

# Missoula County Weed District and Missoula County Public Works Department Revegetation Guidelines

To comply with the Montana County Weed Control Act § 7-22-2152 MCA Missoula County Weed District and 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 area to be disturbed. The revegetation plan is subject to the approval of Missoula County Weed District. The signed plan constitutes a binding agreement between the Missoula County and the responsible person or agency.

Successful revegetation of a disturbed site depends on matching site characteristics with species that are well adapted to those site characteristics.

To successfully complete the Missoula County Weed District Revegetation Plan for Disturbed Sites form, fill in the subdivision or construction projects name in the space provided.

List the location referencing common landmarks or use the legal description that appears on the property deed or both in the space provided.

List the number of lots and acres involved in a subdivision, the area of an approach or the length of an excavation project.

List the type or types of construction disturbing existing vegetation.

## A. Disturbed Site Revegetation Plan

1. **Site Preparation (topsoil management and seed bed preparation)** If present the topsoil on a site needs to be salvaged separately from subsoil prior to beginning construction. If possible topsoil 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 lightly compacted until an average person leaves a foot print .25 to .5 inches 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 through 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. 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. 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 dryland 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 dryland 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 addressed in any revegetation plan. Many species take more than one year to become established necessitating a weed management plan that controls weeds for at least two years.
- B. **Landowner or responsible party**, fill in the name and address of the individual or company/agency that is responsible for initiating the disturbance. 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 10 working days of receipt of the plan.