



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: Riley Gravel Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1978-266	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Jackson
INSPECTION TYPE: Surety-Related Inspection	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: September 3, 2025	INSP. TIME: 11:00
OPERATOR: Jackson County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Tom Jones	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): Brock Bowles	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: September 9, 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>N</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>N</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>N</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>N</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>N</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

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted by Brock Bowles of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). Tom Jones and Darren Bertron of Jackson County (operator) were present for the inspection. The Riley Pit is located about 6 miles northwest of Gould. The site is an active 112c operation with 19.09 acres permitted and the post-mining land use is agriculture. At the time of the inspection, it was sunny, warm and the ground was dry.

This inspection was conducted as part of the bond release/ termination of jurisdiction process. The request for full/final release was received by DRMS on July 21, 2025 and was deemed complete on August 12, 2025. Completeness notices were sent via email or mailed on August 12, 2025. The comment period closed on August 27, 2025, No comments were received as of this report.

Backfilling and Grading:

The site has been regraded and backfilled, blending seamlessly with the surrounding landscape (photo 1). The hillside appears stable, with no observed erosion. Reclamation grasses are growing in rows along the hill contour, indicating the seeding technique followed best management practices for erosion prevention (photo 2). All the product stockpiles have been removed, overburden piles have been backfilled and top has been redistributed.

Financial Warranty:

Jackson County is the operator of the Riley Pit and no reclamation bond is held by DRMS for this permit as per Rule 4.1.2(2).

Reclamation Success:

Reclamation on the west side of the permit area appeared to be doing well (photo 3). Observations included several grass species from the seed mix, such as crested wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, and bluebunch wheatgrass. Numerous rubber rabbitbrush shrubs were present in various locations. Wildflowers observed on the site included hoary tansyaster, cicer milkvetch, and what appeared to be silvery lupine. While cheatgrass and Canada thistle, both noxious weeds, were present, they did not dominate the plant community on the west side.

Reclamation efforts on the eastern side of the permit area resulted in a plant community heavily dominated by the noxious weeds cheatgrass and Canada thistle (photo 4), with only a few desirable species such as rubber rabbitbrush and western wheatgrass observed. Although not considered desirable, crested wheatgrass was also present as it was approved in the original 1978 permit.

While some noxious weeds are expected during the reclamation process, their significant dominance in this instance makes it unlikely for desirable species to successfully compete and establish the diverse, effective, and long-lasting self-regenerating vegetative cover required by Rule 3.1.10(1) (photo 5).

Therefore, the bond release request is denied. The site's dominance by cheatgrass and Canada thistle necessitates treatment in accordance with Rule 3.1.10(6) and the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. To be eligible for bond release, desirable plant species must predominate, and it must be demonstrated that the noxious

weeds are being effectively treated and controlled to foster a plant community similar to the surrounding natural vegetation.

Signs and Markers:

The mine identification sign was in place and bolted to the gate facing CR25.

Two entry gates, each facing CR25 were locked upon arrival to the site.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1- The blending of the pit in with the surrounding landscape looks good.



Photo 2- The seeding rows are contoured into the hillside which is best for erosion control.



Photo 3- The west side of the pit area looks very good with very few noxious weeds.



Photo 4- The east side just above the cabins, the vegetation is dominated by Canada thistle and cheatgrass.



Photo 5- Some desirable species are present, but are struggling against the density of weeds.

Inspection Contact Address

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