

ROBERT L. BAYLESS PRODUCER LLC**Weaver Ridge 23-7H**

SHL: 2356' FNL & 2278' FEL (SWNE) Section 23, T1S R104W
BHL: 299' FNL & 954' FWL (NWNW) Section 24, T1S R104W
Rio Blanco County, Colorado
Federal Lease: COC-058705

Reclamation and Rehabilitation Operations

(Attachment to Surface Use Plan)

The following plan describe surface reclamation actions for vegetation and soil rehabilitation, scarification and reseeding of the pads "apron" (the area surrounding the pad site, including the cut and fill, topsoil and excess materials stockpile sites, etc.). The BLM will be contacted prior to commencement of any reclamation operations.

The direction and specific work orders spelled out in this plan will apply to the existing well pad on the above cited well. The overall goals and objectives of this plan for the Weaver Ridge 23-7H well pad site and any additional infrastructure associated with this well are to a)Minimize the surface impacts to other resources and authorized uses in the vicinity of the well pad site, b)Restore the landform and natural process to re-establish and sustain a pre-disturbance productivity of the site, consistent with the 1997 White River Resource Management Plan (WRRMP), c) Apply all Conditions of Approval (COA)s which are outlined in the Record of Decision/EA associated with this well and also consider additional applicable BLM's Conditions of Approval (WRRMP, Appendix 2) as a baseline to minimize surface impacts and enhance subsequent reclamation actions, and d)Apply appropriate new techniques and/or methodologies that would minimize surface disturbance and enhance reclamation success.

This plan outlines new and additional interim and final reclamation actions for the Weaver Ridge 23-7H well pad that would need to occur to realize the objectives stated above.

Criteria for Determining Long -Term Success of This Plan

To determine success, the following criteria would be used:

- Establish a self-sustaining, healthy, diverse, native or seeded plant community on the well pad site.
- Maintain sufficient desired vegetation density to a) control erosion and b) prevent non-native plant invasion. Specifically, erosion control is sufficient when gullyng, deep and excessive rilling or slumping is not observed.
- Re-establish wildlife habitat or forage production.
- Revegetation success criteria will be as follows:
 - Total vegetative ground cover will be at least 70% of ground cover in a comparable, adjacent undisturbed area
 - Seeded or desirable plant species will consist of at least 90% of vegetative ground cover.

RECLAMATION PLAN**1. General Practices**

The following practices will be completed prior to the initiation of any specific reclamation action:

- Clearly stake the specific area(s) to be worked and limit all work to be within these stakes.
- Take photos of the specific area(s) to be worked/reworked prior to and at the conclusion of the scheduled work.
- Bayless will conduct a pre-work meeting with any contractor and/or subcontractor associated with actions outlined in this plan. The purpose of such meetings is to ensure all reclamation actions are discussed and understood prior to initiating any such action.
- Bayless will have a representative on site during all reclamation actions. Should a question arise as to the specific actions/processes to be undertaken, surface- disturbing actions will cease and the BLM will be consulted. Surface-disturbing actions will resume only after clarification and/or adjustments to the specific actions are agreed to by both the BLM and Bayless.
- Bayless will provide BLM with at least 24 hours notice prior to actual initiation of any reclamation action.
- Earthwork for both interim and final reclamation actions will be completed within six (6) months of each well completion or plugging (weather permitting). Drill pit and reserve or production pits (if used) will be reclaimed in strict adherence to requirements established in Onshore Order #7. In general these requirements include: pits must be free of oil and other liquid and/or solid wastes prior to filling, pit liner must be removed to the solids level or treated to prevent re-emergence to the surface, pit area will be filled in and mounded slightly to allow for settling and positive drainage.

2. CONDITIONS AND/OR REQUIREMENTS**a. Site Preparation**

- Visually inspect and control any weeds on the site to be reclaimed to ensure that it is free of noxious and invasive weed plants prior to completing any reclamation actions.
- Minor/temporary re-contouring will be accomplished to return the reclaimed area's landform to a flat, gently sloping saddle. The site will be restored to maintain the gentle and natural drainage pattern.
- Access routes of the pad will be maintained to include proper drainage from the pad.
- Complete all ground work on the contour over areas to be revegetated.
- If soil is compacted, rip the soil to relieve soil compaction several days prior to reseeding.

b. Topsoil

- Ensure all topsoil is free of rock fragments larger than gravel size (3 inches) and comprise less than 5% of the topsoil.
- Spread topsoil over the entire staked area to be reclaimed.

c. **Reseeding**

- Disturbed areas will be reseeded to reduce the potential for invasive species infestations.
- Apply seed using a rangeland-type drill seeder. If the area to be reclaimed is too small to effectively utilize rangeland-type seed drill, broadcasting of the seed may be appropriate. If broadcasting, double the recommended seed amounts and rake or harrow the area to cover seed.
- Use a drill seeder that is of a size and properly equipped to complete the reseeding action. The drill seeds should also be equipped with the following: a) light-weight chains attached to the drill tubes to lightly cover the seed after deposition; and b) packer wheels to compact the seeded furrow and lessen the depth of soil overlying the planted seed.
- Apply seed during periods when maximum soil moisture is anticipated, i.e., late fall or early winter. Delay seeding long enough in the fall to prevent germination until the following spring. Fall seeding will be completed after September 1, and prior to prolonged grounds frost. To be effective, spring seeding will be completed after the frost has left the ground and prior May 15th.
- Prior to actually setting seed, ensure sufficient topsoil moisture content exists. Sufficient moisture content may be determined by forming a short ribbon of moistened soil thru the thumb and index finger, or when a small ball of moistened soil can be formed and hold its shape.
- If insufficient soil moisture exists, gently sprinkle water from water trucks. Seeding may occur if insufficient moisture content exists, but there is at least a 60% from an incoming storm event.
- Visually inspect the reseeded area. If a large percentage of seed is visible on the soil's surface, hand rake or harrow the area to cover the seed to minimize predation by birds and rodents. Leave the reseeded area roughened to improve surface water retention and prolong soil moisture
- The site will be revegetated using a certified seed mix and application rates as prescribed by the BLM. If possible apply this seed mix in the fall to take advantage of available soil moisture.
- Acquire site-adapted seed from a reputable and knowledgeable source. All acquired seed will be certified weed-free. All seed poundage will be pure-live seed. Following seeding, BLM will be provided with all seed bag tags.

d. Protection of Reseeded Areas

- Manage noxious and problem weeds so that they cause no further negative environmental, aesthetic or economic impact.
- Install a protective fence around the reseeded areas to reduce the possibility of foraging by wild horses, wildlife and livestock. No existing vegetation along this fence line would be removed; however. Shrubs may be hand-cut to allow for placement of wire.
- Remove this protective fence after the end or the second growing year if the following condition is met or there is direct evidence that the reseeded area is making substantial progress towards meeting the established objective.
- Maintain this protective fence until the reseeded areas achieve the desired density and are mature enough to withstand the pressure off foraging.
- Work with other authorized users of the area to minimize drawing attention of foraging animals to the reseeded areas, i.e., request livestock operators to not put out salt, feed supplements, water facilities within 1 mile of the reseeded areas.

e. Monitoring

The following monitoring strategy will be undertaken to provide quantifiable data needed to assess the success of this plan and to quickly identify changes in trends/progress towards realizing the overall objectives of this plan.

- Establish photo point(s) at permanent/long-term reference locations to provide a general view of the reclaimed areas associated with the well pad, apron and along the access route and pipeline corridor.
- Establish one, 100 meter (330-foot) transect outside the reclaimed area, on a site of similar soils and vegetation. The location of this site, which would be approved by BLM, would serve as a representative reference location to determine the revegetation trend of the reclaimed area.
- Establish at least two, 100 meter (330-foot) transects within the revegetated areas associated with the well pad and apron areas and/or along the access route and pipeline corridor.
- Beginning in June 2012, take photos and record data from the transects during June or July, the period of maximum vegetative growth. Repeat these actions for at least 2 years to determine the level and/or trends of success of the actions outlined in this plan.
- If after 2 years interim reclamation actions are successful, i.e., meeting the overall objectives reduce monitoring to other year until final reclamation is complete and determined successful.

f. Follow-up Actions

If after 2 growing seasons data reveals that the total vegetative ground cover in the reseeded areas is less than 70% of ground cover in a comparable, adjacent undisturbed area or seeded or desirable plant species consist of 90% or less of the existing vegetative ground cover, then the steps outlined above will be reassessed. It may be appropriate to repeat the actions outlined above or revise the plan to incorporate new or different methodologies or technologies, seed mixtures, etc.

Table 2. Interim Reclamation Actions and Time Schedule for Weaver Ridge 23-7H well.

Actions	Subsequent Action	Time Schedule
1. Control noxious and invasive weeds per the approved PUP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit pesticide Use Proposal for the Weaver Ridge 23-7H. • Work with BLM and County, as appropriate to obtain approval for PUP. • Inventory and flag all areas dominated by noxious and invasive weed species to be treated and controlled in 2012. • Control weeds in accordance with the approved PUP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to June 1, 2012 • Prior to June 1, 2012 • No later than the 4 leaf stage of emerging vegetation in areas identified.
2. Construct needed water control structures or install straw wattles to minimize effects of surface water runoff and topsoil loss.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install per BLM direction, if provided or as described in sections 1-G or 9-L of the Surface use plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 31, 2012.
3. Reseeded the entire pipeline corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow site preparation and reseeding instruction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow weed control activities as set out in the approved PUP. • Prepare site for initial reseeding of grass species in the fall of 2013; followed by supplementary reseeding of forb and shrub species in the spring of 2014.
4. Protect reseeded areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install protective fence around reseeded pad, apron and access route areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete installation preferably prior to fall 2012 reseeding actions or no later than spring of 2013.
5. Initiate monitoring of reclamation actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish monitoring sites and record initial data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish photo points at the conclusion of fall reseeding activities • Record initial data in June/July 2012, or during the period of maximum vegetative growth.

g. Final Reclamation

Final reclamation sets "...the course for eventual ecosystem restoration..., this means returning the land to a condition approximating or equal to that which existed prior to the disturbance. BLM and USFS 2007). Final reclamation actions will be completed on the entire well pad, apron, access route and pipeline corridor areas of the above cited Weaver Ridge 23-7H well pad. Final reclamation would be completed following final plugging and abandonment actions of the final well located on the well pad site.

Final reclamation of the Weaver Ridge 23-7H well site will follow the following steps:

- Spread all topsoil and vegetation from all portions of the pad site not previously reshaped to blend with the surrounding contour.

- Recontour such areas back to the original contour, or at least on a contour that blends with the surrounding landform. Any remaining excavations and pits will be backfilled when they are dry and free of waste and graded to conform to the surrounding terrain as set out above for interim reclamation.
- Redistribute the topsoil, outlined above for interim reclamation.
- Revegetate the site, as outlined above for interim reclamation.
- Water control structures will be installed temporarily to prevent erosion until the site is successfully stabilized.

The access route, if determined by the BLM to be no longer needed, will be reclaimed as follows:

- Recontour the road back to the original contour.
- Final reseeding, including control of noxious weeds would be as outlined above for interim reclamation.
- Reapply topsoil material, as needed, as outlined above for interim reclamation.
- Construct waterbars and/or placing surface water control structure to prevent erosion until the site is successfully stabilized.
- Install barricades and signs, as needed, to prevent unwanted vehicle traffic while the route is revegetated. Remove such barricades and signs when the route is successfully reclaimed.

Unless directed otherwise by the BLM, buried pipelines will remain in place. Reclamation of the pipeline corridor would be as outlined above for the access route.

Monitoring and follow-up actions associated with final reclamation will involve continuation of the established monitoring protocol for interim reclamation.