



COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

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.

MINE NAME: Cottonwood Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1986-010	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Fremont
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	WEATHER: Raining	INSP. DATE: July 17, 2025	INSP. TIME: 13:28
OPERATOR: Fremont County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Mr. Scott Hileman	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$0.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
INSPECTOR(S): Jocelyn Carter	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: August 28, 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: Gen. Compliance With 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 activities of importing materials and information about if or how they will be used for reclamation. Provide a signed affidavit certifying that the materials are clean and inert.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: September 26, 2025

OBSERVATIONS

The Cottonwood Gravel Pit, Permit No. M-1986-010, was inspected by me, Jocelyn Carter, on behalf of the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (Division/DRMS). The permittee is Fremont County and Mr. Scott Hileman was present for the inspection representing Fremont County. The visit was conducted as a routine monitoring inspection. The weather conditions at the time of the inspection were overcast, raining, and with warm temperatures.

Cottonwood Gravel Pit is located about 20 miles northwest of Canon City in Fremont County. The operation has 48.4 acres permitted for gravel extraction by surface mining. Crushing and screening does occur at the site and the end product is used for county road maintenance in the vicinity. The site is accessed from a southcentral point of the permitted area.

At the time of the inspection, mining activities were not occurring. A large stockpile of material was positioned in the southcentral portion of the permitted area, see Photo #3. To the east of the stockpile equipment was stored, the equipment on site included a wheel loader, a compaction roller, and a grizzly screen, see photo #4. Extraction has progressed moving northward, up a hill, with the topsoil pushed to the west side of the hill base. There does appear to be an area that has been backfilled, graded and seeded along the west side of the affected area.

Records

The permit is up to date on annual reports, maps, and fees. There are no open enforcement items or minor infractions associated with the permit. The landownership and mineral rights are both owned by the State of Colorado.

Hydrological Balance

There was a small area of standing water on the internal haul road due to recent precipitation events in the area. There did not appear to be a negative impact on the hydrologic balance to the area.

General Mine Plan Compliance

There are small stockpiles of imported materials sourced from ditch cleaning activities observed to be located to the east of the stored equipment, see Photo #7. The material is resorted and repurposed for road maintenance by Fremont County. There appear to be a small amount of organic materials included with this material. This activity of importing material from cleaning sediment from ditches, resorting it, and using it for road maintenance is not documented in the approved permit file. A problem is being cited for this issue, see the problem above for details of the required corrective action and due date.

Signs and Markers

The required mine sign is posted at the entrance of the permitted area and is accurate according to the requirements of Rule 3.1.12(1), see Photo #1. Boundary markers are placed at the corners of the permit, marked with white PVC tubing, see Photo #2.

Acid or Toxic Materials

There are no acid forming or toxic materials associated with this operation. Fuel and other maintenance fluids are not kept on site.

Financial Warranty

Per Rule 4.1(1), a financial warranty is not held for this permit.

Backfill & Grading

Areas that have been backfilled and graded appear to be sloped to the appropriate reclaimed slope of approximately 3H:1V. The slopes are stable with vegetation becoming established and there did not appear to be erosion occurring, see Photo #5.

Fish & Wildlife

There did not appear to be an issue with wildlife in the permitted area or in the vicinity.

Stormwater Management Plan

There is a stormwater impoundment located at the low area of the permit area in the southeast. There is a sediment settlement pond and a 36" culvert situated in a berm that directs runoff to a natural drainage channel. The settlement pond and culvert were clean and in good order, see Photo #6.

Erosion/Sedimentation

Sediment accumulated during erosional events is directed to the settlement pond. There did not appear to be an issue with erosion or sedimentation at the site.

Off-site Damage

Disturbances associated with this mining operation are within the approved permitted area.

Roads

Internal haul roads appear to be in good condition.

Topsoil

The topsoil stockpile appeared to be stable and well vegetated.

Revegetation

Common mullein, a List C noxious weed, was observed in some areas of the permitted area, see Photo #8. Mr. Hileman stated that he would be removing the common mullein within two weeks from the date of the inspection.

Photos taken during the inspection are provided below. Questions regarding this inspection report should be directed to me by email at Jocelyn.carter@state.co.us or by phone at (720) 666-1065.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo #1: Mine sign posted at the pit entrance.



Photo #2: Example of a permit boundary marker, the white PVC pipe in the bushes.



Photo #3: Stockpile of material ready for use.



Photo #4: Stored equipment on site.



Photo #5: Area observed to be backfilled, graded, and seeded on the west side of the pit area. The extraction area can be seen in the background on the right side of the picture.



Photo #6: View of the settling pond and the culvert directing storm runoff to the natural drainage.



Photo #7: View of several stockpiles of imported materials.



Photo #8: View of the northern expansion of the extraction area with the occurrences of common mullein in areas.

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>NA</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>NA</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>NA</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>PB</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN--- <u>NA</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>N</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</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>N</u>	

Y = Inspected / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / PB = Problem cited / PV = Possible violation cited

Inspection Contact Address

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