




**COLORADO DIVISION OF RECLAMATION, MINING AND SAFETY**  
**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> Winter Ranch Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1985-165	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Las Animas
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> T C. Wait	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> July 25, 2012	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 08:15
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Harold A Winter	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b>	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 110c - Construction Limited Impact	

<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$18,200.00
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None
<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> July 30, 2012

**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:** other

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** 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:** 10/24/12

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Reclamation Success

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: Tamarisk (salt cedar) trees are present within or have volunteered into the permit area and are becoming established. This is a problem for failure to employ weed control methods for a 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:** The operator shall either implement the existing weed control plan, or 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: 10/24/12**

### **OBSERVATIONS**

This was a normal monitoring inspection conducted by TC Wait of DRMS. The mine operator was notified and aware of the inspection, but no representative was present for the site visit. The site is located about 2 miles east of I-25 on Hoenne Road north of Trinidad. Post-mine land use for this site is rangeland. The permit area is approximately 9.5 acres.

At the time of the inspection, the site was dry. The permit sign was posted at the entrance, and the permit boundaries were marked with t-posts. All mining activity appears to be within the marked boundaries. The access road is grown over and the site appears to be inactive. There are no stockpiles or equipment on site. The annual reporting dated 11/26/11 from the Operator indicates that the "pit has been inactive for the past 4 years". Per rule 1.13, the site indications are that a Temporary Cessation should be requested by the Operator. This is cited as a problem and requires corrective action.

The slopes to the pit appear to be a 3:1 slope or flatter. The site has not been seeded, but some native grasses and weeds are growing on the site. Tamarisk, a noxious weed species, was noted within the pit. This is cited as a problem and requires corrective action.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1. Permit sign



Photo 2. Access road

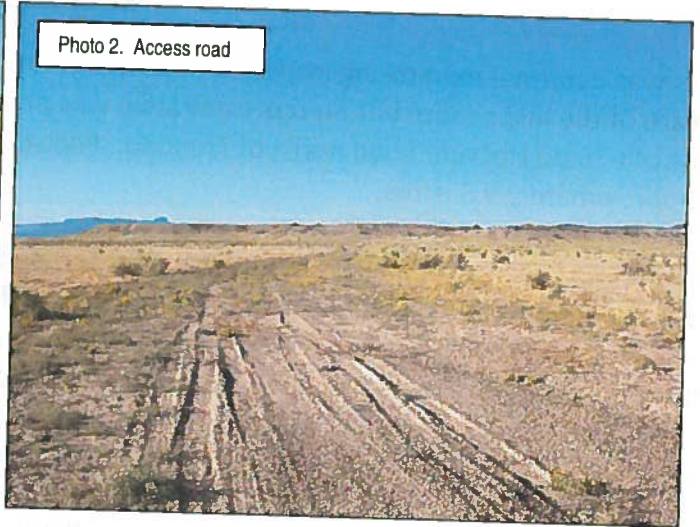


Photo 3. Pit looking west. Tamarisk growing in several areas (red)

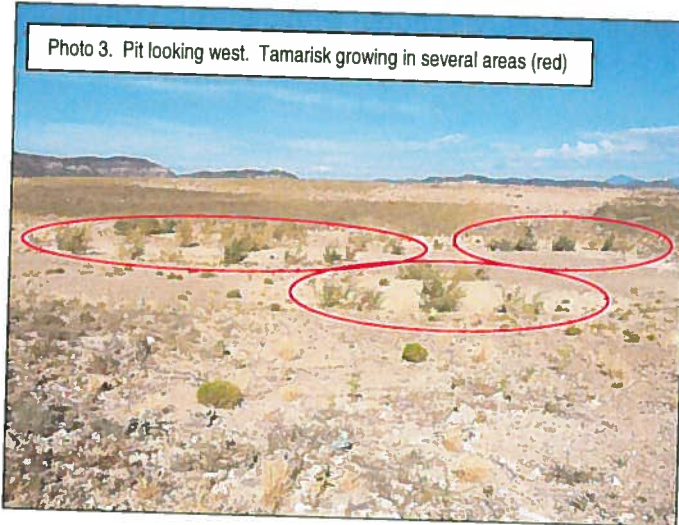


Photo 4. Pit looking northwest. Tamarisk growing in several areas (red)

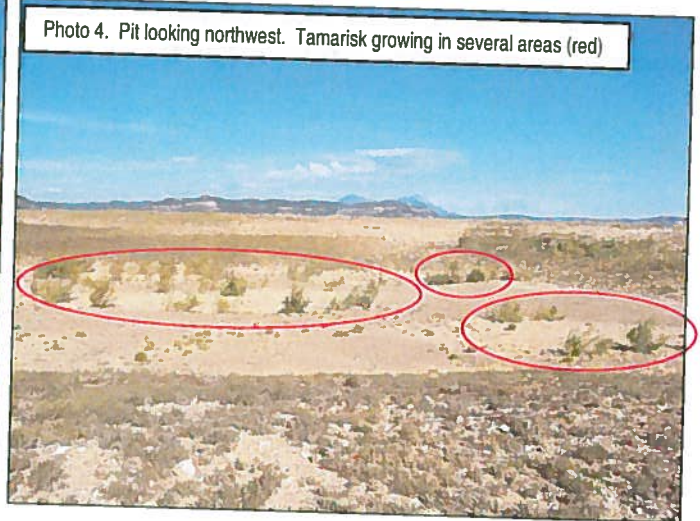


Photo 5. Northeast boundary marker

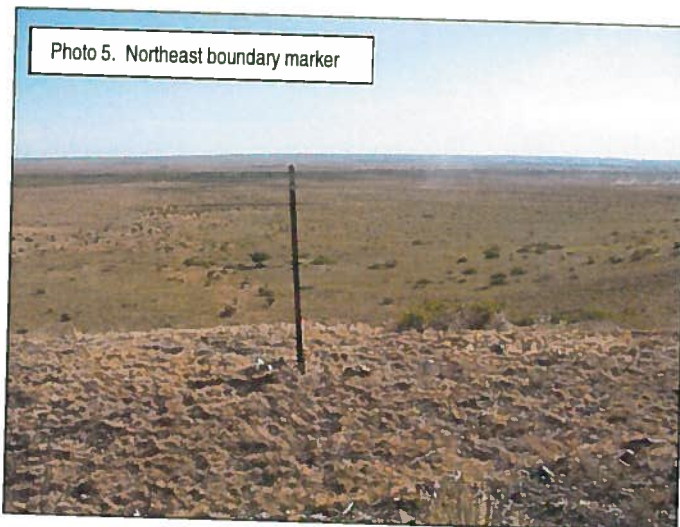
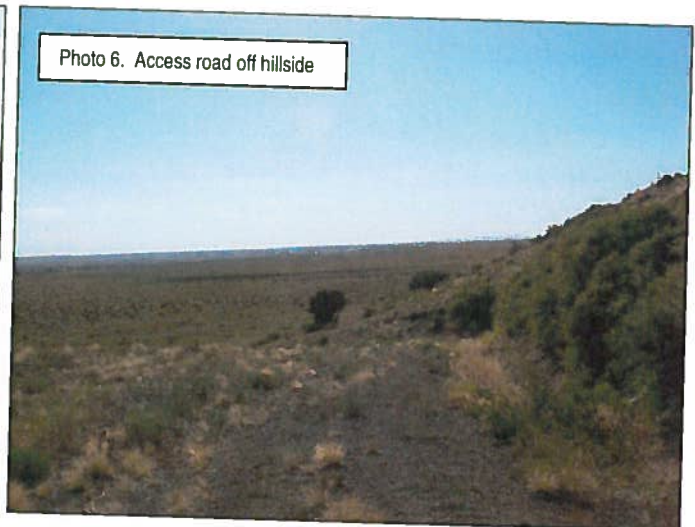


Photo 6. Access road off hillside



### 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>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>NA</u>	(SB) COMPLETE INSP---- <u>NA</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>NA</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>PB</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>NA</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>NA</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>NA</u>

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

#### Inspection Contact Address

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Enclosure

CC:

