Gallatin National Forest

Memo

To: New World Response Team

From: Henry Shovic, PhD.

CC:

Date: 5/6/2005

Re: Review of 2005 Revegetation Monitoring Report

Mary Beth:

On April 14, I reviewed the 2005 McLaren Pit Area Revegetation Monitoring Report. It is a nicely done report. Methods appear adequate. Documentation is well laid-out.

- McLaren Pit Cap

This area was reclaimed in 2003. Results appear promising (68% cover). The digital photos indicate quite a uniform "golf course" aspect. This would be expected in the first years after reclamation, since some species will take advantage of the relatively-high fertility and amendments. This is not desirable in the long run, since we are looking for a more diverse, but lower ground cover to provide a maintenance-free vegetation community appropriate to the climatic and soil conditions on the site.

- Borrow Area

This area has improved in vegetation cover since 2004. However, there is pictorial evidence of erosion on remaining vehicle tracks, and deep rills on steeper slopes. This should be monitored in 2006, to determine if this area will stabilize or continue eroding.

As in the Pit area ,the digital photos indicate quite a uniform "golf course" aspect. This would be expected in the first years after reclamation, since some species will take advantage of the relatively-high fertility and amendments. This is not desirable in the long run, since we are looking for a more diverse, but lower ground cover to provide a maintenance-free vegetation community appropriate to the climatic and soil conditions on the site.

- McLaren Triangle

Though results appear good for the 2005 monitoring (62% cover) compared to earlier results (10-16%), this is complicated by the re-reclamation done in 2003 (including fertilization, lime, seed, and cover) due to earlier vegetation failure.

Recommendations

* Re-vegetation has had some initial success. However, our objective of a sustainable cover has not yet been met. Monitoring should be carried out in 2007 and 2009 to evaluate the longer-term trend.

* Potential instability and long-term erosion potential should be evaluated and appropriate changes made in 2006.

Henry Shovic

Soil Scientist

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