

**STATE OF
COLORADO****Gibson - DNR, Amber <amber.gibson@state.co.us>**

Response to comment received for the Ferrero Pit, M-2000-028 SL1 application

1 message

Gibson - DNR, Amber <amber.gibson@state.co.us>

Mon, May 19, 2025 at 4:17 PM

To: "cbryant@huerfano.us" <cbryant@huerfano.us>

Cc: cchamberlain@huerfano.us

Good afternoon,

The Division received the attached response from the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager today, May 19, 2025 in regard to the SL1 application submitted for the Ferrero Pit. The public comment period for this application ended on May 16, 2025. The Division sent the Operator a decision document today, May 19, 2025, approving the application. Although the decision to approve the full and final release of the permit that will terminate the Division's jurisdiction has been sent, the 30 day appeal period began today. Unfortunately, the Division was unable to take your comment into consideration prior to reaching a decision, but you may choose to appeal the Division's decision to approve the permit's release if you so wish.

If you have any questions, please send me an email, or call at 720-836-0967.

Thank you,

Amber Michels Gibson
Environmental Protection Specialist I**COLORADO**
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources**P 720.836.0967 | F 303.832.8106 |**
amber.gibson@state.co.usMailing: DRMS Room 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave, Denver, CO 80216Physical: 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203<https://drms.colorado.gov/>**HuerfanoCountyNoxiousWeed_FerreroPit_Comment_SL1.pdf**

363K

Subject: Ferrero Gravel Pit Noxious Weed Inspection for Surety Release Request

Inspector: Charles Bryant-Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager

Date of Inspection: 5-19-25

Location I.D.: M-2000-028

Operator: Mike Ferrero

Long\Lat: 37.460419, -104.832251

Site Type: Former industrial, reclamation to rangeland

Prepared for: Huerfano County Land Use Office

Overview: The Ferrero Gravel Pit was inspected on May 19th, 2025 for the presence of Colorado State List Noxious Species that are subject to control.

Site Conditions: The mine area appears to have had reclamation work performed at an undetermined time in previous years as evidenced by the contoured pit area absent of high walls and the prevalence of established desirable native vegetation. The mine site characteristics are liken to the surrounding natural areas and a healthy native plant community appears to have been established. There were negligible amounts of Colorado State B List noxious plant species with moderate amounts of C List species as detailed in the tables below. It is worth noting that the C List species detailed in this report are not subject to control under State or Local regulations pursuant to the Colorado Noxious Weed Act of 1991, while the B List species are subject to control under both jurisdictions. The C List species detailed in this report are widespread throughout the surrounding natural\non-mine areas.

Colorado B List Noxious Species Encountered

Scotch thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Biennial	Westernmost side
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Perennial	Southeast corner

Colorado C List Noxious Species Encountered

Redstem Fillaree	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Annual or Biennial	Throughout
Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Perennial	Throughout
Cheat Grass\Downy Brome	<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Winter Annual Grass	Throughout

Control Recommendations

Given the aggressive reproductive traits of the above listed "B List" species, control efforts are encouraged for these species to ensure the continued recovery of the site. Both species are capable of overtaking the established desirable\native plant community if left unchecked. For both of these species, the application of **Milestone herbicide or its generic equivalent Whetstone at the rate of**

5oz\acre along with a non-ionic surfactant will provide satisfactory results if applied prior to bloom\seed set. Generally speaking, both of these species usually begin flowering by mid to late June in similar locations at the same elevation, though exceptionally dry and hot weather may hasten flowering\seed set. While the density\amount of these species is considered negligible, their rapid reproductive traits must be taken into consideration, especially given the fact that Scotch thistle can produce up to 40,000 seeds per plant with nearly a forty year viability, while Canada thistle can produce over 5,000 seeds per plant with a twenty year seed viability along with its ability to reproduce from its extensive rhizomatous root system.

Please contact the Huerfano County Noxious Weed manager (Charles Bryant) at (719)989-1353 or cbryant@huerfano.us for additional information related to control options, or for any other questions or concerns related to the findings of this report.

Site Photos



View from eastside looking westward



View looking eastward from west pit perimeter



View of pit haul road looking eastward



Scotch thistle rosettes within pit



Canada thistle rosettes within pit