



STATE OF
COLORADO

Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>

C1981022, Elk Creek Mine, July Inspection Report

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Fri, Aug 1, 2025 at 1:41 PM

To: Doug Smith <Doug.Smith@oxbow.com>

Attached

Leigh Simmons
Environmental Protection Specialist



COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
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INSP-REPORTC_C1981022_LDS_08012025011829.pdf


5999K



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-022 Mine Name: Elk Creek Mine Operator: Oxbow Mining, LLC Operator Address: Mr Doug Smith 3737 Hwy 133 P. O. Box 535 Somerset, CO 81434	County: Delta, Gunnison Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Doug Smith
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: July 25, 2025 Inspection Start Time: 09:00 Inspection End Date: Inspection End Time:	Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear
Joint Inspection Agency: None	Joint Inspection Contacts:
Post Inspection Agency: None	Post Inspection Contacts:
Inspector(s): Leigh Simmons	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: August 1, 2025

Inspection Topic Summary

NOTE: Y=Inspected N=Not Inspected R=Comments Noted V=Violation Issued NA=Not Applicable

N - Air Resource Protection

N - Availability of Records

N - Backfill & Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

N - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

N - Processing Waste

N - Roads

N - Reclamation Success

R - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

N - Slides and Other Damage

R - Support Facilities On-site

N - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

N - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection by Leigh Simmons of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). The weather was clear and dry. The status of the Elk Creek Mine is “active” however no coal is being mined and the only activity since the last inspection was site maintenance.

HYDROLOGIC BALANCE - Rule 4.05

Drainage Control 4.05.1, 4.05.2, 4.05.3; Siltation Structures 4.05.5, 4.05.6; Discharge Structures 4.05.7, 4.05.10; Diversions 4.05.4; Effluent Limits 4.05.2; Ground Water Monitoring 4.05.13; Surface Water Monitoring 4.05.13; Drainage – Acid and Toxic Materials 4.05.8; Impoundments 4.05.6, 4.05.9; Stream Buffer Zones 4.05.18:

Elk Creek was completely dry.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

The land previously owned by Hotchkiss Ranches has apparently been sold. Oxbow should submit a minor revision to update section 2.03.4 of the PAP and Map 2.03-M1 as soon as possible.

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15**Vegetative Cover; Timing:**

Weed spraying was in progress at the time of the inspection. Curtail, with an added surfactant, was being applied by backpack sprayers on remote reclaimed pads and roads. Vegetation on these areas was generally well developed, with excellent cover and a diverse mixture of perennial grasses, forbs and shrubs, however weeds, particularly Canada thistle, had become quite well established in some spots and a continued effort will be required to control them. Details are given below.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

Sites that were inspected are given in the table below, with brief comments:

Label	Comments
GVB-LW-19-06	Spectacular diversity on pad. Some Canada thistle, mostly on N side
GVB-LW-19-07	Chuck and Sam already sprayed. Canada thistle
HGA	Bad Canada thistle. Not yet sprayed
GVB-LW-18-08	Already sprayed, not bad. Sheep have grazed it
TGA	Ok, heavily grazed

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED

N/A

OTHER (SPECIFY)

N/A

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

No enforcement actions were initiated as a result of this inspection, nor are any pending.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0

MAPS & PHOTOGRAPHS

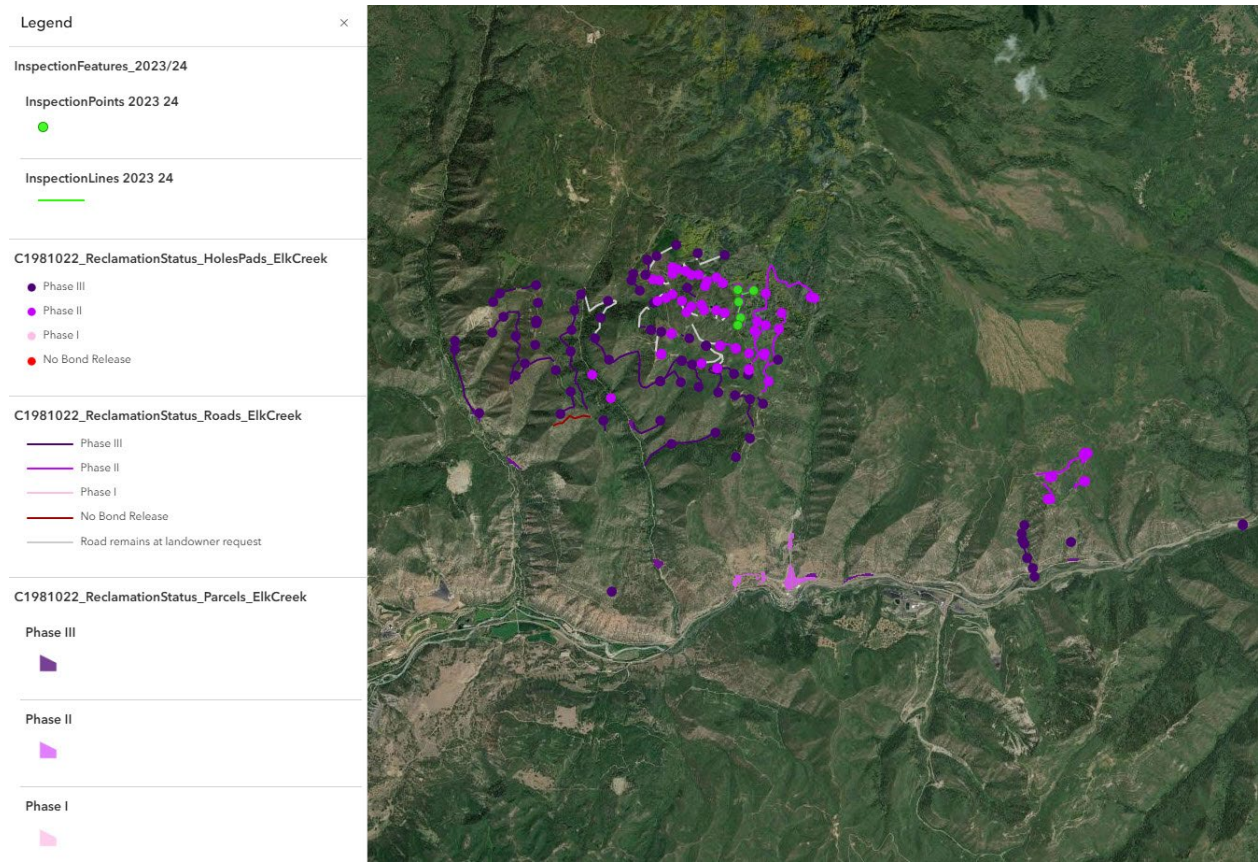


Figure 1: Screenshot of inspection map, showing all reclaimed areas at the Elk Creek Mine

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1
Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0



Figure 2: Screenshot of inspection map showing only the sites that were inspected

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0



Figure 3: GVB-LW-19-06

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0



Figure 4:GVB-LW-19-07

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0



Figure 5: Extensive Canada thistle on HGA

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0



Figure 6: HGA

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0



Figure 7: GVB-LW-18-08

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0



Figure 8: Sprayed Mullein on GVB-LW-18-08

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0

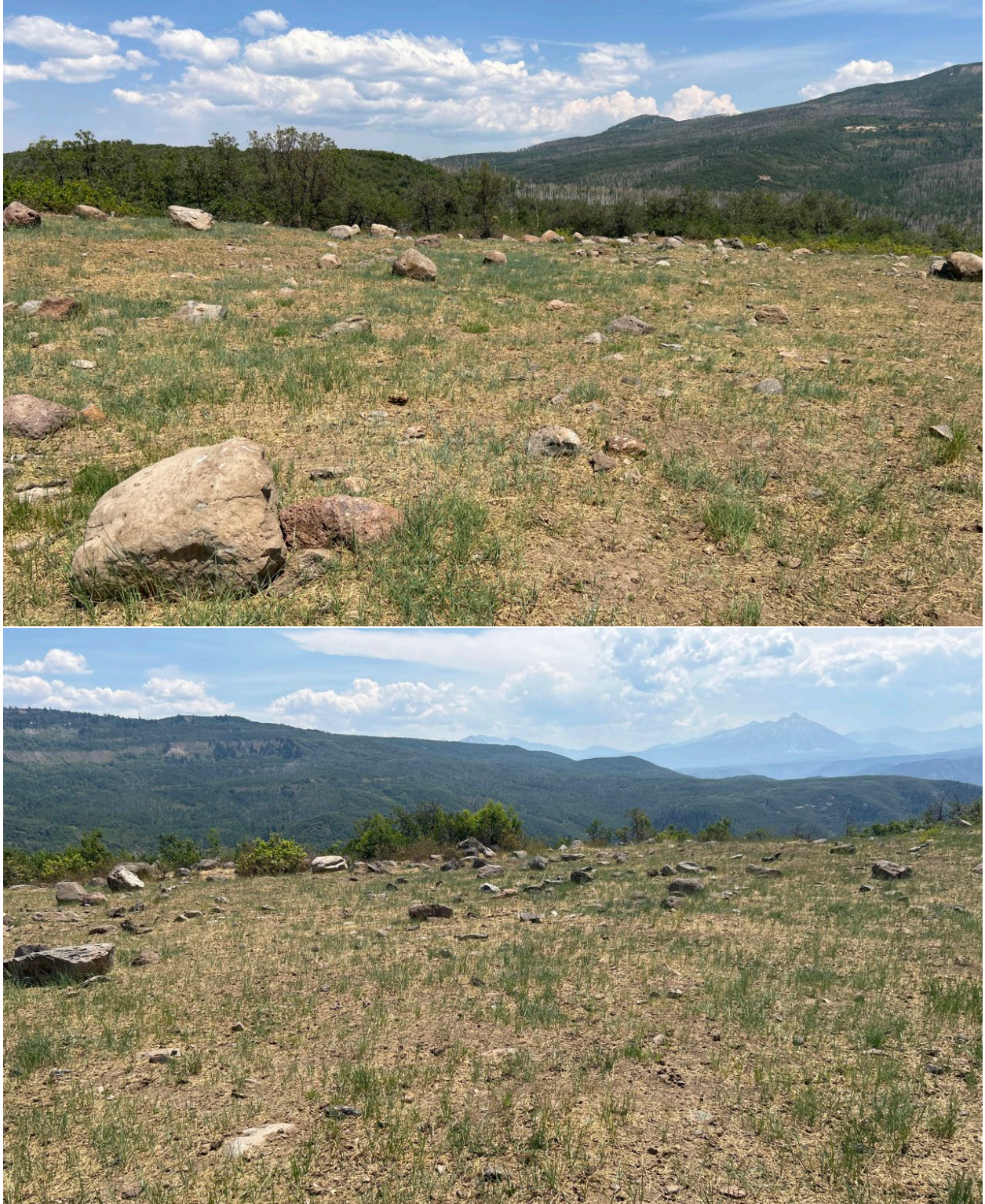


Figure 9: TGA

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0



Figure 10: Herbicide (Curtail)

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0



Figure 11: Elk Creek channel

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0