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: Arnold Pit	**MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:** M-2018-019	**MINERAL:** Sand and gravel	**COUNTY:** Las Animas
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	**WEATHER:** Clear	**INSP. DATE:** September 12, 2025	**INSP. TIME:** 10:50
OPERATOR: Las Animas County	**OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:** Brian Heguy	**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): Amber M. Gibson	**INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:** 	**SIGNATURE DATE:** October 3, 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: Revegetation
PROBLEM: There are state-listed noxious weeds present on site. This is a problem for failure to employ weed control methods for state listed noxious weed species within the permitted area, and to reduce the spread of weeds to nearby areas as required by Section 3.1.10 (6) of the Rule.
CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: Implement approved weed control plan and provide proof to the Division that this has been done. If a weed control plan is not already in place, the Operator shall develop a weed control and management plan in accordance with Section 3.1.10 (6) of the Rule. This plan should be developed in consultation with the county extension agency, or weed control district office and should include specific control measures to be applied, a schedule for when control measures will be applied and a post-treatment monitoring plan. This weed control plan shall be submitted to the Division as a Technical Revision to the approved plan with the appropriate Technical Revision fee of $216.00 by the corrective action date.
CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 3/01/26

INSPECTION TOPIC: Roads
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: 3/01/26

INSPECTION TOPIC: General Compliance with the Mine Plan
PROBLEM: Rule 1.13.5 states, if an Operator temporarily ceases production of the mining operation for one hundred eighty (180) days or more, the Operator must file a Notice of Temporary Cessation in writing to the Office.
CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The Division recommends the Operator file for Temporary Cessation. The start date of the initial 5-year Temporary Cessation period is retroactive to the last date the pit was active. If that date is more than 5 years ago, the Operator is required ask the Board for a 5-year extension to the Temporary Cessation period (per rule 1.13.5 (3) and 1.13.8 (b) or begin reclamation.
CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 10/14/25

OBSERVATIONS

The Arnold 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 February 23, 2022 as a routine monitoring inspection. Brian Heguy (representing the Permittee/Operator – Las Animas County), accompanied me during the inspection. The sky was clear and the weather was hot.

The Arnold Pit is located in Las Animas County approximately 28 miles northeast of Kim, Colorado. The entrance to the pit is located off the east side of County Road 76.8. The site is permitted as a 39-acre 112c Regular Operation Construction Materials Permit. The primary commodity being mined at the site is sand and gravel. The approved post-mining land use is rangeland.

Financial Warranty:
The Arnold Pit is permitted to and operated by Las Animas County. The Division does not hold financial warranties for County operations.

Availability of Records:
The annual report, map, and fee are paid and current through August 20, 2026. The 2025 Annual report submission states the last day of activity at this site was July 19, 2021.

General Compliance with the Mine Plan:
The mine was not operating at the time of the inspection. The annual report submitted for the 2024-2025 reporting year states under item #4 that the last activity conducted at the mine was on July 19, 2021. During the inspection, the Operator stated that the last activity conducted at the mine had been years prior to the 2025 inspection. Because there is no evidence that the site has been, or remained, active for the last several years, this **has been cited as a problem above.**

- Rule 1.13.5 states that if an Operator temporarily ceases production of the mining operation for 180-days or more, the Operator must file for a Notice of Temporary Cessation. Rule 1.13.5(a) states that the initial period shall be the first five years of Temporary Cessation (TC) beginning with the 180-day period of production cessation. Pursuant to Rule 1.13.5(2) the second five-year period of TC shall begin at the end of the initial period of TC.
- Although this site has been approved to operate as an Intermittent Operation, per C.R.S 34-32.5-103(11)(b) of the statute, the Operator would not be required to submit a notice of temporary cessation **if** mining is resumed within one year **and if** they have included a statement in the permit application that affected lands are to be used for less than 180 days per year.
- Because the site has not been active for a few years, the Operator will be required to apply for a notice of temporary cessation by the corrective action date. Alternatively, the Operator may provide ample evidence that mining operations have resumed and that the site is, and will remain, active by the corrective action date.

The affected area boundary does not appear to have changed since the Division's 2022 inspection. At that time, the Division estimated the disturbed area to be approximately 13.89 acres. Mining had begun within the southern portion of the permitted area and had moved north, all along the west side of the intermittent stream. Lining both sides of the affected area are natural, pre-existing vertical slopes. During the inspection, the Operator noted that there appeared to be plenty of quality material remaining onsite, and hoped to re-initiate operations in the near future. If the Operator decides to initiate operations instead of apply for TC, a plan and

evidence that mining has resumed shall be submitted to the Division to abate this inspection problem.

Hydrologic Balance and Sediment Control:
No standing water was observed at the time of the inspection. The Arnold Pit is located within and around an intermittent stream that only flows after significant precipitation events, according to the Division's 2018 inspection report. Earthen berms of overburden and topsoil line the disturbed areas, preventing stormwater and sediment run-off.

Evidence of standing water having been within the disturbed area was evident by a thin layer of sediment exhibiting mud cracks, as well as the establishment of annual weeds and the B-listed State Noxious weed Tamarisk (a.k.a. Salt Cedar). Tamarisk is well established within the intermittent stream, and has begun to spread into the areas where topsoil and gravel have been removed (see Photo 7). **This has been cited as a problem above.** The Operator shall remove the smaller, newly established Tamarisk trees as soon as possible. The Operator had stated that it may be early next year before they can work on removal. As Tamarisk is established within stream bed within the permit area, the Operator is advised to work on removing and treating the Tamarisk to the best of their abilities, and work to prevent further spread of the trees throughout the permit area. In addition to the Tamarisk, the C-listed State Noxious weed, Mullein was also observed. Fact sheets that provide advice for treatment of both the above-stated noxious weeds are enclosed with this report. The Operator shall include in the above required Technical Revision, a weed control plan to address weed management at the site.

Topsoil:
Topsoil is located in a shallow earthen berm along the southwest side of the disturbed area. The berm had volunteer vegetation on it and appeared stable at the time of the inspection.

Backfilling, Grading, and Reclamation Success:
Reclamation activities have not yet commenced at this site. There appeared to be two areas where material had been removed, which are separated by a central berm with a path cut between. Within both areas, small piles of overburden and product were observed. The only slope to be reclaimed would be where the two areas meet, along the cut. Otherwise, reclamation would consist of grading out the earthen berms, spreading topsoil, seeding, and weed control.

Roads:
The road shown on the approved Mining Plan Map is in a different location than the road(s) that have been used for this operation. This was highlighted in the Division's 2022 inspection report. **This has been cited as a problem above.** The Operator shall submit a Technical Revision application to update the mining plan map to accurately depict the access road(s) to be used during the operation. During this inspection, the Operator and the Inspector went to the location of the access road shown on the approved map and there does appear to be a small two-track path, but it is located further from the currently disturbed areas than the road(s) that have been used. As the Division had previously made the determination that the currently used access road(s) were pre-existing and not significantly improved in support of the mining operation, the currently used roads do not have to be *included* within the permit area. However, they do still need to be indicated as the access points on an approved map.

Signs and Markers:
A mine sign was posted at the entrance to the southern access road. If the Operator submits a technical revision to update the access roads locations, the Operator shall ensure that a mine sign is posted at both entrances in compliance with Rule 3.1.12(1). T-posts were observed around the site, marking the affected boundary/permit area. The northern-most t-post was unable to be located at the time of the inspection, but was temporarily marked with a rock. The Operator stated that they would ensure there is a visible marker in place prior to re-

initiation of operations.

Conclusion:
This concludes the Division's Inspection Report; a map displaying topics discussed during the inspection, a figure, 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 or by telephone at (720) 836-0967.

Inspection Contact Address
Brian Heguy
Las Animas County
2000 N. Linden Ave.
Trinidad, CO 81082

Enclosure: *Weed Treatment Sheet: Tamarisk*
Weed Treatment Sheet: Mullein

CC: Keith Woodring, Las Animas County
Jared Ebert, Senior EPS, DRMS

GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each

(AR) RECORDS---------- Y	**(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY-------- Y**	**(RD) ROADS---------- PB**
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE---------- Y	**(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING---------- Y**	**(EX) EXPLOSIVES--------- N**
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- N	**(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES------- N**	**(TS) TOPSOIL---------- Y**
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- PB	**(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE---------- N**	**(RV) REVEGETATION---- PB**
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS---------- Y	**(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- N**	**(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- Y**
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE--------- N	**(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- Y**	**(ST) STIPULATIONS------- N**
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS------- N	**(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE---------- N**	

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

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1: Looking west at a topsoil berm lining the southern disturbed area.

Photo 2: Looking east at the western berm lining the southern disturbed area.

Photo 3: Looking at a berm lining the west side of the southern disturbed area.

Photo 4: Looking north from within the southern disturbed area, at the path cut between the two areas.

Photo 5: Looking west within the path cut between the north and south disturbed areas at the small highwall containing gravel material.

Photo 6: Looking south from the northernmost point of disturbance within the permit boundary.

Photo 7: Looking west across the northern disturbed area where many small Tamarisk trees have begun to establish.

Photo 8: Looking north within a section of the intermittent stream that lies within the permit boundary where Tamarisk is established.

Photo 9: Looking south beyond the permit boundary at Tamarisk established within the intermittent stream bed.

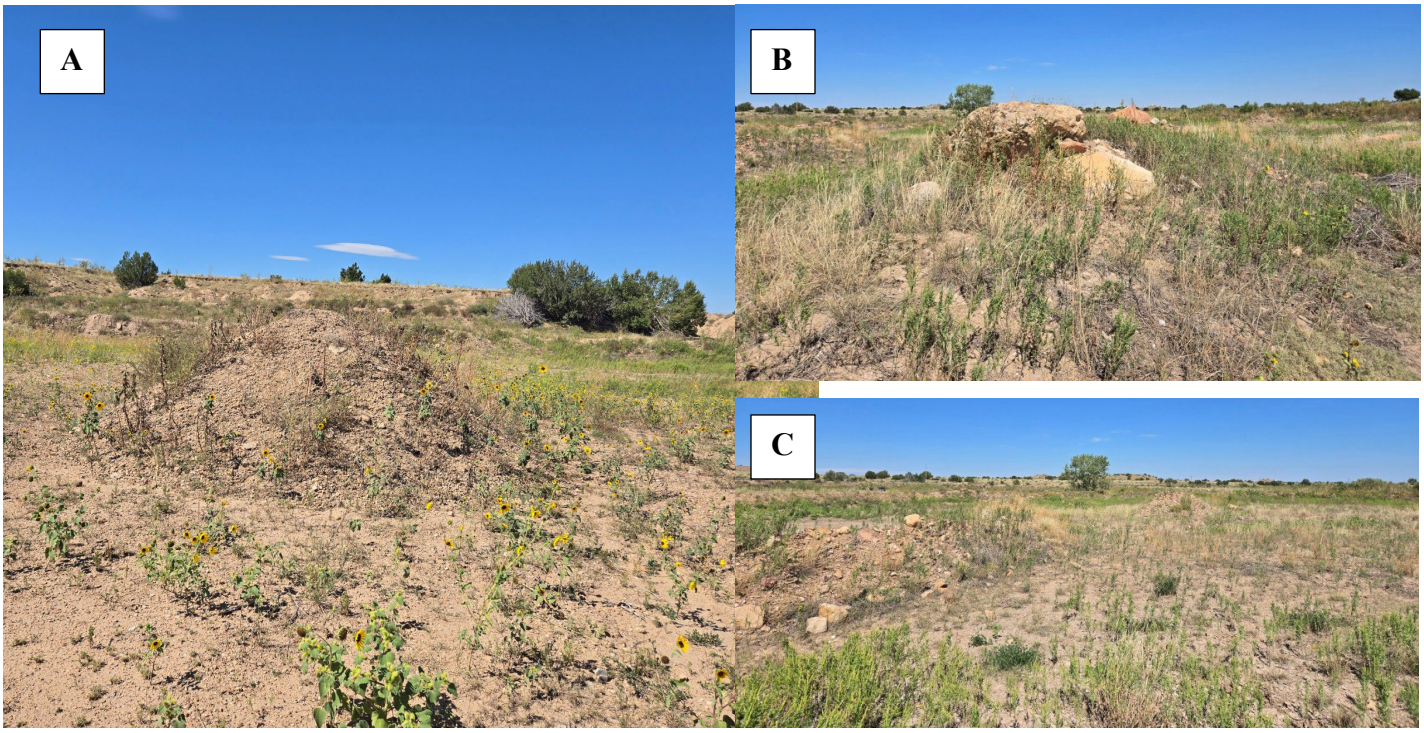


Photo 10: Examples of small product and overburden piles remaining within the disturbed areas.

Photo 11: Mine sign posted at the southern access road entrance (see Figure 1 and Map 1 below).

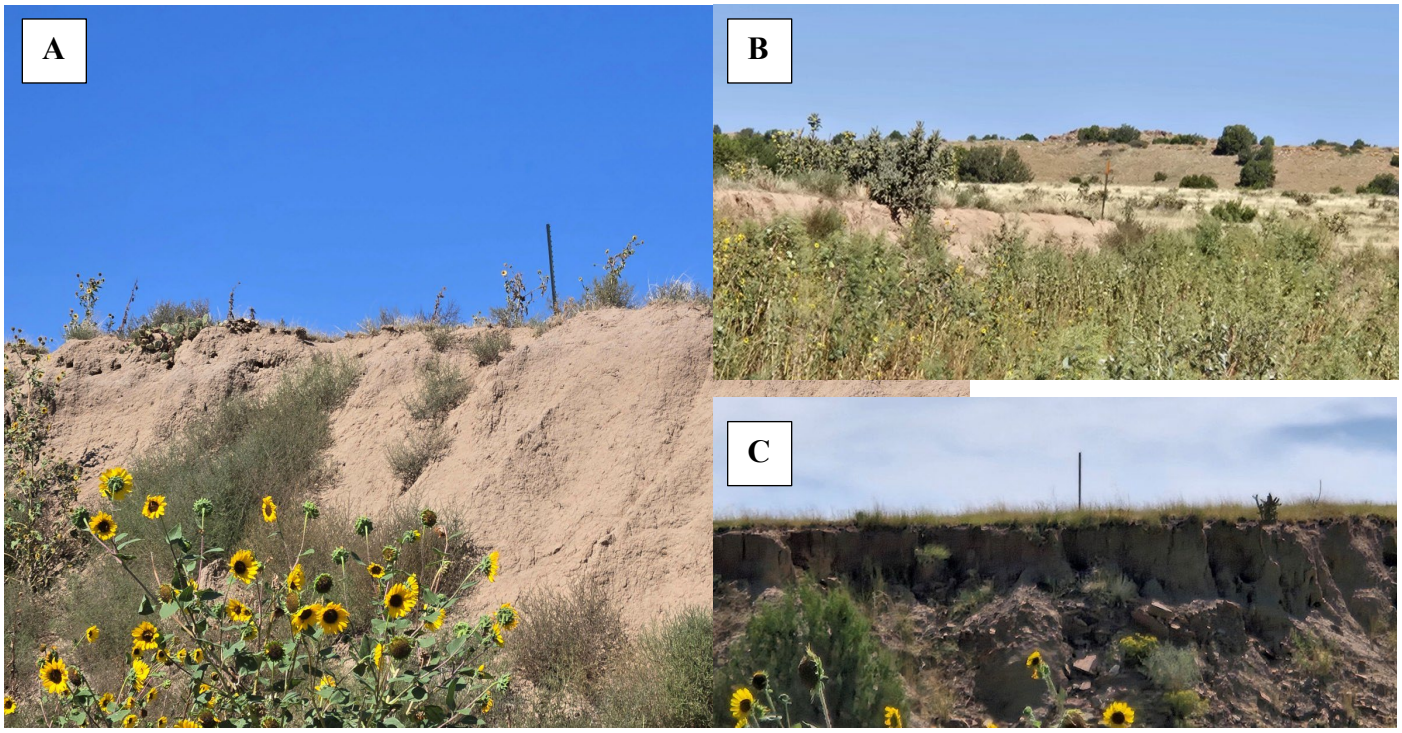


Photo 12: Examples of t-posts observed around the site marking the affected land/permit boundary.

Photo 13: Looking southeast from the northern-most point on the permit boundary. The rock in the photo acts as a temporary permit boundary marker.

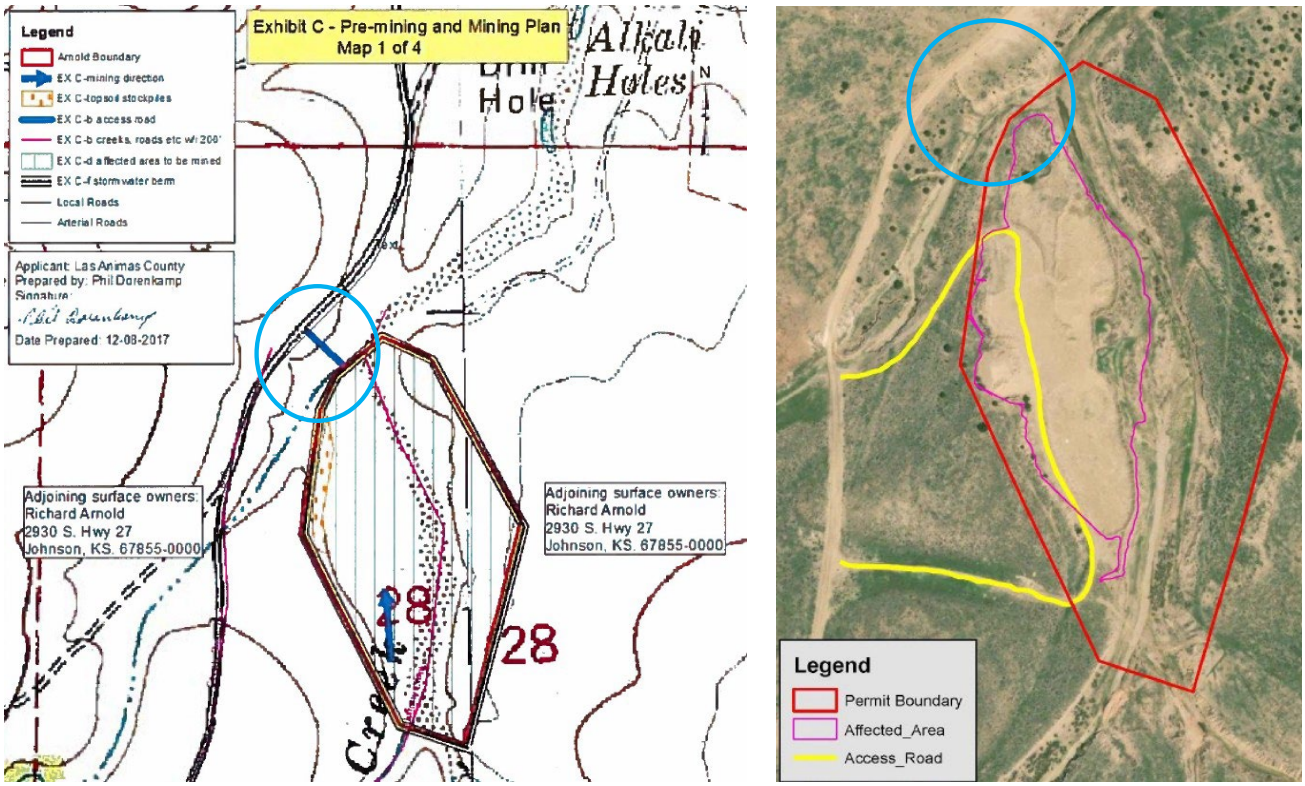


Figure 1: The image on the right is a screenshot from the approved Mining Plan Map. Circled in blue is where the access road is depicted. The image on the right is a screenshot from the Division's 2022 Inspection Report Map. The blue circle shows where the access road is depicted to be according to the approved map, but the yellow line shows where the access road that was last used at the pit is actually located.

Map 1: Inspection Report Map created in Google Earth Pro. The numbers associated with the inspection photo capture locations indicted by the red dots on the map correspond with the inspection photo captions within this report.

Saltcedar

Tamarix spp.

Colorado Department of Agriculture

305 Interlocken Pkwy
Broomfield, CO 80021

(303) 869-9030
weeds@state.co.us

Saltcedar Identification and Management

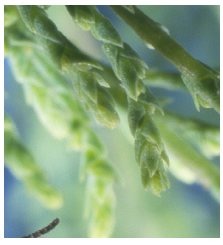
Identification and Impacts

Saltcedar, or tamarisk (*Tamarix spp.*), is a non-native deciduous evergreen shrub or small tree that grows from 5 to 20 feet tall. The bark on saplings and stems is reddish-brown. The leaves are small, scale-like and bluish-green in color. Tiny pink to white flowers have five petals and grow on slender racemes. Saltcedar reproduces by seeds as well as vegetatively. A mature plant can produce up to 600,000 seeds per year. Seeds are viable for up to 45 days under ideal conditions. Saltcedar buds break dormancy in February or March. Flowering occurs anytime between April and August. Ideal conditions for saltcedar seedling survival are saturated soil during the first few weeks of life, a high water table, and open sunny ground with little competition from other plants.

Saltcedar was introduced from central Asia, northern Africa, and southern Europe for ornamental purposes and for stream bank stabilization. It is now widespread in the United States. Saltcedar crowds out native stands of riparian and wetland vegetation. Saltcedar increases salinity of surface soil, rendering the soil inhospitable to native plant species. Saltcedar can be found along floodplains, riverbanks, streambanks, marshes, and irrigation ditches. It's heavy use of water has contributed to the intensity of the drought.

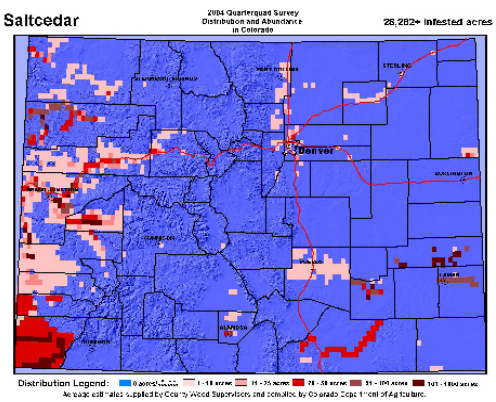
The most effective method of control for saltcedar is to prevent its establishment through proper land management. Monitor susceptible areas for new infestations. An integrated weed management approach has proven to be an effective control when dealing with saltcedar. Details on the back of this sheet can help to create a management plan compatible with your site ecology.

Saltcedar is designated as a "List B" species on the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. It is required to be either eradicated, contained, or suppressed depending on the local infestations. For more information, please visit www.colorado.gov/ag/csd and click on the Noxious Weed Program link. Or call the State Weed Coordinator of the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Conservation Services Division, 303-239-4100.



Key ID Points

1. Saltcedar is a tall shrub or small tree that has white to pink flowers in clusters called racimes.
2. Leaves are small and scaly.



Plant and flower photos © Kelly Uhing. Leaf photo © USDA Aphis PPQ. Infestation photo above, © Steve Dewey, Invasive.org. Tamarisk branch © Stevens County, WA Noxious Weed Control Board

Updated on:
07/2015

Management Recomendations

CULTURAL
After a saltcedar infestation is managed, revegetation is necessary in order to protect the soil resource and reduce the threat of reinvasion. Seeded grasses, willow stakes, and cottonwood cuttings can reduce the chances of saltcedar reinvading managed sites.

BIOLOGICAL
The saltcedar leaf beetle (*Diorhabda elongata*) larvae and adults feed on foliage. This causes stem dieback and potential death of the plant if defoliation is consistent. The leaf beetle should be available for limited distribution. For more information, contact the Palisade Insectary of the Colorado Department of Agriculture, 970-464-7916.

MECHANICAL
A bulldozer or prescribed fire can be used to open up large stands of saltcedar. These methods must be followed up with a herbicide treatment of the resprouts when they are 1 to 2 meters tall. Chainsaws, or loppers for smaller plants, are effective for cut-stump treatments to smaller infestations or in environmentally-sensitive management areas.

Integrated Weed Management:

Select the appropriate control method based on the size of the area and other environmental or cultural considerations. Re-seed controlled areas with desirable species to protect the soil resource and to prevent or slow saltcedar reinvasion. Follow up control efforts the same growing season and for several years afterwards.

Saltcedar

HERBICIDES: The following are recommendations for herbicides that can be applied to range and pasturelands. Rates are approximate and based on hand-held equipment with an output of 30 gallons per acre. Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. **The herbicide label is the LAW!**

Herbicide	Rate	Application Timing
Triclopyr (Garlon 4, Remedy)	20-30% solution in basal bark oil. The herbicide Pathfinder comes pre-mixed in oil and does not require dilution.	Cut-Stump Treatment: Apply to the cambial layer of the tree immediately after the cut-stump treatment and to roots above soil surface. (Summer to fall) Basal Bark Treatment: Spray till wet but not dripping; the roots above soil surface, root collar, and lower trunk to a height of 12-15 inches above ground (Summer to fall)
Glyphosate* (Rodeo - approved aquatic label)	Undiluted (100% solution) or 50% solution in basil bark oil	Cut-Stump Treatment: Apply to the cambial layer of the tree immediately after the cut-stump treatment and to roots above soil surface. Diluted solutions requires regular agitation. (Summer to fall)
Triclopyr (Garlon 4, Remedy) + Aminopyralid (Milestone)	3 qts. Garlon 4/acre + 7 oz. Milestone/acre + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant	Broadcast foliar treatment: Apply when plants are growing rapidly. (May to September)
Note: *These products are non-selective and will kill any vegetation contacted.		
Additional herbicide recommendations for other species can be found at: **goo.gl/TvWnv9**		

Common mullein

Colorado Department of Agriculture

305 Interlocken Pkwy
Broomfield, CO 80021

(303) 869-9030
weeds@state.co.us

Key ID Points

Updated on:
08/09

Identification and Management

Identification and Impacts

Common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*) is a biennial forb native to Europe and Asia. The first year of the plant it produces a basal rosette. Basal rosettes can grow to 30 inches in diameter. The leaves are light-green in color and are covered in fine soft hairs. The woolly leaves are alternate and overlapping each other and can grow over a foot long. In spring of the second year the plant bolts an erect stem, that grows 2 to 6 feet tall. The flowers of the plant are borne in terminal spikes. These terminal spikes may reach up to 20 inches in length. The flowers are sulfur-yellow in color and have five petals. The flowers range from 3/4 of an inch to 1 1/2 inches in diameter. Numerous two chambered fruits produce 100,000 to 250,000 seeds per plant. Flowering and seed production typical occur from June to August. The plant has a deep taproot along with a fiberous root system.

Habitats for Common mullein are roadsides, waste places, right-of-ways, pastures, hay fields, and abandoned lands. It prefers gravelly soil types, but can grow in other soil types. Livestock will avoid eating Common mullein, due to the hairy leaves of the plants. The plants were originally introduced as a medicinal plant. The Europeans used the flowers for tea, and the leaves for many remedies like burns and rashes. Both the Europeans and the Indians smoked the dried leaves to treat bronchitis.

The key to effective control of Common mullein is preventing the production of seeds. This plant is difficult to control due to the large amount of seed produced and seed bank left in the soil. Mechanical, cultural, biological and chemical treatments can be successful if utilized together in an integrated weed management plan. Details on the back of this sheet can help to create a management plan compatible with your site ecology.

Common mullein is designated as a "List C" species on the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. It is required to be either eradicated, contained, or suppressed depending on the local jurisdictions managing this species. For more information, visit www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds or call the State Weed Coordinator at the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Conservation Services Division, 303-239-4100.

Photos © All Photos from Kelly Uhing, Department of Agriculture; Except Bottom left Mary Ellen (Mel) Harte, United States

Verbascum thapsus

Management Recommendations

Common mullein

CULTURAL
Cultural control can be effective in assistance with other treatment options. Once the parent plants have been removed, cultivating the area with desirable grasses and forbs may outcompete Common mullein seedlings. For specific seed recommendations contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Services for seed mixes.

BIOLOGICAL
Gymnetron tetrum, a seed eating weevil, biological control has been found in eastern Washington State and is currently working on populations there. The weevil has not yet been approved for use in Colorado. Contact the Palisade Insectary of the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 970-464-7916 for more information.

MECHANICAL
Hand pull or dig when soil is moist, prior to flowering and seed production can be effective. If flowers are present, bag specimens carefully so as not to scatter any potential seeds. The key to effective control is to prevent seed production and/or spread.

Integrated Weed Management:

Preventing the establishment and the seed production of Common mullein is key to controlling populations. If the population is established, using a combination of cultural, chemical, biological and mechanical treatments can aid in suppressing population size. Since plants produce thousands of seed treatments need to occur over an extended period of time.

HERBICIDES

NOTE: The following are recommendations for herbicides that can be applied to range and pasturelands. Rates are approximate and based on equipment with an output of 30 gal/acre. Please read label for exact rates. Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. The herbicide label is the LAW!

HERBICIDE	RATE	APPLICATION TIMING
Chlorsulfuron (Telar XP)	1-3 oz/acre	Apply to rosette stages in spring or fall prior to bolting. Add non-ionic surfactant @ 0.32 oz/gal water or 1 pt/100 gal water.
2,4-D Picloram (Grazon P+D *this is a Restricted Use Pesticide*)	4 pts/acre	Apply to rosette stages in spring or fall prior to bolting. Add non-ionic surfactant @ 0.32 oz/gal water or 1 pt/100 gal water. DO NOT apply near trees/shrubs/high water table.
Picloram (Tordon 22K *this is a Restricted Use Pesticide*)	1-2 qts/acre	Apply to rosette stages to early growth stages in spring or fall. Add non-ionic surfactant @ 0.32 oz/gal water or 1 pt/100 gal water. DO NOT Apply near trees/shrubs/high water table.
Metsulfuron (Cimmaron)	1.0 oz/acre	Apply to rosette stages in spring or fall. Add non-ionic surfactant @ 0.32 oz/gal water or 1 pt/100 gal water.