APPENDIX B: CONSTRUCTION BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

-for Controlling the Spread of Noxious Weeds

The following Best Management Practices are intended to provide information to land owners in order to reduce the potential for introducing new noxious weed species and to eliminate the spread of existing noxious weed infestations during construction practices.

Survey and Treat the Project Area: Prior to ground-disturbing activities, survey the project area to document the presence of any pre-existing weed infestations. Treat infestations prior to ground-disturbing activities and remove all weed seed and propagules to prevent weed spread. If possible, survey and treat infestations on adjacent properties to reduce the likelihood of noxious seed dispersal into the project site.

Inspect All Equipment. Inspect all equipment used in the project be clean, i.e. free of mud, dirt, plant parts, and seeds, or other debris that could contain or hold plant parts or seeds, prior to entering the project area, and prior to leaving a weed-infested project area.

Topsoil Salvage/Stockpiling. The goal of topsoil salvage is to keep the soil alive, weed-free, and protected from damage until it can be used for planting or seeding. Usually, topsoil is stockpiled until the site is ready for seeding. Topsoil should be stored for less than one year in a weed-free location. Salvage entails scraping off the topsoil, or the uppermost, fertile layer of the soil, and setting it aside in stockpiles until needed. After construction, this topsoil should be spread out to a minimum depth of 3" on all surfaces that are to be seeded. Soil stockpiles should be protected from wind and water erosion through the use of temporary seed mixtures or erosion control barriers.

Seed Bed Preparation. A good seedbed is crucial to successful revegetation. Slopes should be graded to avoid concentrated water flow and subsequent erosion. If possible, any areas severely compacted by machinery and equipment during construction should be ripped by tractor or backhoe to loosen soils and allow for water infiltration and root growth. Clods larger than 3" should be broken, and any weeds controlled by tilling the soil.

Use Certified Weed Free Seed for Revegetation. The Town of Nederland encourages the use of native seed mixes in revegetation. Drill seeding is generally the best seeding method for seeding. If the site is too small or steep for a tractor for drill seeding, then broadcast the seed by hand or with a mechanical spreader. Broadcast seed needs to be applied at twice the rate of drilled seed. For further information on REVEGETATION, please refer to resources listed at the end of this Appendix.

Mulch. For steeper slopes, a mulch is necessary to keep the seed and topsoil in place. Mulch also provides shade to the seedlings and helps to retain soil moisture. On slopes of 3:1 or less, the mulch can be certified weed-free straw or a synthetic hydromulch. On steeper slopes, an erosion control matting should be used. Follow the manufacturer's installation instructions for erosion control products.

Monitoring. Most revegetation sites will be dominated by "pioneer" or "weedy" species for the first few years following disturbance. Normally, these plants are not aggressive and they will eventually be replaced by desirable vegetation. However, monitoring is critical during initial establishment to ensure that a timely and appropriate response is taken to the appearance of a noxious weed species. Monitoring the site for 3 years post construction is recommended.

APPENDIX B: (continued)

REVEGETATION Resources

Boulder County Land Use Planning Publications website:
http://www.bouldercounty.org/property/build/pages/plnningdf.aspx

See the following publications:

Native Seed Mixes
Revegetation
Revegetation Information Packet
Suggested Native Plants for Horticultural Use on the Front Range of Colorado

Gilpin County Cooperative Extension website factsheets
http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/pubs.html

7.244 Colorado Mountain Gardening Basics
7.406, Flowers for Mountain Communities,
7.423, Trees and Shrubs for Mountain Communities,
7.413, Groundcovers and Rock Garden Plants for Mountain Communities,
7.421, Native Trees for Colorado Landscapes,
7.422, Native Shrubs for Colorado Landscapes,
7.242, Native Herbaceous Perennials for Colorado Landscapes, and
7.233, Wildflowers for Colorado.

Native Plant Revegetation Guide for Colorado
Colorado Parks and Wildlife webpage
http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/RS-Revegetation.aspx