

INTEGRATED VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

SR Litchfield, LLC

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Silicon Ranch Corporation
222 Second Ave. S. Suite 1900
Nashville, TN 37201

Produced by Silicon Ranch Corporation

Michael Baute
Director of Regenerative Energy and Land Management
Silicon Ranch
222 Second Ave. S. Suite 1900
Nashville, TN 37201
Michael.baute@siliconranch.com

1.0 Introduction

Silicon Ranch Corporation (SRC) develops Vegetation Management Plans (VMP) for projects based on accepted solar industry vegetation management standards and practices. SRC takes an integrated approach to vegetation management, using a combination of mechanical, chemical, and biological controls to meet performance specifications and regulatory requirements.

2.0 Project Description

The SR Litchfield property consists of approximately 38 acres consisting of wooded land in its northern and southern portions, and agricultural fields in its central and northeastern portions. A Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) easement resides in a portion of the property, with the surrounding area consisting residential and agricultural uses. Post construction, the property will be vegetated using warm and cool season perennials in order to optimize soil stabilization throughout the year, increase water infiltration, and increase biodiversity of both flora and fauna on the project. Silicon Ranch takes an integrated management strategy through its Regenerative Energy program by integrating regenerative agricultural practices into the long-term land and vegetation management strategy. This consists of biological control methods (Adaptive Multi-Paddock sheep grazing), mechanical, and chemical control measures as needed, and described in section 3.0. An ecological health monitoring program will be applied annually to monitor the ecological impact and trends, keeping managers most informed as to the outcomes of their management decisions.

3.0 Vegetation Management Objectives

3.1 Vegetation Establishment

- 3.1.1 Perennial vegetation will be established throughout Project Area providing adequate ground cover in order to reduce occurrence of erosion
- 3.1.2 A mix of cool and warm season species is desired
- 3.1.3 Diversity within the species composition is desired, with a healthy mix of perennial grasses, forbs, and sedges desired based on local growing conditions

3.2 Weed Prevention and Detection

- 3.2.1 Existing vegetative species composition will be inventoried, monitored, and controlled during construction, production, and reclamation
- 3.2.2 Weed inventories will allow for early detection and proper identification of a new weed infestation
- 3.2.3 New infestations of noxious weeds in and around Project Area will be prevented using an integrated approach as described below

3.3 Integrated Management Plan Implementation

- 3.3.1 Vegetation will be monitored and controlled throughout production term in order to provide adequate vegetative cover and reduce erosion
 - 3.3.1.1 Control methods include mechanical and biological vegetation removal as well as appropriate use of herbicide for noxious/invasive weed control
- 3.3.2 Vegetation will not be allowed to grow more than 24", and controlled no lower than 3" during any control operation
- 3.3.3 Typical control prescription is as follows:
 - 3.3.3.1 Vegetation removal operations to occur at a frequency of 3 to 5 per year as needed during growing season
 - 3.3.3.1.1 Typically to occur in March/April; May/June; July/Aug; Sept/Oct as needed and based on local weather and climatic conditions
 - 3.3.3.2 Appropriate herbicide to be used as needed for control of noxious/invasive weed populations
 - 3.3.3.2.1 Typically to occur in March/April; Sept/Oct as needed and based on local weather and climatic conditions.