## 4.08 Reclamation Standards (Adopted May 7, 2001)

Areas disturbed during development shall be restored as natural-appearing landforms that blend in with adjacent undisturbed topography within 90 days of completion of construction unless an alternative timeframe is approved by the Vegetation Manager.

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

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

C. 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 90 days to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation resulting from erosion.
   1. The soil surface must be stable and have adequate surface roughness to reduce run-off, capture rainfall and snow melt, and allow for revegetation.
   2. Application of certified noxious weed-free mulch or erosion netting may be necessary to reduce soil movement, retain soil moisture and promote revegetation.
   3. Soil conservation measures, including surface manipulation, reduction in slope angle, revegetation and water management techniques shall be used.
   4. 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.

D. Contouring and Revegetation. Abrupt transitions and linear placement on visible slopes shall be avoided. Areas disturbed by grading shall be contoured so they can be revegetated and shall be planted and have vegetation established.
   1. When 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, prevent fugitive dust as required by State Statute, and reduce visual impacts.
   2. A uniform vegetative cover shall be established with an individual plant density of at least 70% of pre-disturbance levels within 4 growing seasons. State or county-listed noxious weeds, as well as alien annual invasive species, do not count as part of the 70% cover.
   3. Application of topsoil. Topsoil will be stockpiled, placed on disturbed areas and managed for later use in reclamation. Provisions for salvaging on-site topsoil, a timetable for eliminating topsoil and aggregate piles and a plan that provides for soil cover if any disturbances or stockpiles sit exposed for a period of 90 days or more will be reviewed and accepted by the Garfield County Vegetation Manager.

4. Specific criteria for evaluating revegetation success must be site-specific and included as a part of the reclamation plan.
5. Vegetation production, species diversity and cover shall support the post-disturbance land use.
6. Areas where post-disturbance land use does not include lawns, gardens and flower beds shall approximate the surrounding undisturbed areas or be revegetated to a desired plant community with a composition of species and plant cover typical to that site.
7. 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:
    a. Using certified noxious weed-free seed.
    b. Successful on-site establishment of the species included in the planting mixture or other desirable species.
    c. Evidence of vegetation reproduction, either spreading by rhizomatous species or seed reproduction.
    d. Evidence of overall site stability and sustainability.
8. 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.
9. To ensure the establishment of a diverse and long-lasting vegetative cover, the permittee shall employ appropriate techniques of site preparation and protection.
10. Species diversity should be selected for long-term land uses and provide for a reduction in visual contrast.
11. Where vegetation 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.
12. Species planted should include those that will provide quick soil stabilization, litter and nutrients for soil building and are self-renewing.
13. Integrated weed management methods shall be employed for all noxious weed species on the Garfield County List. Weed management methods shall be used whenever the infestation of the reclaimed area by noxious weeds threaten nearby areas.
14. Where revegetation is impractical or inconsistent with the surrounding undisturbed areas, other forms of surface stabilization shall be used.

on weed management and reclamation.

Contact Dennis Davidson, Natural Resources Conservation Service, at 970-404-3447 for reclamation and seeding recommendations.