




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



**PERMIT INFORMATION**

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1981-010 <b>Mine Name:</b> Trapper Mine <b>Operator:</b> Trapper Mining, Inc. <b>Operator Address:</b> Mr. Forrest V Luke P.O. Box 187 Craig, CO 81626	<b>County:</b> Moffat <b>Operation Type:</b> Surface <b>Permit Status:</b> Active <b>Ownership:</b> Federal
	<b>Operator Representative Present:</b>  Graham Roberts
<b>Operator Representative Signature:</b> (Field Issuance Only)	

**INSPECTION INFORMATION**

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> June 5, 2013 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 07:30 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> June 5, 2013 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 16:30	<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Partial Inspection <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Normal I&E Program <b>Weather:</b> Clear
<b>Joint Inspection Agency:</b>  None	<b>Joint Inspection Contacts:</b>
<b>Post Inspection Agency:</b>  None	<b>Post Inspection Contacts:</b>
<b>Inspector(s):</b>  Jared L. Ebert  Carla V. Demasters	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  <b>Signature Date:</b>  June 10, 2013

**Inspection Topic Summary**

NOTE: Y=Inspected N=Not Inspected R=Comments Noted V=Violation Issued NA=Not Applicable

Y - Air Resource Protection

N - Availability of Records

R - Backfill &amp; Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

R - Explosives

Y - Fish &amp; Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

NA - Other

NA - Processing Waste

R - Roads

N - Reclamation Success

R - Revegetation

NA - Subsidence

R - Slides and Other Damage

N - Support Facilities On-site

Y - Signs and Markers

NA - Support Facilities Not On-site

NA - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Topsoil

**COMMENTS**

This was a partial inspection of the Trapper Mine; C-1981-010 operated by Trapper Mining, Inc. (TMI). I, Jared Ebert of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) conducted the inspection. Mrs. Carla DeMasters with the Division also accompanied me during the inspection. Mr. Graham Roberts with TMI accompanied us into the field. The weather was clear and sunny.

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:

Large rills were observed on the north side of the top bench of the Horse Gulch Fill. These rills will need to be repaired.

EXPLOSIVES – Rule 4.08; Distance Prohibitions 4.08.4; Warnings 4.08.4; Control of Adverse Effects 4.08.4:

The Division observed a parting shot in the active mine area. The Operator appeared to have closed off all of the roads leading into the blast area and the approved signals were properly implemented.

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; 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:

No Name #5R pond was holding water and discharging. The sediment level marker was under water. The embankment was stable and vegetated. The primary and emergency spillway was clear and functional.

Ute Pond was holding water but was not discharging. The embankment was stable and vegetated and the primary and emergency spillway was clear and functional.

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Coyote Pond was holding water but was not discharging. The embankment was stable and vegetated and the primary and emergency spillway was clear and functional.

West Pyeatt #2 pond was not holding water and was not discharging. The primary and emergency spillway was clear and functional. The embankment was stable and vegetated.

Middle Pyeatt #3 pond was dry and was not discharging. The embankment was stable and vegetated. The primary and emergency spillway was clear and functional.

East Pyeatt #3 Pond was holding water and discharging. The embankment was stable and vegetated. The primary and emergency spillway was clear and functional. Sediment was observed up to the 60% capacity marker in place and should be cleaned out.

Sediment was also observed up to the 60% level marker in the East Pyeatt #1 pond. This pond will also need to be cleaned out.

Oak #2 pond was holding water but was not discharging. The sediment marker was in place and the capacity appears adequate at this time. The primary and emergency spillway was clear and functional.

Middle Flume #1 pond was holding water but was not discharging. The embankment was stable and vegetated and the primary and emergency spillway was clear and functional.

East Middle Flume #1 pond was dry and the embankment was stable and vegetated. The primary and emergency spillway was clear and functional.

East A Pit was holding water but the Operator was not actively pumping water from the pit at the time of the inspection.

#### GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

The Molly Brown dragline was working in the L Pit, the Baby Doe dragline was working in the K-Strike Pit and the Queen Anne dragline was not operating at the time of the inspection.

Trapper has hired a contractor to crush Scoria rock to be used on the mine roads.

Backfilling is occurring behind the active mine area.

ROADS – Rule 4.03; Construction 4.03.1(3)/4.03.2(3), Drainage 4.03.1(4)/4.03.2(4), Surfacing and Maintenance 4.03.1(5) and (6)/4.03.2(5) and (6), Reclamation 4.03.1(7)/4.03.2(7):

The Life of Mine Road was well maintained and watered.

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## REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15; Vegetative Cover; Timing:

The Division walked several reclaimed parcels for a visual assessment of the established vegetation and stability of the areas.

## Parcel A-C-04:

Perennial grass development on A-C-04 is good, and is mostly dominated by the cool season grass sheep fescue. Other perennial cool season grasses noted included great basin wildrye, western wheatgrass, pubescent wheatgrass and the introduced species bulbous bluegrass. Perennial forbs noted include arrowleaf balsamroot and cicer milkvetch. Annual/biennial forbs noted included tumble mustard and alyssum. Shrub presence was minimal in this area. A few rosettes of the Colorado List B noxious weeds Canada thistle and musk thistle were also noted. A portion of the western A-C-04 parcel had been recently disturbed by some truck traffic. This area consisted of mostly bare soil with annual/biennial forbs including pennycress, tumble mustard, alyssum, blue mustard as well as cheatgrass.

## Parcel A-C-05:

Development of species diversity along the A-C-05 parcel was very good. Many native species were noted which had likely come in from the surrounding native areas including a native thistle (probably yellowspine thistle, not to be confused with the noxious weed yellow star-thistle), globemallow and broom snakeweed. Seeded forbs and perennial grass species, although still establishing in this area, also had high diversity, and included the perennial cool season grasses sheep fescue, great basin wildrye, beardless bluebunch wheatgrass and green needlegrass. Seeded perennial forbs noted included Lewis flax, small burnet and western yarrow. Patches of the Colorado List B noxious weed; whitetop were also noted. Shrubs, mostly big sagebrush, were establishing well in several areas, and Mr. Roberts pointed out the importance of snow drift accumulation areas in the natural re-establishment of big sagebrush in this area. Annual/biennial forbs were fairly robust on this parcel; the primary species observed were alyssum, tumble mustard and pennycress.

## Parcel E-AB-08:

A slump event had disturbed about 30% of this parcel in the past, which has now been regraded. The undisturbed portion of this parcel had excellent development of perennial grasses including great basin wildrye, pubescent wheatgrass, green needlegrass and big bluegrass. Perennial forbs were also well developed and included Lewis flax, western yarrow and the native forbs dragonhead mint and twogrooved milkvetch. Big sagebrush was also establishing well.

## Parcel F-A-12:

The eastern most portion of Parcel F-A-12 was walked. Vegetation on this area was patchy and sparse. Areas seen were dominated by annual/biennial forbs including pennycress, Russian thistle, two-lobed speedwell and kochia. Perennial grass and forb development was minimal on this recently seeded site. Perennial grass species noted included western wheatgrass, thickspike wheatgrass, great basin wildrye, mountain brome and Kentucky bluegrass. Perennial forb species noted included, Lewis flax, alfalfa and small burnet.

## Parcel F-A-11:

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Vegetation on F-A-11 was very similar to F-A-12, although slightly more developed. Areas seen were dominated by annual/biennial forbs including pennycress, Russian thistle, two-lobed speedwell and kochia. Patches of more well developed perennial grasses and forbs included the species listed for FA-12.

Shrub Clump SC-F-10B:

Development of perennial grasses and forbs was excellent in this Shrub Clump. In the areas seen, die off of transplanted shrubs appeared to have affected all but the mountain snowberry shrubs and a few chokecherries, which were already leafed out.

Parcel F-AB-09:

Revegetation was in excellent condition at F-AB-09 – which had a diverse mix of perennial forbs (including Lewis flax (very abundant), western yarrow, alfalfa and small burnet) and cool season perennial grasses (including mountain brome, Kentucky bluegrass and Idaho fescue). Stands of big sagebrush were also developing well.

Parcel F-A-08:

Revegetation was also in excellent condition at F-AB-08 – which had a diverse mix of perennial forbs (including curly dock, western yarrow and arrowleaf balsamroot) and cool season perennial grasses (including great basin wildrye, green needlegrass, beardless bluebunch wheatgrass, Kentucky bluegrass and Idaho fescue). Stands of big sagebrush were also developing well. Patches of cheatgrass and the Colorado List B noxious weed whitetop were noted.

SLIDES and DAMAGE - Rule 4.12:

Several years ago a slump occurred in a reclaimed area above D Pit. A portion of the slump occurred in Parcel E-AB-08. Trapper regraded this slump area last fall. Minor settling cracks were observed in portions of the regraded scarp area.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06; Removal 4.06.2; Substitute Materials 4.06.4(4); Storage and Protection 4.06.3; Redistribution 4.06.4:

Vegetation on the A77-1 Topsoil Pile was dominated by cheatgrass with some patches of perennial cool season grasses. Rule 4.06.3(2)(a)(i) requires topsoil stockpiles to be protected with an effective cover of *non-noxious*, quick-growing annual and perennial plants. Cheatgrass is a list C noxious-weed on the State noxious weed list. Trapper will need to conduct weed control measures on this pile and interseed this pile with the approved seed mixture for stabilization of temporary disturbed areas.

Topsoil was recently added to pile G2-06. The pile was marked and appeared stable.

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**



Parcel A-C-04



Shrub clump SC-F-10B



Parcel E-AB-08; Slump Area above D Pit.  
Recent settling cracks.



Parcel F-AB-09.



North end of the top bench of the Horse  
Gulch fill. Large rill.

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