

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATION**

544 – LAND RECLAMATION, CURRENTLY MINED LAND

I. SCOPE

The work shall consist of identification, removal, stockpiling and replacing soil materials, planning and implementing runoff control practices, and stabilizing the site with vegetation that is consistent with site capability, planned land use and landowner conservation objectives.

II. INSTALLATION

Properly identify areas for preservation including those containing trees, vegetation, historic structures, stream corridors, natural springs or other important features.

Remove trees, logs, brush, rubbish and other debris from disturbed areas that will interfere with reconstruction and reclamation operations. Dispose of these undesirable materials so they will not create a resource problem or interfere with reclamation activities and the planned land use.

Stockpile material suited to growing vegetation for use as final cover. Vegetation that can be saved should be properly identified and protected. Temporary seeding, mulching, water disposal and similar measures to help control erosion should be used as necessary.

The area to be shaped shall be finished to the lines, grades and sections as specified on the drawings. Overhanging rocks and walls that are to be covered shall be sloped $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 before the soil is placed against the wall, unless a flatter slope is needed for stability.

Materials placed in fill section shall be free of objectionable material. The placing and spreading of the fill material will be started at the lowest point in the fill and brought up in horizontal layer, not to exceed 1 foot. Each layer shall be compacted by routing of construction equipment, or other acceptable means as specified.

Boulders and other rocks shall be covered to the depth specified for the planned land use.

After major earthmoving is completed, the cover material shall be spread over the surface.

Shape the land surface to provide adequate surface drainage and to blend into the surrounding topography. Use erosion control practices to decrease slope lengths where sheet and rill erosion will exceed acceptable levels.

If borrow material from areas outside the reclamation site is used, these areas must be graded, shaped, and left as specified or as shown on the drawings.

Refer to the Colorado Land Reclamation, Currently Mined Land 544 Conservation Practice Standard for additional criteria to restore the quality of the soils to their pre-mining level, or maintain or improve landscape visual and functional quality.

III. VEGETATION

A protective cover of vegetation that is suitable for the specified end land use and local climate potential shall be established on all disturbed surfaces in accordance with the Colorado Critical Area Planting 342, Conservation Practice Standard.

Select plant materials suitable for the specified end land use according to local climate potential, site conditions and Colorado Plant Materials Technical Note 59, Plant Suitability and Seeding Rates for Conservation Plantings in Colorado.

Complete a CO-ECS-5, Grass Seeding Planned and Applied, for each seed mix included in the plan.

Apply soil amendments and or plant nutrients as appropriate, according to the Colorado Nutrient Management 590, Conservation Practice Standard. If the recommended fertilizer rate exceeds Nutrient Management Standard Criteria, plan appropriate mitigating practices to decrease the risk of nutrient losses from the site.

Complete site preparation, planting and seeding operations at a time and in a manner to ensure survival and growth of the selected species. Identify the criteria for successful establishment of vegetation such as minimum percent ground/canopy cover, percent survival or stand density, in the plans and specifications.

IV. CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS

Construction operations shall be done in such a manner that erosion and air and water pollution are minimized and held within legal limits. The owner, operator, Contractor or other persons will conduct all work and operations in accordance with proper safety codes for the type of construction being performed with due regards to the safety of all persons and property.

The completed job shall present a professional appearance.