




**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> Orlando Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2001-106	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Huerfano
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>WEATHER:</b> Cloudy	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> June 11, 2025	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 12:03
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Huerfano County	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Dustin Hribar	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$0.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Amber M. Gibson	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> July 2, 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:** General Compliance with the 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:** 9/15/25

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Roads

**PROBLEM:** The current mining and reclamation plans need to be updated and clarified pursuant to C.R.S. 34-32.5-112 (1)(c)(VI) and C.R.S. 34-32.5-116 (1). The Operator must provide sufficient information to describe or identify how the Operator intends to maintain the Landowner's access and to conduct reclamation.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The Operator shall submit a Technical Revision, with the required \$216 revision fee, to update and clarify the current approved mining and reclamation plans to reflect existing and proposed activities by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 9/15/25

## **OBSERVATIONS**

The Orlando 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 December 12, 2019 during a routine monitoring inspection. Dustin Hribar with Huerfano County, representing the Permittee/Operator, accompanied me during the inspection. The weather was warm and the sky was partly cloudy.

The Orlando Pit is located approximately 1 mile southeast of Gardner, Colorado just south of Colorado State Highway 65 on County Road 543. The Orlando Pit is a 36.46 acre pit for the removal of sand and gravel for county road maintenance and repair. The site is surrounded by rangeland and the post-mining land use is rangeland.

### **Availability of Records:**

The pit was originally a 110c permit that was converted to a 112c in 2012 via a conversion (CN1). A Technical Revision (TR1), following the Division's 2019 inspection corrected the permit boundary as there was a discrepancy between what was submitted in the CN1 and what a land survey concluded.

The annual report, map, and fee are paid and current through December 18, 2025. Upon reviewing the 2023-2024 annual report map after the 2025 inspection, the Division found that the annual report map has not been updated to account for the revised TR1 permit boundary and is missing some of the required information. The annual report map is therefore **inadequate**. **The Operator shall ensure** that the 2024-2025 annual map includes a corrected permit boundary and all the required information by the permit anniversary date.

1. **For annual report map submissions** 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?

2. Preferably, the Operator shall also include the following features:
  - A google earth background image
  - A north arrow and scale
  - A legend indicating the polygons and/or lines for the features identified in items 8-12 and 15 on the form OR include clear labels for each feature.

Financial Warranty:

The Orlando Pit is permitted to, and operated by, Huerfano County. The Division does not hold a financial warranty for county operations.

Hydrologic Balance and Sediment Control:

The area had recently experienced a lot of rainfall, and more was expected the day following the inspection. As a result, there was some standing water observed onsite during the inspection. The Operator confirmed that stormwater will either infiltrate or evaporate within 72 hours. All water that falls onsite either is contained within the pit or is prevented from leaving the site through the use of earthen berms. There were no signs of excessive erosion, or signs of sediment leaving the site, observed during the inspection.

General Compliance with the Mine Plan:

The mine was not active at the time of the inspection. The Operator stated that the last time that excavation took place on site was approximately three years prior. However, the Operator also said that hauling has taken place as recently as six months prior to the inspection. There was very little stockpiled product remaining onsite. There is a larger pile of product material that the Operator stated belongs to the Landowner. The Operator anticipates excavating and processing to resume towards the end of this year. Once the excavation resumes, mining will proceed to the west and south of the western edge of the currently disturbed area. Near the entrance to the pit, there is a pile of steel material that was salvaged from a nearby bridge demolition. The Operator plans to use the steel for other projects and/or scrap the material -- either way it will leave the site.

This site is approved to affect a maximum of 15 acres at any one time. The Division estimates that the current disturbance at this site consists of approximately 12.1 acres. The most recently excavated area contains approximately 750 feet of highwalls along the western side of the pit. The highwalls are approximately at a 1-0.5H:1V slope, and reach depths up to about 15 feet. Mining at this site is approved to reach depths between 20 and 25 feet. The approved mining and reclamation plans explicitly state that mining will be conducted by pushing slopes to a 3H:1V and that highwalls were not planned for this site. **This has been cited as a problem above.** By the corrective action date, the Operator shall either provide proof that the highwalls have been reclaimed to a 3H:1V slope and commit to not creating highwalls at this site for the remainder of the permitted operation, or submit a technical revision (TR) to update the mining and reclamation plans to reflect the current and future operating plans for the site to allow for the use of highwalls.

Reclamation Success:

The southeasternmost area of the disturbance occurred during the originally permitted 110c operation. According to the annual reports, approximately 10 acres have been backfilled, graded, topsoiled, and about 3.5 acres have been seeded. The side slopes along the north and south sides have been graded to a 3H:1V or flatter. The side slopes appear to be well vegetated, but the pit floor will require seeding and/or re-seeding before it will be eligible for release. Wrapping around the disturbance, and joining with the slopes, is a low earthen berm, that the approved reclamation plan states is to be used to prevent stormwater runoff from leaving the site.

The reclamation plan states that reclamation will be concurrent with mining. The Operator stated that excavation has finished along where the permit boundary abuts the pit. As mining is planned to expand later this year, this area will likely soon be backfilled and graded.

Topsoil:

Topsoil berms line the perimeter of the disturbance and are placed up and out of the way of ongoing mining operations. The topsoil piles appeared to be stable and were vegetated at the time of the inspection.

### Roads:

The entrance to the site is usually accessed by taking County Road 543, off of Highway 69 (see Map 2). During the inspection, the access to County Road 543 was detoured, and was accessed via County Road 560 instead. The site shares an access road with another permitted operation (M-1985-008). During the Inspection, the Operator stated that they move the access road (a.k.a haul road or ranch road) around new disturbance, so that the Landowner on the south side of the permit boundary maintains access to their house. Upon post inspection review, it appears that the diverted road has been diverted outside of the permit boundary on the north side (see Figure 1). It is unclear whether the diversion to the road occurred when the CN1 boundary still encompassed that area (from 2012 to 2021), or after the permit boundary was adjusted following a correction survey through TR1 (2021-current). The aerial imagery available jumps from 2020 to 2025 and is unable to be used to determine exactly when the now offsite disturbance occurred. Additionally, the currently approved reclamation plan states that the access road will remain after reclamation, per request of the Landowner. The current reclamation plan map depicts that the road will remain in/or be put back to its original orientation.

**This has been cited as a problem above.** With the TR application required by the previous problem citation, the Operator shall also update the mining plan to describe how the Landowner's access will be maintained throughout the life of the operation. The Operator shall also update the reclamation plan and reclamation plan map to describe the anticipated final configuration of the Landowner's access. The Operator shall provide a signed and notarized agreement with the Landowner that indicates that they were provided notice on how the Operator plans to maintain their access, and that they agree with the proposed final configuration of the road, by the corrective action date.

Note\*- No additional disturbance to the access road outside of the permit boundary will be accepted. If additional disturbance is found to be located outside of the permit boundary at the next inspection, the Division may cite a possible violation, resulting in enforcement actions. If the Operator intends to divert the road above and outside of the permitted boundary, an amendment to the application would be required prior to additional disturbance.

### Signs and Markers:

The mine sign was posted at the beginning of the entrance road mentioned in the 'Roads' section above (see Map 2). The sign is posted in compliance with Rule 3.1.12(1). T-posts marking the permit boundary were observed around the site. The markers appeared to be posted in compliance with Rule 3.1.12(2).

### Conclusion:

This concludes the Division's Inspection Report; a couple maps and a figure 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](mailto:amber.gibson@state.co.us) or by telephone at (720) 836-0967.

### Inspection Contact Address

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Walsenburg, CO 81089

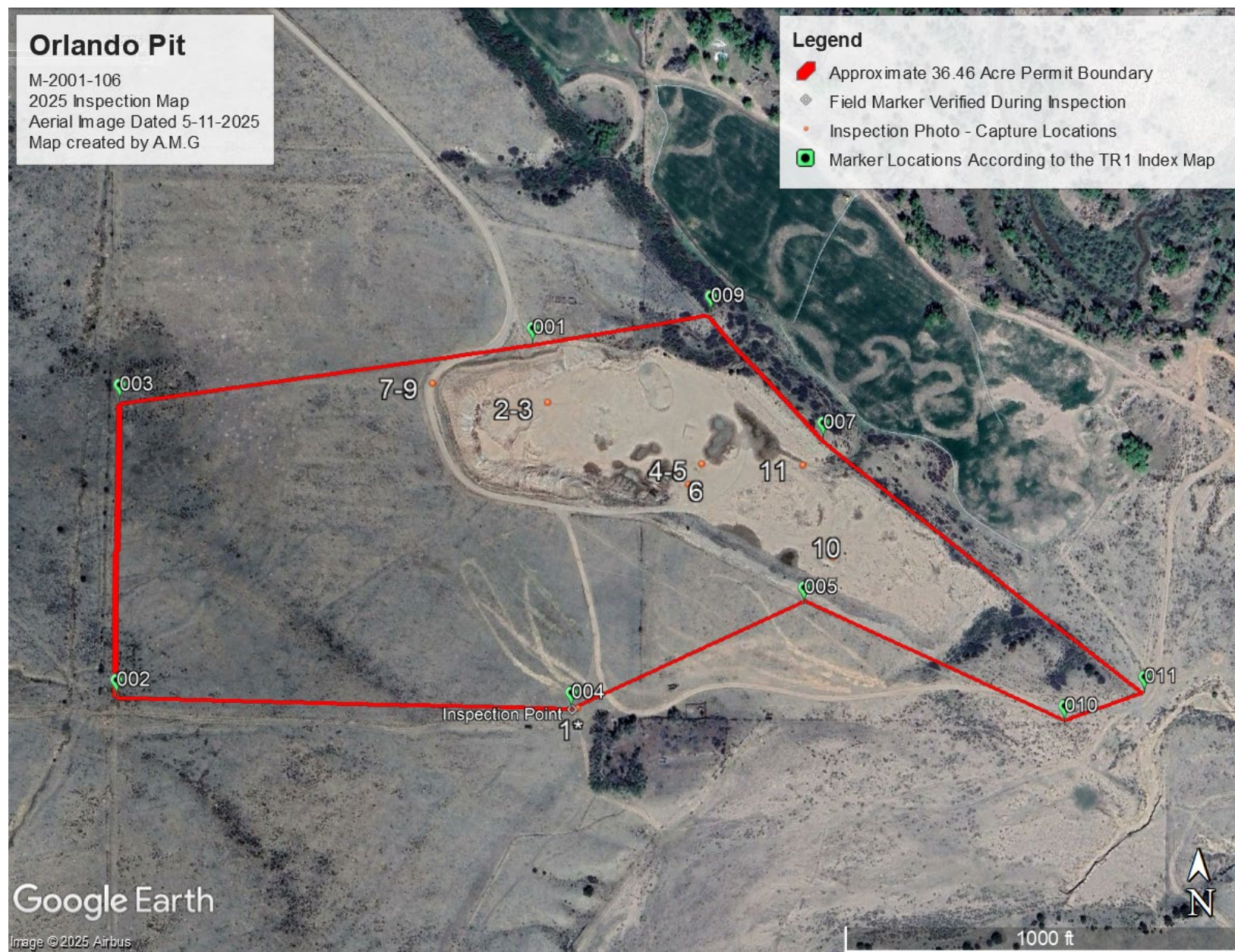
CC: Jared Ebert, DRMS

### 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>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>PB</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</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:** 2025 Inspection Report Map generated using Google Earth Pro. The numbers beside the inspection photo capture locations correspond with the inspection photo captions within this report. \*The photo location for Photo 1 indicated on the map is for the **right** side photo 1. The left photo's location (mine sign) is indicated by a blue star on Map 2.



**Map 2:** Location map. The blue star indicates the mine sign's location (see the **left** side of Photo 1). The yellow boundary belongs to an adjacent permitted operation. The red boundary indicates the approximate permit boundary for the Orlando Pit. The red arrow points to where the site is normally accessed. The green arrow points to where the access road access has been temporarily detoured.

## PHOTOGRAPHS



**Photo 1: (Left)** Looking south at the permit sign located near the old entrance. The entrance to the access road is located to the west of the gated entrance (see Map 2). **(Right)** Example of t-post marking the permit boundary. Coordinates for this point were collected in the field (see Map 1).



**Photo 2:** Looking west at the most recent extent of the pit disturbance.



**Photo 3:** Looking southwest at the most recent extent of the pit disturbance.



**Photo 4:** Looking northwest at the Landowner's gravel material.



**Photo 5:** Looking north at the Permittee's remaining product stockpile material. Reclaimed slopes are seen in the background.



**Photo 6:** Looking west at the steel material salvaged from the nearby bridge demolition that is currently stored within the southside of the pit area.



**Photo 7:** Looking northeast at the current extent of the pit boundary. The red arrow points to the Landowner's product stockpile (see Photo 4). The yellow arrow points to the Permittee's/Operator's product stockpile (see Photo 5).



**Photo 8:** Looking north at some of the stockpiled topsoil. On the left side of the photo is the diverted access road (mentioned in the Roads section in this report).



**Photo 9:** Looking south at some of the stockpiled topsoil lining the disturbance. On the right side of the photo is the diverted access road (mentioned in the Roads section in this report). The Landowner's house is near the cluster of trees seen in the middle of the photo.



**Photo 10:** Looking west from within the previously reclaimed area at reclaimed slopes and reclaimed pit floor.



**Photo 11:** Looking east from within the previously reclaimed area at reclaimed slopes and reclaimed pit floor.



**Figure 1:** The green boundary indicates the permit boundary as described in the 2012 CN1 revision. The red boundary indicates the permit boundary as described in the TR1 revision, and represents the currently approved boundary. The yellow arrows point to disturbance located out of the currently approved boundary, resulting from diverting the access road. The access road running north-south has been diverted, and the path seen in the image is from Google Earth's 'roads' layer. The orientation of the access road prior

to the diversion corresponds to what is seen in the Google Earth 'roads' layer. The orientation of the access road depicted on the approved Reclamation Plan Map also corresponds with this orientation (see the currently approved Reclamation Plan Map below).

