

STATE OF
COLORADO

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

Response to comment received for the McKenna Limestone Quarry, M-2000-039 SR1 application

1 message

Gibson - DNR, Amber <amber.gibson@state.co.us>
To: "cbryant@huerfano.us" <cbryant@huerfano.us>
Cc: cchamberlain@huerfano.us

Mon, May 19, 2025 at 4:31 PM

Good afternoon,

The Division received the attached response from the Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager today, May 19, 2025 in regard to the SR1 application submitted for the McKenna Limestone Quarry. The public comment period for this application ended on May 16, 2025. However, the Division has not yet conducted the inspection required through the surety reduction (SR1) application and review process. I will be conducting my inspection tomorrow, and will ensure your comments are considered. As part of the surety reduction process, the Division will conduct an inspection, re-evaluate the reclamation bond, and decide whether the reclamation conducted onsite merits a reduction of the required surety.

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



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HuerfanoCountyNoxiousWeeds_McKenna comments_SR1_M2000039.pdf
305K

Subject: Mckenna Limestone Quarry Noxious Weed Inspection for Surety Reduction Request

Inspector: Charles Bryant-Huerfano County Noxious Weed Manager

Date of Inspection: 5-12-25

Location I.D.: M-2000-039

Operator: Delhur Industries, Inc.

Long\Lat: 37.65248, -104.60322

Site Type: Former industrial, reclamation to rangeland

Prepared for: Huerfano County Land Use Office

Overview: The Mckenna Limestone Quarry was inspected on May 12th, 2025 for the presence of Colorado State List Noxious Species that are subject to control.

Site Conditions: The area appears to have had reclamation work performed in the preceding months, with the formerly mined area having been contoured and seeded with an unknown grass along with the placement of straw mulch used for moisture retention. As typical for eastern Huerfano County, the soil composition was primarily heavy clay. Recent precipitation has allowed modest amounts of the seeded area to display vegetation growth (primarily reclamation grass), though the site is still mainly bare. Given the position of this site on a westward facing hill, a considerable amount of the straw mulch has accumulated in certain areas to depths nearly a foot deep, while other areas are now nearly bare due to the prevailing winds. Given the recent site disturbance from these reclamation efforts, little other vegetation (native & non-native) was present within the primary mine site. There were populations of Colorado State C List species encountered along the perimeter of the mined area, but this is consistent with the species composition of the surrounding non-mine rangeland areas. It is worth noting that the C List species encountered are not subject to control under local or state regulations and are widespread throughout the region, however, the Colorado Division of Reclamation & Mining may have more stringent requirements that address C List or other non-native plant species. Refer to the site specific reclamation plan approved by the Division to determine if the presence of these lower priority species is acceptable.

Colorado C List Noxious Species Encountered

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

Site Conditions for Surrounding Area

High priority noxious plant species distribution (A & B List species) among the surrounding area is minimal, with none being encountered within the immediate mine site or access road that stems off of

C.R. 211. The potential for the introduction of these higher priority species from the adjoining natural areas is minimal, though there is the possibility of the seeds or propagules of these and other species having been spread by equipment used during the reclamation efforts. During this site visit there was no equipment or other debris associated with the mining operations observed, with little signs of access\activity by others. The entrance to the site had the appropriate signage indicating the name of the operation, the operator, contact information and mine ID number. The access road was in satisfactory condition, though it appeared that road maintenance had not been performed since the mine was last active.

Potential Issues: The reclaimed area will need to be monitored until a desirable, resilient plant community is established. The large bareground areas have a high potential of becoming occupied by non-native plant species like cheatgrass, Russian thistle and field bindweed should desirable plant competition not be realized from the recent reclamation efforts. Should these species become established within the site, it will hamper the development of a resilient, desirable plant community which is vital for the recovery of disturbed areas within the project site.

Site Photos



Photo: Looking NE from access road, west side of site



Photo: Looking east from SW corner



Photo: Looking south from north side



Photo: Taken from NE corner looking SE



Photo: Looking west from east side