

conditions, the area is retreated or the topsoil replaced as conditions dictate. To prevent bare areas from being overrun by noxious weeds, attempts are made to control noxious weeds during reclamation by mowing or other appropriate methods approved by the Division.

Riparian Areas

Some facilities have been constructed in riparian vegetation and other areas within the 100-foot riparian/stream buffer zone of the North Fork of the Gunnison River and are identified in Figure 18 as areas of buffer zone variance. They include the water intake gallery, sediment ponds and associated spillways and ditches, a railroad siding, the railroad loadout facility, a light-use road and the area of sediment pond MB-5E (formerly a portion of the old Bear No. 1 and 2 Mines site.) Within Section 9 of T13S, R90W, the 100-foot wide riparian/stream buffer zone on each side of the river encompasses 11.9 acres along the north and south banks of the North Fork of the Gunnison River. Of this total acreage only 1.2 acres are covered by riparian vegetation. The remainder is rock debris and an industrial area. A total of 0.4 acres of the variance area was covered by riparian vegetation.

Sylvester Gulch is a stream with a biological community as defined by Rule 4.05.18(3). The realigned main haul/access road will be constructed within 100 feet of Sylvester Gulch, and a variance to the stream buffer zone as defined by Rule 4.05.17 is appropriate because the original stream channel will not be disturbed, water quality and quantity will not be adversely affected due to slope stabilization methods (BMPs, revegetation, and MSE walls), and the reclamation plan provides for the reestablishment of appropriate riparian vegetation. Both the North Fork and Sylvester Gulch stream buffer zones are marked with signs stating "Stream Buffer Zone". The US Forest Service has requested that no buffer zone signs be placed along streams within the Gunnison National Forest where roads, drill pads or other disturbances may cross or be within 100' of any stream with a drainage area above that disturbance of one square mile or greater. All such disturbances have been approved by the US Forest Service and CDRMS with a finding of no impact to water quantity or quality.

Mountain Coal Company will reclaim the 1.3 acres of disturbance within the North Fork of the Gunnison River riparian/stream buffer zone and the disturbance within the Sylvester Gulch riparian/stream buffer zone. The reclamation methods described in the Roads Section will be used to revegetate disturbances within the riparian buffer zone. In addition, all disturbances outside the present riparian vegetation community will be reclaimed as shrub clusters, where site conditions permit. If site conditions preclude shrub cluster vegetation, the CDRMS will be consulted to develop a mutually agreeable reclamation alternative. Also, the species used in the riparian vegetation community revegetation effort are noted below and are based on a survey of species present within the riparian vegetation communities (Table 40). The grass and forb species below, as well as streambank willow and Colorado blue spruce from Table 40 were used for the restoration of a 50' area of South Prong Creek (see MR-453 in Exhibit 80).

<u>Grass and Forb</u>	<u>Pounds/Acre PLS</u>
Western Wheatgrass	4
Kentucky Bluegrass	1/2
Slender Wheatgrass	2
Streambank Wheatgrass	3
Alsike Clover	1/2
Cicer Milkvetch	<u>1</u>
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