




**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> Flag Creek Mine	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1997-098	<b>MINERAL:</b> Dimension stone	<b>COUNTY:</b> Rio Blanco
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Illegal(Unpermitted Operation)	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> September 2, 2025	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 14:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Flat Top Flagstone, LLC	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Shawn Bolton	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Citizen Complaint	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$206,904.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Amy Yeldell	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> September 4, 2025	

**GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS**

This list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each. No problems or possible violations were noted during the inspection. The mine operation was found to be in full compliance with Mineral Rules and Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board for the Extraction of Construction Materials and/or for Hard Rock, Metal and Designated Mining Operations. Any person engaged in any mining operation shall notify the office of any failure or imminent failure, as soon as reasonably practicable after such person has knowledge of such condition or of any impoundment, embankment, or slope that poses a reasonable potential for danger to any persons or property or to the environment; or any environmental protection facility designed to contain or control chemicals or waste which are acid or toxic-forming, as identified in the permit.

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>N</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>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>NA</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</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>NA</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION-- <u>N</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>Y</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**

## **OBSERVATIONS**

The Flag Creek Mine is a 112c permitted site that includes a total of 140 permitted acres. The site is located 11 miles south of Meeker, Colorado and is accessed from County Road 13.

On August 20, 2025, the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) received an anonymous citizen complaint (CT-1). The complaint alleged that the operation was not in compliance with the mining plan along with other non-jurisdictional issues. The attempted Division called the complainant on August 27, 2025, to obtain additional information and explain the Division's process. The Division was unable to reach the complainant and left a message. On August 28, 2025, the Division spoke on the phone with Shawn Bolton, the Operator, to set up an investigation inspection.

On September 2, 2025, the Division conducted a site inspection of the Flag Creek Mine in response to the citizen complaint(CT-1). Amy Yeldell of the Division conducted the inspection, and Shawn Bolton was present. The Anonymous complainant was not present for the inspection.

### **Acid And Toxic Materials:**

The previously noted hydrocarbons stored outside of secondary containment have been removed for the site. The main fuel tank is located in secondary containment in the staging area.

### **Backfilling and Grading:**

The operator continues to work to widen the mining benches. The flagstone is layered near vertical and is 'plucked' off in sheets. The mining operation remains within in the existing footprint moving towards the east. Currently all highwalls are near vertical. The excavated highwall is approximately 1500LF from north to south and approximately 25 ft high. There are several mini benches within the larger excavation area.

### **Explosives:**

Explosives are not used in conjunction with this mining operation.

### **Financial Warranty:**

The Division holds a financial warranty in the amount of \$206,904. The last increase occurred with SI-3 in 2024. In an effort to ensure the Financial Warranty adequately reflects the actual current cost of fulfilling the requirements of the approved reclamation plan the Division will be updating the reclamation cost estimate. If the current bond is found to be insufficient the Division will send a Notice of Surety Increase under a separate cover.

### **Hydrologic Balance:**

No exposed water was observed.

### **Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan:**

This operation was active at the time of inspection. General housekeeping has greatly improved at the mining benches since the previous inspection. No washing, asphalt or cement production occur at this site. Stone is transported from the quarry area to the staging area via pickup truck and flat bead trailer. The staging area is to remain as-is post-reclamation as requested by the landowner.

Note that under the approved mining plan only phase 1 may be disturbed at this time. Permit maps and plans for Phases 2 and 3 shall be submitted prior to disturbances and bonding adjusted accordingly.

**Roads:**

The new access road approved under TR-2 has been completed. It is a much gentler slope than the previous road and appears to be well maintained. The original mine access road has begun to self-reclaim with volunteer vegetation. This area should be recontoured if it is no longer needed for mining.

**Reclamation Success:**

No reclaimed areas were observed.

**Revegetation:**

Some noxious weeds were observed on site, but they have greatly diminished as compared to the previous inspection. Thistle primarily remains the species of concern.

**Signs and Markers:**

A mine sign was posted at the entrance to the mine site as required by Rule 3.1.12(1). The information depicted was correct/ up to date and the sign was of sufficient size. The permit boundary of the affected land was clearly delineated primarily by t-posts with a white PVC sleeve pursuant to Rule 3.1.12(2).

**Topsoil:**

There are no apparent topsoil stockpiles on this site. If topsoil is encountered, please salvage and stockpile accordingly. The approved reclamation plan calls for use of borrow topsoil from a location within the permit boundary as the source of topsoil for reclamation of the mining area.

No problems or violations were noted during this inspection.

The Division has concluded its investigation into the Citizens Complaint (CT-1). Based on the items described above the Division believes this site to be in compliance with the approved Permit. No further action is required from the Operator and the matter is considered resolved.

Responses to this inspection report should be directed to: Amy Yeldell at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Room 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave Denver, CO 80216. Direct contact can be made by phone at 977-210-1272 or via email at amy.yeldell@state.co.us

**Inspection Contact Address**

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CC: Tom Cummings, BLM



**PHOTOGRAPHS**

















