

# VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

## SR North Stonington, LLC

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Produced by Silicon Ranch Corporation

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**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 and chemical controls (only as required by CT DEEP) to meet performance specifications and regulatory requirements.

**2.0 Vegetation Management Objectives – Inside Array Fencing**

**2.1 Vegetation Establishment**

**2.1.1** Perennial vegetation will be established throughout Project Area providing adequate ground cover in order to reduce occurrence of erosion. Annual species will provide temporary soil stabilization while perennials are established.

**2.1.2** A mix of cool and warm season species is desired

**2.1.3** Seed Mix:

Fawn Tall Fescue
Annual Ryegrass
Creeping Red Fescue
Perennial Ryegrass
Kentucky Bluegrass 85

**2.2 Weed Prevention and Detection**

**2.2.1** Existing vegetative species composition will be inventoried, monitored, and controlled during construction, production, and reclamation

**2.2.2** Weed inventories will allow for early detection and proper identification of a new weed infestation

**2.2.3** New infestations of noxious weeds in and around Project Area will be prevented using an integrated approach as described below

**2.3 Vegetation Management Plan Implementation**

**2.3.1** Vegetation will be monitored and controlled throughout production term in order to provide adequate vegetative cover and reduce erosion

**2.3.1.1** Control methods include mechanical vegetation removal as well as appropriate use of herbicide for noxious/invasive weed control

**2.3.2** Vegetation will not be allowed to grow more than 24", and controlled no lower than 3" during any control operation

**2.3.3** Typical control prescription is as follows:

**2.3.3.1** Vegetation removal operations to occur at a frequency of 4 to 6 per year as needed during growing season

**2.3.3.1.1** Typically to occur in April, May, June, July, Aug, and Sept as needed and based on local weather and climatic conditions

**2.3.3.1.2** Vegetation in areas not directly under modules or around electrical equipment will be allowed to grow to maturity to provide ground-nesting bird habitat

**2.3.3.2** Appropriate herbicide to be used only as needed for control of noxious/invasive weed populations per local and CT DEEP regulations

**2.3.4** Equipment used for Vegetation Management will not be stored long-term onsite

**3.0 Vegetation Management Objectives – Outside Array Fencing**

**3.1 Shading Buffer Habitat Management**

**3.1.1** Vegetation Establishment

**3.1.1.1** Perennial vegetation will be established throughout disturbed areas within Shading Buffers providing adequate ground cover in order to reduce occurrence of erosion

**3.1.1.2** A mix of cool and warm season species is desired

**3.1.1.3** Diversity within the species composition is desired, with a healthy mix of perennial grasses, forbs, and sedges desired based on local growing conditions

**3.1.2** Shading Buffer Integrated Management Plan Implementation

**3.1.2.1.1** Vegetation within Shading Buffers will be allowed to grow to maturity to provide ground-nesting bird habitat

**3.1.2.1.2** Mowing to occur at least one time a year to prevent woody species from establishing, typically occurring in July to allow ground nesting birds enough time for successful production of at least one brood of young.

**3.2** Forest Habitat Management

**3.2.1** Forest outside not disturbed by construction will remain conserved during the useful life the project

**3.3** Riparian Habitat Management

**3.3.1** Riparian Habitat not disturbed by construction will remain conserved during the useful life of the project

**3.3.2** A minimum of 100 feet buffer strip of natural vegetation will be maintained along streams to provide habitat to Threatened and Endangered Species and to improve water quality of the stream system

**4.0** Threatened and Endangered Species

**4.1** Vesper Sparrow

**4.1.1** Within array fencing, vegetation directly under modules, within aisles, and around electrical equipment will be managed per above specifications; vegetation outside of these areas will be allowed to grow to maturity to provide ground nesting bird habitat and will be mowed one time a year at minimum, typically in July, to prevent woody species from establishing and to allow ground nesting birds enough time for successful production of at least one brood of young.

**4.2** Red Bat, Hoary Bat

**4.2.1** Forest habitat not disturbed by construction will remain conserved during the useful life of the project, providing suitable habitat for various species of bat

**4.3** Wood Turtle

**4.3.1** A minimum of 100 feet buffer strip of natural vegetation will be maintained along streams to provide and to improve water quality of the stream system

**4.4** Pale Green Orchid

**4.4.1** Forest outside not disturbed by construction, including wet woods where Pale Green Orchid is common, will remain conserved during the useful life the project