




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: Sandoval Land and Cattle Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2001-015	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Las Animas
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: December 19, 2024	INSP. TIME: 08:28
OPERATOR: Las Animas County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Keith Woodring and Nick Lingus	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$0.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
INSPECTOR(S): Amber M. Gibson	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: January 15, 2025	

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: Gen. Compliance with Mine Plan

PROBLEM: 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, 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: 5/15/25

INSPECTION TOPIC: Signs & Markers

PROBLEM: The affected area boundary markers may be incorrectly placed as the area represented is less than what is approved. This is a problem for failure to maintain boundary markers around the affected area as required by Section 3.1.12(2) of the rule.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The Operator shall conduct a survey and replace the boundary markers in the correct location(s). The Operator shall provide proof to the Division that this has been done by the corrective action date.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 5/15/25

OBSERVATIONS

The Sandoval Land and Cattle Pit was inspected by Amber Gibson with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS). The inspection was completed as part of the Division's routine monitoring inspection program. The site was previously inspected by the Division on January 15, 2020 as a routine monitoring inspection. Keith Woodring and Nick Lingus (representing the Operator – Las Animas County Road and Bridge Department), accompanied me during the inspection. The sky was clear, and the weather was cool.

The Sandoval Land and Cattle Pit is located in Las Animas County, approximately 12 miles east of Trinidad, Colorado. The entrance to the pit is located to the north of a pre-existing ranch road. This site is an active, 9.87 acre, 110c Limited Operation Construction Materials permit. The primary commodity being mined at the site is sand and gravel. The approved post-mining land use is rangeland.

Availability of Records:

The annual report, map, and fee are paid through May 17, 2025. A Technical Revision (TR1) requesting that the operation be classified as an Intermittent Status operation was approved in 2013. On the recent annual report maps, some information that was included on the 2015 report map (as required by the Annual Report Form) is no longer included on subsequent maps.

- For the 2025 submittal of the annual report map please refer to the Annual Report Form. The Annual Report Form states that as required by the Colorado Land Reclamation Act for the Extraction of Construction Materials (C.R.S. 34-32.5-116), the Permittee shall attach a map to the report that accurately depicts:
 - i. the permit boundary,
 - ii. the current affected area boundary and;
 - iii. the location of the acreages specified in Items no. 8-12 and 15.

Items 8-12 and 15 on the Annual Report Form are listed below.

 - #8. Number of acres currently affected (mining + incomplete and or unreleased reclamation).
 - #9. Number of acres that were newly affected during the current report year.
 - #10. Number of acres that were reclaimed during the current report year.
 - #11. Estimated new acreage to be affected in the next report year.
 - #12. Estimated acres to be reclaimed in the next report year.
 - #15. Is adequate topsoil reserved for reclamation, based on your approved permit?

Financial Warranty:

The Sandoval Land and Cattle Pit is permitted and operated by Las Animas County. The Division does not hold a financial warranty for County operations.

Hydrologic Balance and Sediment Control:

Berms were observed around the perimeter of the pit that help prevent stormwater and excess sediment from leaving the site. No standing water was observed onsite during the inspection. No signs of excess erosion were observed during the inspection.

General Compliance with the Mine Plan:

The mining area is long and narrow and is located atop a mesa. The current disturbance area consists of a processing area near the entrance of the site, with mining moving to the north and northeast. The northern portion of the pit area is surrounded by highwalls on the north, west, and south sides (Photos 1-9). The Division

estimates that approximately 4.94 acres of the permit area has been disturbed to date with the remainder of the site undisturbed (except for a waste rock stockpile that was placed on the site during a pre-law mining operation (Photo 10)). The white line on Map 1 shows the estimate for the approximate currently disturbed area. Along the north side of the northwestern most corner, some disturbance appears to be outside of the permit boundary. Additionally, near the topsoil stockpile, some disturbance also appears to be outside of the boundary. There appear to be some discrepancies pertaining to the permit boundary. This is addressed further later in this report in the *Signs and Markers* section.

The mining plan states that the depth to deposit at the site is approximately 5 – 25 feet deep with little to no overburden throughout the site. The tallest highwalls onsite are located on the north-east working face and are approximately 25 feet deep (Photo 11). The Operator was asked during the inspection whether they have encountered any overburden and they stated that they have stockpiled some that may still be of crushing quality. If it is determined that that the stockpiled material is truly overburden, the Operator stated that they will use it as backfill material. No equipment was observed onsite at the time of the inspection.

The mining plan states that there will be no slopes greater than a 3H:1V along the sides of the pit. According to previous inspection reports, the highwall was in the center of the pit, on the north/northeast side. The side slopes were graded out to a 3H:1V as mining advanced forward. Some of these graded side walls in the previously mined areas can be seen in Photo 6. According to the Permittee's annual report maps, the newest mining area was opened sometime between 2016 and 2017 (see the enclosed Annual Report Maps). In this new section, there are highwalls along the northwest and southeast sides, in addition to the working face advancing to the northeast. **This has been cited as a problem above.** The Operator shall either backfill and grade the side slopes to a 3H:1V slope, or submit a technical revision to the mining plan to allow for slopes greater than 3H:1V on the sides of the pit by the corrective action date. At the time of the inspection, it seemed as though the technical revision route would likely be the preferable option.

Roads:

The pre-existing ranch road that is used as the access road is difficult to traverse without a four-wheel drive vehicle (Photo 12). The Operator stated that when the pit is active again, they will likely grade out the entrance so that the site is easier to access.

Signs and Markers:

A permit sign, posted in compliance with Rule 3.1.12(1) was observed at the entrance to the site (Photo 12). The Operators and the inspector walked around the permit boundary and located all five boundary markers (Map 1). As seen in some of the photos, the boundary is marked with t-posts with orange tops. When asked during the inspection, the Operator stated that the markers have been in their original locations since the issuance of the permit. During the inspection, the inspector and the Operator agreed that it may be helpful to add additional markers along the boundary to aid with line-of-sight, especially along the southern boundary.

Upon post inspection review, the original survey description in the permit application appears to closely resemble the field marker locations. However, the approved mining and reclamation maps are hand-drawn, and although a scale is included, are not drawn to scale. Additionally, upon extrapolating a permit boundary from the collected field marker locations, it appears that the permit area is approximately 8.65 acres. The approved affected acreage for this site is 9.87 acres. Figures 1 and 2 highlight some discrepancies pertaining to old survey maps, the mining plan map, and the on-the-ground orientations of the boundary and nearby features. Due to the discrepancies with the permit boundary, particularly those pertaining to the possible offsite disturbance, **this has been cited as a problem above.** The Operator shall re-survey the permit boundary, provide an updated survey description, updated mining plan and reclamation plan maps, and coordinates with photo evidence for any replaced markers by the corrective action date.

Topsoil:

Topsoil has been salvaged and is being stored in stockpiles above and behind the northside of the pit (Map 1). The topsoil pile appears to be in a stable configuration and has some vegetative cover (Photos 13 – 14). As noted in the *General Compliance with the Mine Plan* section above, the topsoil pile appears to be stable at this time, but is extremely close to/possibly outside of the northeast boundary (Map 1). The Operator shall ensure that no more disturbance occurs along the northwestern boundary of the permit area. On the mining plan map, it indicates that topsoil will be stored at the northeast corner of the site. During the Division's pre-op inspection, it was noted that there is pre-mining disturbance located on the site. The area indicated on the mining plan map to be the topsoil stockpile location instead more closely resembles the location of the pre-mining waste rock stockpile. Additionally, the annual report map submitted in 2024 indicates that topsoil is currently being stockpiled along the entire northwest boundary. However, during the inspection it appeared that the only current topsoil stockpile is located to the northwest of the northwestern corner of the pit area. The Operator shall ensure this is updated on the 2025 annual report submittal.

Conclusion:

This concludes the Division's Inspection Report; a map and a few figures displaying topics discussed during the inspection, and a subset of corresponding photographs that were taken during the time of the inspection, are included below. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me by email at amber.gibson@state.co.us or by telephone at (720) 836-0967.

Inspection Contact Address

Keith Woodring and Nick Lingus
Las Animas County
2000 N. Linden Ave.
Trinidad, CO 81082

*Enclosures: Permittee's 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2024 Annual Report Maps
Permittee's Mining Plan Map*

CC: Jared Ebert, DRMS

GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

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

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>Y</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</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>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>PB</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>N</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>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



Map 1: Inspection map generated for the 2024 inspection report. The map was generated in Google Earth Pro in combination with location information gathered in Esri Field Maps during the inspection. The aerial imagery is dated November 25, 2023. The inspection photo icons on the map correspond with the inspection photo numbers within this report.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Looking north into the operation from the entrance point on the old ranch road.



Photo 2: Looking southeast at the processing area and the current pit beyond.



Photo 3: Standing in the current pit, looking at the internal road leading from the processing area to the pit.



Photo 4: Looking southeast across the pit from the northwest boundary. The arrows point to some overburden/product material.



Photo 5: Looking southeast from the northern disturbance boundary across the pit.



Photo 6: Looking northwest from the northern disturbance boundary across the pit. The arrows point to where the side slopes had been previously been graded to a 3H:1V as mining advanced to the northeast.



Photo 7: Looking north across the newest opened area of the pit at the northwest and north highwalls. The arrows point to the topsoil stockpile.



Photo 8: Looking towards the pit from the southeast corner marker. The land south of the access road is undisturbed.



Photo 9: Looking north from the northern most disturbance at the site. This area is undisturbed except for a pre-mining waste pile. The red arrow points to the pre-mining waste pile and the yellow arrow points to the location of the northeast corner marker (see Map 1).



Photo 10: Pre-mining waste pile circled on Map 1. The area around it is undisturbed.



Photo 11: Looking at the north highwall in the pit area. The highwall is estimated to be about 25 feet tall. The 10-inch-tall Samsung tablet in the center of the picture was used for scale.



Photo 12: Looking southwest at the access road and the permit sign.



Photo 13: Looking at the south-facing side of the topsoil pile.



Photo 14: Looking at the north-facing side of the topsoil pile. The t-post in the photo is one of the permit boundary markers.

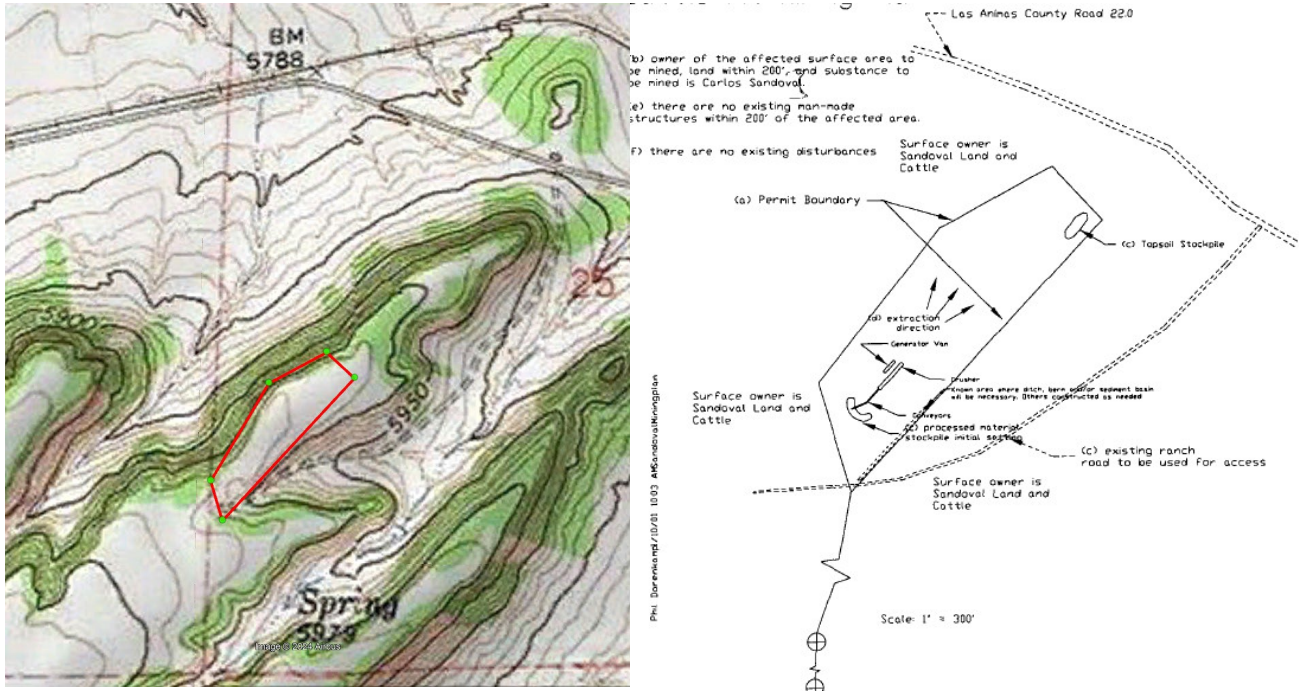


Figure 1: (Left) Permit boundary markers and extrapolated polygon overlain on the USGS topographic basemap in Google Earth Pro. (Right) Screenshot of the Permittee's mining plan map. When compared to old topographic maps, the location of the access road in relation to the southeastern most boundary marker seems to be relatively accurate. However, the size of the permit boundary in relation to the surrounding features is not to scale, as it seems from the map that the permit boundary would expand along most of the length of the mesa top.

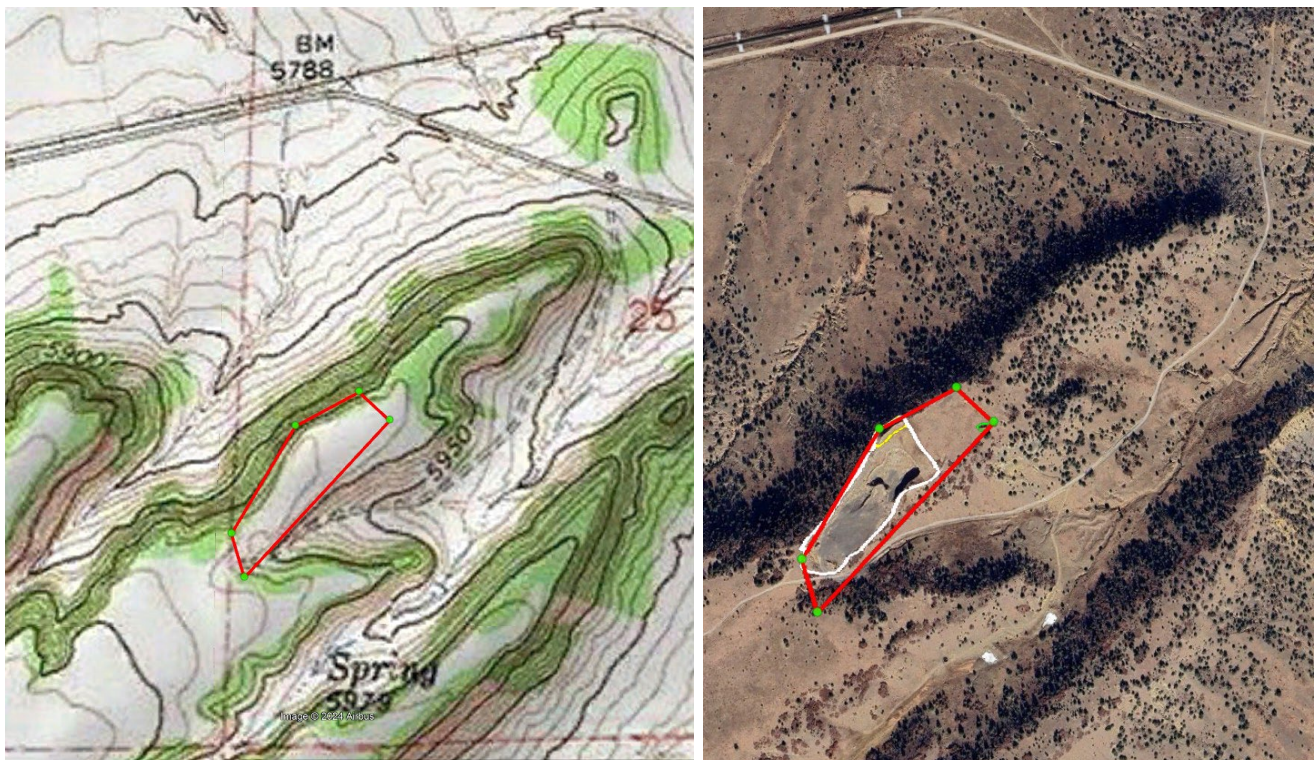











Figure 2: (Left) Permit boundary markers and extrapolated polygon overlain on the USGS topographic basemap in Google Earth Pro. (Right) Screenshot of the Permittee's mining plan map. When compared to old topographic maps, the aerial imagery in Google Earth and in ArcOnline (not pictured) indicates that the access road is actually located north of where it is depicted as being located on the topographic maps. Also, the topographic map seems to indicate that the northwestern markers are located just off of the mesa top, partially downslope.

Legend

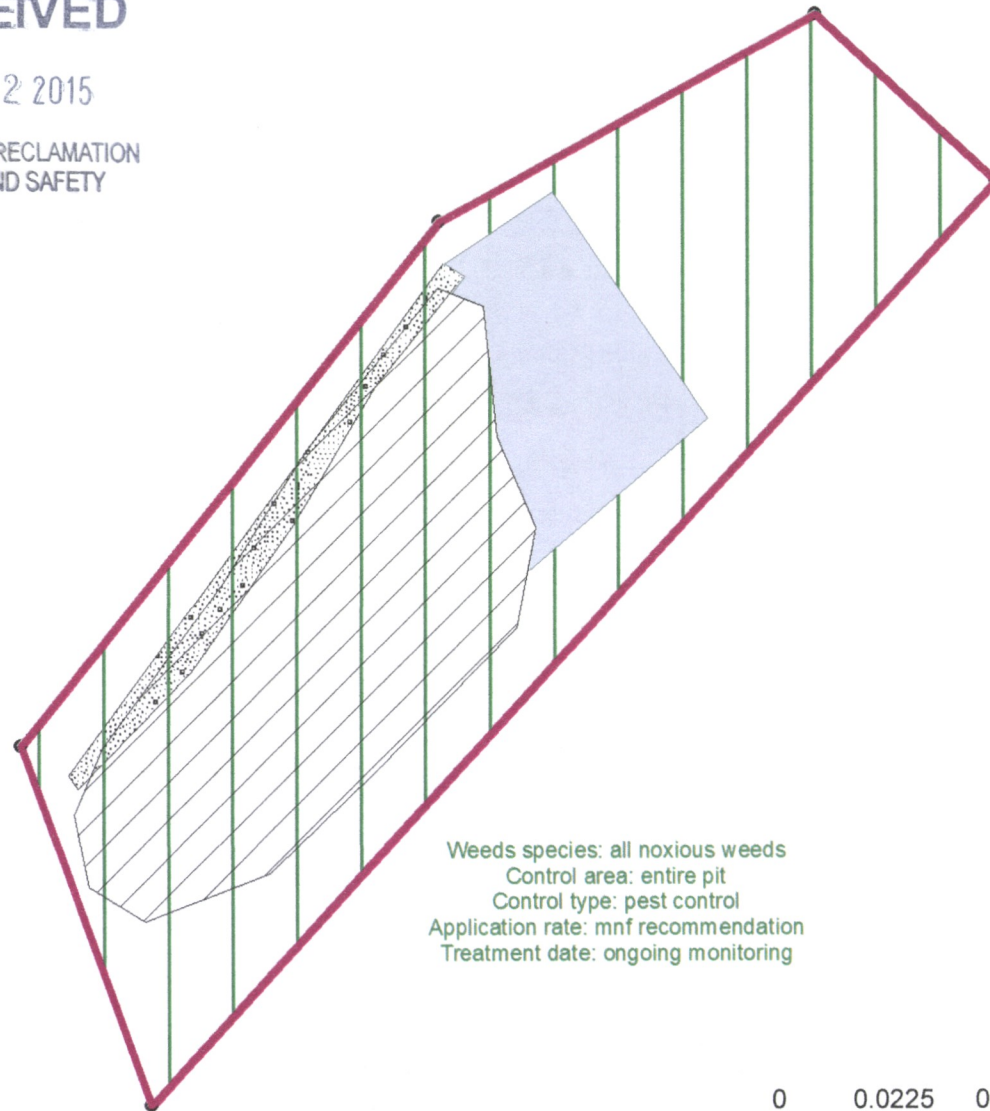
-  7. Currently affected acres
-  8. Newly affected current yr
-  9. Acres reclaimed
-  10. Est new AC to be affected
-  11. To be reclaimed next yr
-  12. Various reclamation stages
-  13. Weed control
-  14. Topsoil Stockpile
-  Sandoval bndry

M-2001-015 2015 Sandoval Land & Cattle Pit Report

RECEIVED


MAY 12 2015

DIVISION OF RECLAMATION
MINING AND SAFETY








Weeds species: all noxious weeds
Control area: entire pit
Control type: pest control
Application rate: mnf recommendation
Treatment date: ongoing monitoring

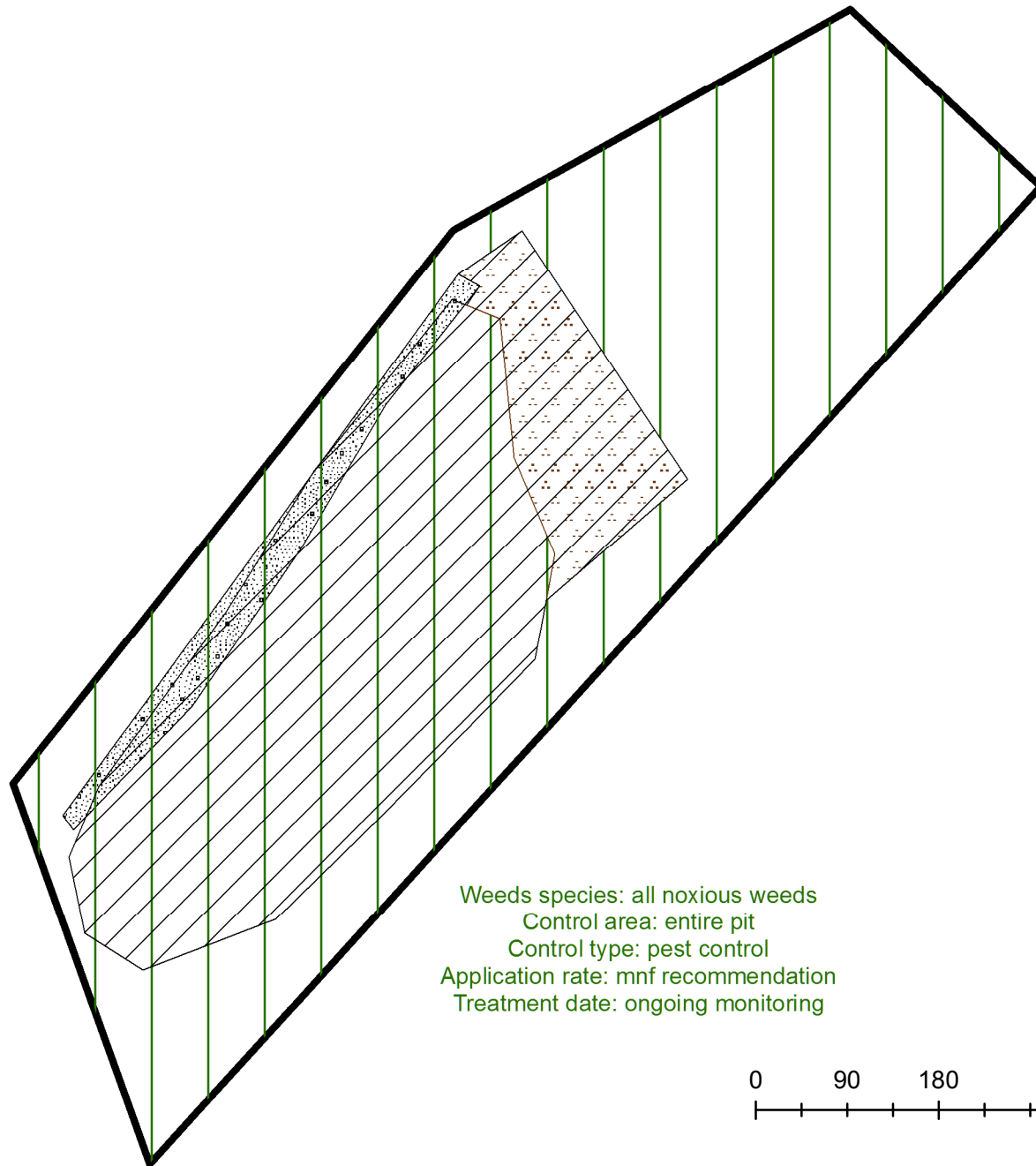
0 0.0225 0.045 0.09 Miles



Las Animas County's Sandoval Land & Cattle Pit M-2001-015 2016 Annual Report Map

Legend






-  7. acres currently affected
-  8. Newly affected current yr
-  13. Weed control
-  14. Topsoil Stockpile
-  Sandoval bndry



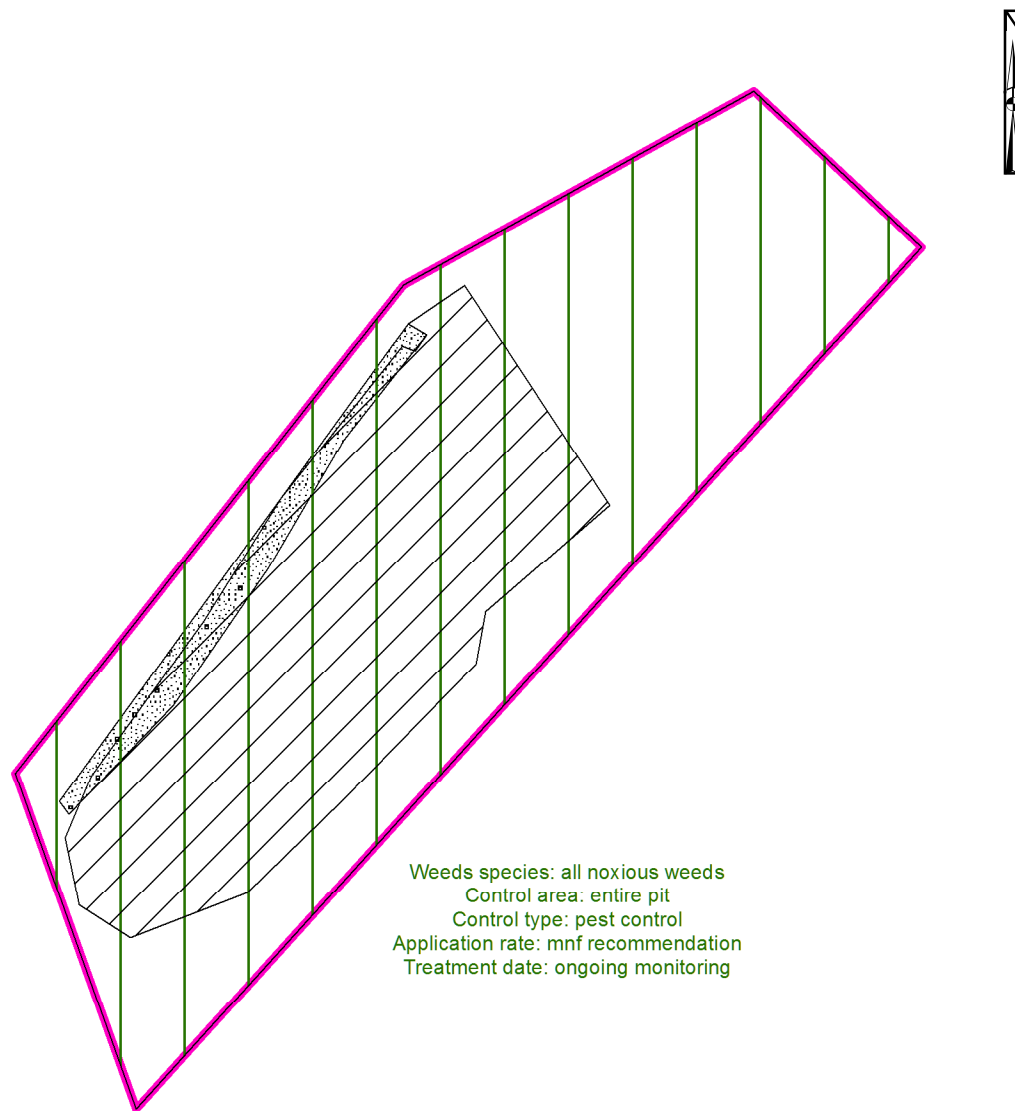
Weeds species: all noxious weeds
Control area: entire pit
Control type: pest control
Application rate: mnf recommendation
Treatment date: ongoing monitoring

0 90 180 360 Feet

Legend




-  8. acres currently affected
-  14. Weed control
-  15. Topsoil Stockpile
-  Sandoval bndry
-  County Roads

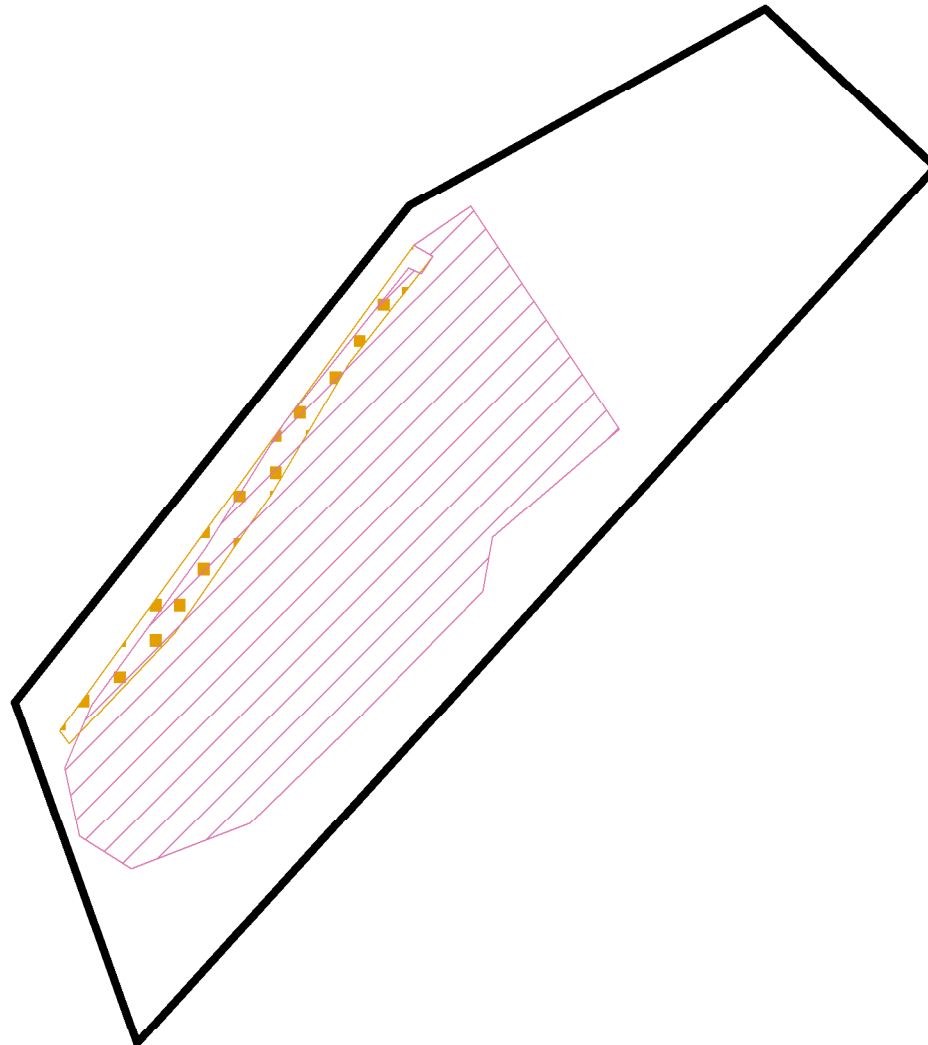
2017 M-2001-015 Sandoval Land and Cattle Pit Annual Report



M-2001-015 Sandoval Land and Cattle Pit Annual Report and Map

Legend

-  Acres Currently Affected
-  Topsoil Reserved
-  Sandoval bndry



0 0.03 0.06 0.12 Miles

5 1/2 replacement

4 N

EXHIBIT E MAP (revised)

Las Animas County's Sandoval Land and Cattle Pit Mining Plan

(b) owner of the affected surface area to be mined, land within 200', and substance to be mined is Carlos Sandoval.

(e) there are no existing man-made structures within 200' of the affected area.

(f) there are no existing disturbances
Surface owner is Sandoval Land and Cattle

Phil Dorenkamp/10/01 10-03 AMSandovalMiningplan

