

Reclamation Standards (Adopted May 7, 2001)

I. Site stability

- A. The reclaimed area shall be stable and exhibit none of the following characteristics:
 - 1. Large rills or gullies.
 - 2. Perceptible soil movement or head cutting in drainages.
 - 3. Slope instability on or adjacent to the reclaimed area.
- B. Slopes shall be stabilized using appropriate reshaping and earthwork measures, including proper placement of soils and other materials.

II. Soil Management

Topsoil management shall be salvaged from areas to be disturbed and managed for later use in reclamation.

III. Erosion Prevention

The surface area disturbed at any one time during the development of a project shall be kept to the minimum necessary and the disturbed areas reclaimed within ninety days to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation resulting from erosion.

- A. The soil surface must be stable and have adequate surface roughness to reduce run-off, capture rainfall and snow melt, and allow for revegetation.
- B. Application of certified noxious weed free mulch or erosion netting may be necessary to reduce soil movement, retain soil moisture, and promote revegetation.
- C. Soil conservation measures, including surface manipulation, reduction in slope angle, revegetation, and water management techniques, shall be used.
- D. Sediment retention structures or devices shall be located as close to the source of the sediment generating activities as possible to increase their effectiveness and reduce environmental impacts.

V. Revegetation

When the final landform is achieved, the surface shall be stabilized by vegetation or other means to reduce further soil erosion from wind or water, provide forage and cover, and reduce visual impacts. Specific criteria for evaluating revegetation success must be site-specific and included as a part of the reclamation plan.

- A. Vegetation production, species diversity, and cover, shall support the post-disturbance land use. Areas where the post-disturbance land use does not include lawns, gardens, and flower beds; shall approximate the surrounding undisturbed area or be revegetated to a desired plant community with a composition of species and plant cover typical to that site.
- B. The vegetation shall stabilize the site and support the planned post-disturbance land use, provide natural plant community succession and development, and be capable of renewing itself. This shall be demonstrated by:

1. Using certified noxious weed free seed.
 2. Successful onsite establishment of the species included in the planting mixture and/or other desirable species.
 3. Evidence of vegetation reproduction, either spreading by rhizomatous species or seed reproduction.
 4. Evidence of overall site stability and sustainability.
- C. The revegetation plan shall provide for the greatest probability of success in plant establishment and vegetation development by considering environmental factors such as seasonal patterns of precipitation, temperature and wind; soil texture and fertility; slope stability; and direction of slope faces.
- D. To insure the establishment of a diverse and long-lasting vegetative cover, the permittee shall employ appropriate techniques of site preparation and protection species diversity should be selected for long-term land uses and to provide for a reduction in visual contrast.
- E. Where revegetation is to be used, a diversity of vegetation species shall be used to establish a resilient, self-perpetuating ecosystem capable of supporting the post-disturbance land use. Species planted shall include those that will provide for quick soil stabilization, provide litter and nutrients for soil building and are self-renewing.
- F. Integrated Weed Management (IWM) methods shall be employed for all noxious weed species on the Garfield County List. Weed management methods shall be used whenever the inhabitation of the reclaimed area by noxious weeds threaten nearby areas.
- G. Where revegetation is impractical or inconsistent with the surrounding undisturbed areas, other forms of surface stabilization shall be used.

Contact Steve Anthony, Garfield County Vegetation Manager, at 970-625-3969 for information on weed management and reclamation.

Contact Dennis Davidson, Natural Resources Conservation Service, at 970-945-5494, ext. 101, for reclamation and seeding recommendations.