



STATE OF  
COLORADO

Zuber - DNR, Rob <rob.zuber@state.co.us>

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## Hidden Pit inspection report

1 message

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**Zuber - DNR, Rob** <rob.zuber@state.co.us>

Thu, Apr 10, 2025 at 2:28 PM

To: Suzanne Girardi <suzanne@girardis.net>, Vic Girardi <vic@girardis.net>, cade@acerrh.com

Hello, All -

Please see my report attached. Thanks again for your time, Cade.

Rob

Rob Zuber, P.E.  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Active Mines Program



**COLORADO**  
Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety  
Department of Natural Resources

**Phone:** 720.601.2276 | **Fax:** 303.832.8106

**Physical Address:**

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

**Address for FedEx or UPS:**

Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Room 215  
1001 East 62nd Avenue  
Denver, CO 80216

[rob.zuber@state.co.us](mailto:rob.zuber@state.co.us) | <http://drms.colorado.gov>




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**INSP-REPORTM\_M2022040\_RDZ\_04102025\_with map.pdf**  
1925K



**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> Hidden Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2022-040	<b>MINERAL:</b> Gravel and sand	<b>COUNTY:</b> Delta
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Surety Release Inspection	<b>WEATHER:</b> Cloudy	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> April 3, 2025	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 07:50
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Hidden Mesa Ranch, LLC	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Cade Price	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Surety Release Requested	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$108,792.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Robert Zuber, P.E.	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> April 10, 2025	

**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>NA</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>NA</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>NA</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>NA</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>N</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>NA</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>NA</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>NA</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>NA</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>N</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

## **OBSERVATIONS**

The Hidden Pit (M-2022-040) is a 112C permit for 187 acres, located approximately 10 miles northeast of Delta, Colorado and approximately three miles northeast of Austin, Colorado, on Hidden Mesa Road.

The permittee, Hidden Mesa Ranch, LLC, never mined the property, and is asking for a full/final release of the permit. The SL-01 application was received January 29, 2025. The SL-01 application was found complete on February 26, 2025.

Per the permittee, Mr. Cade Price is the current landowner of the site and is also the owner of Ace Ranch LLC. On the Delta County Assessor's parcel map, Ace Ranch LLC is listed as the current owner of the property. Ace Ranch is also listed as a company in good standing with the Colorado Secretary of State.

Rob Zuber with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS) inspected the site on April 3, 2025 (per Rule 4.17.2). The weather was cool and cloudy, and the ground was dry. Cade Price was also present, and he represented the permittee. The entire site was inspected, and there was no indication that the site has been mined under this permit. Nearly all of the site is being used for agriculture, including Phase 1 (the southern portion of the site) and Phase 2 (the northern portion). Irrigation equipment was seen within the south and north portions of the site. Please see the figure below, illustrating the permit boundary.

There is no indication that the site is causing offsite impacts, and no sign of a weed infestation was seen.

The permit boundary also includes a 11.5-acre "peninsula," on the east central side of the site. This area contains a small historical gravel pit, piles of material, and a pile of marble, which is used for soil additive. (Per Mr. Price, the marble was imported from Marble, Colorado.) Based on a comparison of photographs from the pre-operation inspection on January 25, 2023, this old pit and piles of material are not larger than prior to approval of the permit. This fact is also supported by viewing aerial photographs in Google Earth.

Photographs taken during the inspection are attached.

The Division has not yet made a proposed decision for this bond release application. (The Division is awaiting comments from the landowner before the decision will be made). If the proposed decision is to approve the application, the Division must wait 30 days for the appeal period to end before the approval will be finalized and the warranties returned.

Please contact Rob Zuber with comments or questions at 720-601-2276 or [rob.zuber@state.co.us](mailto:rob.zuber@state.co.us).

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Phase 2 – northeast corner of site**



**Phase 2 – northwest corner of site**





**Agricultural field in the southern portion of Phase 2**



**Residential house and outbuildings between Phase 1 and Phase 2**





**East side of Phase 1, looking north**



**Agricultural field in Phase 1, looking north towards residential area**





**Historical pit in “peninsula”**



**Soil, rock, and marble at north end of “peninsula”**

**Inspection Contact Address**

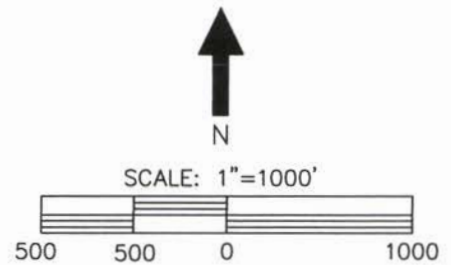
Vic Girardi  
Hidden Mesa Ranch, LLC  
3183 D Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81504

Enclosure

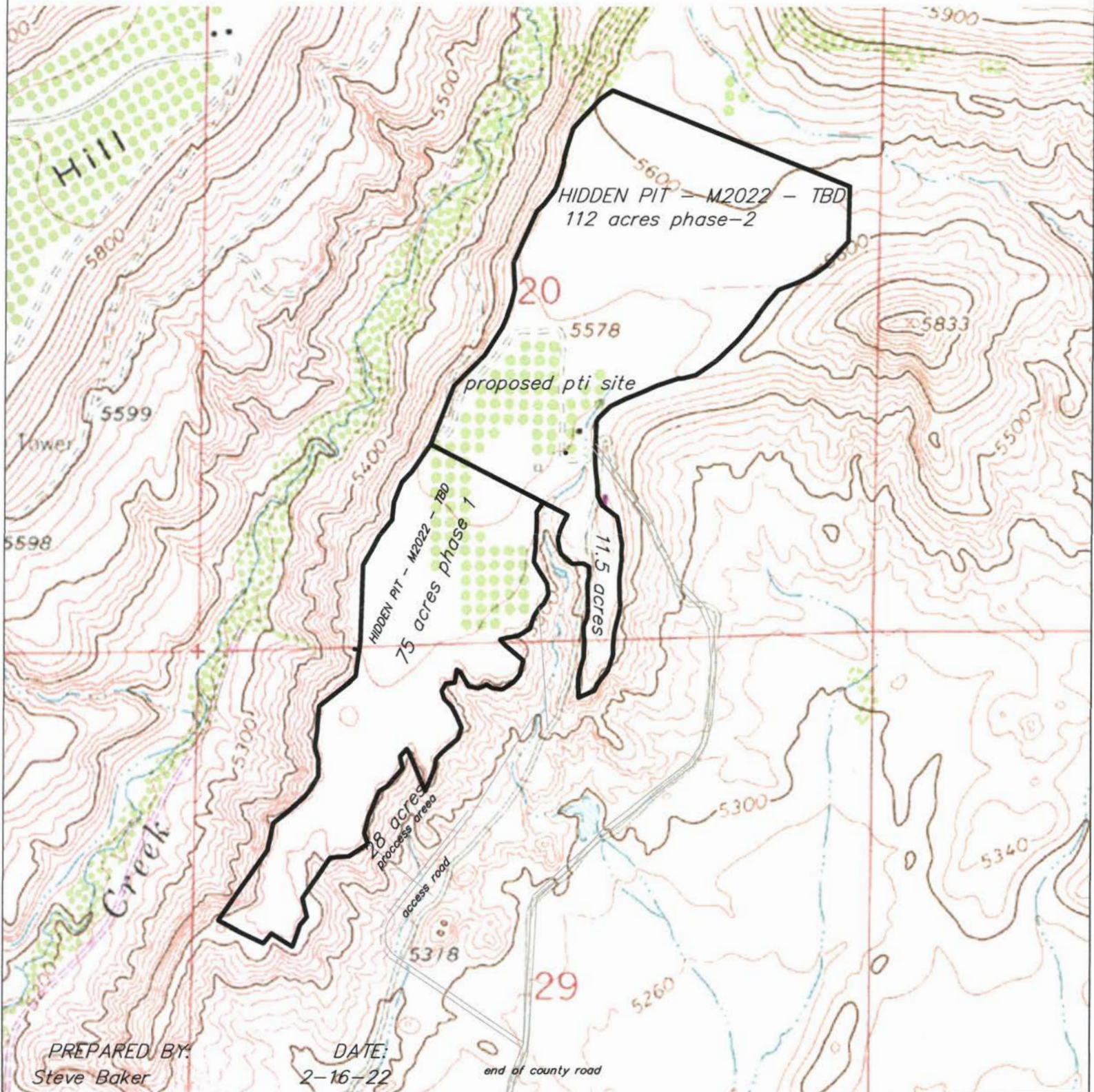
CC: Amy Eschberger, DRMS  
Cade Price, Ace Ranch LLC



VICINITY MAP and EXISTING CONTOURS  
HIDDEN PIT - M2022 - TBD  
Hidden Mesa Ranch  
Exhibit "B"



LOCATED IN THE NE 1/4, N1/2SE1/4,  
E1/2SW1/4 SECTION 20, T14S, R94W OF THE  
6TH P.M., DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO



PREPARED BY:  
Steve Baker

DATE:  
2-16-22

end of county road