

# PECOS DISTRICT CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

30-025-39894

|                       |                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| OPERATOR'S NAME:      | CIMAREX ENERGY CO. OF COLORADO      |
| LEASE NO.:            | NM0052                              |
| WELL NAME & NO.:      | MALLON 34 FEDERAL 19                |
| SURFACE HOLE FOOTAGE: | 2055' FNL & 790' FEL                |
| BOTTOM HOLE FOOTAGE:  | 1980' FNL & 330' FWL                |
| LOCATION:             | Section 34, T. 19 S., R 34 E., NMPM |
| COUNTY:               | LEA County, New Mexico              |

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Standard Conditions of Approval (COA) apply to this APD. If any deviations to these standards exist or special COAs are required, the section with the deviation or requirement will be checked below.

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## **I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

The approval of the Application For Permit To Drill (APD) is in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations: 43 Code of Federal Regulations 3160, the lease terms, Onshore Oil and Gas Orders, Notices To Lessees, New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (NMOCD) Rules, National Historical Preservation Act As Amended, and instructions and orders of the Authorized Officer. Any request for a variance shall be submitted to the Authorized Officer on Form 3160-5, Sundry Notices and Report on Wells.

## **II. PERMIT EXPIRATION**

If the permit terminates prior to drilling and drilling cannot be commenced within 60 days after expiration, an operator is required to submit Form 3160-5, Sundry Notices and Reports on Wells, requesting surface reclamation requirements for any surface disturbance. However, if the operator will be able to initiate drilling within 60 days after the expiration of the permit, the operator must have set the conductor pipe in order to allow for an extension of 60 days beyond the expiration date of the APD. (Filing of a Sundry Notice is required for this 60 day extension.)

## **III. ARCHAEOLOGICAL, PALEONTOLOGY & HISTORICAL SITES**

Any cultural and/or paleontological resource discovered by the operator or by any person working on the operator's behalf shall immediately report such findings to the Authorized Officer. The operator is fully accountable for the actions of their contractors and subcontractors. The operator shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the Authorized Officer. An evaluation of the discovery shall be made by the Authorized Officer to determine the appropriate actions that shall be required to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values of the discovery. The operator shall be held responsible for the cost of the proper mitigation measures that the Authorized Officer assesses after consultation with the operator on the evaluation and decisions of the discovery. Any unauthorized collection or disturbance of cultural or paleontological resources may result in a shutdown order by the Authorized Officer.

## **IV. NOXIOUS WEEDS**

The operator shall be held responsible if noxious weeds become established within the areas of operations. Weed control shall be required on the disturbed land where noxious weeds exist, which includes the roads, pads, associated pipeline corridor, and adjacent land affected by the establishment of weeds due to this action. The operator shall consult with the Authorized Officer for acceptable weed control methods, which include following EPA and BLM requirements and policies.

## **V. SPECIAL REQUIREMENT(S)**

Timing Limitation Stipulation / Condition of Approval for lesser prairie-chicken: Oil and gas activities including 3-D geophysical exploration, and drilling will not be allowed in lesser prairie-chicken habitat during the period from March 1st through June 15th annually. During that period, other activities that produce noise or involve human activity, such as the maintenance of oil and gas facilities, pipeline, road, and well pad construction, will be allowed except between 3:00 am and 9:00 am. The 3:00 am to 9:00 am restriction will not apply to normal, around-the-clock operations, such as venting, flaring, or pumping, which do not require a human presence during this period. Additionally, no new drilling will be allowed within up to 200 meters of leks known at the time of permitting. Normal vehicle use on existing roads will not be restricted. Exhaust noise from pump jack engines must be muffled or otherwise controlled so as not to exceed 75 db measured at 30 feet from the source of the noise.

Ground-level Abandoned Well Marker to avoid raptor perching: Upon the plugging and subsequent abandonment of the well, the well marker will be installed at ground level on a plate containing the pertinent information for the plugged well. For more installation details, contact the Carlsbad Field Office at 575-234-5972.

## **VI. CONSTRUCTION**

### **A. NOTIFICATION**

The BLM shall administer compliance and monitor construction of the access road and well pad. Notify the Carlsbad Field Office at (575) 234-5972 at least 3 working days prior to commencing construction of the access road and/or well pad.

When construction operations are being conducted on this well, the operator shall have the approved APD and Conditions of Approval (COA) on the well site and they shall be made available upon request by the Authorized Officer.

### **B. TOPSOIL**

The operator shall stockpile the topsoil in a low profile manner in order to prevent wind/water erosion of the topsoil. The topsoil to be stripped is approximately 6 inches in depth. The topsoil will be used for interim and final reclamation.

### **C. CLOSED LOOP SYSTEM**

Tanks are required for drilling operations: No Pits.

The operator shall properly dispose of drilling contents at an authorized disposal site.

### **D. FEDERAL MINERAL MATERIALS PIT**

Payment shall be made to the BLM prior to removal of any federal mineral materials. Call the Carlsbad Field Office at (575) 234-5972.

#### **E. WELL PAD SURFACING**

Surfacing of the well pad is not required.

If the operator elects to surface the well pad, the surfacing material may be required to be removed at the time of reclamation.

The well pad shall be constructed in a manner which creates the smallest possible surface disturbance, consistent with safety and operational needs.

#### **F. ON LEASE ACCESS ROADS**

##### **Road Width**

The access road shall have a driving surface that creates the smallest possible surface disturbance and does not exceed fourteen (14) feet in width. The maximum width of surface disturbance, when constructing the access road, shall not exceed thirty (30) feet.

##### **Surfacing**

Surfacing material is not required on the new access road driving surface. If the operator elects to surface the new access road or pad, the surfacing material may be required to be removed at the time of reclamation.

Where possible, no improvements should be made on the unsurfaced access road other than to remove vegetation as necessary, road irregularities, safety issues, or to fill low areas that may sustain standing water.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to require surfacing of any portion of the access road at any time deemed necessary. Surfacing may be required in the event the road deteriorates, erodes, road traffic increases, or it is determined to be beneficial for future field development. The surfacing depth and type of material will be determined at the time of notification.

##### **Crowning**

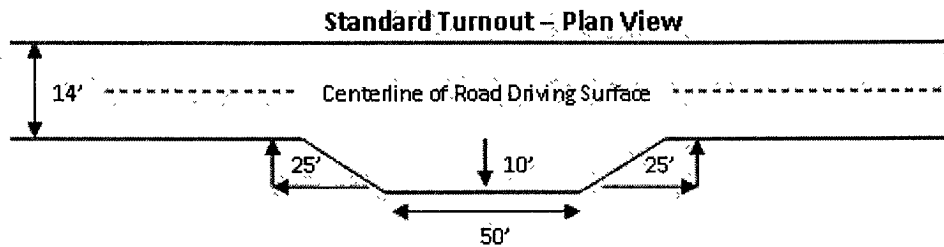
Crowning shall be done on the access road driving surface. The road crown shall have a grade of approximately 2% (i.e., a 1" crown on a 14' wide road). The road shall conform to Figure 1; cross section and plans for typical road construction.

##### **Ditching**

Ditching shall be required on both sides of the road.

##### **Turnouts**

Vehicle turnouts shall be constructed on the road. Turnouts shall be intervisible with interval spacing distance less than 1000 feet. Turnouts shall be constructed on all blind curves. Turnouts shall conform to the following diagram:

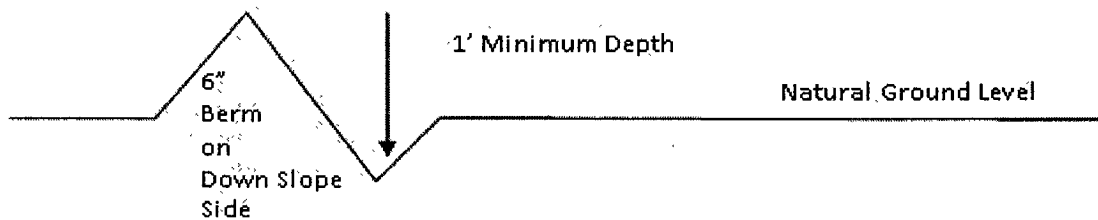


### Drainage

Drainage control systems shall be constructed on the entire length of road (e.g. ditches, sidehill outsliping and insliping, lead-off ditches, culvert installation, and low water crossings).

A typical lead-off ditch has a minimum depth of 1 foot below and a berm of 6 inches above natural ground level. The berm shall be on the down-slope side of the lead-off ditch.

### Cross Section of a Typical Lead-off Ditch



All lead-off ditches shall be graded to drain water with a 1 percent minimum to 3 percent maximum ditch slope. The spacing interval are variable for lead-off ditches and shall be determined according to the formula for spacing intervals of lead-off ditches, but may be amended depending upon existing soil types and centerline road slope (in %);

### Formula for Spacing Interval of Lead-off Ditches

Example - On a 4% road slope that is 400 feet long, the water flow shall drain water into a lead-off ditch. Spacing interval shall be determined by the following formula:

$$400 \text{ foot road with } 4\% \text{ road slope: } \frac{400'}{4\%} + 100' = 200' \text{ lead-off ditch interval}$$

### Culvert Installations

Appropriately sized culvert(s) shall be installed at the deep waterway channel flow crossing.

**Cattleguards**

An appropriately sized cattleguard(s) sufficient to carry out the project shall be installed and maintained at fence crossing(s).

Any existing cattleguard(s) on the access road shall be repaired or replaced if they are damaged or have deteriorated beyond practical use. The operator shall be responsible for the condition of the existing cattleguard(s) that are in place and are utilized during lease operations.

A gate shall be constructed and fastened securely to H-braces.

**Fence Requirement**

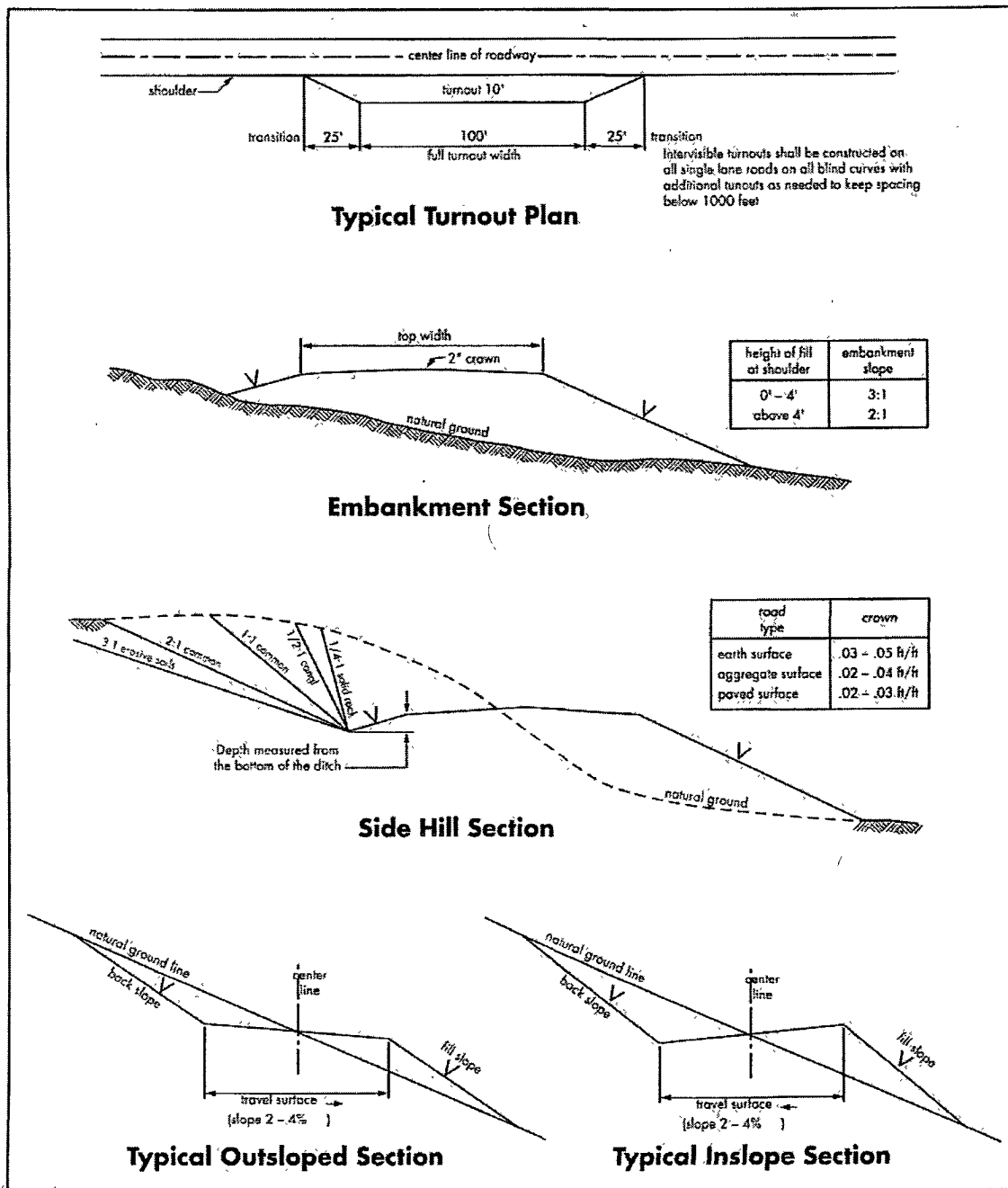
Where entry is required across a fence line, the fence shall be braced and tied off on both sides of the passageway prior to cutting.

The operator shall notify the private surface landowner or the grazing allotment holder prior to crossing any fence(s).

**Public Access**

Public access on this road shall not be restricted by the operator without specific written approval granted by the Authorized Officer.

**Figure 1 – Cross Sections and Plans For Typical Road Sections**



## VII. DRILLING

### A. DRILLING OPERATIONS REQUIREMENTS

The BLM is to be notified a minimum of 4 hours in advance for a representative to witness:

- a. Spudding well
- b. Setting and/or Cementing of all casing strings
- c. BOPE tests

☒ **Lea County**

Call the Hobbs Field Station, 414 West Taylor, Hobbs NM 88240,  
(575) 393-3612

1. A Hydrogen Sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) Drilling Plan should be activated 500 feet prior to drilling into the Yates formation. **As a result, the Hydrogen Sulfide area must meet Onshore Order 6 requirements, which includes equipment and personnel/public protection items. If Hydrogen Sulfide is encountered, please provide measured values and formations to the BLM.**
2. Unless the production casing has been run and cemented or the well has been properly plugged, the drilling rig shall not be removed from over the hole without prior approval.
3. Floor controls are required for 3M or Greater systems. These controls will be on the rig floor, unobstructed, readily accessible to the driller and will be operational at all times during drilling and/or completion activities. Rig floor is defined as the area immediately around the rotary table; the area immediately above the substructure on which the draw works is located, this does not include the dog house or stairway area.
4. **The record of the drilling rate along with the CAL/GR/N well log run from TD to surface will be submitted to the BLM office as well as all other logs run on the borehole 30 days from completion. If available, a digital copy of the logs is to be submitted in addition to the paper copies. The Rustler top and top and bottom of Salt are to be recorded on the Completion Report.**

### B. CASING

**Changes to the approved APD casing and cement program require submitting a sundry and receiving approval prior to work. Failure to obtain approval prior to work will result in an Incident of Non-Compliance being issued.**

**Centralizers required on surface casing per Onshore Order 2.III.B.1.f.**

**Wait on cement (WOC) time for a primary cement job will be a minimum 18 hours for a water basin, 24 hours in the potash area, or 500 pounds compressive strength, whichever is greater for all casing strings. Provide compressive strengths including hours to reach required 500 pounds compressive strength prior to cementing each casing string. See individual casing strings for details regarding lead cement slurry requirements.**

**No pea gravel permitted for remedial or fall back remedial without prior authorization from the BLM engineer.**

**Possible lost circulation or water flows in the Seven Rivers and Capitan Reef, if encountered.**

**Possible high pressures in the Wolfcamp.**

1. The 13-3/8 inch surface casing shall be set at **approximately 1750 feet (a minimum of 25 feet into the Rustler Anhydrite and above the salt)** and cemented to the surface.
  - a. If cement does not circulate to the surface, the appropriate BLM office shall be notified and a temperature survey utilizing an electronic type temperature survey with surface log readout will be used or a cement bond log shall be run to verify the top of the cement. Temperature survey will be run a minimum of six hours after pumping cement and ideally between 8-10 hours after completing the cement job.
  - b. **Wait on cement (WOC) time for a primary cement job is to include the lead cement slurry.**
  - c. Wait on cement (WOC) time for a remedial job will be a minimum of 4 hours after bringing cement to surface or 500 pounds compressive strength, whichever is greater.
  - d. If cement falls back, remedial cementing will be done prior to drilling out that string.
2. The minimum required fill of cement behind the 9-5/8 inch intermediate casing is:  
☒ Cement to surface. If cement does not circulate see B.1.a, c-d above.

**Formation below the 9-5/8" shoe to be tested according to Onshore Order 2.III.B.1.i. Test to be done as a mud equivalency test using the mud weight necessary for the pore pressure of the formation below the shoe (not the mud weight required to prevent dissolving the salt formation) and the mud weight for the bottom of the hole. Report results to BLM office.**

3. The minimum required fill of cement behind the 7 inch production casing is:

☒ Cement should tie-back at least 200 feet into previous casing string. Operator shall provide method of verification. **Additional cement may be required as the excess cement calculated to be 10%.**

**Formation below the kick off point to be tested according to Onshore Order**

**2.III.B.1.i. Test to be done as a mud equivalency test using the mud weight necessary for the pore pressure of the formation below the shoe and the mud weight for the bottom of the hole. Report results to BLM office.**

4. Cement not required on the 4-1/2" production liner. Peak completion system being used. **Variance request for the 100 ft tie-back for the liner is granted.**
5. If hardband drill pipe is rotated inside casing, returns will be monitored for metal. If metal is found in samples, drill pipe will be pulled and rubber protectors which have a larger diameter than the tool joints of the drill pipe will be installed prior to continuing drilling operations.

#### **C. PRESSURE CONTROL**

1. All blowout preventer (BOP) and related equipment (BOPE) shall comply with well control requirements as described in Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 2 and API RP 53 Sec. 17.
2. Minimum working pressure of the blowout preventer (BOP) and related equipment (BOPE) required for drilling below the surface casing shoe shall be **3000 (3M) psi. Operator is using a 5M and testing as a 3M.**
  - a. **For surface casing only:** If the BOP/BOPE is to be tested against casing, the wait on cement (WOC) time for that casing is to be met (see WOC statement at start of casing section). Independent Service Company required.
3. Minimum working pressure of the blowout preventer (BOP) and related equipment (BOPE) required for drilling below the 9-5/8 intermediate casing shoe shall be **5000(5M) psi. 5M system requires an HCR valve, remote kill line and annular to match. The remote kill line is to be installed prior to testing the system and tested to stack pressure.**

4. The appropriate BLM office shall be notified a minimum of 4 hours in advance for a representative to witness the tests.
  - a. Casing cut-off and BOP installation will not be initiated until the cement has had a minimum of 8 hours setup time for a water basin. The casing shall remain stationary and under pressure for at least eight hours after the operator places the cement. In the potash area, the minimum time is 12 hours and the casing shall remain stationary and under pressure during this time period. Casing shall be under pressure if the operator uses some acceptable means of holding pressure or if the operator employs one or more float valves to hold the cement in place. Testing the BOP/BOPE against a plug can commence after meeting the above conditions plus the BOP installation time.
  - b. The tests shall be done by an independent service company using a test plug.
  - c. The results of the test shall be reported to the appropriate BLM office.
  - d. All tests are required to be recorded on a calibrated test chart. **A copy of the BOP/BOPE test chart and a copy of independent service company test will be submitted to the appropriate BLM office.**
  - e. The BOP/BOPE test shall include a low pressure test from 250 to 300 psi. The test will be held for a minimum of 10 minutes if test is done with a test plug and 30 minutes without a test plug.
  - f. BOP/BOPE must be tested by an independent service company within 500 feet of the top of the **Wolfcamp** formation if the time between the setting of the intermediate casing and reaching this depth exceeds 20 days. This test does not exclude the test prior to drilling out the casing shoe as per Onshore Order No. 2.

#### **D. DRILLING MUD**

Mud system monitoring equipment, with derrick floor indicators and visual and audio alarms, shall be operating before drilling into the **Wolfcamp** formation, and shall be used until production casing is run and cemented.

**Proposed mud weight may not be adequate for drilling through Wolfcamp.**

#### **E. DRILL STEM TEST**

If drill stem tests are performed, Onshore Order 2.III.D shall be followed.

#### **F. WASTE MATERIAL AND FLUIDS**

All waste (i.e. drilling fluids, trash, salts, chemicals, sewage, gray water, etc.) created as a result of drilling operations and completion operations shall be safely contained and disposed of properly at a waste disposal facility. No waste material or fluid shall be disposed of on the well location or surrounding area.

**RGH 042910**

## **VIII. PRODUCTION (POST DRILLING)**

### **A. WELL STRUCTURES & FACILITIES**

#### **Placement of Production Facilities**

Production facilities should be placed on the well pad to allow for maximum interim recontouring and revegetation of the well location.

#### **Containment Structures**

The containment structure shall be constructed to hold the capacity of the entire contents of the largest tank, plus 24 hour production, unless more stringent protective requirements are deemed necessary by the Authorized Officer.

#### **Painting Requirement**

All above-ground structures including meter housing that are not subject to safety requirements shall be painted a flat non-reflective paint color  
Shale Green, Munsell Soil Color Chart # 5Y 4/2

## **IX. INTERIM RECLAMATION**

During the life of the development, all disturbed areas not needed for active support of production operations should undergo interim reclamation in order to minimize the environmental impacts of development on other resources and uses.

Within six (6) months of well completion, operators should work with BLM surface management specialists (Jim Amos: 575-234-5909) to devise the best strategies to reduce the size of the location. Interim reclamation should allow for remedial well operations, as well as safe and efficient removal of oil and gas.

During reclamation, the removal of caliche is important to increasing the success of revegetating the site. Removed caliche that is free of contaminants may be used for road repairs, fire walls or for building other roads and locations. In order to operate the well or complete workover operations, it may be necessary to drive, park and operate on restored interim vegetation within the previously disturbed area. Disturbing revegetated areas for production or workover operations will be allowed. If there is significant disturbance and loss of vegetation, the area will need to be revegetated. Communicate with the appropriate BLM office for any exceptions/exemptions if needed.

All disturbed areas after they have been satisfactorily prepared need to be reseeded with the seed mixture provided below.

Upon completion of interim reclamation, the operator shall submit a Sundry Notices and Reports on Wells, Subsequent Report of Reclamation (Form 3160-5).

## **X. FINAL ABANDONMENT & RECLAMATION**

At final abandonment, well locations, production facilities, and access roads must undergo "final" reclamation so that the character and productivity of the land are restored.

Earthwork for final reclamation must be completed within six (6) months of well plugging. All pads, pits, facility locations and roads must be reclaimed to a satisfactory revegetated, safe, and stable condition, unless an agreement is made with the landowner or BLM to keep the road and/or pad intact.

After all disturbed areas have been satisfactorily prepared; these areas need to be revegetated with the seed mixture provided below. Seeding should be accomplished by drilling on the contour whenever practical or by other approved methods. Seeding may need to be repeated until revegetation is successful, as determined by the BLM.

Operators shall contact a BLM surface protection specialist prior to surface abandonment operations for site specific objectives (Jim Amos: 575-234-5909).

Ground-level Abandoned Well Marker to avoid raptor perching: Upon the plugging and subsequent abandonment of the well, the well marker will be installed at ground level on a plate containing the pertinent information for the plugged well.

## Seed Mixture for LPC Sand/Shinnery Sites

The holder shall seed all disturbed areas with the seed mixture listed below. The seed mixture shall be planted in the amounts specified in pounds of pure live seed (PLS)\* per acre. There shall be no primary or secondary noxious weeds in the seed mixture. Seed will be tested and the viability testing of seed will be done in accordance with State law(s) and within nine (9) months prior to purchase. Commercial seed will be either certified or registered seed. The seed container will be tagged in accordance with State law(s) and available for inspection by the authorized officer.

Seed will be planted using a drill equipped with a depth regulator to ensure proper depth of planting where drilling is possible. The seed mixture will be evenly and uniformly planted over the disturbed area (smaller/heavier seeds have a tendency to drop the bottom of the drill and are planted first). The holder shall take appropriate measures to ensure this does not occur. Where drilling is not possible, seed will be broadcast and the area shall be raked or chained to cover the seed. When broadcasting the seed, the pounds per acre are to be doubled. The seeding will be repeated until a satisfactory stand is established as determined by the authorized officer. Evaluation of growth will not be made before completion of at least one full growing season after seeding.

Species to be planted in pounds of pure live seed\* per acre:

| <u>Species</u>      | <u>lb/acre</u> |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Plains Bristlegrass | 5lbs/A         |
| Sand Bluestem       | 5lbs/A         |
| Little Bluestem     | 3lbs/A         |
| Big Bluestem        | 6lbs/A         |
| Plains Coreopsis    | 2lbs/A         |
| Sand Dropseed       | 1lbs/A         |

\*\*Four-winged Saltbush 5lbs/A

\* This can be used around well pads and other areas where caliche cannot be removed.

\*Pounds of pure live seed:

Pounds of seed x percent purity x percent germination = pounds pure live seed