

## Developing a Reclamation/ Revegetation Project

Establishing and managing vegetation on highly disturbed areas such as land fills and construction sites requires an evaluation of the materials that are proposed to support plant growth through making available water, nutrients, and root space. For desirable plants to grow and remain the primary vegetative cover, the material used must have physical and chemical characteristics that fit the plants requirements. Not all materials will meet the requirements.

Evaluating the materials, site, and physical assets before any construction, grading, or other work begins will allow for adjustments and/or additional materials to be obtained and used to insure that the final results will be desirable. To develop the potential options, the following process is used:

- ✓ develop the goals for vegetative cover.
- ✓ evaluate the proposed soil material characteristics, potential amendment materials, and proposed time line for closure.
- ✓ develop options (including site construction, grading, and surface preparation, seeding mixtures, timing, and methods, and management following seeding) suitable for use on the site with preferred options detailed.
- ✓ develop a list of potential limitations, concerns, and hazards.
- ✓ outline a long term management program to establish and maintain the vegetation economically.

### The Process

The procedure should start with a personal, onsite evaluation to develop the information outlined below. If an onsite visit is not justified, the information required will be developed jointly by communication. In the case of large projects, an onsite visit will be less time consuming and expensive than by communication since the contracting organization will be required to obtain samples, photographs, and other materials.

**Before the Onsite Visit** A map or aerial photo of the site is required before the visit. The site visit will be at a predetermined cost based on estimated time and expenses and will include a written evaluation and preliminary recommendations. Other information may include options that could be used regardless of desirability with the expected outcomes for each. Recommendations for additional testing and procedures needed to accomplish the final cover may also be included. Taking and handling of soil and other samples is negotiated.

The onsite visit will require or develop the following minimum information to used in developing the site evaluation and recommended options.

- ✓ map or aerial photo of the site.
- ✓ topographic map of the proposed site and the surrounding areas showing the location of storage piles, areas to be covered, access roads, and other physical features.
- ✓ soil samples will be submitted and test results obtained from an acceptable agricultural testing service and other conditions that are present.

- ✓ history and description of any areas that have previously been vegetated including cover materials, mechanical treatment, seedbed preparation, seeding mixture, seeding method, and management after seeding.
- ✓ proposed procedure for building cover.
- ✓ proposed construction time line including anticipated seeding date.
- ✓ any other information pertaining to the site or procedures that could influence vegetation establishment.

**Report** Within 15 working days of all test results and data being available, a report summarizing the information developed, test results, recommended procedures for construction and grading, criteria for a desirable seedbed, required amendments and handling, seeding specifications and details, management after seeding, and an outline of the long-term management required will be delivered. Where appropriate, suggestions for sources of materials and services will be made.

### **Additional Services Available**

During construction, grading, seeding, and other events, additional information and/or visits will be provided as requested. Should unexpected events occur that change the original plan, revisions will be developed with input from all interested parties at an agreed on cost.

### **Rates, Fees, and Costs**

All services and work will be covered in a negotiated contract. An hourly rate and billing requirements plus what charges and costs will be reimbursed will be included. Sampling and other services will be negotiated and contracted.

"Grass is the forgiveness of nature---her constant  
benediction."

-John Ingalls, U.S. Senator, Kansas, 1890