



RECLAMATION PLAN APPLICATION GUIDE

SISKIYOU COUNTY PLANNING DIVISION

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WHAT IS A RECLAMATION PLAN?

A Reclamation Plan outlines the combined process of land treatment that minimizes water degradation, air pollution, damage to aquatic or wildlife habitat, flooding, erosion and other adverse effects from surface mining operations, including adverse surface effects incidental to underground mines, so that mined lands are reclaimed to a usable condition which is readily adaptable for alternate land uses and create no danger to health or safety (Public Resources Code Section 2733).

WHY IS A RECLAMATION PLAN NECESSARY?

State law and Siskiyou County Code require that all non-exempt surface mining activity have an approved Reclamation Plan. Reclamation of mined lands will permit the continued mining of minerals and provide for the protection and subsequent beneficial use of the mined and reclaimed land. In addition, reclamation plans and subsequent reclamation prevent or minimize adverse environmental effects that may result from surface mining operations. Reclamation also reduces or eliminates public health and safety hazards associated with surface mining activities.

WHICH ZONING DISTRICTS ALLOW SURFACE MINING?

Mining is a unique land use and may be permitted in any Zoning District, subject to approval of a use permit, together with approval and execution of a Reclamation Plan [Siskiyou County Code Section 10-6.1502(d) and 10-5.301(a)].

HOW DO I OBTAIN A RECLAMATION PLAN?

A Reclamation Plan must be prepared by a mining engineer, engineering geologist, civil engineer or other professional familiar with surface mining processes and Reclamation Plan requirements. To begin the process, a completed application form must be submitted to County Planning. Application forms are available at the Planning Division, 806 S. Main Street, Yreka; or on-line at:

www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/PHS/planning/planning.aspx.

WHAT INFORMATION IS REQUIRED ON THE RECLAMATION PLAN?

Attached is a copy of "DMG Note 26," Assembly Bill amendments and additions to that publication, and excerpts from the California Administrative Code, Title 14. These attachments

address Reclamation Plan contents and surface mining responsibilities. As well as the above mentioned information, basic information is requested such as name, address, location, Assessor's Parcel Number, access, owner's name and address, total acres to be disturbed and reclaimed, and any existing utilities located on site. In order for our department to determine whether the reclamation you propose is adequate for your operation, we also request a plan of operation be submitted with the Reclamation Plan. Please provide photographs of the property in the operation, a location sketch and a full plot plan showing the condition of the operational site upon the termination of mining, prior to reclamation, as well as a plot plan showing the site upon completion of reclamation, in its final state. Please include any signage, exterior lighting and any proposed structures to be located and removed.

NOTE: Experts with the Department of Conservation, Office of Mine Reclamation (OMR) are available to answer your questions on the technical aspects of Reclamation Plans. Before contacting OMR ([916] 323-9198) you should determine the subject area - botany, biology, engineering, stream hydrology, geology, financial assurance, or compliance, that your question pertains to. Inform the OMR receptionist of the subject area of your question and you will be connected to the appropriate staff member.

WHAT ARE THE FEES TO PROCESS THIS APPLICATION?

Planning Department - The Siskiyou County Planning fees can be obtained from the first page of the Department's Application for Development Review. Also, Section 10-6.1601 of the County Code also provides additional information on development fees. Checks to pay Planning Department fees should be made payable to Siskiyou County.

California Department of Fish & Game - Pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 711.4, the Department imposes and collects a filing fee to defray the costs of managing and protecting California's fish and wildlife resources. This fee applies regardless of whether the Department participates in the review of your project. Unless this fee is paid, your project will not be valid. In order to minimize the impact of collecting this fee, the fee is not paid until the project is approved. Under the same Fish and Game Code Section 711.4, the Siskiyou County Clerk collects a fee in order to off-set the cost for the posting of the Notice of Determination or Notice of Exemption for your project. It is the applicant's responsibility to pay the County Clerk (check made payable to the Siskiyou County Clerk) directly for both of these current fees immediately upon project approval and before the Notice of Determination or Notice of Exemption is filed.

California Northeast Information Center for Cultural Resources – Your project may be subject to this fee (made payable to the CSU Chico Research Foundation) should the project potentially impact historic or cultural resources.

Siskiyou County Counsel's Office – In order to defray the cost of reviewing applications that will go before the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors, the Planning Department will collect a fee to defray the cost of the County Counsel's review of a typical application. This fee can be obtained from the first page of the Department's Application for Development Review. Certain applications will require additional review and an additional deposit will be required against which the costs of the additional review will be billed. Section 10-6.1601 of the County Code provides additional information on how this is calculated. The initial fee can be included

in your check to pay for the Planning Department's fee (check made payable to the Siskiyou County).

WHO REVIEWS AND APPROVES THIS APPLICATION?

The Planning Department reviews the application for completeness and mails it to various interested federal, state, and county agencies for review (including any applicable property owners association). The California Department of Conservation, Office of Mine Reclamation will also review your proposal for consistency with state law. With any comments received from reviewing agencies, County Planning then prepares and circulates the necessary environmental documentation required by state law.

It is important to note that input from various public agencies (e.g., California Department of Fish and Game, California Northeast Information Center for Archeological Resources, and/or others) may necessitate further analysis of the subject site before the project may proceed. Such input often includes the requirement for an archeological and/or biological survey. Any expenses incurred for these items are borne by the project applicant. When such additional information is required, applications will be deemed "incomplete" until received. This can create delays in the timelines to process the application.

Once the review period is completed, the application will be set for public hearing before the Planning Commission. Notice to all property owners within 300' is provided. The Commission approves, modifies, or denies the application. Their decision may be appealed to the Board of Supervisors during the ten days following Commission action.

ARE INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS RETURNED?

In the event that an application has not been determined to be complete and ready for processing within six (6) months after the date of the first incomplete notice, the applicant must complete all outstanding requirements within thirty (30) days of written notice to complete the application requirements. In the event that the applicant fails to complete the application submittal requirements within this time frame, the application will be considered abandoned and staff's time and costs incurred working on the project shall be charged against the application filing fees, and any remaining balance shall be refunded to the applicant.

The Planning Director may waive this requirement where this provision would represent an unreasonable time expectation in the determination of the Planning Director. Examples of such projects could include Environmental Impact Reports, projects which require the completion of complex studies, or projects where the applicant is diligently working with staff to address project related issues.

HOW LONG WILL THIS PROCESS TAKE?

The review, public notice, and public hearing process to bring the application before the Commission may take between 90 to 120 days, depending on when the application is accepted for processing by the Planning Department. These timelines can become

considerably longer when additional information is required from other agencies reviewing the project. Planning Commission hearings are held the third Wednesday of each month.

WHAT IS AN INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT? WILL I NEED ONE?

An Indemnification Agreement is an agreement where the applicant agrees to be responsible for any costs associated with any and all damage, liability or loss connected with the granting of the project. For all projects which require the approval of the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors, an Indemnification Agreement is required. Once you have submitted an application, the agreement will be prepared and sent to you for signature. Your application will not be considered to be complete and ready for formal processing until such time as the signed agreement has been returned, in addition to any other application requirements. Prior to receiving the filled-in agreement, you may ask for a draft to familiarize yourself with requirements and obligations.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT NOTICES

OPEN RANGE NOTICE: Siskiyou County is an **Open Range** county. You must fence live-stock out! Copies of the laws affecting your property are available in the offices of the Planning Department and the Building Inspector. These laws do affect your property and you should be aware of their provisions.

RIGHT TO FARM: Siskiyou County has established agriculture as a priority use on productive agricultural lands, and residents of property in agricultural districts should be prepared to accept some inconvenience or discomfort from normal and necessary farm operations. It will be recognized that the property in question may be in the vicinity of property utilized for agricultural purposes and residents of the development may be subject to the inconvenience or discomfort arising from the use of agricultural chemicals including herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers; and from the pursuit of agricultural operations including plowing, spraying, pruning, and harvesting, which occasionally generates dust, smoke, noise and odor. As part of the application approval process, a **RIGHT TO FARM STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT will be required.** Once you have submitted an application, the statement will be prepared and sent to you for your signature which must be notarized. Your application will not be considered to be complete and ready for formal processing until such time as the signed and notarized notice has been completed, recorded at the County Recorder’s Office, and a copy of the recordation has been submitted to the Planning Department. Prior to receiving the filled-in statement, you may ask for a draft to familiarize yourself with this notice.

**COUNTY OF SISKIYOU
RECLAMATION PLAN APPLICATION
COUNTY FILE # RP -**

[PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NEATLY IN BLACK INK]
[If a particular item is not applicable, please indicate by stating N/A.
If more room is necessary, please reference additional sheets.]

GENERAL OWNERSHIP/OPERATOR INFORMATION

A. **MINE NAME:** _____

Location of Mine: _____
(Include Siskiyou County street address, if applicable)

Attach a map that identifies how to access the mine site from the nearest highway.

APN'S: _____

Section(s) _____, Township _____, Range _____, Meridian _____

B. **MINE OPERATORS(S):** _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Numbers: _____

C. **LANDOWNER(S):** _____

(Property owner or owners of surface rights [list all owners])

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

D. **PROJECT REPRESENTATIVE:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E. **OWNER OF MINERAL RIGHTS:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

GENERAL LEAD AGENCY INFORMATION

A. Lead Agency: Siskiyou County Planning Division
806 S. Main St
Yreka, CA 96097
(530) 841-2100

Staff Contact: Staff Planner

B. SMARA Sections 2770 and 2773.1 require mine operators to obtain a lead agency approved Financial Assurance to ensure reclamation occurs pursuant Reclamation Plan. Attach a copy of the proposed Financial Assurance.

Check here if you attached a copy of the proposed Financial Assurance.

GENERAL MINNING OPERATION INFORMATION

A. Mined Mineral Commodity(ies): _____

B. Estimated Annual Production: Average - _____ Maximum - _____
[In tons or cubic yards per year]

C. Estimated Total Production: _____
[In tons or cubic yards over project life]

D. Total Number of Acres to be Disturbed by the Surface Mining Operation: _____

E. Total Number of Acres to be Reclaimed: _____

F. Maximum Anticipated Depth of Mining: _____ FEET _____ ELEVATION

G. Start Up Date [indicate whether actual or proposed]: _____

H. Site Maps: Attach a map or maps of lands that will be affected by mining operations. The map scale should be 1" = 100' to 1" = 500' so that the following may be identified easily:

1. Existing site conditions

2. Mining operation features
3. Final site configuration
4. Project location (showing the nearest readily identifiable road, intersection or other landmark)
5. A reduced copy of exhibit maps (11" x 17" maximum) is requested for duplications

I. Attach a topographic map showing the configuration of the site before and after reclamation.

Check box if map is attached.

J. Describe the environmental setting of the mine site; include a general description of vegetation and a list of at least four plants currently on site that may be suitable for reclamation.

K. Address the presence/absence of sensitive species, sensitive habitats [i.e. wetlands].

L. Describe the geology of the area surrounding the mine site: _____

M. Describe the geology of the area to be mined: _____

N. Indicate the method of mining to be employed:

Open Pit _____

Gravel/Sand Pit _____

Single Bench _____

Drill and Blast _____

Quarry:

Hill Top _____

Clay Pit _____

Multibench _____

Truck to processing plant to (RR)

Side Hill _____

Borrow Pit _____

Dragline _____

Tailings Pond _____

Low Level _____

Slurry pump _____

Shovel _____

Waste Dump _____

Underground _____

Rail _____

Gravel Bar Skimming _____

Other _____

O. Operation will be (is): Continuous _____ Seasonal _____ Intermittent _____

Developed-Not yet in operation ___ Temporarily deactivated ___ Stockpile in mine ___

P. If processing of the ores or minerals is planned to be conducted at or adjacent to the site, briefly describe the nature of the processing and explain disposal method of the tailings or waste from processing:

Q. Estimate quantity (gallons per day) and quality of water required by the proposed operation, specifying proposed sources of this water, or method or its conveyance to this property and the quantity and quality and method of disposal of used and/or surplus water:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF RECLAMATION ACTIVITIES [Attach additional sheets, if needed]
[PURSUANT TO PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 2772]

A. Describe the proposed use of the site once mining ceases and reclamation is completed:

B. Attach evidence that all owners of a possessory interest in the land to be mined have been notified of the proposed end use (*e.g. copies of notices sent to landowner and mineral rights owner*)

Check box if evidence is attached.

C. Provide a time schedule for the reclamation of each area disturbed by mining. If reclamation and/or project phases on your site map.

D. Discuss how the implementation of this Reclamation Plan will affect future mining in the area (*e.g. reclamation will not preclude future mining at this site since reclamation calls of open spaces*).

E. Describe how the proposed reclamation of the mine site will affect public health and safety, giving consideration to the degree and type of existing and probable future public exposure to the site.

F. Briefly discuss how contaminants will be controlled and mine waste will be disposed (*e.g. fuel storage*). *Note: If cyanide is used for on-site processing, PRC Section 21151.7 requires the preparation of an environmental impact report under the California Environment Quality Act.*

RECLAMATION STANDARDS

A. Pursuant to SMARA Section 2773, my reclamation activities will comply with the following standards provided in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, Article 9, Sections 3700-3710. (Check Applicable box below).

- Topsoil salvage, maintenance, and redistribution – if the end use calls for revegetation or cultivation of disturbed lands, I agree to conduct topsoil salvage, maintenance, and redistribution activities in conformance with CCR Section 3711. Explain the reclamation procedures you will use to meet the standard cited above:

2. Revegetation – Revegetation will be a part of my approved Reclamation Plan. I agree to conduct my revegetation activities in conformance with CCR Section 3705. Unless non-native species such as forage grasses or ornamentals will be used, specify at least four native species that occur on site or in the vicinity of the project and will be used for revegetation.

3. Check this box if the end use precludes revegetation or the cultivation of disturbed lands.
4. Check this box if revegetation is not consistent with the approved end use.

5. Proposed revegetation plan: _____
-
-

6. Proposed revegetation mix:
-
-

7. Success of revegetation will be judged upon the effectiveness of the vegetation for the approved end use and by comparing quantified vegetative cover, density, and number of species of the reclaimed mined lands to local areas of naturally occurring vegetation or premining conditions (baseline).

	Baseline	Performance Standard
Density (Note 1)	_____	_____
Cover (Note 2)	_____	_____
Species Richness (Note 3)	_____	_____

- Note 1: No. of individual perennial plants rooted per 100 sq. ft.*
- Note 2: Vertical projection of perennial plants onto ground expressed as % (e.g. if the sun was directly over a specified area, what percentage of that area would be shaded by the trees, plants, ect.)*
- Note 3: No. of perennial species per 100 sq. ft.*

B. Proposed end uses – Check applicable box below:

1. If the mining operation will not be conducted on Prime Agricultural lands, and the site’s end use will not be agricultural, check this box.
2. If the mining operation will be conducted on Prime Agricultural lands, but the site’s end use will not be agriculture, check this box.
3. Prime Agricultural land reclamation – The mining operation will be conducted on Prime Agricultural lands, and the site’s end use will be agricultural. Therefore, I agree to reclaim Prime Agricultural lands in conformance with CCR Section 3707. (Explain the reclamation procedures you will use to meet the standard cited above.)

Y Reclamation success of agricultural lands will be judged on the following performance standard.

	Baseline	Performance Standard
Productivity		

Note: Performance standard should be based on productivity (e.g. bushels per acre, tons per acre.)

4. Other agricultural land reclamation – The mining operation will be conducted on Non-Prime Agricultural lands where the site’s end use will be agriculture. Therefore, I agree to reclaim Non-Prime Agricultural Lands in conformance with CCR Section 3708. (Explain the reclamation procedures you will used to meet the standard cited above.)

Y Reclamation success of non-prime agricultural lands will be judged on the following performance standard.

	Baseline	Performance Standard
Productivity		
<hr/>		

Note: Performance standard should be based on productivity (e.g. bushels per acre, tons per acre)

- 5. If the mining operation will be conducted on Non-Prime Agricultural lands, but the site's end use will not be agriculture, check this box.

- C. Wildlife Protection – agree that all wildlife and wildlife habit will be protected in accordance with CCR Section 3703 [check box]. *(Provide a description of how the above protection will be accomplished)*

D. Check Applicable Box

- Backfilling, regarding, slope stability, and recontouring – I agree that all backfilling, regarding, slope stability, and recontouring will conform to CCR section 3704. *Explain the reclamation procedures you will use to meet the standard cited above.*

- Check this box if final reclaimed fill slopes, including permanent piles or dumps of mine waste rock and overburden, will not exceed 2:1 *(Horizontal: Vertical)*

Explanation: _____

- Check this box if final reclaimed fill slopes, including permanent piles or dumps or mine waste rock and overburden will be : (Indicated slope ratio) which is steeper than 2:1 (Horizontal: Vertical). Attach a site-specific geologic and engineering analysis that demonstrates that the proposed final slope will have a minimum slope-stability factor or

safety that is suitable for the proposed end use, and that the proposed final slopes can be successfully revegetated.

Explanation: _____

Y Please provide a geologic cross section of cut and fill slopes at locations at maximum slope height. Please identify cross section locations on the site map.

E. Drainage, diversion structures, water ways, and erosion control – I agree that all drainage, diversion structures, water ways, and erosion control facilities will conform to CCR Section 3706. [Check Box] (*Explain the reclamation procedures you will use to meet the standard cited above.*) _____

Y Identify all drainage, diversion structures, waterways and erosion control facilities on the site map.

F. Building, structure and equipment removal – I agree to reclaim any buildings, structures, and equipment areas in conformance with CCR Section 3709 [Check Box]. *Explain the reclamation procedures you will use to meet the standard cited above.*

Y Identify on the site map the location(s) where all equipment, supplies, and other materials will be stored.

Y Identify which buildings, structures and equipment will be: (1) dismantled and removed off site; and/or (2) remain on site as consistent with the end use.

G. Closure of surface openings – I agree to close all surface openings in accordance with CCR Section 3712 [Check Box] *Explain the reclamation procedures you will use to meet the standard cited above.*

Y Identify all surface openings on site map.

H. Check Applicable Box.

1. Stream protection, including surface and groundwater. I agree streams, including surface and groundwater will be protected in accordance with CCR Section 3710. *Explain the reclamation procedures you will use to meet the standard cited above.*
-
-

2. Check this box if the mining operation is conducted in a stream or other waterway and attach cross sections, or aerial photographs, indentifying streambed elevations.

Y Changes in channel elevations and bank erosion shall be evaluated annually. Ex-traction quantities and annual cross sections and/or aerial photographs should be submitted with the annual report required by PRC Section 2207.

3. Check this box if the mining operation is not conducted in a stream or other waterway.

MONITORING

Pursuant to CCR Section 2773 (a), the success of reclamation will be monitored for three years, or until performance standards are met, provided that, during the last two years, there has been no human intervention, including, for example, irrigation, fertilization, or weeding. Remedial measures will be implemented as necessary to achieve the performance standards.

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

I, the undersigned, hereby agree to accept full responsibility for reclamation of all mined lands as described and submitted herein and in conformance with the applicable requirements of Articles 1 and 9 (commencing the sections 3500 et seq. and 3700 et seq., respectively) of Chapter 8 of Division 2 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act commencing with Section 2701 et seq., and with any modifications requested by the administering agency as conditions of approval.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Notarized signature (s) of Landowners

Address

PLACE NOTARY CERTIFICATE HERE

CHECKLIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- Map that identifies how to access the mine site from the highway.
- Topographic map of lands that will be affected by mining operation.
- Copy of the proposed Financial Assurance.
- Evidence that all owners of possessory interest in the land to be mine have been notified of the end land use.
- Topographic map showing the configuration of the site before and after reclamation.
- Other reports of documents. Please describe: _____
