

Interim Reclamation and Stormwater Inspection

August 3 and 7, 2023

Operator: UPLAND EXPLORATION LLC- #10701

Location ID: 456651

Inspection Document #: 697504785

Weld County, CO

SESE Section 18 T11N R64W

Chris Binschus
Reclamation Specialist, COGCC



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Department of Natural Resources

Inspection Photos
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Photo 1. Photo taken from a portion of the access road, illustrating Russian thistle growth.



Photo 2. Photo taken from a portion of the access road, illustrating Russian thistle growth along the cut slope.

Red arrows point to areas that appear to be sprayed with herbicide; however, the rest of the cut slope does not appear to be treated.



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Photo 3. Photo taken from a portion of the access road, illustrating continued inconsistent herbicide applications.

Red polygon illustrates an area that appears to be sprayed with herbicide; however, above the red polygon is Russian thistle growth. Reference vegetation is in the background.

Note- topsoil is stored along the windrowed ditch area.



Photo 4. Photo taken from another portion of the access road, illustrating Russian thistle growth along the cut slope.

Red arrows point to areas that appear to be sprayed with herbicide; however, most of the entire area in the foreground (dark green vegetation) is that of Russian thistle. Reference vegetation is in the background.

Note- topsoil is stored along the windrowed ditch area.



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Photo 5. Photo taken from the topsoil stockpile, facing West. Photo illustrates the Operator has attempted to reseed the stockpile. There appeared to be some desirable germination but not comparable to the South Little Lady stockpile.

Staff will make a future evaluation on whether the reseeded attempt was successful.



Photo 6. Close up photo illustrating some of the desirable germination.



Photo 7. Photo taken from a portion of the access road, illustrating weed management and stormwater erosion. Weed growth is observed beyond the red line; however, weeds appear to be sprayed with herbicide in the foreground.

Rill erosion is turning into gully erosion along a section of the ditch which lacks any type of stormwater BMP.



Photo 8. Photo taken from the previous photo location, facing the opposite direction. Again, photo illustrates weed management issues and stormwater erosion issues.

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Photo 9. Photo illustrates sediment accumulation at the bottom of the slope from unstabilized ditch areas along the access road previously shown in Photos 7-8.

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Photo 11 location



Photo 10. Photo taken from a portion of the access road, illustrating stormwater management issues. The check dam BMP is not in proper functioning condition and has not been installed per good engineering practices. Sediment and gravel are eroding off the lease road. Insufficient BMPs are leading to increased erosion and lease road damage.



Photo 11. Photo illustrating sediment and gravel eroding off the lease road.



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Photo 12. Photo illustrates another check dam BMP which is not in proper functioning condition and an example of increased erosion undercutting the bank of the lease road.

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Photo 13. Photo illustrates the Operator imported new road base (lighter color) but stopped around the 2 mile marker. When Staff traveled on this road back on July 14th, dust was minimized along the new import but dust increased once on the darker road base sections. Operator has not completed dust mitigation work.

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Photo 14. Photo illustrates a section of the ditch area that the Operator disturbed during snow removal. Operator attempted to correct the disturbed area by increasing the ditch side slopes by scrapping with a motor grader, then tried to seed directly into the disturbed area. Operator scrapped off much of the topsoil with the motor grader and topsoil is mixed with road base.



Photo 15. Photo illustrates another section which is off the lease road that the Operator disturbed during snow removal. In this example, Operator scrapped off the topsoil from the area and has failed to reclaim sections like these throughout the access road. These sections are being left unstabilized, causing erosion and weed establishment is occurring along these sections.

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Photo 16. Photo taken east of Geary Creek, facing East. Photo illustrates an improperly installed straw wattle that appears to be for a section of cut slope along the access road. Operator still has not installed sufficient BMPs to minimize erosion into Geary Creek.



Photo 17. Photo taken east of Geary Creek, facing South. Photo illustrates a check dam BMP that is not in proper functioning condition and Operator still has not installed sufficient BMPs to minimize erosion into Geary Creek. This BMP has remains in the same configuration since the previous inspection in June.

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Photo 18. Photo taken east of Geary Creek, facing Southeast. Photo illustrates a section of cut slope that was disturbed during snow removal. Operator has failed to reclaim and stabilize the cut slope that continues to erode into Geary Creek.

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Photo 19. Photo taken along the southern location, facing North. Photo illustrates erosion repairs are needed.

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Photo 20. Photo taken along the southern location, facing North. Photo illustrates the BMP has not been properly installed (has not been trenched or proper overlap) and stormwater is undermining the BMP.