

Reclamation Permit Application

EXHIBIT A

Legal Description of Property Being Permitted: _____

Comments: _____

*****PLEASE ATTACH A LOCATION MAP FOR PARCEL*****

EXHIBIT B

Description of Site (Including Slopes, Soil Type, Current Vegetation): _____

Comments: _____

Reclamation Permit Application

EXHIBIT C

Reclamation Plan: All disturbed areas shall be reclaimed with **two (2) years** of the issue date of the permit. Disturbed areas shall include but not be limited to: utility lines, septic and leach field, driveway, (excluding the road surface), and the building envelope (excluding the footprint(s) of structures).

As much as reasonably possible, disturbed areas are to be planted with vegetation such as desirable grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees in order to stabilize the site and support the planned post-disturbance land use, stabilize soil, reduce damage from sediment and runoff to down stream areas, prevent the spread of noxious weed species, improve wildlife habitat, improve livestock forage, and protect and enhance surrounding natural resources.

RECLAMATION OF:

Driveway Barrow Pits:

Grasses _____ Wildflowers _____ Trees _____
Other _____ Explain: _____

Building Envelope(s):

Lawn _____ Grasses _____ Wildflowers _____ Trees _____
Other _____ Explain: _____

Septic and Leach Field:

Grasses _____ Wildflowers _____ Lawn _____
Other _____ Explain: _____

Utility Lines:

Grasses _____ Wildflowers _____ Lawn _____
Other _____ Explain: _____

Miscellaneous Disturbances (Explain):

Grasses _____ Wildflowers _____ Lawn _____
Other _____ Explain: _____

Comments: _____

Reclamation Standards and Guidelines

I. Introduction:

The policy setting forth land reclamation in Gunnison County is the Gunnison County Board of Commissioners Resolution Series 1998 NO. 13.

Any development, or land use change defined and/or regulated by the Gunnison County Land Use Resolution, the Gunnison County Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, or the Uniform Building Code, as adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Gunnison County, and which results in road cutting and/or construction, homesite clearing and berm construction shall, **within two (2) calendar years** of the date of the issuance of any applicable permit, be required to reclaim the affected site in compliance with a Site Reclamation Plan approved by the Gunnison Basin Weed Coordinator. Such plan shall, at a minimum, be required to address the following:

Site Reclamation. The site should be sufficiently stable and satisfactory to establish vegetation to reduce erosion and sedimentation. Slopes shall be stabilized using reshaping and earthwork measures, including proper placement of soils and other materials. The topography should be sloped to a configuration suitable for the post-disturbance land use, be esthetically pleasing, and blend with the surrounding undisturbed terrain. Appropriate water courses and drainage features shall be established and stabilized.

Vegetation is rarely satisfactory on slopes steeper than 2:1 (50 percent). Slopes should be this steep only where the natural terrain or some other limitation prohibits further reduction. Plant performances are adequate for conservation protection on 3:1 (33 percent) slopes but is superior on slopes that are less steep.

Where revegetation is impractical or inconsistent with the surrounding undisturbed areas, other forms of surface stabilization shall be used.

Disturbed areas shall be planted with vegetation such as desirable grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees in order to stabilize the site and support the planned post-disturbance land use. Reclamation stabilizes soil, reduces sediment load in runoff, prevents the spread of noxious weeds, and protects and/or enhances surrounding natural resources.

Slash Around Homes. To avoid insects, diseases, and wildfire hazards, all vegetative residue, slashings, branches, limbs, stumps, roots, or other such flammable lot-clearing debris shall be disposed of from around homesite areas by either chipping or removal prior to final building inspection approval. Homesite areas shall include all areas of the lot in which such materials are generated or deposited.

Removal of Debris. All stumps, and other tree parts, litter, brush, weeds, excess or scrap building materials or other debris should be removed from the site and disposed of in compliance with requirements of the Gunnison City tree dump or Gunnison County Landfill, or by other means in compliance with applicable regulation. All dead or dying trees should be removed from the site, unless those trees are to be retained for wildlife habitat or fire wood, upon recommendation of the Colorado Division of Wildlife or the Colorado State Forest Service. If trees and limbs are reduced to chips, they may be used as mulch in landscaped areas.

Reclamation Standards

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.
- C. Appropriate water courses and drainage features shall be established and stabilized.

II. Water Management

The quality and integrity of affected ground and surface waters shall be protected as a part of reclamation activities in accordance with applicable Federal and State requirements.

- A. Appropriate hydrologic practices shall be used to protect, and, if practical, enhance both the quality and quantity of impacted waters.
- B. Actions shall be taken to eliminate ground water contamination.
- C. Waste disposal practices shall be designed and conducted to provide for long-term ground and surface water protection.

If water areas are to be a part of the reclaimed area, they should be planned for a specific purpose before the land is disturbed. Such areas do not justify reducing the amount of reclamation required. They may be the only source of livestock water or may be planned for recreation or wildlife. A permit may be required for water areas and for diverted drainage patterns.

III. Soil Management

Top soil shall be salvaged from areas to be disturbed and managed for later use in reclamation.

IV. 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 as soon as is practical 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 surface 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 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 as soon as practical 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 production.
 - 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 that are 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 State and Gunnison County lists. Weed control methods shall also 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 Adena Green, Gunnison County Weed Coordinator, at 970-641-4393 for information on weeds, weed management, and reclamation.

Contact John Scott, Natural Resources Conservation Service, at 970-641-0494 or Joe Brummer, Mountain Meadow Research Center, at 970-641-2515 for seeding recommendations.

VI. Revegetation Considerations for Fire Safety on Forested Homesites

Improper landscaping can greatly increase the risk of structure and property damage from wildfire. Special consideration should be given to revegetation planning on the down hill side of a home site. Vegetative clearance around the house (defensible space) is the primary determinant of a home's ability to survive wildfire.

- A. Consider placing a 3 foot gravel barrier around the house to protect from fire.
- B. Grasses-Plant low growing grasses close to the house. Mow grasses low around the house and garage, as well as around out buildings, decks, firewood piles, propane tanks, shrubs, and specimen trees with low-growing branches.
- C. Wildflowers-Wildflowers can form tall, dense areas of available fuel, especially in dormancy. Plant wildflowers in widely separated beds within the defensible space to mitigate fire hazard. Do not plant directly adjacent to structures unless the beds are frequently irrigated and vegetation promptly removed after the first hard frost.
- D. Shrubs-Plant low-growing, non-resinous varieties close to structures. Do not plant directly beneath windows or vents, or where they might spread under wooden decks. Do not plant shrubs under tree crowns, or use them to screen propane tanks, firewood piles, or other flammable materials. Plant shrubs individually, as specimens, or in small clumps apart from each other, and away from any trees within the defensible space.
- E. Trees-Carefully consider the placement of trees when planting. Do not plant trees near structures. Allow plenty of room between trees, and consider the growth potential of

each species. Spacing within the defensible space should be at least 10 feet between the edges of tree crowns.

VII. Wildfire Safety Guidelines on Forested Homesites

Most forested homesites contain an over abundance of trees. Trees like all plants need adequate room to grow. Forests which are too dense are prone to insect, disease and wildfire hazards. To reduce the threat of wildfire, trees and shrubs should be thinned and pruned as described in the Service in Action Sheet, Forestry - Creating Wildfire Defensible Zones.

To reduce wildfire hazards, all vegetative residue, slashings, branches, limbs, stumps, roots, or other such flammable lot-clearing debris on site, as a result of construction, shall be disposed of.

To reduce wildfire hazards around the property after construction, the homeowner should do the following:

Thin trees

Trim the limbs on large trees around the homesite to a 10 foot height

Reduce ladder fuels (Shrubs or small trees located under larger trees)

Methods of debris disposal for the three zones of fire safety surrounding a homesite or subdivision are: See Forestry - Creating Wildfire Defensible Zones.

Zone 1 - Chipping and/or removal of all slash

Zone 2 - Piling and burn later with 6 inches minimum snow cover.

Zone 3 - Lop and scatter pieces, measuring less than 18 inches, to decompose.

Debris in Zones 1 and 2 may be moved to Zone 3 and disposed of in the manner described for Zone 3.

Contact Brian Ayers or Joel Stewart, Colorado State Forest Service, at 970-641-6852 for further information on defensible space, trees, shrubs, and fire safety.

VIII. Visual Resources

To the extent practicable, the reclaimed landscape should have characteristics that approximate or are compatible with the visual quality of the adjacent area with regard to location, scale, shape, color, and orientation of major landscape features.

IX. Site Protection

During and following reclamation activities the permittee is responsible for monitoring and, if necessary, protecting the reclaimed land to help ensure reclamation success until the liability and bond are released.

X. Site Specific Standards

All site-specific standards must be met in order for the site to be properly and adequately reclaimed.

APPENDIX A

Planting Guidelines

Planning

1. Land slopes should not exceed 50% (2:1) and should be flatter where feasible and practicable.
2. Soils must have sufficient depth and potential fertility to support the type of vegetation to be established.
3. Materials that interfere with planting must be removed.
4. Runoff water from the site or adjacent areas must be controlled to prevent serious erosion and damage to the planting.

Topsoil

High priority should be given to salvaging the surface materials. The soil materials should be applied uniformly over the surface to a minimum depth of 6 to 8 inches. Topsoil transported into the area should be from a noxious weed free source.

Seedbed Preparation

The seedbed should be settled and firm, but friable enough that seed can be placed at the specified seeding depths. Competitive stands of weeds that are present before seeding must be controlled prior to planting.

Over-compacted soils should be tilled to break up rooting restrictive layers and then packed to prepare the required firm seedbed.

Seeding Methods

1. Seed can be planted with a drill on slopes of 33% (3:1) or flatter.
2. Seed may be broadcast by hand, by mechanical spreader, or by hydraulic equipment on areas that are small, too steep, or not accessible for seed-drill operations. This guideline does not provide for hydraulic application of seed and mulch in a single operation.

Seeding Depth

1. Seed planted with a drill should be covered with soil to a depth of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.
2. Seed planted by broadcasting should be incorporated into the surface soil, not to exceed a depth of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, by raking or other method.

Time of Seeding

Timing is dependent upon the seeding recommendation. Contact John Scott, Natural Resource Conservation Service, at 970-641-0494 or Joe Brummer, Mountain Meadow Research Center, at 970-641-2515 for information on time of seeding.

Rate of Seeding

Contact John Scott, Natural Resource Conservation Service, at 970-641-0494 or Joe Brummer, Mountain Meadow Research Center, at 970-641-2515 for information on rate of seeding.

Mulching

Straw and/or hay used for mulch, must be certified noxious weed free. A hydromulch can be applied to the area after the seed has been drilled in or broadcast. On steep slopes where crimping is not possible, jute matting (biodegradable mesh) may be used as a mulch over the newly seeded area.

Water Areas

If water areas are to be a part of the reclaimed area, they should be planned for a specific purpose before the land is disturbed. Such areas do not justify reducing the amount of reclamation required. They may be the only source of livestock water or may be planned for recreation or wildlife. A permit may be required for water areas and for diverted drainage patterns.

Temporary Cover Crop

Temporary cover crops provide protection and a firm seedbed for the grasses. A temporary cover crop will also stabilize the soil until the grasses become established.

Weed Control

Annual weeds and grasses, and noxious weeds compete with seeded desirable plant species resulting in poor seedling establishment. Weeds must be managed to enable revegetated sites to succeed.

Please contact Adena Green, Gunnison County Weed Coordinator, at 970-641-4393 for further information on weeds and weed management.

The US Fish and Wildlife provided the following written guidance with regard to development and site disturbance activity within Gunnison sage-grouse designated critical habitat on December 22, 2014:

“Based on the information currently available to us, we do not expect projects falling into the categories below to result in take. Therefore, they would not need any review from us, and your permitting may continue to follow established county procedures:

- Development in areas outside of designated critical habitat (shapefiles available on our website at: <http://www.fws.gov/coloradoES/>), (unless new areas become occupied by Gunnison sage-grouse in the future). This includes the City of Gunnison urban area, which has been excluded from our critical habitat designation because it lacks sage-grouse habitat.
- Building projects falling within the boundaries of a CCAA or Conservation Easement existing prior to the effective listing date of Gunnison sage-grouse that are consistent with the terms of the CCAA or conservation easement.
- Routine repair and maintenance activities to existing buildings and infrastructure, such as the replacement of a roof, septic tank, or shed.
- Minor new structures within existing developed or disturbed areas, such as a new garage, shed, or other outbuildings adjacent to an existing, larger structure.
- Development on private land is unoccupied critical habitat (note an ESA section 7 consultation may be required if there is a Federal permit or funding involved).

Projects not meeting the criteria above should be submitted to our Grand Junction office for review. Submittals should include a description of the proposed project, a description of the habitats proposed to be disturbed, information about nearby Gunnison sage-grouse leks, if known, and a description of existing disturbances in adjacent areas. Maps, aerial photos, and ground photos are helpful in describing the existing conditions of the property proposed to be disturbed and adjacent properties. Electronic submittals can be sent to GrandJunctionES@fws.gov. Paper copies can be mailed to: Ecological Services, 445 W. Gunnison Ave, Suite 240, Grand Junction, CO 81501.

Notes:

- Mr. Kurt Broderdorp is currently the acting supervisor and can be reached at 970-628-7186.”
- Gunnison County provides the above mentioned statement from the USFWS for your reference only.