

Nevada

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

Reclamation Standards for
Debit Projects

June 1, 2026

Presented by
Casey Adkins



Background

- NAC 362.250 “Reclamation” defined. (NRS 360.090, 362.120)

“Reclamation” means actions performed during or after a mining operation or developmental work which are consistent with the provisions of NRS concerning mines and minerals, and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto, and which are identified in a reclamation plan to shape, stabilize, revegetate or otherwise treat the land in order to return it to a safe, stable condition consistent with the establishment of a productive postmining use of the land and the abandonment of a facility in a manner which ensures the public safety, ...’

- NV Division of Environmental Protection

- NRS 519A.100 “Reclamation” defined.

“Reclamation” means actions performed during or after an exploration project or mining operation to: 1. Shape, stabilize, revegetate or otherwise treat the land in order to return it to a safe, stable condition consistent with the establishment of a productive postmining use of the land and the abandonment of a facility in a manner which ensures the public safety, as well as the encouragement of techniques which minimize the adverse visual effects; ...’

Background

- US DOI BLM Solid Minerals Reclamation Handbook (BLM Manual Handbook H-3042-1)

- Reclamation Standards

“7. 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 (on unforested sites), shall approximate the surrounding undisturbed area.

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. Successful onsite establishment of the species included in the planting mixture and/or other desirable species.
2. Evidence of vegetation reproduction, either spreading by rhizomatous species or seed production.
3. Evidence of overall site stability and sustainability....”

Background

- Debit Project reclamation has always been a requirement, but the standards have not been developed
 - Only for direct and term map units
- A project term is the duration or life-span of a project
 - NEPA term: federal agency approved life-span
 - CCS term: NEPA term + **10 years for reclamation**
- We have been working with many partners on these potential policies
 - CCS Science Committee (USFWS and NDOW)
 - USFS
 - BLM
 - NV Division of Environmental Protection

Potential Policies and Procedures

- Determining Site Specific Conditions
 - Based on pre-project conditions from field data collection
 - Desktop-only 100% Habitat Suitability Projects
 - Latest best available data (e.g., Rangeland Analysis Platform; Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring Data) for the surrounding land averaged at the time of the final QA
- Determining Reclamation Standards
 - Cleared Habitat and Mowed or Crushed
 - Standards created for years 1, 5, and 10 post project end of life

Potential Policies and Procedures

- Determining if Standards are Met
 - SETT revisits data collections points from the pre-project field work
 - SETT collects data to determine if each map unit meets standards
 - If standards are reached, the project is complete and no further reclamation or credits are required
 - If standards are not reached, the original number of debits generated by the specific map unit must be purchased within one year of determination for a 10-year term

Percent of original baseline habitat scores expected to be present in each year of reclamation by habitat and disturbance type.

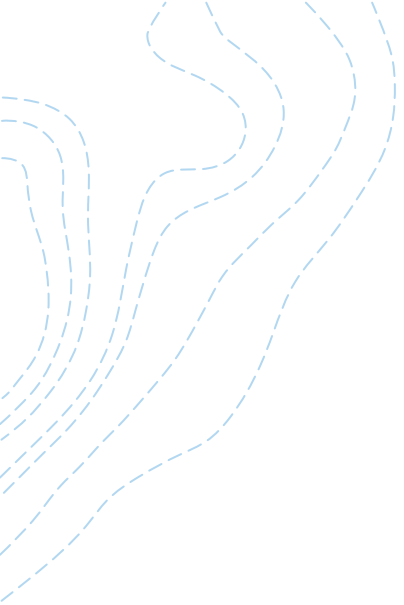
Years After Implementation of Reclamation (Reclamation Milestone)	Cleared GRSG Habitat	Mowed or Crushed GRSG Habitat
Start of reclamation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0% of all vegetation communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0% of all vegetation communities
1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% of meadow grass and forb cover 20% of upland grass and forb cover 5% of shrub cover 75% of sagebrush count 1% of sagebrush cover ≤ pre-project conditions for invasive annual grasses cover ≥ pre-project conditions for forb richness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of grass and forb cover 20% of shrub cover 100% of sagebrush count 7% of sagebrush cover ≤ pre-project conditions for invasive annual grasses cover ≥ pre-project conditions for forb richness
5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of grass and forb cover 25% of shrub cover 75% of sagebrush count 5% of sagebrush cover ≤ pre-project conditions for invasive annual grasses cover ≥ pre-project conditions for forb richness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of grass, forb, and shrub cover 100% of sagebrush count 33% of sagebrush cover ≤ pre-project conditions for invasive annual grasses cover ≥ pre-project conditions for forb richness
10 years (end of CCS reclamation term)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of grass, forb, and shrub cover 100% sagebrush count 10% of sagebrush cover ≤ pre-project conditions for invasive annual grasses cover ≥ pre-project conditions for forb richness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of grass, forb, and shrub cover 100% of sagebrush count 67% of sagebrush cover ≤ pre-project conditions for invasive annual grasses cover ≥ pre-project conditions for forb richness

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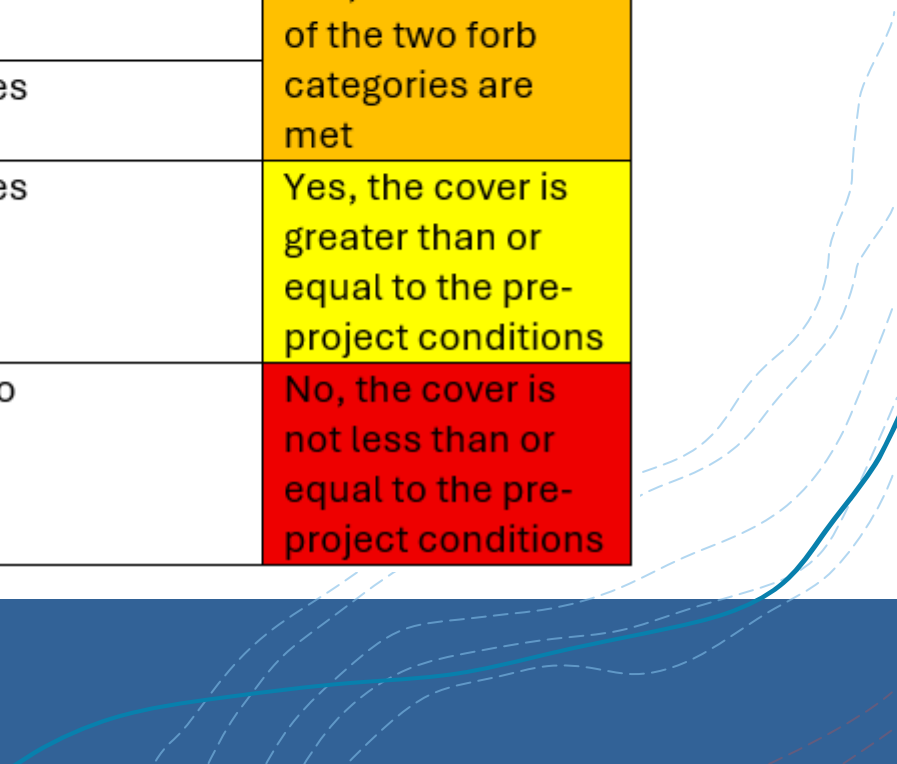
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Map Unit 5	Pre-Project Conditions	Conditions Required	Current Reclamation Conditions	Was the Condition Met?	
Sagebrush Canopy Cover	27%	3% (10% of 27%)	4%	Yes	Yes, at least one of the two sagebrush categories are met
Sagebrush Count	10	10 (100% of the 10)	12	Yes	
Shrub Canopy Cover	31%	31% (100% of the 31%)	29%	No	No, the cover is not less than or equal to the pre
Perennial Forb Cover	2%	2% (100% of 2%)	2%	Yes	Yes, at least one of the two forb categories are met
Forb Species Richness	1.8	≥ 1.8	2	Yes	
Perennial Grass Cover	7%	≥ 7%	8%	Yes	Yes, the cover is greater than or equal to the pre-project conditions
Invasive Annual Grass Cover	4%	≤ 4%	10%	No	No, the cover is not less than or equal to the pre-project conditions

Example of a GRS habitat map unit that has been entirely cleared.



Next Steps

- Continue to receive feedback and refining standards
 - SEC today
 - Host a public Working Group meeting or a series of meetings for all interested parties
 - If interested in participating, please email casey.adkins@sagebrushco.nv.gov

Thank You

Casey Adkins, NDF-SETT
Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

Phone: 775-687-2003

Email: casey.adkins@sagebrushco.nv.gov

