




COLORADO DIVISION OF RECLAMATION, MINING AND SAFETY COAL PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-008 Mine Name: New Horizon Mine Operator: Western Fuels - Colorado, LLC Operator Address: Mr. Ross L Gubka P.O. Box 628 Nucla, CO 81424	County: Montrose Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: None (Aerial Inspection)
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) This report was issued electronically from the Division's Durango Field Office.	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: April 19, 2013 Inspection Start Time: 11:50 Inspection End Date: April 19, 2013 Inspection End Time: 11:52	Inspection Type: Aerial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear
Joint Inspection Agency: None	Joint Inspection Contacts:
Post Inspection Agency: None	Post Inspection Contacts:
Inspector(s): Marcia L. Talvitie, P.E.	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: 24 April 2013

Inspection Topic SummaryNOTE: **Y**=Inspected**N**=Not Inspected**R**=Comments Noted**V**=Violation Issued**NA**=Not Applicable**N** - Air Resource Protection**Y** - Roads**N** - Availability of Records**N** - Reclamation Success**R** - Backfill & Grading**R** - Revegetation**NA** - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste**NA** - Subsidence**R** - Explosives**Y** - Slides and Other Damage**N** - Fish & Wildlife**R** - Support Facilities On-site**R** - Hydrologic Balance**N** - Signs and Markers**R** - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan**NA** - Support Facilities Not On-site**N** - Other**N** - Special Categories Of Mining**NA** - Processing Waste**R** - Topsoil**COMMENTS**

An aerial inspection of the New Horizon Mine was conducted by the Division on Friday, April 19, 2013. Photographs were taken by Harry Ranney and analyzed by Marcia Talvitie. Skies were clear.

Photographs included with this report begin at the southeastern corner of the permit area and proceed west-northwest. This arrangement generally follows the sequence of the mining operations that have taken place since 1993.

BACKFILL and GRADING – Rule 4.14

Contemporaneous Reclamation 4.14.1; Approximate Original Contour 4.14.2; Highwall Elimination 4.14.1(2)(f); Steep Slopes 4.14.2, 4.27; Handling of Acid and Toxic Materials 4.14.3; Stabilization of Rills and Gullies 4.14.6:

- Backfilling of the final pit is nearly complete on the Morgan property, and there is still material remaining in the Bench 1 “OB1” stockpile.
- A bulldozer was grading Bench 2 spoil east of (behind) the active pit on WFC’s property.
- The boxcut spoil pile is located immediately southwest of the mine’s surface facilities. It does not appear that any additional material has recently been taken from this pile for use in backfill operations.

EXPLOSIVES – Rule 4.08

Distance Prohibitions 4.08.4; Warnings 4.08.4; Control of Adverse Effects 4.08.4:

- The drill rig, which is operated by a contractor to the mine, appeared to be drilling a single row of holes along the face of the highwall on the WFC property.

HYDROLOGIC BALANCE - Rule 4.05

Drainage Control 4.05.1, 4.05.2, 4.05.3; Siltation Structures 4.05.5, 4.05.6; Discharge Structures 4.05.7, 4.05.10; Diversions 4.05.4; Effluent Limits 4.05.2; Ground Water Monitoring 4.05.13;

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Surface Water Monitoring 4.05.13; Drainage – Acid and Toxic Materials 4.05.8; Impoundments 4.05.6, 4.05.9; Stream Buffer Zones 4.05.18:

- During the March inspection, Ross Gubka said that water from the San Miguel River was scheduled to be diverted into the CCC Ditch on April 15, 2013.
- It did not appear that any reclaimed areas within the permit were being irrigated at the time of the inspection.
- Ponds are identified in blue text in the attached photos.
- Ponds 007, 008 and 013 were each impounding water at the time of the inspection.
- Ponds 009, 011, 012 and 015 were effectively dry.
- The reclaimed Krill and San Miguel drainages were clearly visible.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

- The mine's shovel was parked and not in use at the time of the inspection, as were the three haul trucks, a motor grader, and two bulldozers.
- Active operations are nearing the far western end of the permit area, and mining at New Horizon is nearly complete. (In the attached photos, the permit boundary is shown in red.)
- Two small coal stockpiles had been built on the WFC property, east of the pit.

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15

Vegetative Cover; Timing:

- Although it did not appear that irrigation of the reclaimed lands (or the irrigated pasture reference area) had commenced for the season, those areas which have been irrigated previously were visibly greening-up, compared with the dryland pasture reclamation.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

- The mine's support facilities consist of offices, material and equipment storage, a heavy equipment shop, and fuel storage. All appears to be in order at the site.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

Removal 4.06.2; Substitute Materials 4.06.4(4); Storage and Protection 4.06.3; Redistribution 4.06.4:

- Topsoil stockpiles are scattered throughout the permit area, and are identified in green in the attached photographs.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

No enforcement actions were issued as a result of this inspection, and none are pending.



Photo 1 – Facilities Area

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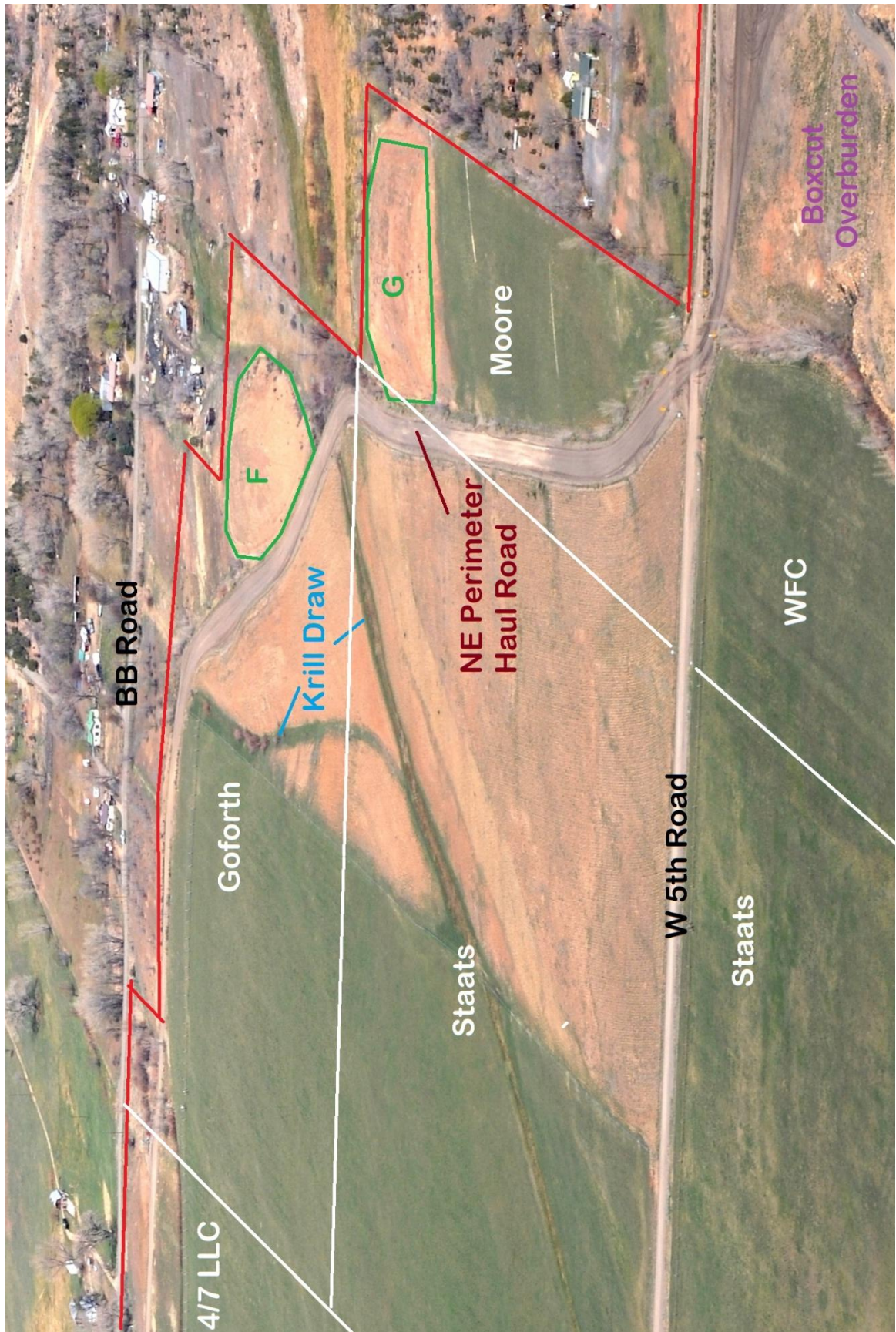


Photo 2 – NE corner of permit area

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Photo 3 – East-Central area of permit, including Pond 007

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Photo 4 – Reclaimed lands east and west of 2700 Road

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Photo 5 – Lands immediately west of 2700 Road, with topsoil stockpiles

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Photo 6 – Former Lloyd property and central part of Morgan

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Photo 7 – Western third of permit area, looking NW

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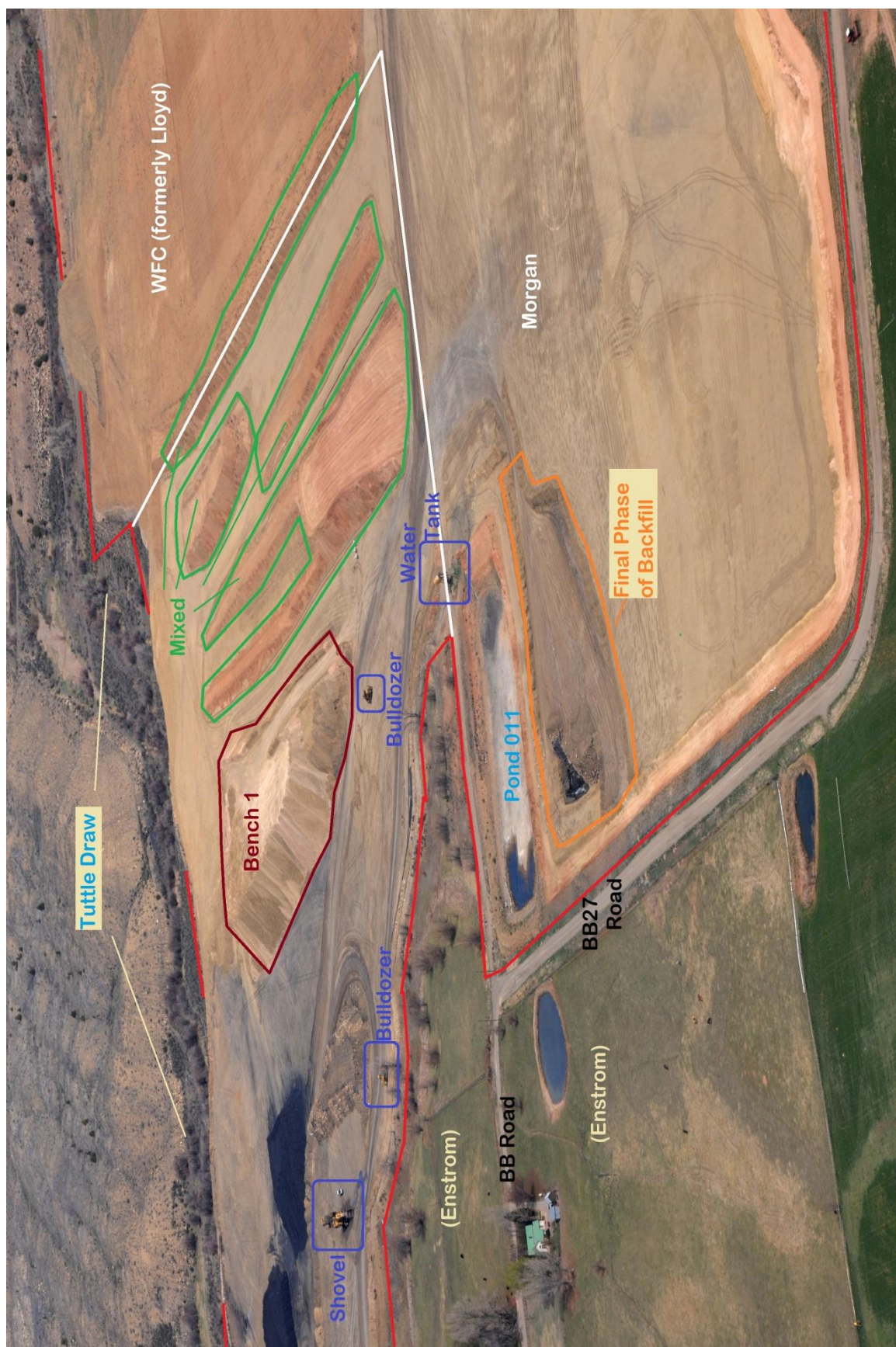


Photo 8 – West end of Morgan; stockpiles on WFC

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Photo 9 – Western end of Morgan property, looking East

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Photo 10 – Active operations on WFC property, looking East

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Photo 11 – North-facing slope on Benson-East and former Lloyd, looking East



Photo 12 – Overview, looking NE; other mining areas in background

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