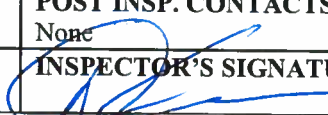




**COLORADO DIVISION OF RECLAMATION, MINING AND SAFETY**  
**MINERALS PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT**  
**PHONE: (303) 866-3567**

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> Willow Creek Mine	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1983-011	<b>MINERAL:</b> Gold	<b>COUNTY:</b> Lake
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Dustin M. Czapla	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> May 21, 2013	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 11:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Mt. Elbert Mining Co., L.L.C.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE(S):</b> Angela Bellantoni, J.J. Johnson, Ben Langenfeld	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112 - Hard Rock Regular Operation	

<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$42,467.00
<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> May 31, 2013

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

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

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted as part of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety's (Division) normal monitoring program. Angela Bellantoni (Environmental Alternatives, Inc.), J.J. Johnson (Mt. Elbert Mining Co.) and Ben Langenfeld (Greg Lewicki and Associates), representing the Operator, were present during this inspection. Photographs are included with this report in order to illustrate some of the conditions observed.

The Willow Creek Mine is located approximately 9.6 miles southwest of Leadville and accessed from CR24. The site is a 112 operation that includes a total of 43.38 permitted acres. The Division currently holds a financial warranty amount of \$42,467.00 for this site.

Adequate mine identification signage was noted at the entrance to the site.

The disturbed area has not increased since the Division's last inspection.

General site clean-up has continued since issuance of the 112 permit, improving the overall appearance of the site. The operator anticipates that more of the dilapidated equipment and debris stored on site will be removed this operating season. Most of the old processing equipment, which was located just west of the current processing area, has been removed.

Reclamation of the USFS slope, on the west side of the permit area, appears that it will be successful. The slope appears stable and vegetation is becoming established. Noxious weeds were not noted on the slope. A flat area at the base of the slope, less than approximately 0.25 acres that was determined to be USFS property, remains to be reclaimed.

An unreclaimed auger hole was located northeast of the currently disturbed area, just beyond the stormwater berm at approximately 39.124455°, -106.366016°. The hole was dry and was estimated to be around twenty feet deep. The hole shall be backfilled immediately.

No problems or violations were noted during this inspection.

Responses to this inspection report should be directed to Dustin Czapla at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Grand Junction Field Office, 101 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Room 301, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501, phone number (970) 243-6299.

## PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1: View from the north end of the USFS slope, facing southwest.



Figure 2: View from the north end of the USFS slope, facing southeast.



Figure 3: View from the north end of the USFS slope, facing east.



Figure 4: View from the north end of the USFS slope, facing northeast.



Figure 5: View from the south side of the processing area, facing north.



Figure 6: View from the south side of the processing area, facing north.



Figure 7: Reclaimed USFS slope.



Figure 8: Reclaimed USFS slope.



Figure 9: Reclaimed USFS slope.



Figure 10: Reclaimed USFS slope.



Figure 11: Unreclaimed auger hole located just beyond the stormwater berm on the northeast side of the disturbed area.

**Inspection Contact Address**

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