




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: Potter Ranch	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2024-044	MINERAL: Unknown	COUNTY: Ouray
INSPECTION TYPE: Illegal(Unpermitted Operation)	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: September 25, 2024	INSP. TIME: 15:40
OPERATOR: Weber Ranch	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Rich Weber	TYPE OF OPERATION: ILL - Illegal	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Citizen Complaint	BOND CALCULATION TYPE:	BOND AMOUNT: None	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
INSPECTOR(S): Lucas West	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: October 30, 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>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>N</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>N</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>N</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>N</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>N</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>Y</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

This inspection was conducted by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety's Active Mines Program in response to a citizen complaint regarding a possible unpermitted mining operation located just South of Ridgeway, CO near HWY 550 in Ouray County. The complaint (copy enclosed with this report) was submitted by Ouray County and detailed large stockpiles of material being sorted with truck traffic coming in and out of the site. The complaint also listed that the site was on a ranch called the Potter Ranch, however after investigation, the site was found to be on the Weber Ranch, just North of the Potter Ranch, owned by Rich Weber, of Weber Ranch. The site lies at the intersection of County Road 3A and US HWY 550 at an elevation of 7130 feet. Richard Weber, the son of the landowner of the same name, accompanied the inspection. Eight Photos accompany this report to illustrate the site conditions.

The site consists of approximately 2.5 acres, bordered by HWY 550 and County Road 3A on the North, East and South sides, and an irrigation ditch on the West. Various stockpiles of material were observed, one of regular screened dirt, one of dirt that has been mixed with wood chips and various other items to form a manufactured topsoil like material and a small area where the rocks produced from screening are stored. The various stockpiles are in excellent condition and appeared stable at the time. The main stockpiles can be seen in Photos One through Three. Equipment was present on site, such as a small dozer, backhoe loader and screen, all of which appeared to be in good operable condition and examples can be seen in Photos Four and Five. Other small piles of wood chips and slash from clearing efforts, shown in Photos Six and Seven, were also observed. The main lay down area of the site has been graded, gently sloping to the West, and exhibits positive drainage. No impounded storm water, exposed groundwater or evidence of settling, slumping or erosion was noted. Photo Eight shows the main lay down area. Throughout the site, some annual weeds were identified such as Kochia and Russian Thistle, however no State Listed Noxious Weeds were noted.

Richard Weber, the son of the landowner was not present at the beginning of the inspection, however arrived after the inspection had concluded. Discussions indicate that this area has been utilized for these types of operations for approximately the past 20 years. The materials stockpiled on site have been generated from ditch cleanings and various other agricultural practices from their ranch as well as neighboring ranches. The material is not sold, however is utilized to level fields, improve ranch roads and various other needs presented by ranching operations. The material is utilized primarily on the Weber Ranch, however at times, some material is given to neighbors for the same purposes. Based on the observations made at the site, the operations appear consistent with the description provided. No evidence of sale, commercial production or product refinement was observed. The activities are consistent with that of a typical ranching operation.

The overall footprint of the site is in excellent condition and free from Trash and Debris. No fuel or hazardous materials are being stored on site and no significant environmental concerns were noted. All responses to this report should be directed to Lucas West at the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety's Active Mines Program, Room 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave, Denver CO 80216. Direct contact can be made at the Division's Grand Junction Field Office, by phone at 303-919-2997 or email at lucas.west@state.co.us.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo One: View Northwest, showing the stockpile of “manufactured topsoil” which is the largest stockpile on site. The pile appeared to be stable at the time of the inspection and in good condition.



Photo Two: View Northwest, showing the discard stockpile where rocks generated from screening activities are disposed of. No evidence of processing was noted.



Photo Three: View North, showing the main stockpile area, also visible is the third stockpile of general fill dirt stored on site.



Photo Four: View North, showing the backhoe loader stored on site.



Photo Five: View North showing the screen utilized in the operation, with pile of segregated rock also visible.



Photo Six: Northwest, showing an example of the woodchips backhauled to the site to be mixed into the topsoil stockpile.



Photo Seven: View South, showing the slash pile on site, stored in a constructed pit to be burned, as is typical with agricultural operations.



Photo Eight: View West, showing the graded main laydown area of the site. The pad area gently slopes to the West, exhibits positive drainage and shows no signs of settling or slumping.

Inspection Contact Address

Rich Weber
436 County Rd 3A
Ridgeway, CO 81432

Enclosure

CC: Travis Marshall, DRMS