

Garfield County Revegetation Guidelines from the Garfield County Noxious Weed Management Plan

4.06 Revegetation and Rehabilitation

A crucial part of any weed management plan is the reintroduction of site-appropriate vegetation.

- A. Establishing a desirable plant community after noxious weeds have been removed from a highly infested area requires timely cultivation and reseeded.
- B. Since the seeds from noxious weeds may lay dormant for many years, removing all visible signs of the noxious weeds does not ensure against their return.
- C. Revegetation can help prevent the germination of weed seeds. It is important to inspect the land regularly to identify and treat small, new infestations.
- D. For proper revegetation, managed irrigation of dry areas and reseeded are essential to establish desirable communities.
- E. Native plants are most appropriate when the goal is restoration of native habitat.
- F. Weed-free seeds of native Colorado grasses, wildflowers or plant species appropriate to the site may be purchased, but the best source for seeds is from native species that grow in the immediate vicinity of the infestation. They will be best adapted to local conditions and will help maintain local integrity and genetic viability.
- G. Using native plants or seeds to revegetate disturbed land reduces degradation of native ecosystems, reduces the need for herbicides and conserves water resources.
- H. Native plants provide broad biological diversity and help keep the Colorado landscape from being irrevocably altered by non-native species.
- I. When the goal is reclamation – reseeded for quick ground cover establishment or erosion control – it may be appropriate to use introduced, non-aggressive grasses and forbs.
- J. Contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service or Colorado State University Extension for specific seeding recommendations. General seeding recommendations:
 - a) Study all vegetation in the area and surrounding areas.
 - b) Preserve plant species native to Colorado.
 - c) Test the soil for pH balance.
 - d) Retain and utilize as much on-site topsoil as possible.
 - e) Select a predominant species that is appropriate to the site. Then choose a few complementary species to provide a balanced plant community.
 - f) Choose plants that are healthy, vigorous and pest-free.
 - g) Use weed-free, non-hybrid seeds.
 - h) Avoid commercial seed packets containing exotic plant species.
 - i) Confirm viability and purity of seed through seed testing from an accredited seed testing lab.

- j) When choosing seeding rates, consider the guidelines provided by the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Fact sheets are available for individual species at the USDA-NRCS Plants Database website:

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/factSheet>.

4.07 Requirements – Soil Plan, Revegetation Plan and Security (Adopted May 7,

2001) At the discretion of the BOCC, various land use change permits issued by the County may require a submittal of a Reclamation, Revegetation and Soil Management Plan. The permits issued by the Community Development Department may require a

Reclamation, Revegetation and Soil Management Plan, and may include but not limited to: Major Grading Permits, Subdivision Improvement Agreements, Pipeline Development Plans and Special Use Permits.

A. Soil Plan to include:

1. Provisions for salvaging on-site topsoil.
2. Timetable for eliminating topsoil and aggregate piles.
3. Provision for soil cover if any disturbances or stockpiles that sit exposed for a period of 90 days or more.

B. Revegetation Plan to include:

1. Plant material list and seed mix. Specifically, scientific names and common names and the application rate in terms of Pure Live Seed per acre.
2. Planting schedule which includes timing, methods, mulching and provisions for watering, if applicable.
3. A map of the impacted area with a calculation of the surface area of disturbance in acres of the disturbed area, at preliminary plan.
4. A Weed Management Plan for all listed Garfield County noxious weeds and State of Colorado listed noxious weeds that are targeted for statewide eradication. The Plan will include a site specific map and weed inventory. A Weed Management Plan is required if an area 1 acre or greater is disturbed for the purposes of site construction, development or grading but not including areas serving the long- term function of the site such as building footprint, road surface or permanent parking areas.
5. A revegetation security in cash, bond or letter of credit.
6. Agricultural practices are exempt from revegetation requirements unless they are in association with a subdivision or land use proposal.

C. A financial security may be required for revegetation if, in the determination of the BOCC, the proposed project has:

1. A potential to facilitate the spread of noxious weeds.
 2. A potential to impact watershed areas.
 3. A potential for visual impacts from public viewing corridors.
 4. Steep slopes of 15% or greater or unstable areas.
 5. Disturbs large areas of 1 acre or greater where topsoil is exposed for the purposes of site construction, development or grading but does not comprise the long term functioning of the site (i.e. building footprint, road surface or permanent parking areas).
- D. The revegetation security will be in an amount to be determined by the BOCC that will be site-specific and based on the amount of disturbance.
1. The security shall be held by Garfield County until vegetation has been successfully reestablished, or for a period of time approved by the BOCC, in any specific land use action, according to the Reclamation Standards.
 2. The BOCC will designate a member of its staff to evaluate the reclamation prior to the release of the security.
- E. Nothing in the Plan shall be interpreted as relieving the landowner from any obligations or requirements pursuant to the Garfield County Land Use and Development Code.