

# Interim Reclamation and Stormwater Inspection

February 10, 2023

Operator: UPLAND EXPLORATION LLC- #10701

Location ID: 456651

Inspection Document #: 697504498

Weld County, CO

SESE Section 18 T11N R64W

Chris Binschus  
Reclamation Specialist, COGCC



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Oil & Gas Conservation  
Commission

Department of Natural Resources

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**Photo 1.** Photo illustrates the approximate access road and location in relation to Pawnee National Grassland (green color), State Land Board (purple) and everything else is private land. Access road and location encompass the following sections of 11N 64W: 7, 8, 9, 10, 18.

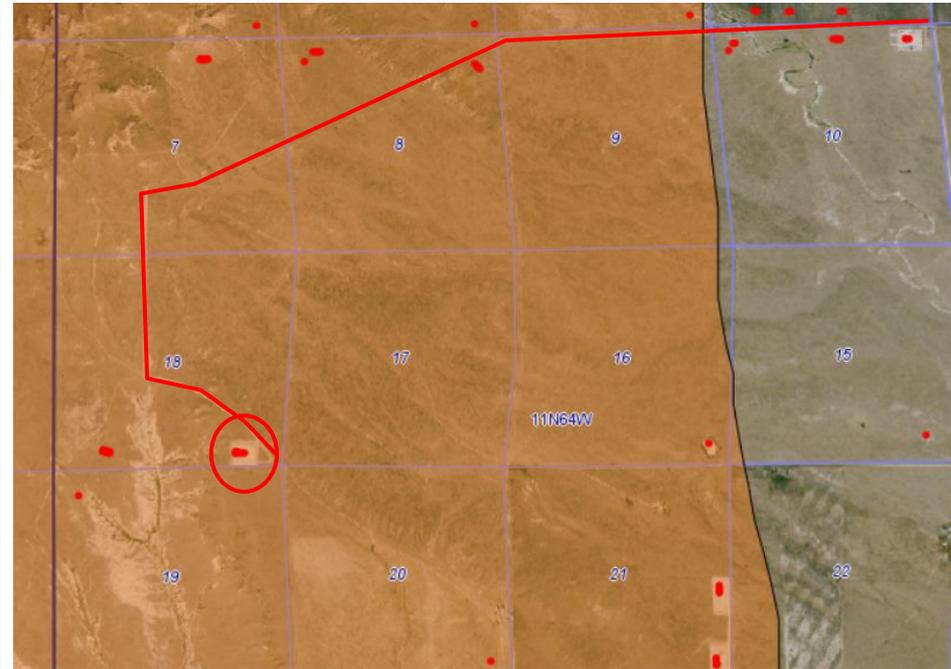
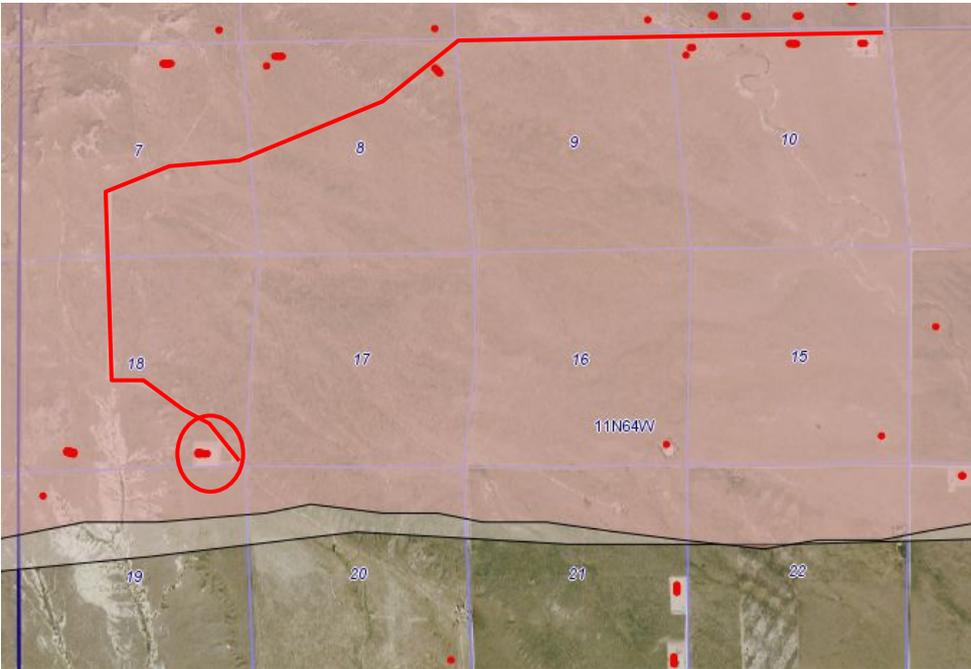


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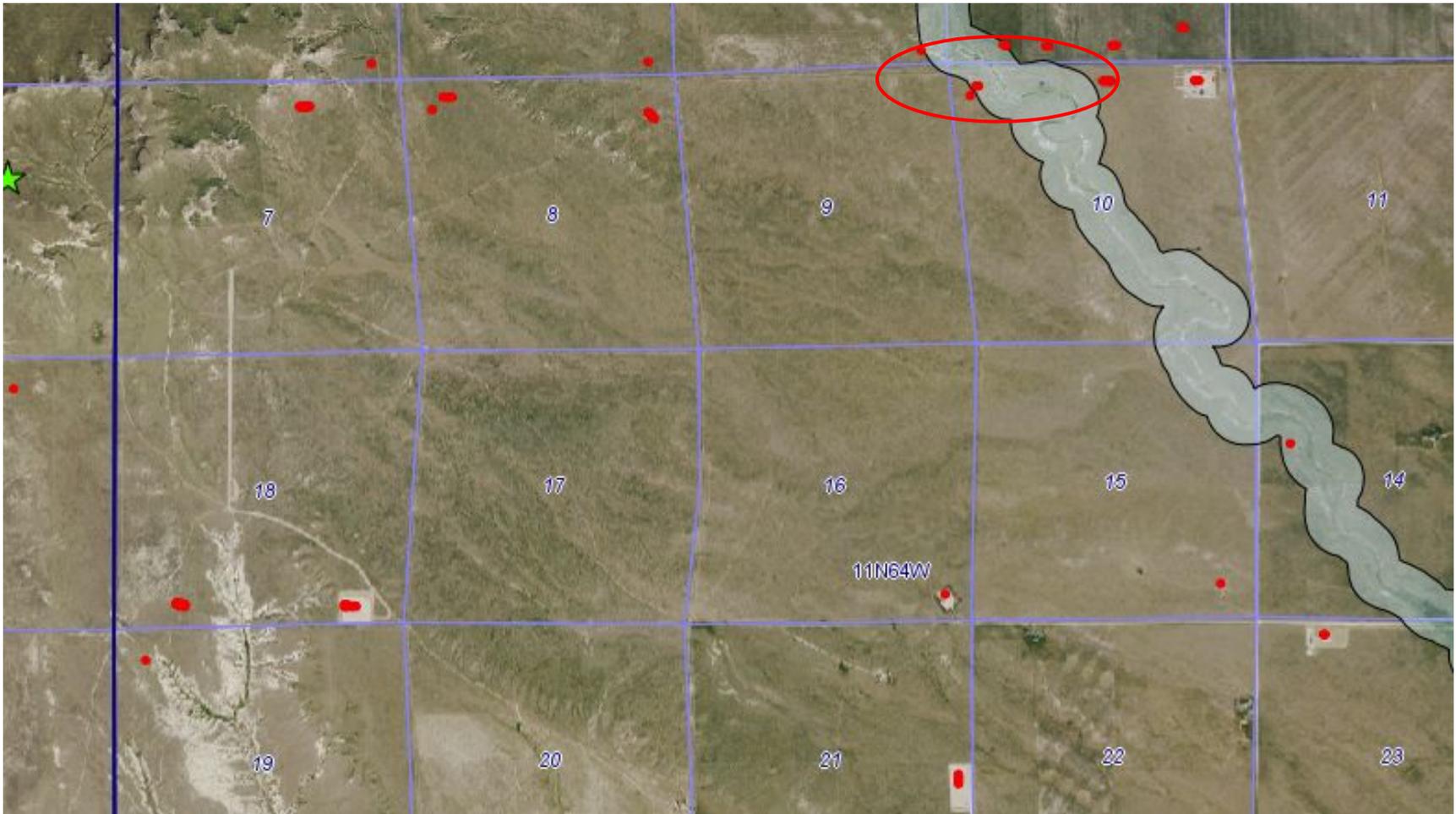
**Photo 2.** Photo taken from the entrance of location off CR57, facing West. Photo illustrates Operator has failed to restrict access by unauthorized persons, as the automated gates are open and cannot be closed due to automated issues.

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**Photo 3.** Photo illustrates the access road and location are within the following High Priority Habitat: Mule Deer Severe Winter Range and Mule Deer Winter Concentration area (left image), and Pronghorn Winter Concentration area (right image).

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**Photo 4.** Photo illustrates a portion of the access road crosses a High Priority Habitat (Aquatic Native Species Conservation Waters) at Geary Creek. Operator has failed to prevent sediment discharge into Geary Creek- refer to the photos 5-8.

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**Photo 5.** Photo taken from the intersection of the access road and Geary Creek, facing East. Photo illustrates the access road is not sufficiently stabilized which is contributing to sediment discharge into Geary Creek.



**Photo 6.** Photo taken from Geary Creek, facing South. Photo illustrates sediment discharge into Geary Creek.



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**Photo 7.** Photo taken from intersection of the access road and Geary Creek, facing South. Photo illustrates sediment discharge into Geary Creek without stormwater BMPs.



**Photo 8.** Photo taken from Geary Creek, facing North. See comments under Photo 7.



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**Photo 9.** Photo taken from a portion of the access road, facing North. Photo illustrates the cattle guard is not in proper functioning condition to exclude cattle.



**Photo 10.** Photo taken from a portion of the access road, facing East. Photo illustrates Operator has conducted snow removal on the access road and is creating additional disturbances by plowing road base onto reference areas.



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**Photo 11.** Photo taken from a portion of the access road, facing East. Photo illustrates Operator has conducted snow removal on the access road and is creating additional disturbances by plowing off of the lease road onto private land. Red arrows indicate some of the additional disturbances.



**Photo 12.** Photo taken from a portion of the access road, facing East. See comments under Photo 8.

Note- this photo is demonstrating that the access road is now nearly twice the width of the original access road due to poor road maintenance. The red-dashed lines indicate the approximate size of the original access road before snow removal disturbances.



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**Photo 13.** Photo taken from a portion of the access road, facing North. Photo illustrates the roadside ditch, where topsoil is being stored, consisting of weedy, annual vegetation which can spread onto adjacent reference areas if not properly managed.



**Photo 14.** Photo taken from a portion of the access road, facing West. See comments under Photo 13.



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**Photo 15.** Drone aerial imagery illustrates stained soil throughout the location which has not been properly disposed of. Larger spills/releases were observed near frac tanks- refer to Photos 16-18. Red arrows indicate some of the stained soil and spills.





**Photo 16.** Zoomed in drone aerial imagery illustrates a larger spill/release near a frac tank. The blue lines indicate an approximate length of 37 feet. COGCC staff would consider this a reportable spill.

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**Photo 17.** Photo taken from a frac tank on location. Photo illustrates frac tank is leaking oily waste. Oily waste appears to be underneath the frac tank.



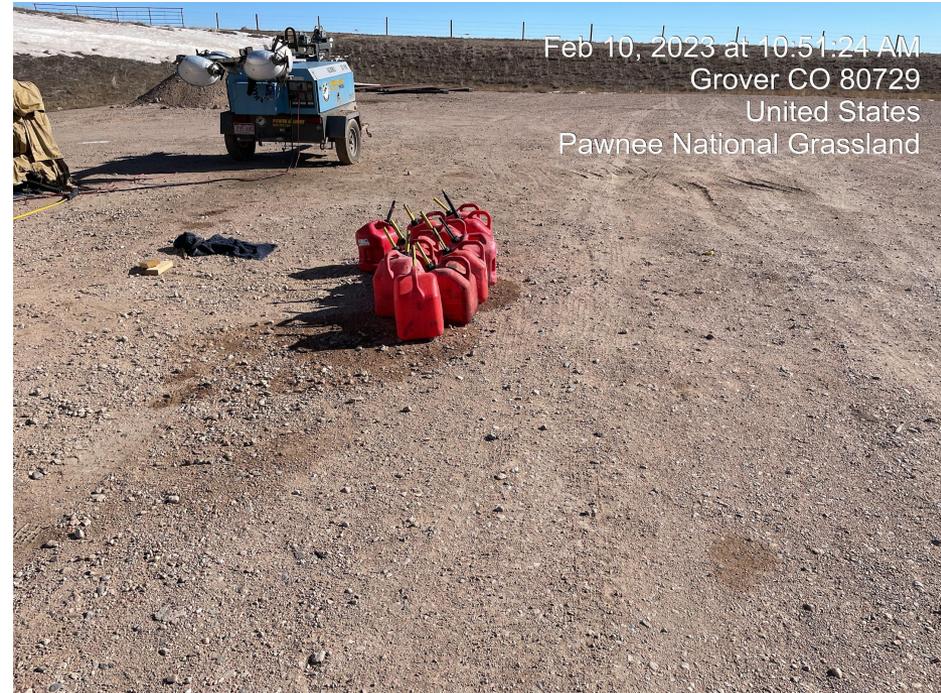
**Photo 18.** Close up photo of leaking frac tank from the previous photo.



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**Photo 19.** Photo taken from the northeastern location. Photo illustrates an excavation approximately 3'x 8' in size with an unknown depth but ~5-6' deep, which would be considered a pit. The western sidewall of the excavation had observed soil staining, as well as the surface adjacent to the excavation. Also, there is no wildlife fencing or netting.



**Photo 20.** Photo taken from the northeastern location, facing East. Photo illustrates leaky gasoline. Operator does not have proper material handling and spill prevention.



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Feb 10, 2023 at 10:32:02 AM  
Grover CO 80729  
United States  
Pawnee National Grassland



**Photo 21.** Photo taken from the northwestern location, facing East. Photo illustrates the topsoil stockpile which is bare or has weedy, annual vegetation.

Feb 10, 2023 at 11:08:31 AM  
Grover CO 80729  
United States  
Pawnee National Grassland



**Photo 22.** Photo taken east and off of location, facing East. Photo illustrates trash has blown off location and Operator has not maintained good housekeeping. Trash was observed within the fenceline throughout sections of fencing off location.



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Feb 10, 2023 at 10:23:06 AM



**Photo 23.** Photo taken from the southeastern location, facing West. Photo illustrates a porta-john laying on its side/knocked over. BMPs to prevent or contain a spill are missing or insufficient at the porta-john.



**Photo 24.** Photo taken from Photo 9, facing South. Photo illustrates vehicle traffic off the lease road.



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