SECTION 13-115: RECLAMATION AND NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL

A. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Section is to establish standards to control the growth and proliferation of noxious weeds in Gunnison County, in conformance with Colorado Revised Statutes 35-5.5, *et seq*: the *Colorado Noxious Weed Act*, by requiring site reclamation after earth moving and/or construction has occurred.

B. APPLICABILITY. This Section shall apply to all earth moving sites including road and driveway cutting and construction, clearing of land, and berm construction. This Section shall not conflict with the requirements of Division 9-400: *Exploration, Extraction and Processing of Minerals and Construction Materials* or with reclamation within the jurisdiction of the Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety and applied to mining operations. Nothing in this Section is or shall be construed to be a limit on the County's authority regarding noxious weeds.

1. **EXEMPTIONS.** The following uses are exempt from having to obtain a Reclamation Permit:

   a. **AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS.** Agricultural operations, as defined within this *Resolution*.

   b. **AREAS OF DISTURBANCE SMALLER THAN 10,000 SQ. FT.** Areas of disturbance that are smaller than 10,000 sq. ft. that are located outside of mapped occupied Gunnison Sage-grouse habitat.

   c. **RECORDED SUBDIVISIONS WITH APPLICABLE PROTECTIVE COVENANTS.** In platted, recorded subdivisions, that are located outside of mapped occupied Gunnison Sage-grouse habitat, approved by the County for which there are recorded protective covenants that require reclamation that meets or exceeds the standards of this Section. Determination of that compliance shall be made by the Gunnison County Public Works Department.

   d. **AREAS RECOMMENDED BY WEED COORDINATOR**. Areas that are defined and recommended by the Gunnison County Weed Coordinator, as may be designated from time to time by the Board.

C. GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE REVIEW.

1. **GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE PREAPPLICATION CONFERENCE.** A Gunnison Sage-grouse preapplication conference shall be required for any proposed site disturbance if the site is located within mapped occupied Gunnison Sage-grouse habitat.

2. **RECLAMATION PERMIT.** A reclamation permit shall be required for all projects involved in any level of site disturbance within Tier 1 Habitat. A reclamation permit may be required for site disturbance in Tier 2 Habitat, based upon a site-specific analysis.

D. RECLAMATION PERMIT REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPMENT THAT DISTURBS10,000 OR MORE SQ. FT. Except as otherwise exempted, a development which results in any site disturbance that involves 10,000 or more sq. ft. of disturbance, shall be required to obtain a Reclamation Permit from the Gunnison County Public Works Department.

E. SITE RECLAMATION AND NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL PLAN. Prior to obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy the applicant shall have implemented reclamation of the affected site pursuant to the requirements of Section 13-116: *Grading and Erosion* and with Section 11-105: *Development in Areas Subject to Wildfire Hazards* and be required, if applicable, to address the following:

1. **NATIVE PLANTS REQUIRED IN EAST RIVER CORRIDOR**. Native plant materials are required to be used in the portion of the East River Corridor to the Gothic Townsite as delineated a map that can be obtained from the Public Works Department.

2. **SLASH AROUND HOMES**. To avoid insects, diseases, and wildfire hazards, all vegetative residue, slushiness, branches, limbs, stumps, roots, or other such flammable lot-clearing debris shall be disposed of from around homesite areas by either chipping or removal prior to final building inspection approval. Homesite areas shall include all areas of the lot in which such materials are generated or deposited; and

3. **REMOVAL OF DEBRIS.** Within six months of substantial completion of soil disturbance, all stumps, and other tree parts, and brush should be removed from the site and disposed of in compliance with

requirements of any applicable municipal tree disposal site or the Gunnison County Landfill, or by other means pursuant to applicable regulation. Excess or scrap building material, weeds, or other debris should be removed from the site and disposed of pursuant to requirements of the Gunnison County Landfill, or by other means pursuant to applicable regulation.

a. **RETAINING DEADWOOD FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT.** All dead or dying trees should be removed from the site, unless those trees are to be used for fire wood or retained for wildlife habitat, upon recommendation of the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife or the Colorado State Forest Service. If trees and limbs are reduced to chips, they may be used as mulch in landscaped areas.

F. SURETY.

1. **DISTURBANCE OF 10,000 OR MORE SQ. FT.** When activities of development or a land use change results in any site disturbance that disturbs 10,000 sq. ft. or more, surety in the form of a bond, letter of credit, interest-bearing account, or as may be addressed within a Development Improvement Agreement, shall be required by the County to assure satisfactory implementation of the plan. Such surety shall be subject to the approval of the Gunnison County Attorney.

2. **DISTURBANCE OF LESS THAN 10,000 SQ. FT.** When development or land use change causes disturbance of fewer than 10,000 sq. ft., no surety shall be required, but shall be subject to civil procedure if the Project is found by the County not to have complied with the requirements of this *Resolution*.