

## 2015 NEW ELK ACCESS ROAD RECLAMATION PLAN

### COGCC 306(F) RULE:

On 02/26/15 a final reclamation consultation was held with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW - the Surface Owner). The representatives for the CPW had the following comments or concerns as to the final land use and final reclamation practices:

- The CPW recognizes the value in keeping the historical jeep trail that was in place prior to XTO's disturbance. (Fire mitigation, emergencies, etc.)
- Areas of the access road that were significantly increased in width need to be reduced by pulling back the fill slope, re-contouring and removing all brush barriers.
- The large areas of cut and fill will need to be restored to pre-disturbed levels. Minimize the width of the access road back to a small two-track or jeep trail.
- The portion of the access road that was constructed in virgin ground must be completely reclaimed. The fill slope shall be pulled back up to the cut slope to match the surrounding terrain. This will occur on the east end of the project from the producing well New Elk 24-12 to just north of the proposed New Elk 23-10.
- All tree debris and brush barriers that are near a cut slope will be relocated to the toe of the cut slope and buried during the reclamation phase.
- All tree debris and brush barriers that exist in level areas and that have no cut slopes can be placed in a chipper and dispersed into undisturbed areas per surface use agreement.
- The (4) well pads that had the trees cleared with no earth disturbance, will not need to be seeded, if natural vegetation has been established. XTO will seed the bare areas after tree debris and brush barriers are removed. This will be confirmed once the snow melts and XTO can conduct a full onsite inspection with the CPW.
- The current XTO/DOW seed mix was approved by the CPW. The approved seeding method will consist of a spray on product with mulch and soil enhancers. Flexterra High Performance Flexible Growth Medium (HP-FGM) along with AM 120 inoculations and 4.6.4 Sustain an all-natural compost based fertilizer.
- All disturbed areas, including the two-track or jeep trail areas must be seeded.
- Timing was discussed. According to the **COGCC Rule 305.f. (6) Final Reclamation Notice**: XTO gave the CPW notice of the New Elk final reclamation project on 02/26/15. To remain in compliance with this rule, XTO cannot begin reclamation activities until 03/26/15. The CPW will impose hunting restrictions beginning April 1<sup>st</sup> that last until June 1<sup>st</sup>. During the hunting restrictions all construction activities are prohibited. The conclusion was that the construction for reclamation activities can begin on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- All of the aforementioned details are contingent upon the full onsite evaluation with the CPW which will be conducted once the snow melts. Snow fall began on 02/21/15 and has continued to snow each day through 02/27/15. The New Elk area has 6 to 12 inches of snow cover at this time. Chances of additional snow fall is forecasted through 03/04/15

### **THE NATURE OF THE CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT THIS SITE:**

Reclaim the access road that was developed in 2010 for the (12) proposed well sites in the New Elk lease. The disturbance for the access road reached/nearly reached (7) of the (12) proposed sites. The name and numbers for those sites are as follows:

- New Elk 23-16\*
- New Elk 26-01\*
- New Elk 26-04\*
- New Elk 27-08\*
- New Elk 26-05 – No alteration to proposed site
- New Elk 27-02 – No alteration to proposed site
- New Elk 27-06 – No alteration to proposed site

The access road began on the southwest corner of the existing well pad New Elk 24-12. The development follows the ridge top towards the proposed well pad New Elk 27-06. (Please see project map for details). No earth disturbance occurred at any of these (12) proposed well sites. Tree clearing activities occurred at (4) of the proposed well sites\*. Brush barriers were installed as perimeter controls and some tree debris/stumps were left on location\*. There was a historical jeep trail on this ridge top through the majority of this project. After consulting the CPW, their desire was to keep the original jeep trail to access that area in the event of a fire or an emergency.

### **THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR RECLAMATION ACTIVITIES:**

Once the spring snow has melted, an onsite inspection will be conducted by XTO's weed management contractor to identify and inventory the noxious weeds that are present. The tentative plan is to begin spot treatment by hand spraying the noxious weeds in areas that will not require earth disturbance. This is scheduled for the last week of May. Beginning on June 1<sup>st</sup>, equipment will be delivered to remove or relocate the tree debris and brush barriers from the (4) well sites and access roads. Per CPW approval, some of the brush barriers can be placed in a chipper and dispersed into the undisturbed areas of the project. The remaining tree debris and brush barriers shall be placed at the toe of the cut slope and buried during the re-contouring phase of construction. Due to the length of this project, reclamation will have to be completed in small increments no longer than 300 feet. Three hundred feet is the manufacturer's recommended length of the hose used, in order to maintain enough pressure from the hydro-spraying machine for the proper application of the product. Re-contour the access road to match the surrounding terrain, but leave a level area where the jeep trail existed prior to XTO's disturbance. Compaction alleviation shall be accomplished by ripping to a depth of 18 inches unless and to the extent bed rock is encountered at a shallower depth. Install slope breakers with the bucket of an excavator or dozer where final grade is steep. Implement grading techniques with the bucket of an excavator or dozer on the contour to control erosion, provide ground infiltration during precipitation events and to prepare the soil for seeding.

### **SEEDING METHODS:**

Soil surface roughening shall be implemented during the reclamation process to prepare the soil for seeding and to promote ground infiltration during precipitation events. Once a 300 foot section of the project has been prepared for seeding, all ground disturbing equipment will move out. The hydro-spraying machine and water truck will be moved in to apply the first application of fertilizer, soil amendment and seed mixture. The 4.6.4 Sustane promotes a rapid rate of vegetative establishment and replenishes the soil with a rich supply of humus. The AM 120 contains 100% Glomus intraradices which is designed to improve germination or increase biomass development. The second application will be the Flexterra HP FGM, which bonds well to the soil for stabilization, "Micro-Pore" partials optimize water and nutrients retention while contributing to increased bond strength.

**SEED MIX AND RATES:**

<b>XTO/D.O.W. Grass mix</b>	<b>Rates</b>
Big Bluestem	30.5 PLS lbs/acre
Western Wheatgrass	30.5 PLS lbs/acre
Alfalfa	30.5 PLS lbs/acre
Orchardgrass	30.5 PLS lbs/acre
Airizona Fescue	30.5 PLS lbs/acre
Sideoats Grama	30.5 PLS lbs/acre
Switchgrass	30.5 PLS lbs/acre
Quickguard	30.5 PLS lbs/acre
Little Bluestem	30.5 PLS lbs/acre
<b>XTO/D.O.W. Shrub mix</b>	
Winterfat	5.5 PLS lbs/acre
True Mountain Mahogany	5.5 PLS lbs/acre
Four Wing Saltbush	5.5 PLS lbs/acre
Antelope BitterBruch	5.5 PLS lbs/acre
Mexican Cliffrose	5.5 PLS lbs/acre
Serviceberry	5.5 PLS lbs/acre
<b>Item</b>	
*Sustane 4-6-4	800 lbs/acre
*AM 120 Standard	40 lbs/acer
Flexterra HP FGM	2500 lbs/acre

PLS = Pure Live Seed

\*Use if top soil has not been re-spread on slopes.

**INSPECTION AND MAINENANCE SCHEDULE:**

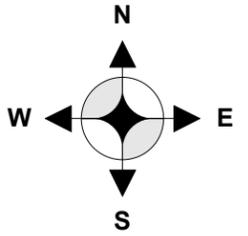
Once earth disturbance begins, site inspections shall be conducted each time a new BMP has been implemented to confirm the BMP was installed according to detail. Additionally, inspections will be conducted every 14 days and 24 hours following a storm event that may cause surface erosion. Within 72 hours if no construction activities occurred since the storm event began. BMP's will be evaluated during the inspection to ensure the BMP's are in good, effective working order. The inspector will coordinate any maintenance issues that were discovered during the inspection with the construction department. Once the corrective actions have been addressed, a follow up inspection will be conducted to ensure compliance with the CDPHE permit. A Site Map and Site Specific Stormwater management plan will be developed prior to earth disturbance. Once the site achieves completed site criteria as outlined in Part 1.D.6. (2) of the CDPHE construction permit, inspections shall be completed once every 30 days and post storm event inspections will not be required.

**COGCC 1004 FINAL RECLAMATION PROCEEDURES:**

Access roads shall be reclaimed in accordance with the 1004 regulations.

NEW ELK 23-10 PASSED ABANDON LOCATION INSPECTION  
NEW ELK 23-12 PASSED ABANDON LOCATION INSPECTION  
NEW ELK 26-07 PASSED ABANDON LOCATION INSPECTION  
NEW ELK 27-04 PASSED ABANDON LOCATION INSPECTION  
NEW ELK 28-08 PASSED ABANDON LOCATION INSPECTION

### NEW ELK PROJECT MAP



2010 NEW ELK PROPOSED PROJECT : AERIAL SHOWS THE  
EXISTING UNMAINTAINED JEEP TRAILS

