

# Outline

## Troy

### Part 1 Introduction

- Site Description/background
- Reclamation Plan and Goals
- Soils

### Part 2 Results summary

- Plant survival and percent cover
- amendments and challenges

## 400 Pile

### Part 1 Introduction

- Site Description
- Soil Characteristics
- Design goals – geomorph
- Salvage soil and borehole plan
- Residual impact on soils



### Part 2 soils and amendments



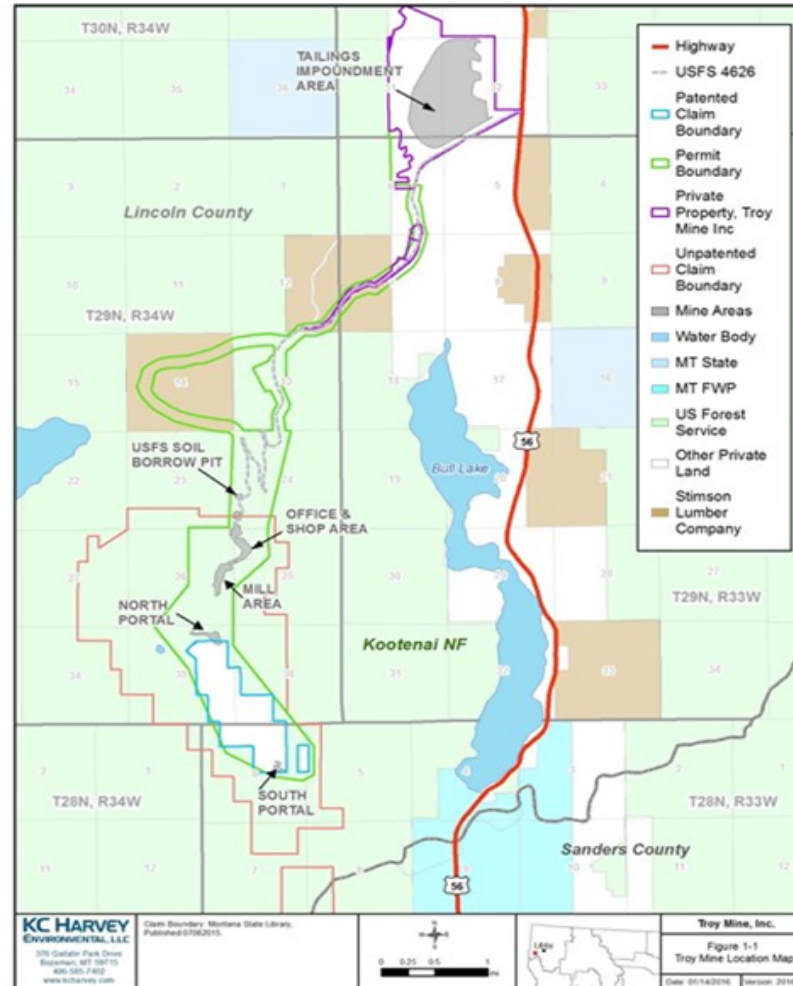
# Progress Towards Restoring Native Land From Tailings Storage at Troy Mine and Shirley Basin

Herrera Environmental Consultants

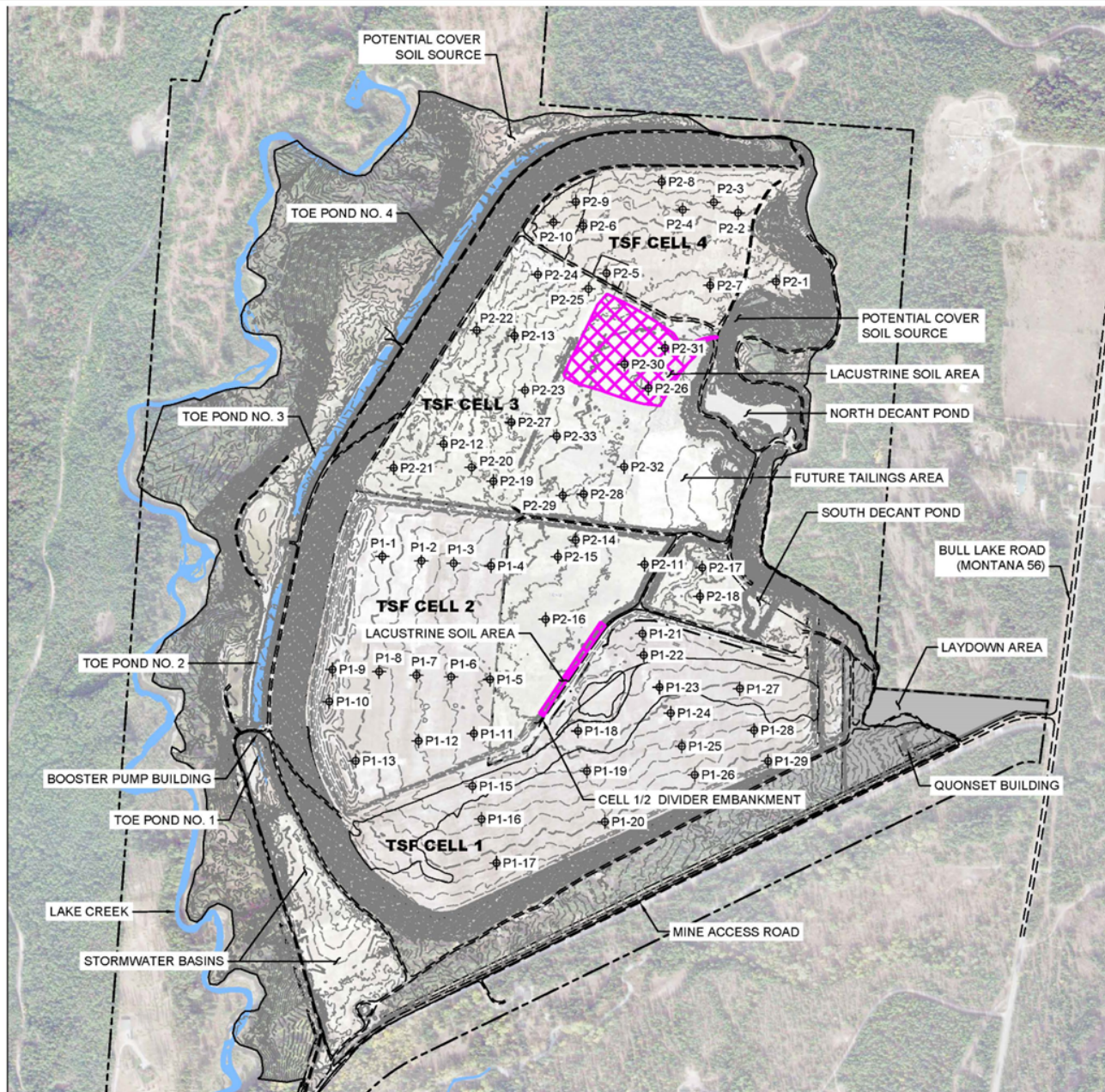


# Troy Mine – Background


- Copper and silver mining from 1979-1993
- Returned production from 2004-2015
- Adjacent to the Kootenai National Forest
- ~300 acre Tailings Storage Facility (TSF)




**Figure 1.**  
**Troy Mine Tailings Storage Facility.**

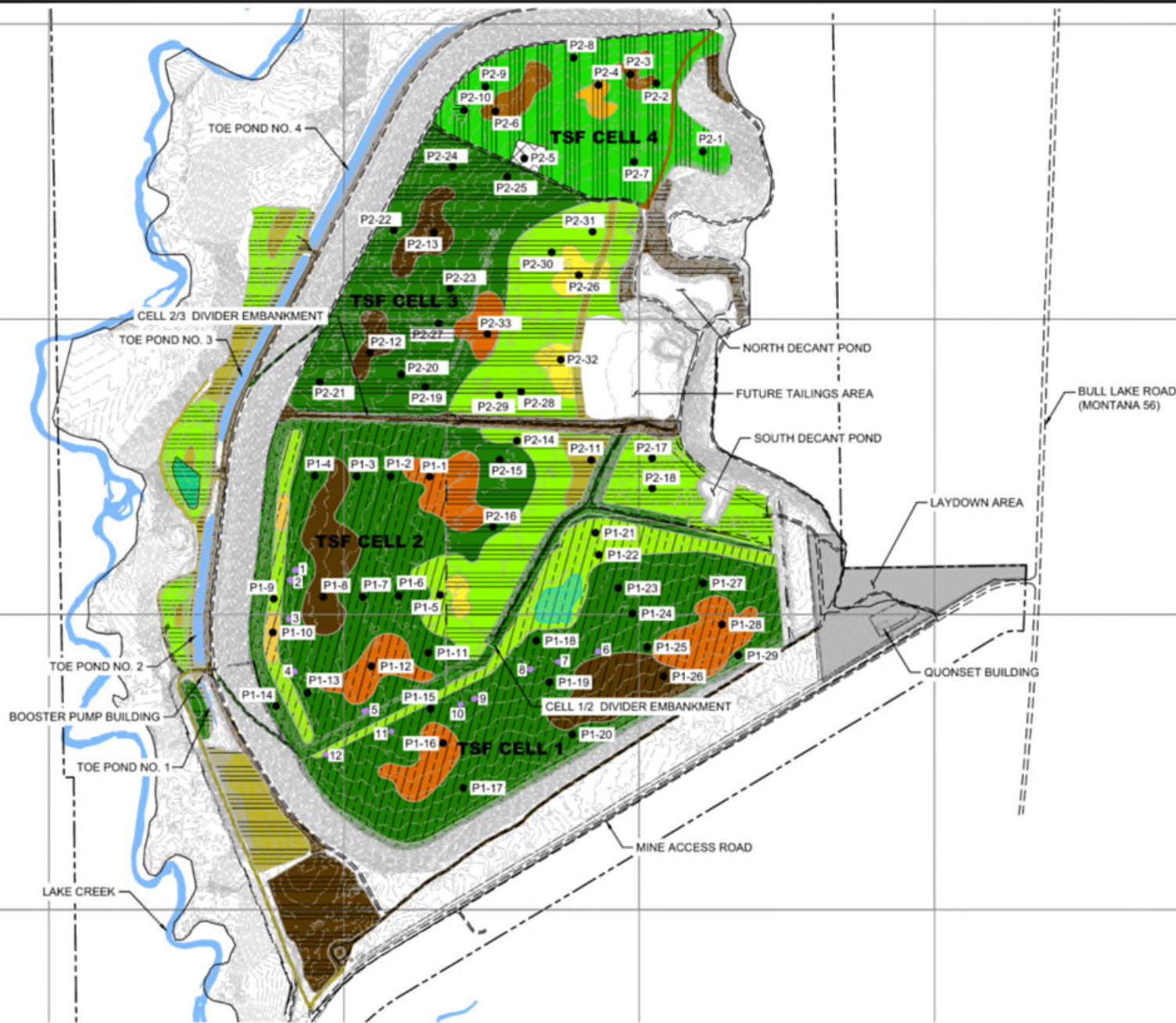


**Legend**  
 P#-# Monitoring plots

N  
  
 0 400 800 1,600  
 Scale in Feet

  
 © 2010-2020 HERRERA CONSULTANTS, INC. Troy Mine storage facility.dwg

**Figure 1. As-Built Planting Plan  
Troy Mine Tailings Storage Facility  
Phase I, Phase II, Phase IIb**



**Legend**

**Planting zone 1 - Upland forest**

- 1A - Forest
- 1B - Shrub
- 1C - Grassland

**Planting zone 2 - Cell 4**

- 2A - Forest
- 2B - Shrub
- 2C - Grassland

**Planting zone 3 - Moist forest**

- 3A - Forest
- 3B - Shrub
- 3C - Grassland

- Test plot for alder seeding
- ProGanics 4,000 lbs/acre test plot
- Phase I plantings
- Phase II plantings
- Phase IIb plantings
- P#-# Monitoring plots
- # Tree pods
- Ponded area (not planted)

**Note:**

1. Planting zone boundaries were field fit after final grading.
2. Planting sub zones (A, B, and C) shown were delineated in the field.

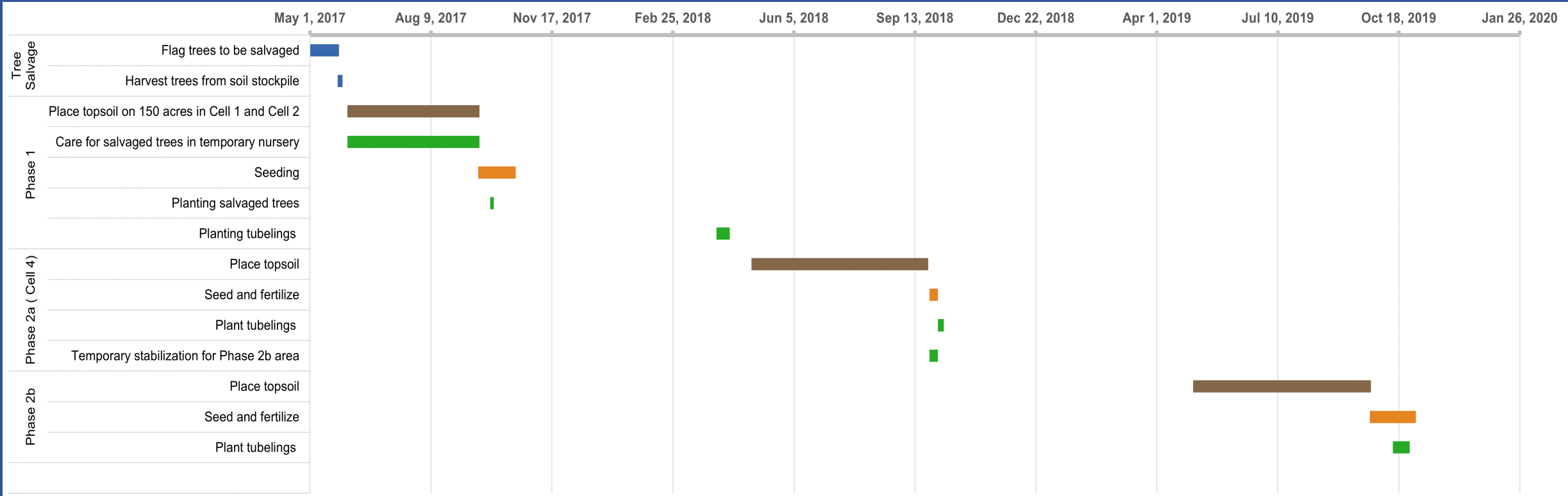
N  
↑

0 350 700 1,400  
Scale in Feet

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Copyright 2016 by Herrera Environmental Solutions, Inc. All rights reserved. Troy Mine Tailings Storage Facility Planting Plan - As-Built

# Timeline



# Tree Salvage

Fall 2018

Harvesting trees from soil stockpiles



Hauling trees to temporary nursery



# Phase 1 Planting Salvaged Trees

Tree wells constructed around each tree, filled twice with water, topped with cedar mulch





# Tree Pods

## Tree Salvage

- Tree pod 6
- July 2021



## Tree Salvage

- Tree pod 7
- July 2022



# Phase 1 Seeding

November 2017  
Site prep “Rough and loose”



John Deere tractor and Brillion drop seeder implement



TSF Cell 1 site conditions on first day of seeding

# Phase 1 Tree and Shrub Planting

## Phase 1

- Plants held at CSKT nursery through winter 2017/2018
- Planted April 2018



# Phase 2a Fertilizing and Seeding

Fall 2018



Broadcast seeding final seed mix/applying soil amendment



Delineated soil amendment application line

# Phase 2a Planting

Fall 2018



Looking southeast across Cell 4 planted area



Nursery plant staging/holding area at quonset hut



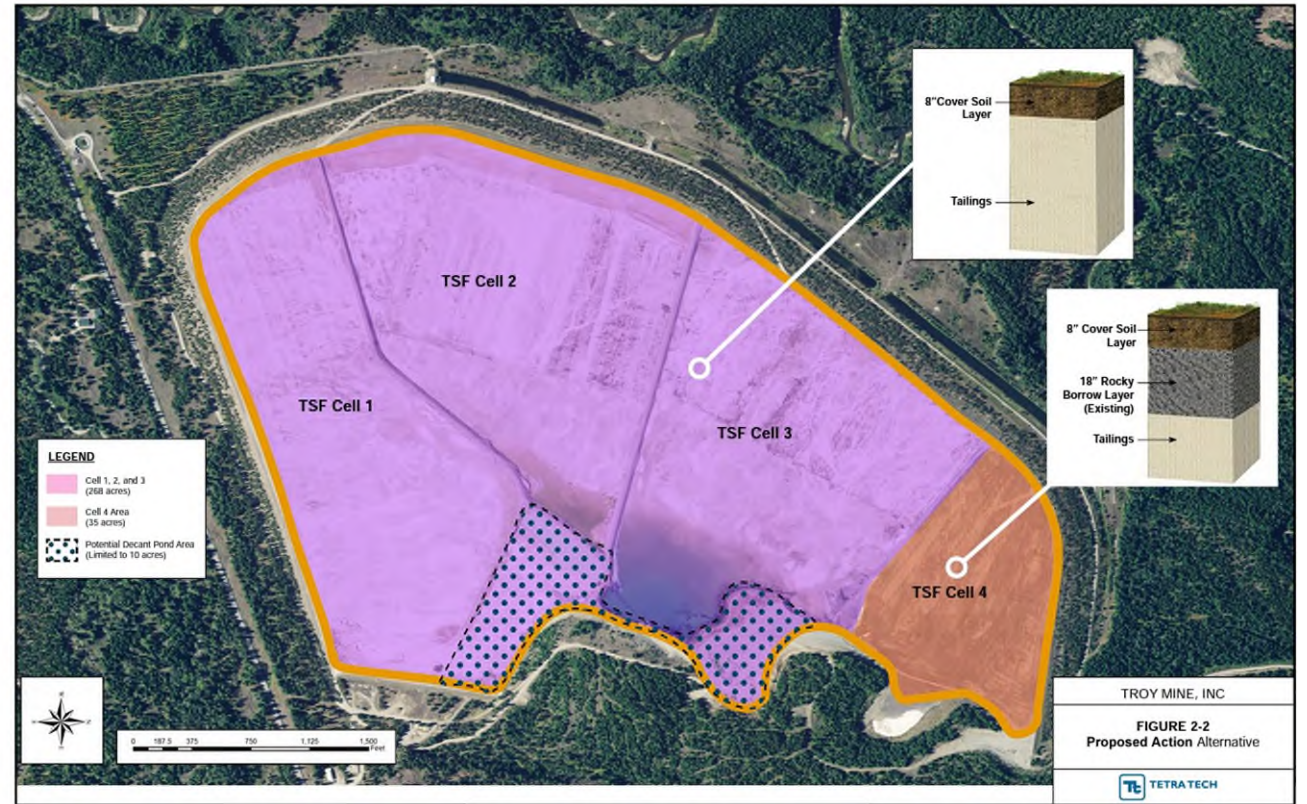
## Seeding, Placing Woody Debris, Planting

- Fall 2019
  - Cell 3 and Portions of Cells 1 and 2
  - Toe ponds

10/24/2019 0



# TSF Soils - Quantity



Source: Troy Mine  
 Final Environmental Assessment for  
 Amendment 006 to Operating Permit No. 00093  
 (MT DEQ 2018)

# Lacustrine Soil at TSF





# Cell 3 Lacustrine Soil

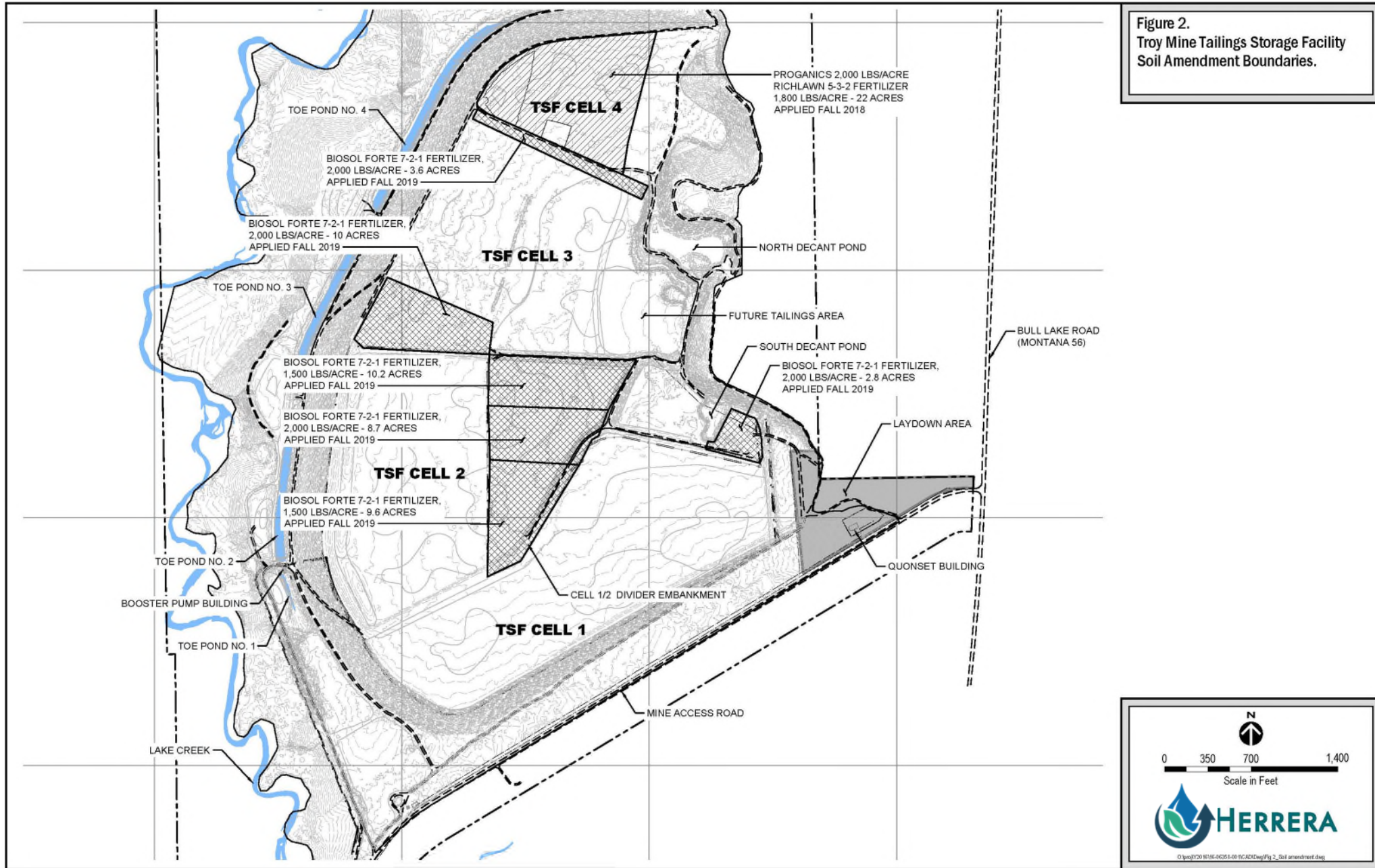


Sample from NE Corner Cell 3  
Showing Poorly Developed Fine Root  
Systems



Sample from Area of Better Growth in Cell  
3 Showing Better Developed Fine Root  
System

# Phase 2b – Soil Amendments



# Amendments 2019



**P2-7 Year One Not fertilized**



**P2-9 Year One**  
**Proganics 2,000 lb/acre**  
**Richlawn 1,800 lb/acre**



**P2-10 Year One**  
**Proganics 4,000 lb/acre**  
**Richlawn 1,800 lb/acre**

# Amendments 2019 Phase 2a



**P2-7 Year Two**  
**Not fertilized**

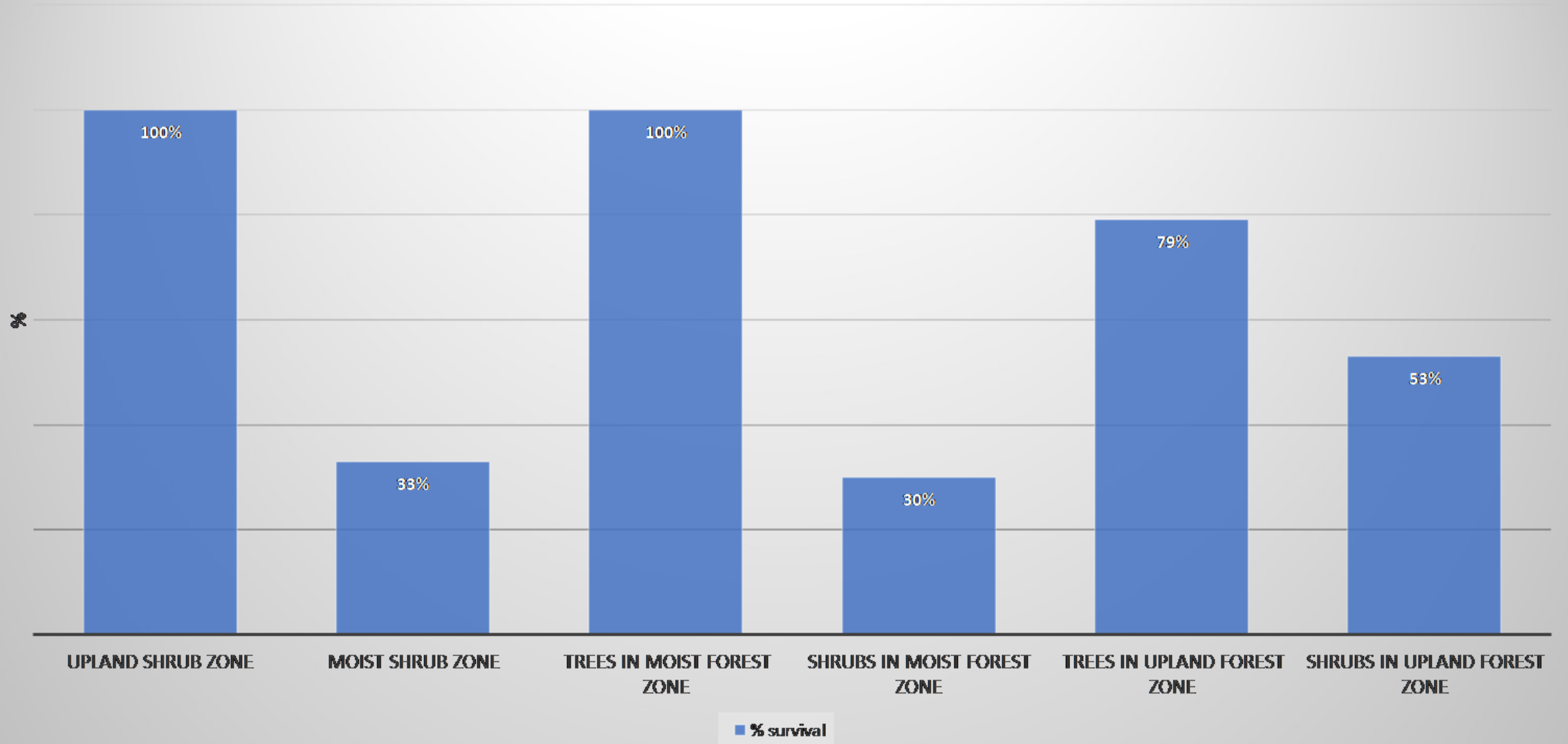


**P2-9 Year Two**  
**Proganics 2,000 lb/acre**  
**Richlawn 1,800 lb/acre**



**P2-10 Year Two**  
**Proganics 4,000 lb/acre**  
**Richlawn 1,800 lb/acre**

## Percent Survival



## Percent Survival

Total shrubs in upland shrub zone

67%

Total shrubs in moist shrub zone

114%

Total trees in moist forest zone

82%

Total shrubs in moist forest zone

27%

Total trees in upland forest zone

38%

Total shrubs in upland forest zone

36%

# Moist Forest Zone P1-9



**Baseline - 2018**



**Year 4 - 2022**



**Baseline (2018)**

## Moist Forest Zone P1-21

Herbicide applied  
following site visit



**Year 4 (2022)**



**Year 1 (2019) with Clover and Daisy**



**Year 2 (2020)**



**Year 3 (2021)**





**Baseline 2018**

**Grassland Area  
Upland Forest Zone  
P1-19**



**Year 4 2022**

**10% noxious weeds**



**Year 1 2019**



**Year 2 2020**



**Year 3 2021**



**Baseline 2018**

**Forest Area  
Upland Forest Zone  
P1-17**



**Year 4 2022**

**10% noxious weeds**



**Year 1 2019**



**Year 2 2020**



**Year 3 2021**

# Shirley Basin– Background

- Uranium mining (1970-1980's)
- Multiple Tailings Piles
- Rerouted Little Medicine Bow River



# Shirley Basin Reclamation Goals

- Establishment of a diverse native plant community
- Establishment of a geomorphically stable landscape in line with the native adjacent landscapes
- Improve soil acidity to the degree necessary to support persistent native perennial vegetation
- Develop sage grouse habitat for mating, nesting, and brood rearing activities.
- Development of a native vegetation community that is resilient to invasive species establishment



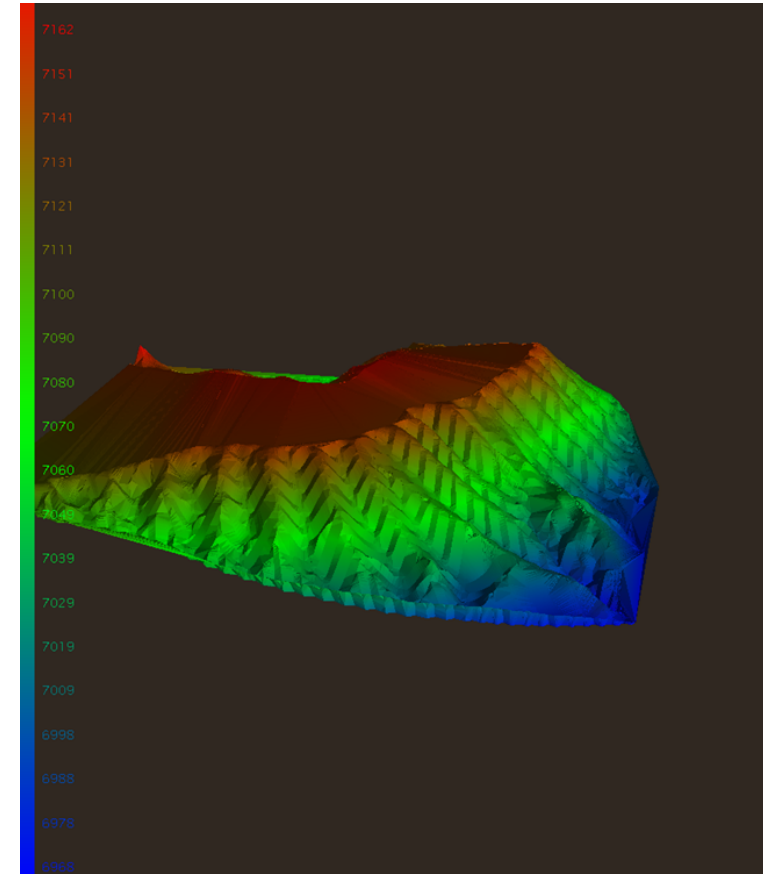
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# Previous Reclamation



# New Design Reclamation

- Carlson Natural Regrade
- Low Tech Mesic Water Retention Features
- Viewshed Analysis



# Local Soil Characteristics



Test Pothole



Subgrade Excavation



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# Local Soil Characteristics



Soil Composition Variability



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# Soil and Seed Bed Preparation



Discing Amendments

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# Shirley Basin Soil Amendments

- Agricultural Lime
- Mycorrhiza Inoculant
- Humic Acid
- Sustane Organic Compost



# Lime Application



- Subgrade Lime Application



- Surface Lime Application

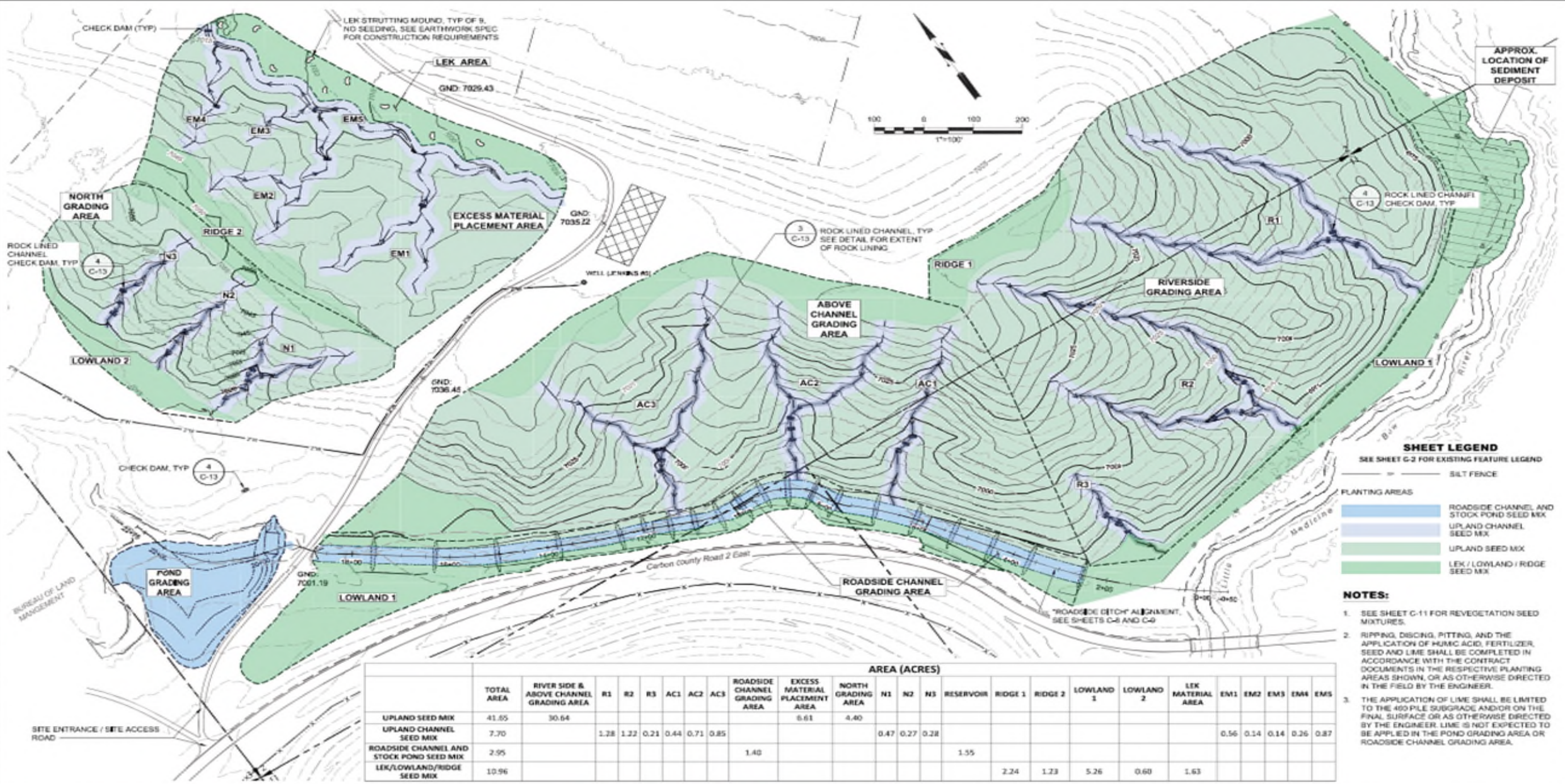


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# Other Amendment Applications



Amendments Applied in Shirley Basin



**SHEET LEGEND**  
SEE SHEET C-2 FOR EXISTING FEATURE LEGEND

— SILT FENCE

**PLANTING AREAS**

- ROADSIDE CHANNEL AND STOCK POND SEED MIX
- UPLAND CHANNEL SEED MIX
- UPLAND SEED MIX
- LEK / LOWLAND / RIDGE SEED MIX

- NOTES:**
- SEE SHEET C-11 FOR REVEGETATION SEED MIXTURES.
  - RIPPING, DISING, FITTING, AND THE APPLICATION OF HUMIC ACID, FERTILIZER, SEED AND LIME SHALL BE COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS IN THE RESPECTIVE PLANTING AREAS SHOWN, OR AS OTHERWISE DIRECTED IN THE FIELD BY THE ENGINEER.
  - THE APPLICATION OF LIME SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE 400 PILE SUBGRADE AND/OR ON THE FINAL SURFACE OR AS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE ENGINEER. LIME IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE APPLIED IN THE POND GRADING AREA OR ROADSIDE CHANNEL GRADING AREA.

|  | TOTAL AREA | RIVER SIDE & ABOVE CHANNEL GRADING AREA | R1   | R2   | R3   | AC1  | AC2  | AC3  | ROADSIDE CHANNEL GRADING AREA | EXCESS MATERIAL PLACEMENT AREA | NORTH GRADING AREA | N1   | N2   | N3   | RESERVOIR | RIDGE 1 | RIDGE 2 | LOWLAND 1 | LOWLAND 2 | LEK MATERIAL AREA | EM1  | EM2  | EM3  | EM4  | EM5  |
|--|------------|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|------|------|------|-----------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| UPLAND SEED MIX                          | 41.85      | 30.64                                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |                               |                                | 4.40               |      |      |      |           |         |         |           |           |                   |      |      |      |      |      |
| UPLAND CHANNEL SEED MIX                  | 7.70       |   | 1.28 | 1.22 | 0.21 | 0.44 | 0.71 | 0.85 |                               |                                |                    | 0.47 | 0.27 | 0.28 |           |         |         |           |           |                   | 0.56 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.26 | 0.87 |
| ROADSIDE CHANNEL AND STOCK POND SEED MIX | 2.95       |   |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1.40                          |                                |                    |      |      |      | 1.55      |         |         |           |           |                   |      |      |      |      |      |
| LEK/LOWLAND/RIDGE SEED MIX               | 10.96      |   |      |      |      |      |      |      |                               |                                |                    |      |      |      |           | 2.24    | 1.73    | 5.26      | 0.60      | 1.63              |      |      |      |      |      |

**100% DESIGN - ISSUED FOR BID**

| NO. | REVISION | BY | APPD. | DATE |
|-----|----------|----|-------|------|
|     |          |    |       |      |

811  
Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

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**DEQ**  
WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Professional Engineer  
Shirley Basin  
WYOMING

DRAWN: T. BRADLEY  
CHECKED: M. SPILLANE  
APPROVED: M. SPILLANE

**SHIRLEY BASIN: 400 PILE (North Walker Waste Pile)**  
AML SITE NUMBER 063295 - CARBON COUNTY, WY  
RESTORATION PROJECT

PLANTING PLAN

DATE: MARCH, 2021  
PROJECT NO: 12-06298-008  
DRAWING NO: C-10  
SHEET NO: 12 OF 85

BACK-CHECKED BY / DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 VERIFIED BY / DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DRAWN BY / DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CHECKED BY / DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 APPROVED BY / DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PROJECT NO: 12-06298-008  
 DRAWING NO: C-10  
 SHEET NO: 12 OF 85

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# Revegetation Pitting and Drill Seeding



Pitting



Drill Seeding



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# Revegetation Calibration



## SEEDING RATE CALIBRATION PROCEDURE

- 1.) JACK UP DRIVE WHEEL.
- 2.) REMOVE SEED HOSES FROM 3 TRANSITIONS AND PLACE CANS TO CATCH SEED.
- 3.) FOR GRAMS: MODELS 88, 812, 816, TURN DRIVE WHEEL 13.25 TIMES.  
MODEL 1012, TURN DRIVE WHEEL 10.5 TIMES.  
FOR OUNCES: MODELS 88, 812, 816, TURN DRIVE WHEEL 30 TIMES.  
MODEL 1012, TURN DRIVE WHEEL 24 TIMES.
- 4.) WEIGH SEED IN GRAMS OR OUNCES.
- 5.) FOR GRAMS: DIVIDE RESULT BY 2.  
FOR OUNCES: MULTIPLY RESULT BY 6.25.
- 6.) RESULT EQUALS BULK LBS. PER ACRE.

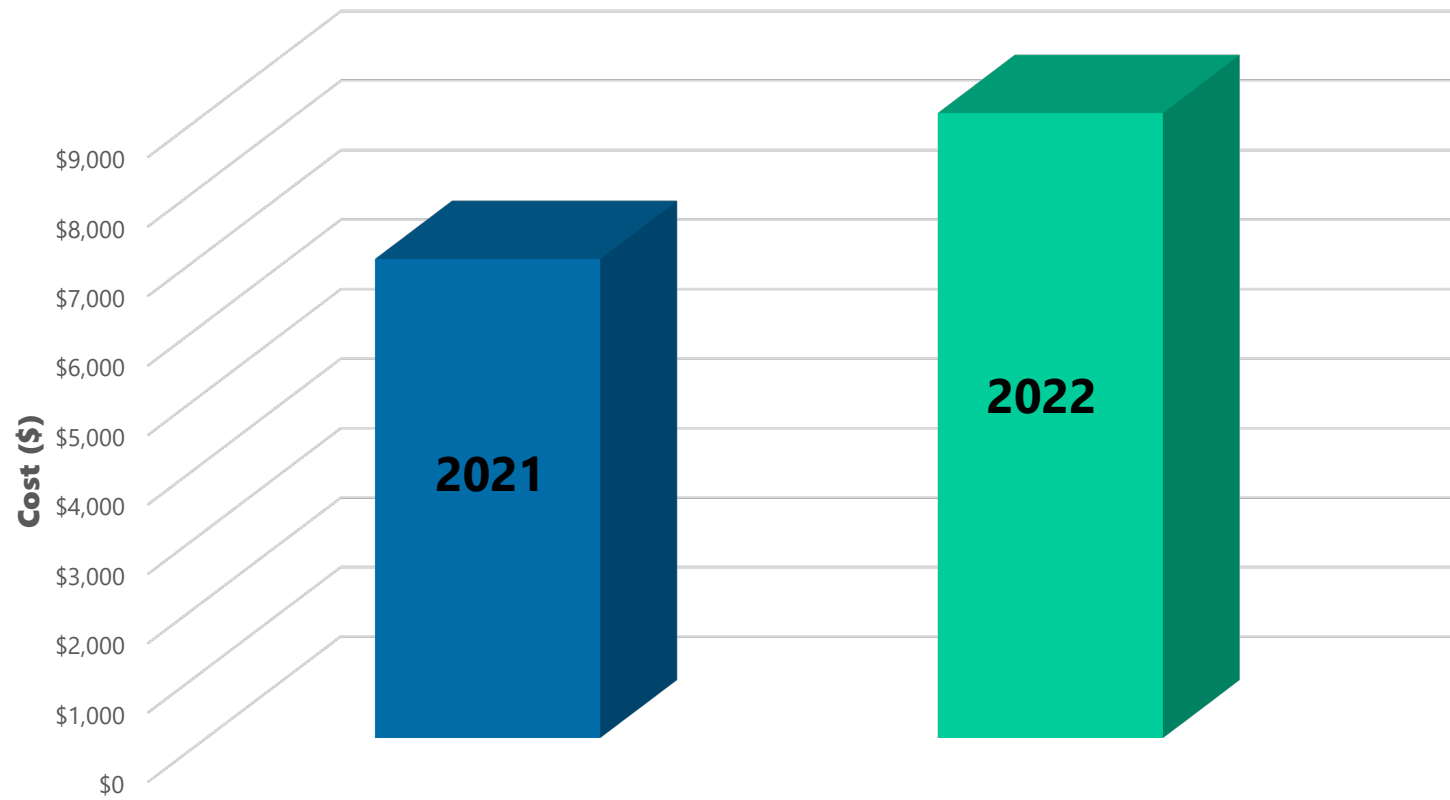
REFERENCE: CONSERVATION JOB SHEET, ND-20 1978  
USDA, SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
BISMARCK, ND 58502

5-1-00



# Revegetation Economics

**Shirley Basin Revegetation Cost**





# Current Results



# Current Results



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# Current Results



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# Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Pitting on contour around steep slopes
- Pre Order Seed mixes with carrier agents and test at seeding contractor facility before mobilization to site
- Proactive on site during seeding operations checking calibration and hopper boxes throughout operations
- Allocate enough time for seeding specialist / seed distributor QA/QC process

# Where's Mr. and Mrs. Sage Grouse?



# Questions?

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