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## Information Sheet: GRADING AND EROSION CONTROL

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The following section of the *Gunnison County Land Use Resolution* identifies the standards associated with grading and erosion control.

### SECTION 13-116: GRADING AND EROSION CONTROL

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- A. PURPOSE.** The purpose of this Section is to minimize the potential erosion and sedimentation impacts of development.
- B. APPLICABILITY.**
- 1. AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS EXEMPT.** Agricultural operations shall be exempt from the requirements of this Section.
  - 2. GRADING ACTIVITIES REQUIRED TO OBTAIN RECLAMATION PERMIT.** Activity which disrupts the earth, including grading conducted independent of, or before obtaining a Building Permit or an Individual Sewage Disposal System Permit, Access Permit, or any Land Use Change Permit shall be required to obtain a Reclamation Permit from the Public Works Department, pursuant to Section 13-115: *Reclamation and Noxious Weed Control*.
- C. NO EARTHWORK UNTIL ALL REQUIRED PERMITS ARE OBTAINED.** No activity that disrupts the earth shall be allowed until all required permits are obtained.
- D. GENERAL STANDARDS.** All land use changes shall comply with the following standards:
- 1. MINIMIZE ON-SITE EROSION.** Development shall minimize erosion on-site by:
    - a. PHASING CONSTRUCTION.** Stage and schedule timing of earth disturbing construction activities, including clearing, grading, and utilities installation to minimize soil disruption and exposure.
    - b. INSTALLATION OF EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL MEASURES.** Erosion and sedimentation control measures shall be installed, to the maximum extent feasible.
      - 1. STABILIZING SOIL.** Disturbed areas and soil stockpiles shall be stabilized or protected to control erosion effectively. Those areas shall be surface-roughened, mulched or seeded and mulched, or otherwise protected from erosive forces if they will remain exposed and inactive for longer than 14 days, or are otherwise expected to be exposed during winter to minimize erosion from occurring during spring snowmelt. The soil surface of cut and fill slope shall not remain exposed without an approved method of soil stabilization.
      - 2. STABILIZATION ON STEEPER SLOPES.** On slopes steeper than 3:1, or within 100 feet of any water body, exposed soils shall be stabilized within 14 days of final disturbance, weather permitting, using appropriate techniques such as hydro mulching, erosion control blankets, bonded fiber matrices or other equally protective measures. Grass or straw mulch should be crimped, traced or tacked in place to promote surface anchoring.
    - c. TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT REVEGETATION.** Disturbed areas that will not be built upon for one year shall incorporate a temporary cover crop to promote soil stability. Areas that will likely remain exposed for two or more years must be revegetated with a perennial, native grass mix (or other grass mixtures as recommended by the local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office).
    - d. AVOIDANCE OF CUT AND FILL SLOPES.** Cut and fill slopes shall be avoided to the greatest extent feasible.
      - 1. AVOIDANCE ON STEEPER SLOPES.** Except for mining extraction activities cut and fill shall be avoided on slopes greater than 3:1, unless avoidance would result in loss of all economic benefit of the parcel; then stabilization shall be attained by using a combination of retaining walls, rock walls, up-slope runoff

diversions, terracing, slope drains, soil nailing, mulch binders, erosion control blankets, vegetation or other measures appropriate for the specific situation. Revegetation, or other methods of soil stabilization, is required.

2. **PERMANENT VEGETATION ON SLOPES 3:1 OR LESS.** Where cut and fill cannot be avoided, slopes shall be designed, constructed and maintained for long-term stability. Permanent vegetation shall be used to stabilize cut and fill where slopes are less than or equal to 3:1.
  - e. **CONSTRUCTION IN OR DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO ANY WATER BODY, OR MUDFLOW.** Construction, including culvert or bridge installation, shall require measures to protect water quality in or directly adjacent to any water body or mudflow to protect water quality and channel stability, and shall address the following:
    1. **COMPLIANCE WITH 404 PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS.** All construction shall conform to applicable U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 permitting requirements.
    2. **CONTAINMENT AND LIMITED TIMES OF IN-STREAM WORK.** Construction shall protect water quality by measures including, but not limited to stream isolation using coffer dams, complete containment of the stream in the area of the disturbance, stream-crossing structures, and limitations on the dates when in-stream work can be performed.
  - f. **DRAINAGE STRUCTURES AND OTHER ELEMENTS.** All drainage structures and other elements designed to avoid or mitigate erosion or sedimentation shall comply with the requirements of Section 13-117: *Drainage, Construction and Post-construction Storm Water Runoff*.
  - g. **PROTECTION FROM ACCELERATED EROSION.** New or rerouted swales, receiving channels and streams shall be protected from erosion until vegetation is established and is stable during flows for which the feature was designed.
  - h. **PROTECTION OF CULVERT OUTLETS.** Culvert outlets shall be protected from erosive flows by installing velocity reducers.
  - i. **DIVERSION OF RUNOFF.** Runoff from offsite shall be diverted around the construction site to the maximum extent feasible.
2. **MINIMIZE SEDIMENT LEAVING A SITE.** Development shall minimize sediment leaving a site by:
    - a. **DIVERSION OF CONCENTRATED STORM WATER FLOWS.** Concentrated Storm Water runoff flows shall be diverted away from disturbed slopes. The length and steepness of the areas of disturbed slopes shall be minimal; slope drains may be used to provide control.
    - b. **PROTECTION OF ACCESS WITH ROAD BASE OR BY WASHING.** Disbursement of sediment and mud from a construction site shall be minimized by protecting access routes by either immediate placement of road base materials, or construction of mud pads, which shall be at least 50 feet long and comprised of angular rock and/or a wheel-washing facility.
    - c. **PROTECTION OF ADJACENT PROPERTIES BY FENCING OR TRAPPING.** Adjacent properties shall be protected from sediment-laden runoff by use of sediment fences, sediment or silt traps, or other appropriate controls.
    - d. **PROTECTION OF STORM SEWER INLETS.** Storm sewer inlets shall be protected from entry of sediment-laden water, by placement of straw bales, supported silt fence structure, dumped rock or other barriers.
  3. **REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION DEWATERING.** All land use changes shall meet the following construction dewatering requirements:
    - a. **COMPLIANCE WITH STATE PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS.** Construction dewatering activities shall comply with the Colorado Water Quality Control Division Discharge Permit System for Construction Dewatering Wastewater Discharge.
    - b. **USE OF BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.** Discharges from construction dewatering operations shall be done to minimize erosion and use best management practices, including velocity reducers, sediment basins, and straw bales.