

ATTACHMENT 13

Reclamation, Revegetation, and Weed Management Plan of Draft Plan of Development (June 2009)

This attachment addresses measures to be undertaken to assure reclamation and revegetation and prevent accidental introduction or transport of noxious weeds along the right-of-way during and after construction and after ground-disturbing activities. The Reclamation, Revegetation, and Weed Management Plan will include site-specific restoration measures, species to be replanted, and monitoring. It combines Rocky Mountain Power's BMPs with site-specific mitigation developed in consultation with the agencies.

- RRW-1 Construction industry standard practices and BMPs (listed in Section 5.7.1) will be used for site stabilization and vegetation restoration in areas disturbed by construction and measures approved in the Reclamation, Revegetation, and Weed Management Plan will be implemented.
- RRW-2 The Reclamation, Revegetation, and Weed Management Plan will include known occurrences of noxious and invasive weeds along the proposed right-of-way, current treatment of known noxious weed areas, and measures to minimize the spread and establishment of noxious weeds and non-native invasive species.
- RRW-3 In construction areas (e.g., marshalling yards, tower sites, spur roads from existing access roads) where ground disturbance is significant or where recontouring is required, surface restoration will occur as required by the landowner or land management agency. The method of restoration will normally consist of, but is not limited to, returning disturbed areas back to their natural contour, reseeding, cross drains installed for erosion control, placing water bars in the road, and filling ditches. All areas on BLM lands that are disturbed as a part of the construction and/or maintenance of the proposed power line will be drill seeded with a seed mixture appropriate for those areas. The BLM will prescribe a seed mixture that fits each range site. Drill seeding will be done in September or October to maximize the chance of success.
- RRW-4 Soil, water, and air resources will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Evaluations will consider the impacts of any proposed projects to soil, water, and air resources in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to ensure compatibility of projects with soil, water, and air resource management and compliance with applicable Federal and State soil, water or air implementation plans. Soil will be managed to maintain productivity and tolerable erosion levels. Water quality will be maintained or improved in accordance with State and Federal standards, including consultation with State agencies on proposed projects.

- RRW-5 In areas where soils and vegetation are particularly sensitive to disturbance, existing access roads/trails will not be widened or otherwise upgraded for construction and maintenance, except in areas where repairs are necessary to make existing roads/trails passable.
- RRW-6 Helicopter placement of towers during construction and helicopter patrol and maintenance may be used to reduce surface impacts in highly sensitive locations.
- RRW-7 All land disturbed by new right-of-way, except authorized new access roads, shall be rehabilitated to as close to natural conditions as possible.
- RRW-8 The Reclamation, Revegetation, and Weed Management Plan will include BMPs for restoring surface flow conditions.
- RRW-9 Management actions within floodplains and wetlands will include measures to preserve, protect, and if necessary, restore their natural functions (as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990). Management techniques will be used to minimize the degradation of stream banks and the loss of riparian vegetation. Bridges, culverts, and fences and/or other necessary structures will be designed and installed to meet and maintain management objectives.
- RRW-10 Clean out existing culverts, if necessary, on roads within project area before operations in the spring and at the end of operations in the fall.
- RRW-11 Install new culvert outfalls with either riprap or another form of energy dissipater, if applicable.
- RRW-12 If needed, gravel and/or install erosion structures on roads, where activities cross a drainage.
- RRW-13 To the extent feasible, schedule operations, construction, and ditch/road maintenance activities during periods when probabilities for rain and runoff are low. Equipment would not be operated when ground conditions are such that unacceptable soil compaction or displacement results.
- RRW-14 Maintain roads in a manner that provides for water quality protection.
- RRW-15 Any drain tiles or irrigation systems damaged by construction activities will be repaired or replaced.
- RRW-16 Segregate and redistribute topsoil within the disturbance right-of-way on all public lands and on private lands as agreed upon with the land owner.
- RRW-17 If revegetation cannot be done immediately following construction, the appropriate interim erosion control measures discussed in the Storm

Water Pollution Prevention Plan will be installed until revegetation can occur.

- RRW-18 Certified weed-free straw will be used for sediment or erosion control or when used as mulch. Hay will not be used on BLM administered land.
- RRW-19 In cultivated agricultural areas, soil compacted by construction activities will be decompacted. Construction activities will occur so as to minimize impacts on agricultural operations.
- RRW-20 Dispose of excess material from boring methods offsite.
- RRW-21 Disturbed areas should be covered with stockpiled topsoil or mulch and revegetated by using a mix of native species selected for visual compatibility with existing vegetation.
- RRW-22 Where substation landscaping is required, native species will be selected that do not require irrigation once established.
- RRW-23 Final reseeded will be conducted at the first appropriate growing season after completion of construction.
- RRW-24 Pre-construction surveys will be conducted to document the presence of noxious weed species as identified by federal, state, and local agencies.
- RRW-25 Noxious weeds that become established in the ROW due to construction, operation, or maintenance activities will be controlled to pre-construction levels.
- RRW-26 To eliminate the spread of noxious/invasive weeds throughout the BLM field office area, the following mitigation measures will be implemented: (1) equipment and vehicles will be cleaned prior to entering the Project area to minimize the introduction of noxious/invasive weeds in other areas, and (2) equipment and vehicles will be cleaned prior to exiting the Project area.
- RRW-27 Gravel and fill to be placed in relatively weed-free areas, which are at moderate or high ecological risk to weed invasion, must come from weed-free sources.
- RRW-28 In construction areas where recontouring is not required, vegetation will be left in place wherever possible, and original contour would be maintained to avoid excessive root damage and allow for resprouting.
- RRW-29 Existing rocks, vegetation, and drainage patterns should be preserved to the maximum extent possible.

- RRW-30 Contour soil borrow areas, cut and fill slopes, berms, waterbars, and other disturbed areas to approximate naturally occurring slopes, thereby avoiding form and line contrasts with the existing landscapes. Contouring to rough texture would trap seed and discourage off-road travel, thereby reducing associated visual impacts.
- RRW-31 No vegetation clearing of project sites will be allowed except as authorized by the authorized officer.
- RRW-32 To minimize disturbance to timber resources and reduce visual contrast, clearing of trees in and adjacent to the right-of-way will be minimized to the extent practical to satisfy conductor-clearance requirements (National Electric Safety Code). Trees and other vegetation will be removed selectively (e.g., edge feathering) to blend the edge of the right-of-way into adjacent vegetation patterns, as practicable and appropriate.
- RRW-33 In areas where no grading will be needed to access work areas, the Construction Contractor will use overland access to the greatest extent possible. Overland access will consist of “drive and crush” and/or “clear and cut” travel. Drive and crush is vehicular travel to access a site without significantly modifying the landscape. Vegetation is crushed but not cropped. Soil is compacted, but no surface soil is removed. Clear and cut is considered as brushing off (removal) of all vegetation in order to improve or provide suitable access for equipment. All vegetation is removed using above ground cutting methods that leave the root crown intact. Soils are compacted, but no surface soil is removed. Prior to work beginning, overland access routes will be staked to a maximum width of 14-feet-wide.
- RRW-34 Identify and flag staging area boundaries for heavy equipment.