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To: Shane DeForest, Pinedale FO Manager  
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Date: December 29, 2011  
Subject: Proposed Adaptive Management: Reclamation Monitoring in the PAPA

The PAPO proposes Adaptive Management to revise the "Monitoring for Reclamation Success" plan and related minor wording changes in Appendix C in the 2008 Pinedale Anticline Record of Decision.

**Recommendation: Revision to the PAPO "Monitoring for Reclamation Success" plan**

The purpose of reviewing and updating the plan is to provide clarification and further guidance about the implementation of the plan. Additionally, the PAPO plans to incorporate changes/additions made to the monitoring program since the first version, and to reformat the plan to enhance readability.

The proposed changes should help ensure the reclamation objectives in the 2008 ROD and subsequent adaptive management actions can be monitored with the best available information and consistent manner for operators, their contractors, and PAPO reclamation staff.

**Recommendation: Minor wording changes in Appendix C of the 2008 ROD:**

1. The last sentence on C-1 the current ROD language states:

*Final reclamation will be considered successful when:*

*A self-sustaining, vigorous, diverse, native (or otherwise approved) plant community is established on the site **with a density or frequency** sufficient to control erosion and non-native invasion and reestablish wildlife habitat and forage production.*

The recommended wording change is to delete "**with a density or frequency**" because both **density** and **frequency** are not appropriate methods to determine erosion control or to monitor the reestablishment of wildlife habitat.

2. In every sentence in C.2, C.3, and C.4 that has the phrase "**density or frequency**" the recommendation is to delete "**density or**" so that only **frequency** is used to help measure certain elements of reclamation success. The use of either density or frequency - the current ROD language - has led to inconsistent reporting by operators and their contractors. This topic was discussed on May 13, 2011 with the operators and the BLM and it was generally agreed that measurements of either density or frequency are valid to enable evaluation of achievement of shrub or forb reclamation objectives. However, to enable consistent evaluation of these objectives, timely data collection relating to either density or frequency (not both) should be collected by both the operators and PAPO staff. The intent of the data collection is to capture trends through time to ensure the operators are meeting ROD reclamation objectives.

**Frequency** was selected over **density**, because a greater amount of frequency data - in the same time period - can be collected compared with density data. Additionally, there is no diminishment in data quality to be able to detect vegetation change over time (trend information).

