# **EXHIBIT E – RECLAMATION PLAN**

Meeker Sand & Gravel: M-1976-038

The entire disturbed area of the current pit and proposed new section will be returned to its original use as dry rangeland. The mine area is surrounded on all sides by agricultural use varying from dry rangeland, to irrigated pasture and hay ground.

Following final reclamation, no slopes will be greater than 3.0H:1.0V.

#### Current Pit Reclamation:

Reclamation will follow as we continue to mine available reserves from the pit floor, meaning the main pit area will not be reclaimable until the remaining sections of pit floor have been extracted. The remaining area to mine on the pit floor and thereafter reclaim is approximately 18 acres. As soon as a 2-3 acre section is extracted, area will be regraded using the overburden and topsoil piles that have been stockpiled to the immediate north of the mined area. All areas will be reclaimed by dozer regrading within a short distance of the work areas. Approximately 12-24" of overburden will be replaced followed by 6-12" of topsoil (T). Prior to any replacement of topsoil, the subsoil/overburden will be ripped to a depth of 12 inches if the material has compaction levels that could inhibit root growth. If any compaction of topsoil occurs during the placement process, it will also be ripped or harrowed to its replacement depth to help facilitate successful seeding and eventual revegetating. We expect the final grade in this area of the pit to be mostly flat in topography, with some slight undulations. Main mine road will be left to access the wash plant area and new, proposed mining area. Map F-1 shows information pertinent to the reclamation of the areas.

We will also be mining up to the mine boundaries, as well. This area makes up approximately 1.5 acres. Immediately after extracting the gravel near the boundary, we will reslope using a dozer and mixed overburden/topsoil stockpiles that exist in close proximity to these areas. Any final slopes will be no steeper than 3.0H:1.0V. As the mining of the pit floor moves close to completion and meets up with these edges that have been resloped with overburden, final reclamation will occur. Prior to any replacement of topsoil, the subsoil/overburden will be ripped to a depth of 12 inches if the material exhibits compaction levels that could inhibit root growth. If any compaction of topsoil occurs during the placement process, it will also be ripped or harrowed to its replacement depth.

Once final topsoil placement has occurred, the site will be seeded according to the recommendation of the local NRCS. Please see full report and recommendation letter under Exhibit I. Weed control plan is currently in place and will address the minimization of weeds in these reclaimed areas, working closely with the Rio Blanco County Weed Control District, with annual inspections to be made.

# EXHIBIT E (Cont.)

Meeker Sand & Gravel: M-1976-038 Reclamation Plan

TIMELINE: CURRENT MINING OPERATION	ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE
Continued mining of pit floor at estimated rate of	
movement of 2-3 acres/year.	5-6 years
Re-grading of floor area following mining	Happening concurrently, as
	mining moves north-westerly
	across remainder of pit
Replacement of topsoil and reseeding	Happening concurrently, but
	estimated to happen within 6
	mos – 1 year of final grading
	being completed.
Mining of edges of pit to extract remaining resources	1-2 years
Re-sloping walls as soon as feasibily possible following	As soon as possible following
mining	mining
Replacement of topsoil and reseeding	Within 6 mos -1 year of final
	grading being completed.

Proposed, New Section Reclamation:

Since reclamation will follow mining as it moves westerly, we anticipate that the maximum disturbed acreage to reclaim at any time will be 50 acres. Initially, overburden will be stripped and stored in a topographically low area located approximately between Phase 1 and Phase 2 areas. The overburden will be used to create a catch basin in this naturally low-occurring area approximately 50' south of property line (K). This impoundment area will serve as a catch basin for all stormwater run-off and will also be used as a recycle pond. A graduated series of additional catch basins can be created in this area in the future, to the south of the primary basin, if necessary. Map F-2 shows Phase I and Phase II of expansion area as well as topsoil, overburden storage areas and addresses areas that have been mined previously by prior operator(s).

As mining moves westerly, reclamation will begin on east permit boundary following at approximately the same rate as mining is moving westerly with the intent that the stripping of the overburden can then be placed directly on the floor where it will be graded immediately. Access road will remain during this time, with areas surrounding it to be reclaimed. Overburden will be used to cover pit floor areas and bring north slopes to 3.0H:1:0V. Final grading will follow the natural undulation of the pit floor that is created while mining, but is expected to be fairly flat. Topsoil stored in stockpiles to the north (J) will be used to top the subsoil/overburden at a depth of approximately 6'' - 12''. As Phase 2 is completed, the entire Phase 1 area will be reclaimed. Prior to any replacement of topsoil, the subsoil/overburden will be ripped to a depth of 12 inches if the material has compaction levels that could inhibit root growth.

### EXHIBIT E (Cont.)

Meeker Sand & Gravel: M-1976-038 Reclamation Plan

Some additional, inert fill will be generated by mixer truck wash-out areas during the lifetime of the mine, which will be used as backfill prior to replacement of overburden and topsoil.

The final reclamation task, following completion of mining in Phase 2, will be to reshape the shorelines of the existing recycle ponds, catch basins and reclaim the wash plant area. Ponds will remain intact to provide for livestock water and wildlife habitat for the post-mining uses. (C) Shorelines and slopes will be reshaped to give livestock and wildlife ability to utilize the ponds in the future. Entire wash plant/classifying area will also be regraded. We expect there will be some sloping in the final reclaimed topography due to the elevation changes from the main mine pit floor to the wash plant area floor. Topsoil will be replaced. The overburden and topsoil will be hauled in from storage piles not in the immediate vicinity using scrapers and haul trucks being loaded with front-end loaders. Dozers will regrade and spread the topsoil. Existing dams between recycle ponds will remain intact, as will the access roads that are necessary for accessing the site for its post-mining uses. Final, reclaimed topography is expected to be primarily flat, as mining will daylight out on the north, south and west sides.

Once final topsoil placement has been achieved, the site will be seeded according to the recommendations of the local NRCS. Please see full report and recommendation letter under Exhibit I. Weed control plan is currently in place and will address minimizing weeds in these reclaimed areas, working closely with the Rio Blanco County Weed Control District with annual inspections to be made.

TIMELINE: PROPOSED / EXPANSION OPERATION	ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE
Strip overburden and topsoil, moving to berms in stated	
locations	Ongoing ahead of mining
	operation as it moves westerly
Extracting gravel from gravel face working westerly	17-20 years
through Phase 1	
	Ongoing as mining moves
Re-grading mined out areas as mining moves westerly	westerly
Replacement of Topsoil and reseeding	Within 6 mos – 1 year of final
	grading being completed.
Strip overburden and topsoil, moving to berms in stated	Ongoing ahead of mining
locations in Phase 2	operation as it moves westerly
Extracting gravel from gravel face working westerly	10 years
through Phase 2	
Replacement of topsoil and reseeding	Within 6 mos -1 year of final
	grading being completed.

Areas that have been affected previously by prior operator(s) <u>within</u> the mine boundary will be reclaimed according to reclamation plan. Previously-affected areas that are<u>outside</u> the mine boundary will remain in current condition (un-reclaimed). Areas that have been affected previously are indicated by (zz).

## EXHIBIT E (Cont.)

Meeker Sand & Gravel: M-1976-038 Reclamation Plan

Industrial area (11.51 acres) located at the front of the mine will remain following completion of mining to allow continued use of batch plant, office and shop buildings. Entrance road will remain to allow access to this industrial area.

Map F-2 shows an approximation of what topography will be following final reclamation. Daylighting out on the North, South and West sides will leave the topography fairly flat with undulations following the original/natural topography.