



COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety


Department of Natural Resources

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: Unwin Gravel Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1998-011	MINERAL: Gravel	COUNTY: Las Animas
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	WEATHER: Windy	INSP. DATE: February 12, 2025	INSP. TIME: 11:32
OPERATOR: Las Animas County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Brian Heguy	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: February 25, 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: Signs & Markers

PROBLEM: Many of the affected area boundary markers are missing. 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 refer to the original survey conducted for the operation 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: 4/24/25

OBSERVATIONS

The Unwin Gravel 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 August 28, 2020 as a routine monitoring inspection. Brian Heguy (representing the Operator Las Animas County: Road and Bridge Department) accompanied me during the inspection. The weather was windy, cold, and the sky was cloudy. The ground had a few inches of snow cover.

The Unwin Gravel Pit is located approximately 10 miles southeast of Kim, CO. The entrance to the site is located off the west side of County Road 219. This site is permitted under a 110c Limited Impact Operations Construction Materials permit and is permitted for 9.90 acres. The commodity mined at this site is gravel and the approved post-mining land use is rangeland.

Availability of Records:

The annual report, map, and fee are paid and current through 6/15/2025.

The Division found that the recent annual report maps appear to be inaccurate. The topsoil locations depicted on the 2019-2024 inspection report maps submissions appear to be inaccurate when compared with aerial imagery and field observations (see the topsoil section below). **Please update the topsoil locations on the 2025 annual report submittal for the 2024 annual reporting period.**

Backfilling, Grading, and Reclamation Success:

During the inspection, the Operator stated that they were unsure if any reclamation had been conducted at the site. Upon post-inspection follow up, it appears that the site has gone through various cycles of disturbance, reclamation, and re-disturbance. In the Division's 1998 inspection report, conducted shortly after the site was permitted, the inspector observed pre-existing mining disturbance that the Permittee planned to mine through. From looking at aerial imagery available in Google Earth Pro, the 1998 image appears to depict new permitted disturbance in the western portion of the permit area, and some pre-existing reclaimed disturbance within the central portion of the permit and beyond the southern border (Figure 1).

When reviewing annual report maps submitted throughout the life of this site, it appears that nearly all the land has been disturbed by the Permittee, including all of the pre-existing disturbance within the permit boundary. The far east and far west areas have also been subsequently backfilled and graded (Figure 2; Photos 1-2). The 2024 annual report states that 0.7 acres have been backfilled, however the inspector believes the area that has been partially reclaimed is greater than 0.7 acres. The area on the far east side has gentle slopes that may meet the 4H:1V requirements of the reclamation plan, but the area in the west side will need to be graded to a flatter slope to meet the requirements.

Financial Warranty:

The Unwin Gravel 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:

The active mining areas are surrounded by earthen barriers and berms that help prevent stormwater runoff from leaving the site. No signs of sediment leaving the site were observed during the inspection.

General Compliance with Mine Plan:

The annual report submitted in 2024 indicates that there are currently 8.3 acres of disturbance, including mining and un-reclaimed/unreleased reclamation areas. The current pit is located central to the permit area (Photos 3-7). The disturbance along the southern side of the permit shall not extend any further south, as the berms around the pit are along the southern boundary (see Map 1). The processing area is located on the southeast side of the permit (Photo 7). The Operator stated that the last time crushing took place at the site was either in 2018 or 2019. However, they had been hauling material in the weeks leading up to the inspection. The site was granted intermittent operation status in 2013, and therefore is acting in compliance with the permit. There is a product stockpile located within the processing area that has slowly been removed offsite (Photo 8). Equipment for hauling and loading was observed in the processing area, and an old piece of equipment was observed on the west boundary (Photo 9). The Operator stated that the equipment on the west side has been there for many years, is no longer used, and will be removed offsite prior to final reclamation. Some of the annual report maps throughout the years state that the previously backfilled and graded areas may be re-disturbed by excavating through them at a deeper depth. As mentioned in the Division's 2020 inspection report, the current mine plan indicates a maximum excavation depth of 15 feet. The current depth of the pit appears to be at 15' or greater. If the Operator intends to excavate deeper, a technical revision to the mine plan to allow for a deeper pit will be required.

Signs and Markers:

The mine sign was posted at the entrance to the site in compliance with Rule 3.1.12(1) (Photo 10). The Operator and inspector walked along the permit boundary and identified one permit boundary marker that had been dislodged (Photo 11) and found two additional markers (Photos 12-13) that appear to be in the orientations depicted on the approved mining plan map. However, most of the marker missing. **This has been cited above as a problem.** The Operator shall replace the permit boundary markers in the locations depicted on the approved mining plan map per the survey directions and provide the Division with photo evidence and/or GPS coordinates by the corrective action date.

Topsoil:

During the inspection, the Operator and Inspector believed that the topsoil may be the material located along the southwest boundary (Figure 2; Photo 14). Upon post inspection review, the annual report maps from 2015 – 2024 depict five small topsoil piles located around the perimeter of the permit boundary (Figure 2). However, when looking at aerial imagery and inspection photos, it appears that at least one of the piles (far east side pile) no longer exists. Due to the snow cover, it was difficult to determine whether or not the other smaller piles around the pit consisted of topsoil material. The **Operator shall ensure** that the topsoil pile locations depicted on the 2025 annual report map submittal match the actual locations.

Conclusion:

This concludes the Division's Inspection Report; a map and a couple figures displaying topics discussed in the report, 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

Brian Heguy
Las Animas County
2000 N. Linden Ave.
Trinidad, CO 81082

Enclosures: Mining Plan Map with survey information
2004, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019-2024 Annual Report Maps

CC: Keith Woodring, Las Animas County
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>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>N</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</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>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 report map generated in Google Earth Pro. The numbers correspond with the inspection photo captions below.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Looking east across some of the backfilled and graded area along the west side.



Photo 2: Looking east at the northern edge (arrow) of the backfilled and graded area on the east side.



Photo 3: Looking south from within the pit.



Photo 4: Looking southeast from within the pit.



Photo 5: Looking south from within the pit.



Photo 6: Looking west from within the pit.



Photo 7: Looking southwest from above the northside of the pit.



Photo 8: Looking southwest at the remaining stockpile and current equipment.



Photo 9: Old equipment on west side that is no longer used.



Photo 10: Mine sign posted near the entrance to the site.



Photo 11: Permit boundary marker that's been dislodged along the southside of the permit along the southern boundary.



Photo 12: Looking south at the northwest permit boundary marker.



Photo 13: Looking south at the permit boundary marker on the north side.



Photo 14: Looking west along the southern boundary. The boundary appears to be made of topsoil.



Figure 1: (Top left) 1998 aerial image. On the west side of the permit boundary, mining operations began. In the middle and extending past the southern boundary is pre-existing mining disturbance. (Top right) 2005 disturbance across the site has been conducted from west to east. (Bottom) 2023 active mining is staying central to the permit and gradually moving back to the west. Mining should not extend further south as the southern disturbance is along the boundary.

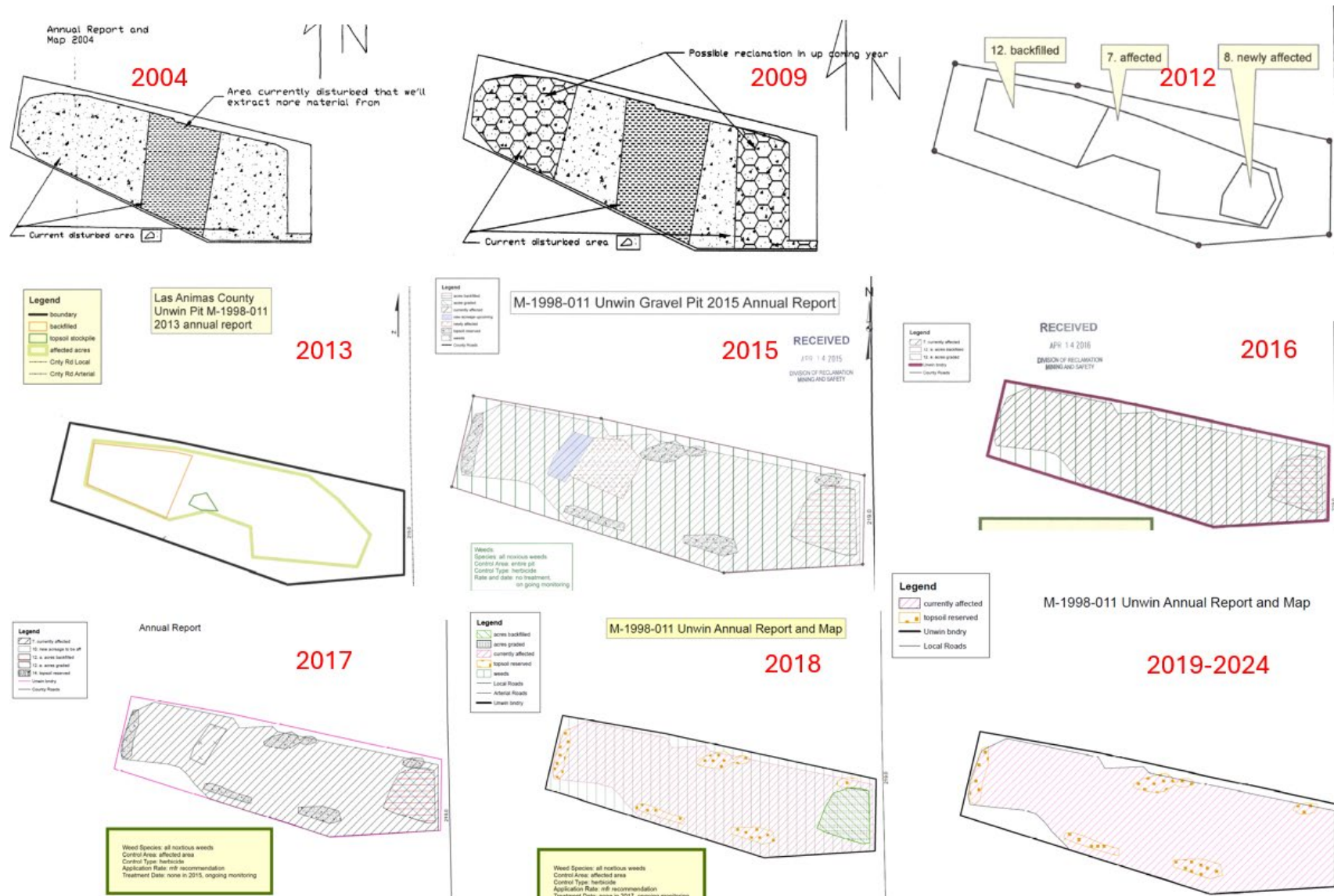


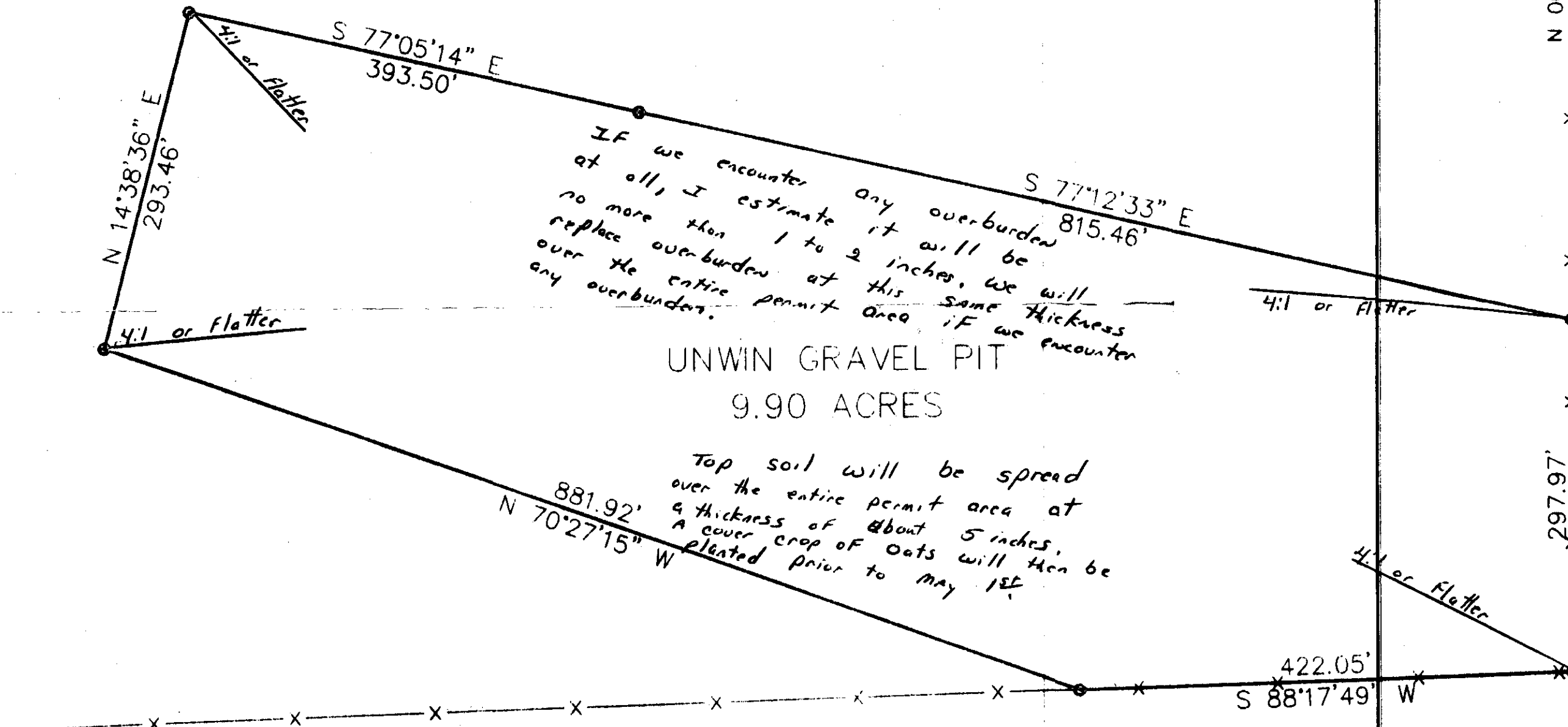
Figure 2: Figure highlights how mining has been conducted across the site throughout the life of the permit as depicted by the Operator's annual report maps. The full maps for those included in the figure above are enclosed with this report. In summary: Mining extended from west to east. The west and east sides have been partially backfilled and graded. Mining intends to re-disturb all of the current disturbance by mining deeper, according to the maps. Since 2017, five topsoil piles have been located around the site, but the topsoil pile on the west side (see Figure 1 above) appears to no longer exist.

No Activity at this Pit in 1998

LAND SURVEY PLAT - UNWIN GRAVEL PIT

PART OF THE EAST 1/2 OF SECTION 1,
TOWNSHIP 33 SOUTH,
RANGE 52 WEST OF THE 6TH P.M.,
COUNTY OF LAS ANIMAS,
STATE OF COLORADO.

Permit Number M-1998-011
Class: ☒ Permit
Section: ☐ Exhibit
Class: ☐ Revision
Type: ☒ Survey
Class: ☒ Annual For 1999
Doc Type: ☐ Application (Coal only) ☐ Bond ☐ Enforcement ☐ Inspection



BASIS OF BEARING

BEARINGS ARE BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE EAST LINE OF SAID GRAVEL PIT BEARS S 00°00'00" W BETWEEN THE NE CORNER AND THE SE CORNER, MONUMENTS DESCRIBED ON PLAT, ALL BEARINGS ARE RELATIVE THEREOF.

LEGEND

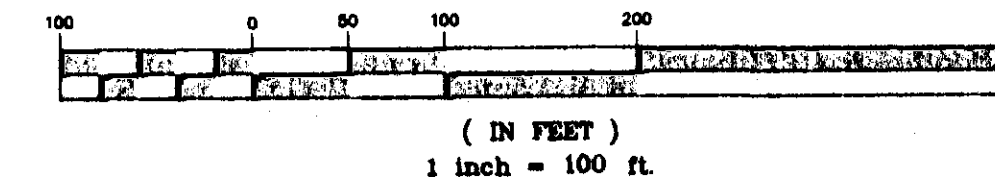
- ⊕ LOCATED 2" IRON PIPE
- SET 1/2" X 24" REBAR WITH PLASTIC CAP MARKED R.L.S. 12160

NOTE: CLIENT REQUESTED THAT UTILITIES EASEMENTS OR R.O.W. NOT BE RESEARCHED AND SHOWN.

NOTE: TERRY SURVEYING DID NOT DO A TITLE SEARCH TO DETERMINE OWNERSHIP, RIGHT OF WAY, OR EASEMENT OF RECORD.

36 31
1 6
2" PIPE ACCEPTED AS BEST EVIDENCE OF SECTION CORNER AS DESIGNATED.

GRAPHIC SCALE



DESCRIPTION

A TRACT OF LAND LOCATED IN THE E1/2 OF SECTION 1, TOWNSHIP 33 SOUTH, RANGE 52 WEST OF THE 6TH P.M., COUNTY OF LAS ANIMAS, STATE OF COLORADO, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS;

BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF COUNTY ROAD 219.0, FROM WHICH THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 1 BEARS N 00°36'00" E, 2439.58 FEET; THENCE S 00°00'00" W ALONG AN EXISTING FENCE ON THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY OF COUNTY ROAD, 297.97 FEET TO POINT IN AN EXISTING FENCE CORNER; THENCE S 88°17'49" W ALONG AN EXISTING FENCE, 422.05 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE N 70°27'15" W, DEPARTING SAID FENCE, 881.92 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE N 14°38'36" E, 293.46 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE S 77°05'14" E, 393.50 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE S 77°12'33" E, 815.46 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 9.90 ACRES.

SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE

THE UNDERSIGNED REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR CERTIFIES THAT THE SURVEY REPRESENTED BY THIS PLAT WAS SURVEYED UNDER HIS SUPERVISION AND DIRECTION AND IS CORRECT TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF.



GARY L. TERRY
R.L.S. 12160

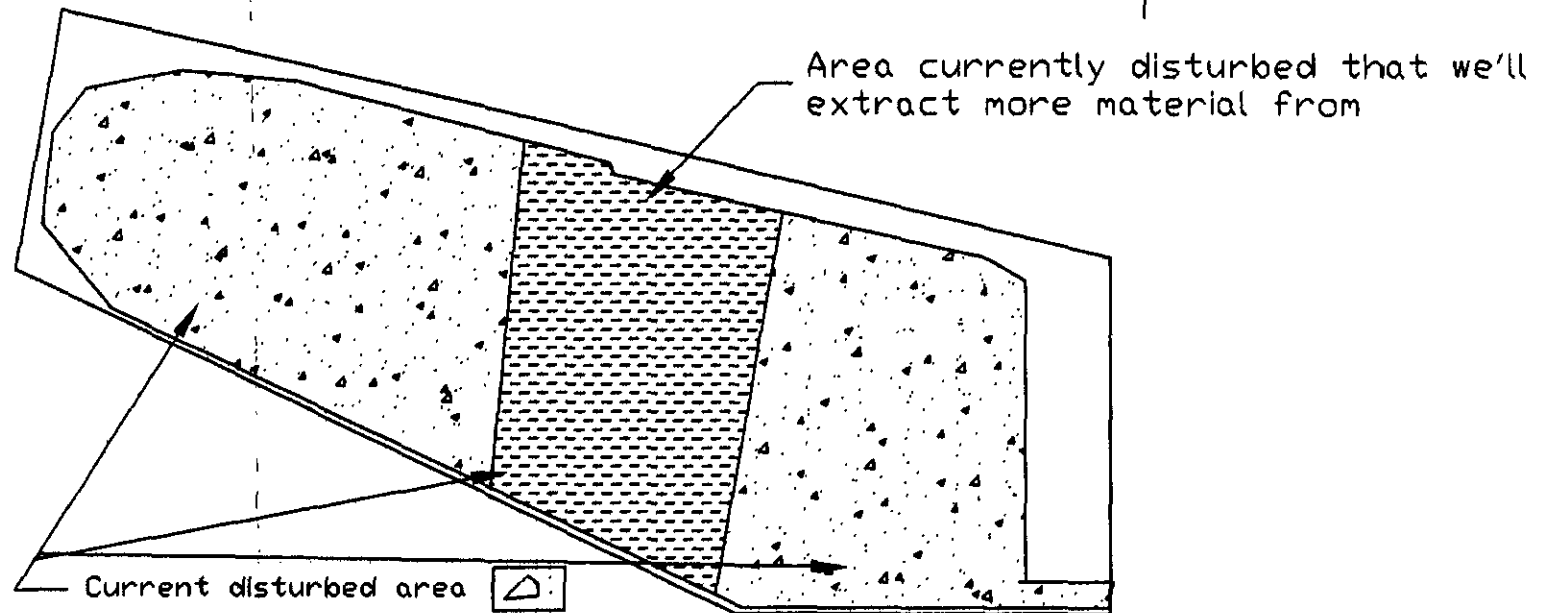
DATE: 10/21/97



TERRY SURVEYING INC. P.O. BOX 851 TOMBAS, COLORADO 81082	
SURVEY FOR LAS ANIMAS COUNTY UNWIN GRAVEL PIT PART OF SECTION 1, TOWNSHIP 33 SOUTH, RANGE 52 WEST	
DRAWN BY: GT-II	DATE: 10/03/97
CHECKED BY: G. TERRY	DRAWING NO.: 307-97
JOB NO.: 1712-97	SHEET 1 OF 1

Las Animas County's Unwin Pit

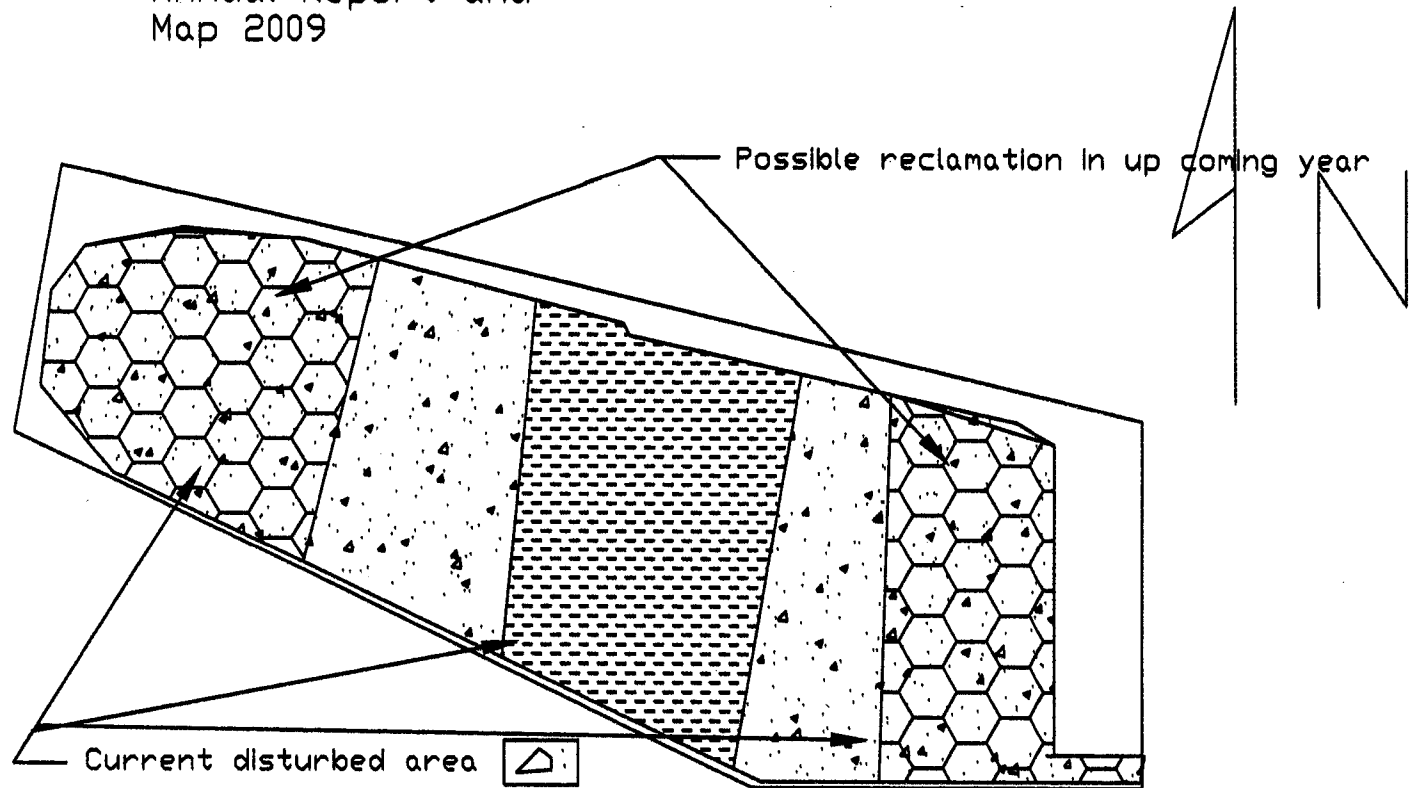
Annual Report and
Map 2004



1. Current disturbances - see map
 2. No reclamation has taken place to date
 3. No reclamation during the preceeding year
 4. We're anticipating processing material that has been previously disturbed - see map
 5. No new reclamation is anticipated this year
 6. No dates to begin or cease this past year
- THIS PIT NEEDS TO STAY ACTIVE during times of idleness

Las Animas County's Unwin Pit M-1998-011

Annual Report and
Map 2009

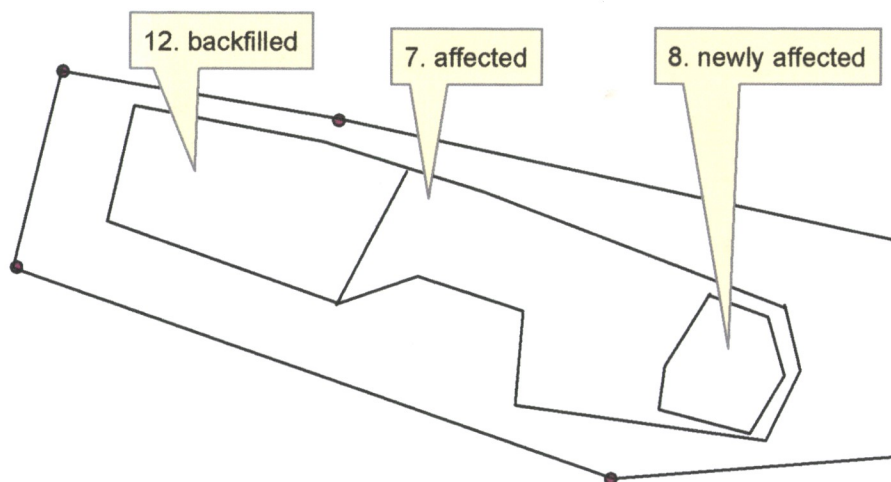


1. Current disturbances - see map
2. No reclamation has taken place to date & no reclamation during the preceeding year
3. New disturbances that are anticipated this year, we will excavate previously disturbed areas, excavating deeper
4. Some new reclamation may occur this year - see map
5. Active operations began in app. 1998
6. No cease date, THIS PIT NEEDS TO STAY ACTIVE during times of idleness

Author: Phil Dorenkamp
Date: 3/9/2012

Las Animas County Unwin Pit 2012 annual report

CR 219



Legend

— boundary

□ backfilled

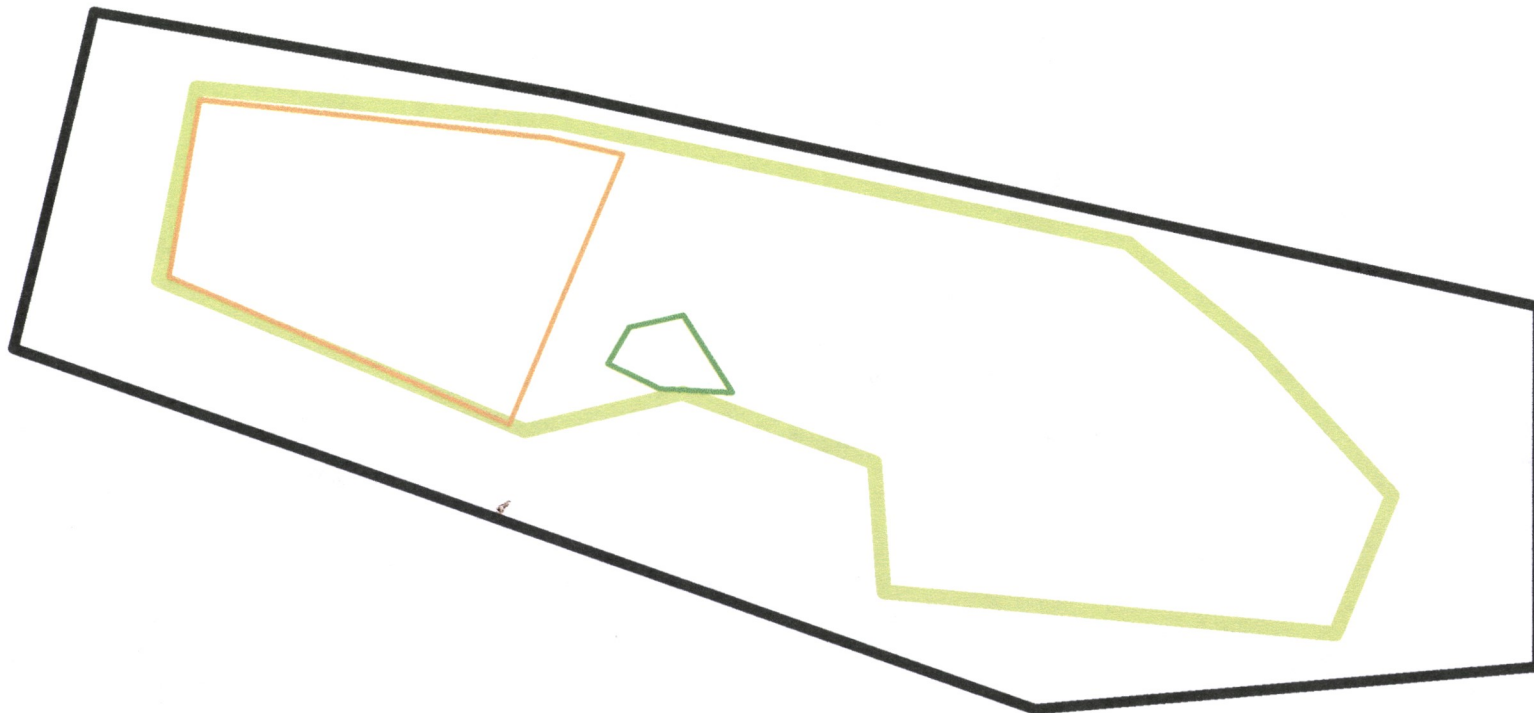
□ topsoil stockpile

□ affected acres

----- Cnty Rd Local

----- Cnty Rd Arterial

Las Animas County Unwin Pit M-1998-011 2013 annual report



1 inch = 150 feet

Legend

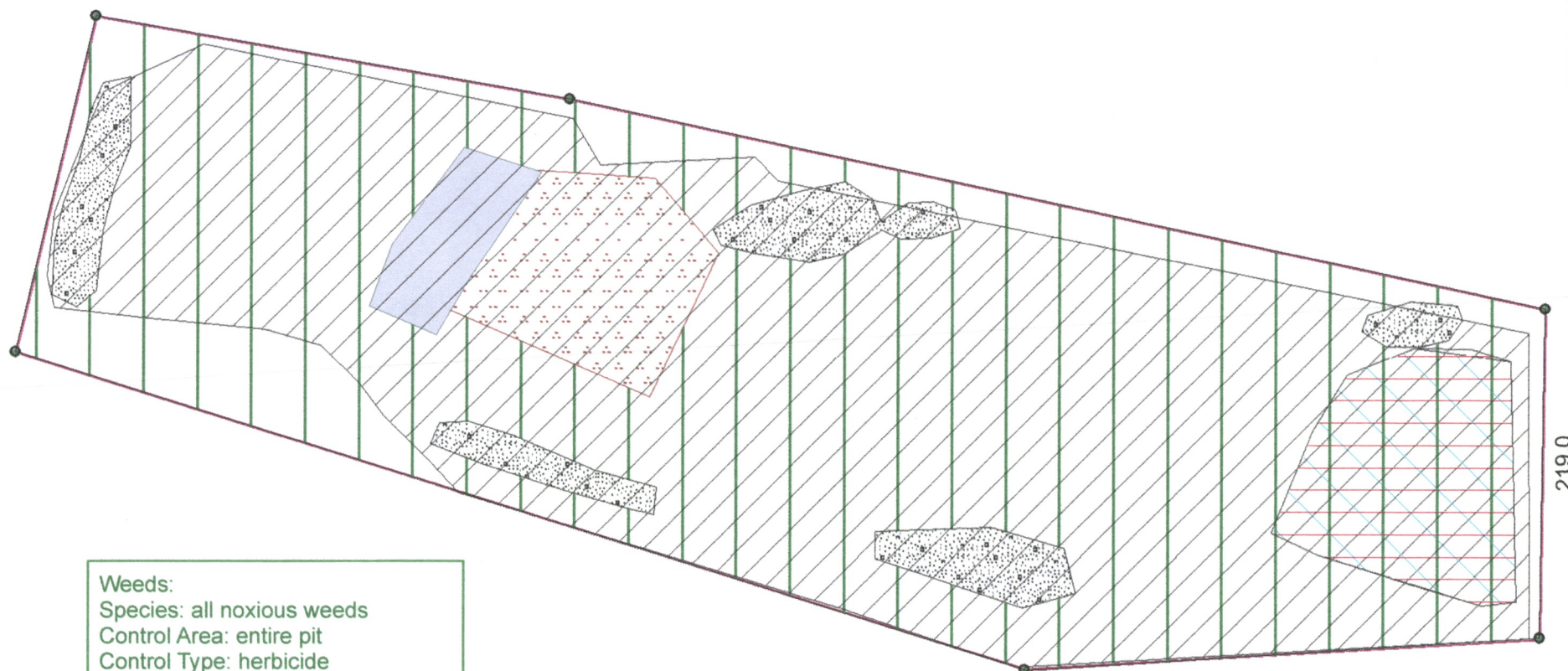
-  acres backfilled
-  acres graded
-  currently affected
-  new acreage upcoming
-  newly affected
-  topsoil reserved
-  weeds
-  County Roads

M-1998-011 Unwin Gravel Pit 2015 Annual Report

RECEIVED

APR 14 2015

DIVISION OF RECLAMATION
MINING AND SAFETY



Weeds:

Species: all noxious weeds

Control Area: entire pit

Control Type: herbicide

Rate and date: no treatment,
on going monitoring

1 inch = 133 feet






Las Animas County's Unwin Gravel Pit M-1998-011 2016 Annual Report Map

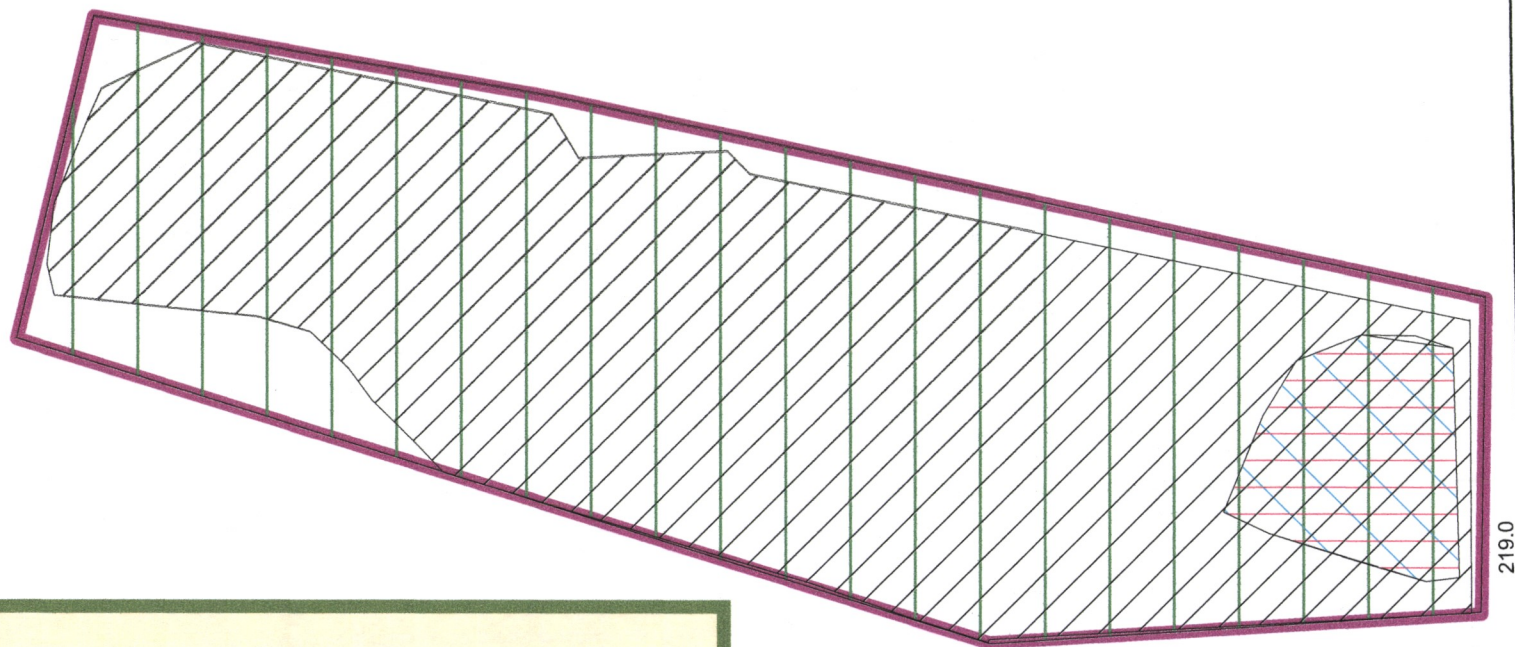
RECEIVED

APR 14 2016

DIVISION OF RECLAMATION
MINING AND SAFETY

Legend

-  7. currently affected
-  12. a. acres backfilled
-  12. e. acres graded
-  Unwin bndry
-  County Roads










Weed Species: all noxious weeds
Control Area: affected area
Control Type: herbicide
Application Rate: mfr recommendation
Treatment Date: none in 2015, ongoing monitoring

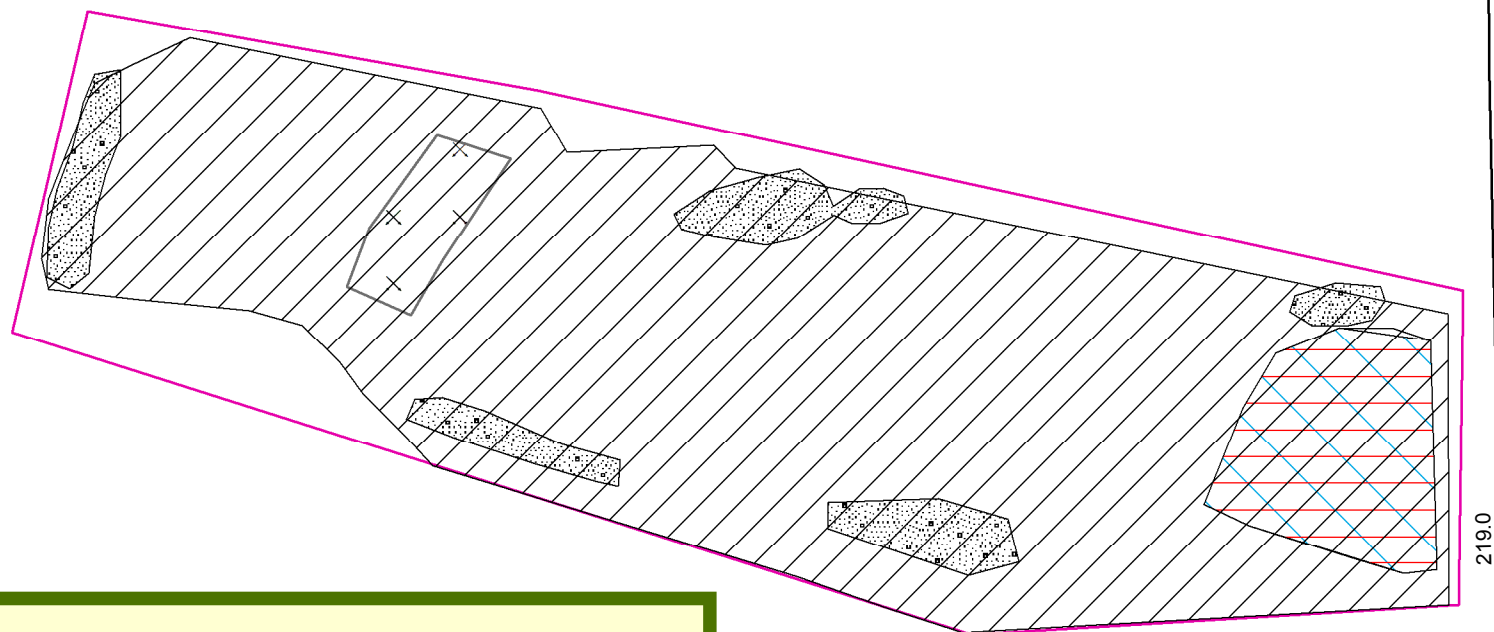
0 90 180 360 Feet



2017 Unwim Pit M-1998-011 Annual Report

Legend

-  7. currently affected
-  10. new acreage to be aff
-  12. a. acres backfilled
-  12. e. acres graded
-  14. topsoil reserved
-  Unwin bndry
-  County Roads



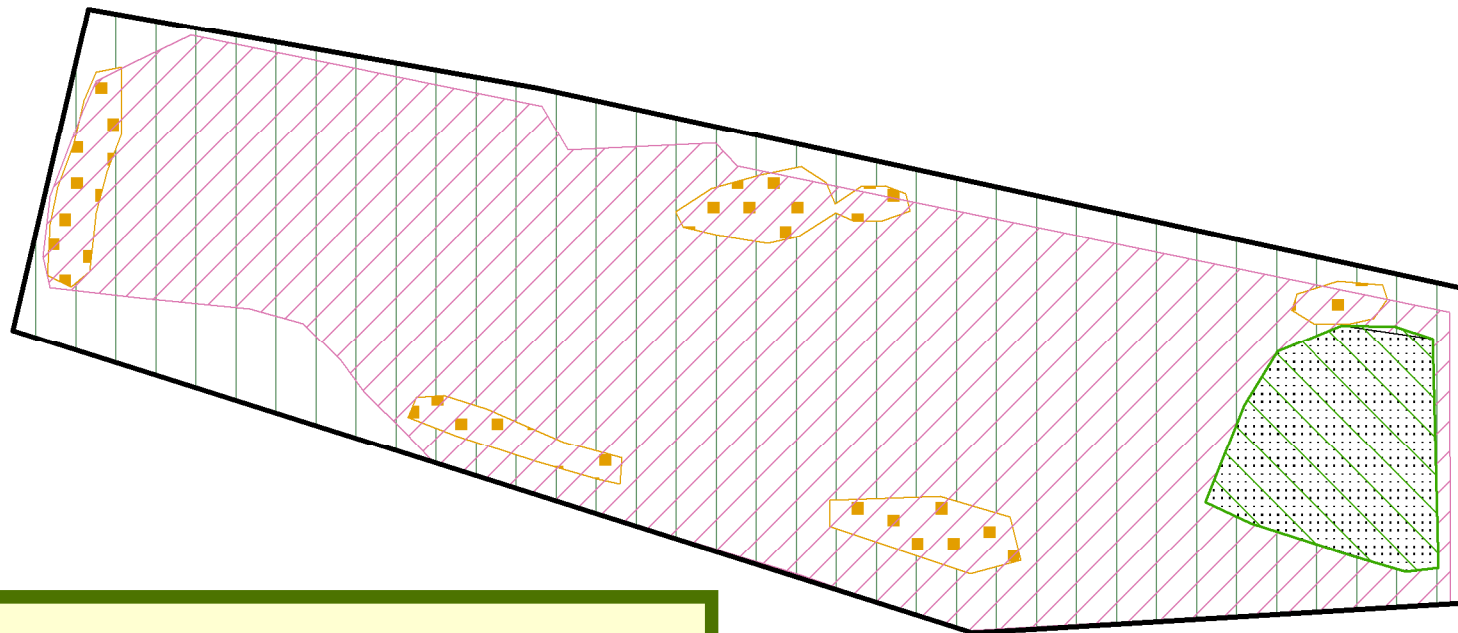
219.0

Weed Species: all noxious weeds
Control Area: affected area
Control Type: herbicide
Application Rate: mfr recommendation
Treatment Date: none in 2015, ongoing monitoring

M-1998-011 Unwin Annual Report and Map

Legend





- acres backfilled
- acres graded
- currently affected
- topsoil reserved
- weeds
- Local Roads
- Arterial Roads
- Unwin bndry



Weed Species: all noxtious weeds
Control Area: affected area
Control Type: herbicide
Application Rate: mfr recommendation
Treatment Date: none in 2017, ongoing monitoring

1 inch = 167 feet

Legend

-  currently affected
-  topsoil reserved
-  Unwin bndry
-  Local Roads

M-1998-011 Unwin Annual Report and Map

