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NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL PLAN

Weed Control Plan

1. INTRODUCTION

Ellicott Sand & Gravel LLC (hereinafter referred to as the Operator) of the Schubert Ranch Sand Resource, encompassing a parcel of land shown on the vicinity map and located in Parts or the S½NW¼SE¼, S½SE¼, and SE½SW¼ of Section 20, and The E½E½ and NW¼NE¼ and parts of the SW¼NE¼, SW¼SE¼, and NW¼SE¼ of Section 29 and The E½NE¼, SW¼NE¼, & SE¼NW¼, and parts of the NW¼NE¼ & NE¼NW¼, Section 32, Township 14 South, Range 62 West, 6th P.M. El Paso County, Colorado. Containing 733.7 acres more or less. Construction materials mining operations will occur across all, or part, of the rangeland area on this 733.7 acre mine. The site currently has areas that have been used as a ranch yard complex, an creek bottom and undisturbed areas used as rangeland or irrigated sod grass and hay production.

Recognizing the presence of state-listed and county-listed noxious weeds in the general vicinity of this project area; and understanding the destructive nature of these noxious weeds, the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety has required the operator to develop and implement a weed management plan that encompasses the total project area.

The CSU Cooperative Extension office operates under cooperative agreement with the El Paso County government, and provides technical assistance regarding noxious weed management on public and private lands within the county. Ellicott Sand & Gravel LLC will do biennial checks on the active mine for any noxious weeds on site. On the area outside the active mine area the landowners will be responsible for weed control. Implementation of this plan will begin in the spring after mining starts and will continue until the state determines that reclamation is complete.

It is not possible to totally eradicate the noxious weeds from the mine since much of the surrounding property is not owned by Ellicott Sand & Gravel LLC, nor managed for noxious weed control. These uncontrolled areas are the seed sources for the infestation occurring on the mine. For this reason the Operator will be continually working to control noxious weeds throughout the life of the mine and until reclamation is done.

2. OVERVIEW OF APPROACH TO WEED MANAGEMENT

Weed control is part of the over all property management activities done by Schubert Ranch as part of their good farming/ranching practices. This plan is based on controlling the undesirable plant species and communities, rather than on simply eliminating weeds. Preventive programs are implemented to

keep the management area free of species that are not yet established there, but which are known to be pests elsewhere in the area. Priorities are set to reduce or eradicate weeds that have already established on the property, according to their actual and potential impacts on the land management goals for the property, and according to the ability to control them now versus later. Actions will be taken only when careful consideration indicates leaving the weed unchecked, would result in more damage than controlling it with best available methods.

The plan follows the adaptive management approach:

- First, weed species are identified through inventory of the property and by gathering information from other sources.
- Second, land management goals and weed management objectives are established for the property.
- Third, priorities are assigned to the weed species and weed patches based on the severity of their impacts, while considering the ability to control them.
- Fourth, methods are considered for controlling them or otherwise diminishing their impacts and, if necessary, re-order priorities based on likely impacts on target and non-target species.
- Fifth, An Integrated Weed Management (IWM) plan is developed based on this information.
- Sixth, the IWM plan is implemented in the spring or fall as recommended by the CSU Cooperative Extension local office.
- Seventh, the results of management actions are monitored and evaluated in light of weed management objectives for the management area.
- Finally, this information is used to modify and improve weed management objectives, control priorities, and IWM plans, thereby starting the cycle again.

The premise behind a weed management plan is that a structured, logical approach to weed management, based on the best available information, is cheaper and more effective than an ad-hoc approach where one deals with weed problems as they arise.

3. NOXIOUS WEEDS TO BE WATCHED FOR AT THE Perrino PIT.

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| 1. Leafy spurge (<i>Euphorbia esula</i>) | a. Spotted knapweed (<i>Acroptilon repens</i>) |
| 2. Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>) | b. Musk thistle (<i>Cardus nutans</i>) |
| 3. Russian knapweed (<i>Acroptilon repens</i>) | c. Purple loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>) |
| 4. Yellow toadflax (<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>) | d. Showy milkweed (<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>) |
| 5. Saltcedar (<i>Tamarix</i> sp.) | e. Russian Olive (<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>) |
| 6. Hoary cress (<i>Cardaria draba</i>) | f. Bursage, skeletonleaf (<i>Ambrosia tomentosa</i>) |
| 7. Perennial pepperweed (<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>) | g. Bursage, woollyleaf (<i>Ambrosia greyi</i>) |
| | h. Field bindweed (<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>) |
| | i. Jointed goatgrass (<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>) |
| | j. Diffuse knapweed (<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>) |

The first 7 species are listed as Priority 1 or 2 for control in El Paso County and the remaining 10 are on the State noxious weed list and should be looked for on the mine and controlled if needed.

4. NUISANCE WEEDS THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED

- a. Russian thistle, common name tumbleweed
- b. Kosha

5. CONTROLLING ABOVE LISTED WEEDS

All of the above weeds can be controlled or eradicated by using mechanical, biological, or chemical control depending on species. The Operator will have a qualified weed control agent observe the mine for possible noxious weeds and advise the Operator on how noxious species should be treated. Initially it may require semi-annual spraying or mowing to control the problem weeds and digging the woody species, but eventually we expect to revert to an annual control program to maintain the site. Records of weed control activities, including dates work was done; methods used; area sprayed and types/quantities of chemical used if any, will be kept at the Corporate office in Colorado Springs, Colorado for review.

WEED CONTROL

The revegetated areas will be monitored closely each spring for the first two years to determine if noxious weeds are invading the area. Ellicott Sand & Gravel, will implement a weed monitoring and control plan for the mine and have included a copy in the Appendix for your review. The operator will be responsible for weed control on the areas around and in the active mine area. The landowner will be responsible for weed control on the undisturbed area.

Weed control will be initiated if the problem becomes serious or if an excessive weed cover is still present at the end of the second year. In no way should this be taken to mean that we will try to eradicate all the weeds from the site. Total eradication of weeds from the site is not necessarily desirable, so we will be using controls on the noxious weeds and letting the rest grow in select areas for limited times as long as they do not hamper the grass growth. It may be necessary to control weeds by mowing after the first year, the feasibility of chemical weed control methods will be studied should other forms not work. Control of noxious weeds is important to the state so USDA Extension Service recommendations will be followed to control them.