fee, to update and clarify the current approved mine plan to reflect existing and proposed activities by the corrective action date.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 12/13/24

INSPECTION TOPIC: Signs & Markers

PROBLEM: The mine identification sign and affected area boundary markers were not observed.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: In accordance with Rule 3.1.12, the Operator must post a sign at the entrance to the mine site which shall be clearly visible from the access road and specify the following; the name of the operator, indicate the permit number, and indicate the reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board. Conduct a survey and mark the approved affected land. The boundaries of the affected area must be marked by monuments or other markers that are clearly visible and adequate to delineate such boundaries. Please provide the Division a notice when this has been completed.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 11/13/24

INSPECTION TOPIC: Revegetation

PROBLEM: There are state-listed noxious weeds present on site. This is a problem for failure to employ weed control methods for state listed noxious weed species within the permitted area, and to reduce the spread of weeds to nearby areas as required by Section 3.1.10 (6) of the rule.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: Implement approved weed control plan and provide proof to the Division that this has been done. The DRMS approved a Technical Revision (TR-1) on 12/19/2016, which was a Weed Management Plan. Per the approved plan, if weeds have been identified, the Operator is required to use a backpack sprayer or a 4-wheeler using chemicals approved by and after consultation with Alamosa County and the San Luis Valley Weed Management Association. Please provide a written response to the Division that identifies a timeline for implementing the approved weed management plan.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 11/17/24

OBSERVATIONS

The Peat Mine was inspected by Chris Girardi and Jared Ebert with the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (DRMS) as part of the DRMS's routine monitoring inspection program. The site was last inspected on October 5, 2016 as part of a routine monitoring inspection. Brandon Garrison represented Mortenson's Landscape & Irrigation LLC (Operator) accompanied the DRMS on the inspection. The weather was sunny and windy.

The Peat Mine is a 112c Construction Materials Operation that consists of 98.8 acres and is located approximately 11 miles southeast of Alamosa, CO. The approved post-mining land use is rangeland. The current land uses surrounding the site are residential and rangeland.

There was no mine sign present. In the northwest portion of the site, the DRMS observed a faded sign that read "Mr. Peat, Warning, No Dumping" (see photo 1). In accordance with Rule 3.1.12(1) of the Construction Materials Rules and Regulations, the DRMS will require the Operator to post a sign that contains the name of the Operator, a statement that a reclamation permit for the operator has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board, and the permit number. There were no boundary markers along the northern and southern permit boundary, making it difficult to discern the permit boundary. The permit area is divided into Three separate parcels designated as Parcel B, Parcel C, and Parcel D (see attached map on page 11). A parcel known as "Parcel A" was located west of Parcel B and Meadowlake Blvd. This parcel was removed from the Permit Boundary when the permit was applied for in 1994. Parcel B and C are combined on the attached map. Clearwater Blvd bisects the site and separates Parcels C and D. Boundary markers were observed along Clearwater Blvd on the eastern edge of Parcel C and the along the western edge of Parcel D. The lack of fully marking the affected area with boundary markers is cited as a problem at the beginning of this report. The Operator will need to conduct a survey and clearly mark the affected area boundary around the site.

General Compliance with Mining Plan:

The site was inactive at the time of the inspection. The site consists of undulating topography, hills, and pockets of vegetation. No equipment or permanent structures were observed. The approved mining plan is to mine peat, sand, and gravel in 10-acre phases. A six (6) to twelve (12) inch layer of peat is layered on top of a sand and gravel seam. The sand and gravel seam may be mined until groundwater is exposed and then needed to backfill 2 feet above the groundwater table. A pit excavation was observed southeast of Clearwater Blvd along the western edge of Parcel D (see Photos 2-3). The pit floor contained wetland vegetation, indicating the pit floor sits above the groundwater table. The pit highwall was approximately 415 feet in length and no more than twelve (12) in depth.

As previously stated, the approved mining plan is to mine peat, sand, and gravel in 10-acre phases. Dozens of black peat stockpiles of varying size were observed throughout the site (see Photos 4-7), indicating that mining is not being conducted as per the approved mining plan. The Division estimates about 30 acres have been affected by the operation. The current mine plan needs to be updated and clarified pursuant to C.R.S. 34-32.5-112 (1)(c)(VI). The Operator must provide sufficient information to describe or identify how the operator intends to conduct the operation if they intend to disturb more than 10 acres at once time. This needs to be accomplished through the submittal of a Technical Revision (TR) to update the mining plan.

As previously stated, permit/affected area boundary markers are not clearly visible or present in the north

portion of the site along Parcels B, C, and D. The DRMS observed peat stockpiles (see Photos 4-5) that may be located outside of the approved permit area, but it is unclear exactly where that boundary is located. The lack of affected land boundaries has been cited as a problem. The Division will require the Operator hire a licensed-surveyor to conduct a land survey of the approved affected area boundary, and subsequently install new boundary markers to adequately delineate the approved affected land.

Several thick patches of Halogeton were observed in the Parcel B, C, and D (see Photo 9). This has been cited as a problem. In accordance with Rule 3.1.10(6) of the Construction Materials Rules and Regulations governing weed control, the DRMS will require the Operator to initiate the weed control plan approved in Technical Revision (TR-1) to control the current infestation and prevent the spread of weeds to the surrounding area.

The Division currently holds a reclamation bond in the amount of \$12,017 for this operation. The Division has estimated the reclamation liability at the site, based on what is currently disturbed area and the cost to reclaim the site in accordance with the approved plan. This liability is found to be \$42,041. A copy of the reclamation cost estimate is enclosed. This is an increase of \$30,024 from the bond currently held. The Operator will have 14 days (October 30, 2024), from the issuance of this report to submit any questions regarding the updated cost estimate. If no questions are received, the Division may issue a Surety Increase notice for the difference. The Operator will have 60 days from the date of the notice to submit and obtain acceptance of the increase in financial warranty from the Division in accordance with Rule 4.2.1(2).

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: "No Dumping" sign on the east side of Parcel A, a significant Halogeton infestation is noted.



Photo 2: Facing north at sand/gravel pit in Parcel D



Photo 3: Facing southeast at sand/gravel pit in Parcel D



Photo 4: Facing east at disturbed land in the vicinity of Parcel D.



Photo 5: Facing north at stockpile potentially north of Parcel D.



Photo 6: Facing northwest at peat stockpiles in Parcel B.



Photo 7: Facing north at peat stockpiles in Parcel C.



Photo 9: Facing south at Halogeton weed in Parcel C.

GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>N</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>N</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>PB</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>PB</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>PB</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>Y</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>N</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>NA</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>Y</u>	

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

Inspection Contact Address

Mortensen's Landscape & Irrigation LLC
5868 CR 106 South
Alamosa, CO 81101

Enclosure

CC:

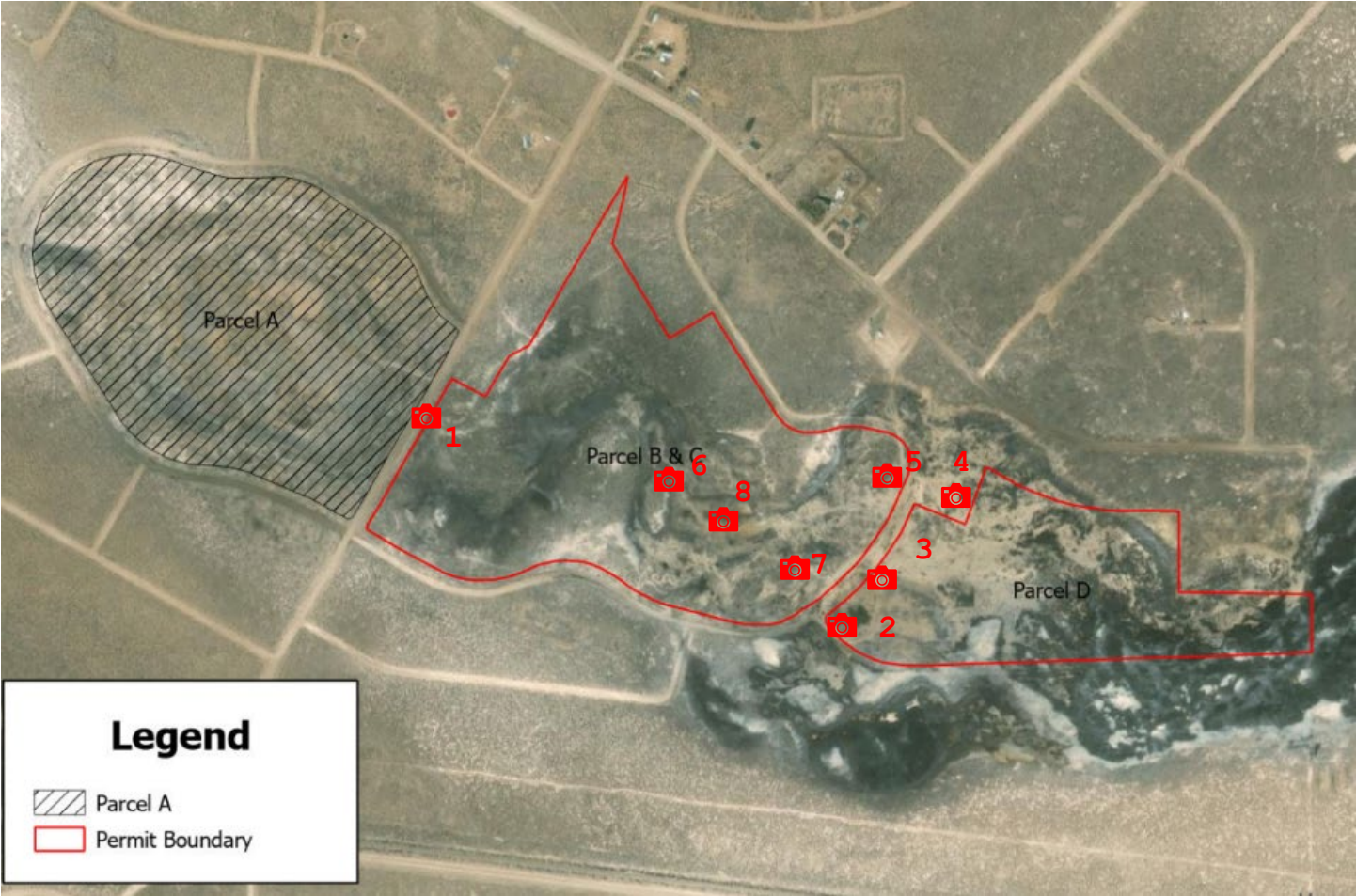
Legend:



Inspection Photo Location

2

Photo Number



COST SUMMARY WORK

Task description: Post 2024 Inspection

Site: Peat Mine

Permit Action: 2024 Inspection

Permit/Job#: M1994081

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Task #: 000

State: Colorado

Abbreviation: None

Date: 10/14/2024

County: Alamosa

Filename: M081-000

User: CMG

Agency or organization name: DRMS

TASK LIST (DIRECT COSTS)

Task	Description	Form Used	Fleet Size	Task Hours	Cost
001A	Push peat stockpiles and grade site	SITEMAINT ENANCE	1	16	\$5,506
001B	Cut down Highwall in Parcel D	DOZER	1	8.39	\$2,821
002	Revegetate disturbed areas	REVEGE	1	40.00	\$21,142
004	Mobilize reclamation equipment	MOBILIZE	1	2.96	\$2,360
<u>SUBTOTALS:</u>				51.35	\$31,829

INDIRECT COSTS

OVERHEAD AND PROFIT:

Liability insurance: 2.02
Performance bond: 1.05
Job superintendent: 52.35
Profit: 10.00

Total = \$643

Total = \$334

Total = \$2,035

Total = \$3,183

TOTAL O & P = \$6,195

CONTRACT AMOUNT (direct + O & P) = \$38,024

LEGAL - ENGINEERING - PROJECT MANAGEMENT:

Financial warranty processing (legal/related costs): \$500

Total = \$500

Engineering work and/or contract/bid preparation: 4.25

Total = \$1,616

Reclamation management and/or administration: 5.00

\$1,901

CONTINGENCY: 0.00

Total = \$0

TOTAL INDIRECT COST = \$10,212

TOTAL BOND AMOUNT (direct + indirect) = \$42,041

SITE MAINTENANCE

Task description: Push peat stockpiles and grade site

Site: Peat Mine Permit Action: 2024 Inspection Permit/Job#: M1994081

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Task #: 001A State: Colorado Abbreviation: None
Date: 10/16/2024 County: Alamosa Filename: M081-001
User: CMG

Agency or organization name: DRMS

UNIT COSTS

Maintenance Item	Hours per Year	Menu Selection	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Grade out peat stockpiles	16.00	Cat D8T - 8SU	16.00	EA	\$344.10	\$5,505.60

Job Hours: 16 Total Cost: \$5,505.60

BULLDOZER WORK

Task description: Cut down Highwall in Parcel D

Site: Peat Mine Permit Action: 2024 Inspection Permit/Job#: M1994081

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Task #: 001B State: Colorado Abbreviation: None
Date: 10/16/2024 County: Alamosa Filename: M081-001A
User: CMG

Agency or organization name: DRMS

HOURLY EQUIPMENT COST

Basic Machine: Cat D8T - 8SU
Horsepower: 310
Blade Type: Semi-Universal
Attachment: 3-shank ripper
Shift Basis: 1 per day
Data Source: (CRG)

Cost Breakdown:

		<u>Utilization %</u>
Ownership Cost/Hour:	<u>\$173.32</u>	<u>NA</u>
Operating Cost/Hour:	<u>\$109.71</u>	<u>100</u>
Ripper own. Cost/Hour:	<u>\$14.53</u>	<u>NA</u>
Ripper op. Cost/Hour:	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>0</u>
Operator Cost/Hour:	<u>\$38.59</u>	<u>NA</u>

Total unit Cost/Hour: \$336.15
Total Fleet Cost/Hour: **\$336.15**

MATERIAL QUANTITIES

Initial Volume: 2,767
Swell factor: 1.060
Loose volume: **2,933 LCY**

Source of estimated volume: Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety
Source of estimated swell
factor: Cat Handbook

HOURLY PRODUCTION

Average push distance: 50 feet
Unadjusted hourly
production: 1,400.0 LCY/hr

Materials consistency
description: Dry, non-cohesive 0.8

Average push
gradient: 5 %
Average site altitude: 7,500 feet

Material weight: 2,900 lbs/LCY

Weight description: Sand and gravel - Dry

<u>Job Condition</u>	<u>Correction Factor</u>	<u>Source</u>
Operator Skill:	0.750	(AVG.)
Material consistency:	0.800	(CAT HB)
Dozing method:	1.000	(GEN.)
Visibility:	1.000	(AVG.)
Job efficiency:	0.830	(1 SHIFT/DAY)
Spoil pile:	0.700	(FND-MF)
Push gradient:	0.903	(CAT HB)
Altitude:	1.000	(CAT HB)
Material Weight:	0.793	(CAT HB)
Blade type:	1.000	(PAT)

Net correction: 0.2496

Adjusted unit
production: 349.44 LCY/hr
Adjusted fleet
production: **349.44** LCY/hr

JOB TIME AND COST

Fleet size: 1 Dozer(s)
Unit cost: \$0.962/LCY

Total job time: **8.39** Hours
Total job cost: **\$2,821**

REVEGETATION WORK

Task description: Revegetate disturbed areas

Site: Peat Mine Permit Action: 2024 Inspection Permit/Job#: M1994081

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Task #: 002 State: Colorado Abbreviation: None
Date: 10/14/2024 County: Alamosa Filename: M1994081
User: CMG

Agency or organization name: DRMS

FERTILIZING

Materials

Description	Units / Acre	Unit	Cost / Unit	Cost /Acre
			\$	\$
			Total Fertilizer Materials Cost/Acre	\$0.00

Application

Description	Cost /Acre
	\$
Total Fertilizer Application Cost/Acre	\$0.00

TILLING

Description	Cost /Acre
Subsoiling, light {(DMG)}	\$178.81
Total Tilling Cost/Acre	\$178.81

SEEDING

Seed Mix	Rate – PLS LBS / Acre	Seeds per SQ. FT	Cost /Acre
Birdsfoot Trefoil - Empire	0.25	2.40	\$2.37
Big Bluegrass - Sherman	0.50	10.33	\$7.93
Bluebunch Wheatgrass - Secar	1.00	3.21	\$10.51
Mountain Brome - Bromar	3.00	4.82	\$18.05
Red Clover - Medium	0.50	3.10	\$3.52
White Dutch Clover - Alice	0.25	4.88	\$1.74
Sheep Fescue - Covar	0.50	7.81	\$3.08
Slender Wheatgrass - Native	2.00	7.30	\$14.13
Needlegrass, Letterman's	2.00	8.72	\$238.93
Prairie Junegrass	0.15	7.97	\$7.31

Timothy - Climax	0.25	7.17	\$1.04
Totals Seed Mix	10.40	67.72	\$308.61

Application

Description	Cost /Acre
Broadcast seeding [DMG]	\$272.56
Total Seed Application Cost/Acre	\$272.56

MULCHING and MISCELLANEOUS

Materials

Description	Units / Acre	Unit	Cost / Unit	Cost /Acre
Herbicide - Plateau @ 1.0 pt/ac	1.00	ACRE	\$20.39	\$20.39
Total Mulch Materials Cost/Acre				\$20.39

Application

Description	Cost /Acre
Weed spray, truck, non-aquatic area, nox. [DMG]	\$83.26
Total Mulch Application Cost/Acre	\$83.26

NURSERY STOCK PLANTING

Common Name	No / Acre	Type and Size	Planting Cost	Fertilizer Pellet Cost	Cost /Acre
					\$
Totals Nursery Stock Cost / Acre					\$0.00

JOB TIME AND COST

No. of Acres:	25	Cost /Acre:	\$863.63
Estimated Failure Rate:	50%	Cost /Acre*:	\$759.98
*Selected Replanting Work Items:	SEEDING		

Initial Job Cost:	\$21,590.75
Reseeding Job Cost:	\$9,499.75
Total Job Cost:	\$31,090
Job Hours:	25.00

EQUIPMENT MOBILIZATION/DEMOBILIZATION

Task description: Mobilize reclamation equipment

Site: Peat Mine Permit Action: 2024 Inspection Permit/Job#: M1994081

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Task #: 004 State: Colorado Abbreviation: None
Date: 10/14/2024 County: Alamosa Filename: M1994081
User: CMG

Agency or organization name: DRMS

EQUIPMENT TRANSPORT RIG COST

Shift basis: 1 per day
Cost Data Source: CRG Data

Truck Tractor Description: GENERIC ON-HIGHWAY TRUCK TRACTOR, 6X4, DIESEL POWERED, 400 HP (2ND HALF, 2006)

Truck Trailer Description: GENERIC FOLDING GOOSENECK, DROP DECK EQUIPMENT TRAILER (25T, 50T, AND 100T)

Cost Breakdown:

Available Rig Capacities	0-25 Tons	26-50 Tons	51+ Tons
Ownership Cost/Hour:	\$10.44	\$22.18	\$23.94
Operating Cost/Hour:	\$26.48	\$54.55	\$55.65
Operator Cost/Hour:	\$22.52	\$22.52	\$22.52
Helper Cost/Hour:	\$0.00	\$23.53	\$23.53
Total Unit Cost/Hour:	\$59.44	\$122.78	\$125.64

NON ROADABLE EQUIPMENT:

Machine Description	Weight/ Unit (TONS)	Owner ship Cost/hr/ unit	Haul Rig Cost/hr/unit	Fleet Size	Haul Trip Cost/hr/ fleet	Return Trip Cost/hr/ fleet	DOT Permit Cost/ fleet
Cat D8T - 8SU	47.71	\$173.32	\$122.78	1	\$296.10	\$122.78	\$250.00
Drill/Broadcast Seeder with Tractor	25.00	\$41.02	\$59.44	2	\$200.92	\$118.88	\$250.00

Subtotals:

\$497.02	\$241.66	\$500.00
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ROADABLE EQUIPMENT:

Machine Description	Total Cost/hr/ unit	Fleet Size	Haul Trip Cost/hr/ fleet	Return Trip Cost/hr/ fleet
Light Duty Pickup, 4x4, 1 T. Crew	\$24.60	1	\$24.60	\$24.60

Subtotals:

\$24.60	\$24.60
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EQUIPMENT HAUL DISTANCE and Time

Nearest Major City or Town within project area region:	<u>ALAMOSA</u>	
Total one-way travel distance:	<u>12.00</u>	miles
Average Travel Speed:	<u>50.00</u>	mph
 Total Non-Roadable Mob/Demob Cost *	 \$2,348.61	
‘* two round trips with haul rig:		
Total Roadable Mob/Demob Cost **	<u>\$11.81</u>	
** one round trip, no haul rig:		

Transportation Cycle Time:

	Non- Roadable Equipment	Roadable Equipment
Haul Time (Hours):	0.24	0.24
Return Time (Hours):	0.24	0.24
Loading Time (Hours):	0.50	NA
Unloading Time (Hours):	0.50	NA
Subtotals:	1.48	0.48

JOB TIME AND COST

Total job time:	<u>2.96</u>	Hours
Total job cost:	<u>\$2,360</u>	