

SECTION 18. SEEDING AND WEED MANAGEMENT

To comply with the Montana County Weed Control Act, Section 7-22-2152 MCA, the Missoula County Weed District and the Missoula County Public Works Department require any person desiring to construct a subdivision or to perform an excavation, cut into, or in any way disturb the existing vegetation on any public right-of-way, easement, road, street or park subject to the County's control shall develop a revegetation plan that will reestablish beneficial vegetation in the disturbed area. Successful revegetation of a disturbed site depends on matching site characteristics with species that are well adapted to those site characteristics. The revegetation plan is subject to the approval of Missoula County Weed District and the approved plan constitutes a binding agreement between the County and the responsible person or agency. The Weed District will not sign off on a plan without the signature of the responsible party. The Weed District will accept or require modification of a revegetation plan within ten (10) working days of receipt of the plan.

18.1 Revegetation Plan for Disturbed Sites

An application for the Revegetation Plan for Disturbed Sites is available from the Missoula County Weed District and is provided in Appendix C. Before an application can be reviewed, all sections must be completed, and the following discussion will assist the applicant with Section A of the permit.

1. If present, the topsoil on a site needs to be salvaged separately from subsoil prior to beginning construction and should be wind rowed rather than piled. If the project is to last more than a growing season, the topsoil should be seeded with an annual cover to suppress weed growth. After construction, compacted areas should be ripped and topsoil redistributed over areas to be revegetated. An ideal seed bed is topsoil six inches deep and lightly compacted until an average person leaves a foot print one-quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) inch to one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) inch deep in the soil.
2. Seed species and seeding rates can be determined by identifying the existing vegetation and referring to the Missoula County Integrated Plant Management Fact Sheet No. 10 or the Revegetation Guidelines for Western Montana: Considering Invasive Weeds, both available from the Missoula County Weed District. Seed rates should be expressed as pounds of pure live seed per acre. Certified noxious weed seed free seed should always be used to ensure quality seed is being purchased.
3. Drill seeding is the preferred and most successful method of seed placement. Broadcast seeding is quick and simple but requires doubling the seed rate to compensate for less than optimal seed placement and the soil surface should be roughed up prior to and just after broadcast seeding. Hydro-seeding and hydro-mulching are accepted methods of seed placement, but the advantages and disadvantages should be discussed with the hydro-seeding contractor.
4. The time of seeding is as critical as any component of the revegetation process. The recommendation for dry land seeding in western Montana is a dormant Fall seeding, after October 15 and before freeze up. This timing allows new seedlings to use all available Spring moisture and become well established before the Summer drought.

5. Fertilization is normally not necessary under dry land conditions. Some non-native species respond to fertilization while native species generally are adapted to soils with low fertility. If fertilizer is used a soil test is needed to determine the fertilizer rate.
6. Weed control is critical to the success of any revegetation project. If weeds are present on a site to be disturbed a weed control program prior to disturbance will greatly enhance the probability of success of a revegetation project. Annual weed pressure will interfere with the initial establishment of beneficial vegetation and must be addressed in any revegetation plan. Many beneficial species take more than one year to become established necessitating a weed management plan that controls weeds for at least two years.