

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT
Memo

Date: June 4, 2010

To: Pinedale Field Manager

From: Shelley Gregory
PFO Planning & Environmental Coordinator

The intent of adaptive management is to provide a process for any person or group to propose changes to the SEIS ROD based on ongoing monitoring results in the Anticline. It is not intended to change decisions within the ROD, but to clarify decisions and/or modify monitoring methods.

Statement of Problem

The language in the ROD Reclamation Plan, Sections C.2 and C.3 in Appendix C, is confusing in that the report required in each section seems redundant and does not clearly state format and recipients.

Section C.2, Reclamation Plan and Annual Reports: "Reclamation standards, objectives, and results will be reviewed during the annual planning meetings." "Operators will provide annual ERRP (Erosion, Revegetation and Restoration Plan) reports indicating reclamation status of all locations (to include extent of reclamation, vegetative composition, density or frequency, cover, resilience, sustainability, diversity and noxious weed presence, and surface stability). Surface disturbance reports will include "as built" GIS data in acceptable form for inclusion into BLM database."

Section C.3, Monitoring and Evaluation: "The operators will monitor and evaluate reclamation success and shall prepare an annual monitoring and evaluation report to be submitted to BLM and the cooperating agencies a minimum of 3 weeks prior the annual meeting." "An interagency-review team will annually review and analyze the annual monitoring results and methods."

Recommendation

Section C.2, Reclamation Plan and Annual Reports, Paragraph III should be clarified as follows:

Reclamation standards, objectives, and results will be reviewed during the annual planning meetings. ~~Reclaimed sites should be inspected annually (until either interim or final criteria, whichever is applicable for the location, is achieved) and evaluated the first and third growing seasons post seeding to determine if desirable plants are establishing. Operators will provide annual ERRP reports indicating reclamation status of all locations (to include extent of reclamation, vegetative composition, density or frequency, cover, resilience, sustainability, diversity and noxious weed presence, and surface stability). Surface disturbance reports will include "as built" GIS data in acceptable form for inclusion into BLM database.~~ Three weeks prior to the Annual Planning Meeting (starting in 2011), operators will provide to the PAPO an Annual Reclamation Monitoring Report indicating reclamation status of all locations through qualitative and/or quantitative assessments to be conducted as per the *Pinedale Anticline Project Area Monitoring for Reclamation Success* document. In addition, operators will provide the BLM-PFO with an Annual Reclamation Monitoring Report Summary which will include: a list of pads with

site stabilization, interim or final reclamation, pads proposed for reclamation and site stabilization in the upcoming planning year, pads identified for future development that may be in interim reclamation, as well as trends and/or issues with reclamation or the monitoring plan. This summary will be included as part of the collection of reports that are submitted to the BLM three weeks prior to the Annual Planning Meeting.

Section C.3, Monitoring and Evaluation, Paragraph I should be clarified as follows:

~~The operators will monitor and evaluate reclamation success and shall prepare an annual monitoring and evaluation report to be submitted to BLM and the cooperating agencies a minimum of 3 weeks prior the annual meeting. Sites will be monitored and evaluated by individuals skilled in rangeland or reclamation monitoring (including knowledge of local ecology and plant identification), as per the requirements found in the *Pinedale Anticline Project Area Monitoring for Reclamation Success* document issued on September 12, 2009. An interagency review team will annually review and analyze the annual monitoring results and methods.~~

Discussion of Recommendation Impacts

Clarify that the ERRP report required in Section C.2 is not an ERRP report – it is the Annual Reclamation Monitoring Report per the *Pinedale Anticline Project Area Monitoring for Reclamation Success* document. ERRP's (SEIS ROD, page A-6) are site specific and not required everywhere; it is confusing to use the same language for the reclamation report. Secondly, this Adaptive Management Memo seeks to clarify that reporting requirements were discussed in the Monitoring and Evaluation section when they are more appropriately dealt with in the Reclamation Plan and Annual Reports section. The discussion in the Reclamation Plan and Annual Reports section about surface disturbance reports is deleted as that is handled previously in the document (page A-6).

By clarifying this process, the mitigation team and the interagency-review team will receive information that best suits their function and parameters. Operators will avoid report redundancy and be able to refine their submissions to fulfill the requirements of Sections C.2 and C.3.

Conformance with Record of Decision

This conforms with the intent of the ROD as it further defines procedures already encapsulated within.