



05 June 2024

Roberta Hudson  
Engineering Manger I  
South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Minerals and Mining Program  
Joe Foss Building  
523 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota, 57501

**RE: DTRC LLC Richmond Hill IV Exploration Notice of Intent**

Dear Mrs. Hudson:

Dakota Gold Corp. herein submits on behalf of DTRC LLC this Exploration Notice of Intent (EXNI) for Richmond Hill IV Exploratory Drill Program. The program comprises exploration test hole drilling from exploration drill pads constructed exclusively on private land within Lawrence County.

Included in this EXNI are the following:

- Notice of Intent to Conduct Mineral Exploration Operation Application Form,
- A plan of reclamation pursuant to Section 8,
- A topographic map pursuant to Section 9,
- A fee of \$250 pursuant to Section 17 in check form, and
- Landowner Ownership documentation (Confidential).

Dakota Gold Corp. is committed to working with DANR and meeting or exceeding all statutes and regulations.

Thank you for your time as it pertains to this matter. Should you have any question or comments, please contact Timm Comer at (605) 717-2590, (719) 203-0567 or [tcomer@dakotagoldcorp.com](mailto:tcomer@dakotagoldcorp.com)

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gerald M Aberle".

Gerald M Aberle  
Chief Operating Officer

Attachment: Complete EXNI Application Package

Enclosures: Check No. 1446 for \$250

+1 778 655 9638

[info@dakotagoldcorp.com](mailto:info@dakotagoldcorp.com)

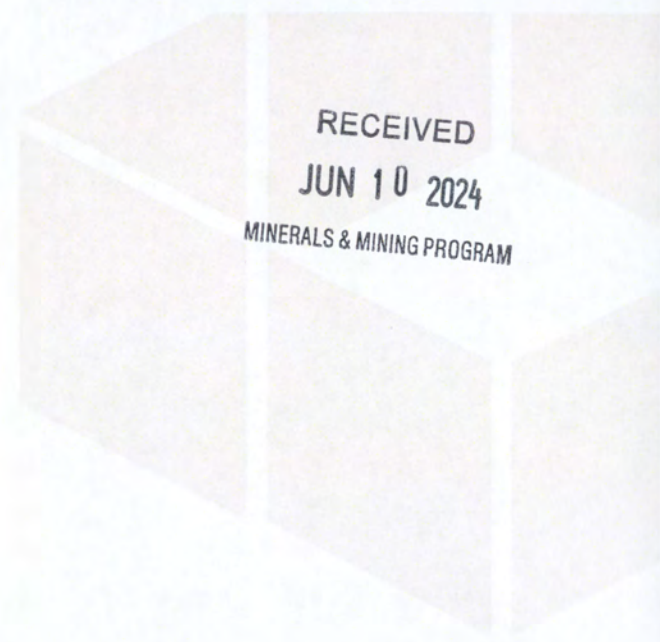
[www.dakotagoldcorp.com](http://www.dakotagoldcorp.com)

Lead Office

106 Glendale Drive, Suite A,  
Lead, South Dakota,  
57754, USA

Vancouver Office

1588 609 Granville Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V7Y 1G5, Canada



Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Minerals and Mining Program  
523 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182  
605 773-4201; Fax: 605 773-5286

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONDUCT  
MINERAL EXPLORATION OPERATION  
(Excluding Uranium)

Pursuant to SDCL 45-6C

RECEIVED  
JUN 10 2024  
MINERALS & MINING PROGRAM

Operator's name:

**DTRC LLC**

Mailing Address:

**106 Glendale Drive, Suite A  
Lead, South Dakota 57754**

Telephone:

**605.717.2640**

Resident agent (if out-of-state corporation):

**Gerald M. Aberle**

Resident agent address:

**106 Glendale Drive, Suite A  
Lead, South Dakota 57754**

Telephone:

**605.717.2640**

Legal description of area to be explored by Section, Township, and Range:

**Portions of Section 14, 15, 22 and 23  
Township 5 North, Range 2 East  
Black Hills Meridian**

County:

**Lawrence**

Give a brief description of the type of exploration to be conducted. Include a list of all minerals to be explored and a description of methods (e.g. drill rig type, number of holes to be drilled, number of drill pads to be constructed, proposed depth for each test hole, length of existing access roads and/or new access road construction).

DTRC LLC will explore for potential hardrock gold deposits within the proposed project area. It is anticipated that exploration test hole drilling will be completed using skid-mounted core and/or truck-mounted or track-mounted reverse circulation drilling methods/drill rigs. The project would include up to 39 exploration new test hole drill pad sites (drill pads) with drill pad location on previously disturbed lands that include current reclaimed lands, existing roads and/or trails and new disturbed lands for new drill trials in the area. There are approximately 3,200 feet of new drill trail development proposed as part of this project on previously undisturbed and reclaimed lands. There are approximately 1,400 feet of drill trails that are already permitted by DTRC LLC under other existing EXNI's. Existing roads (approximately 45,900 feet) and existing trails (approximately 4,800 feet) within the project areas would be utilized for access to the drill pads in the project area. Exploration test hole drilling from these 39 drill pads will be drilled both azimuth and vertical and up to a depth of approximate 5,000 feet in vertical depth, with the possibility of multiple (up to 10) exploration test holes drilled from each drill pad. The drill pads that are constructed will measure approximately 100 ft x 100 ft (approximately 0.23 acres). Exploration drilling activities proposed near the historic Richmond Hill Leach Pads and backfilled mine area will be protective and not compromise both the historic liner systems beneath the material and/or liner systems placed over the surface of the material.

Date exploration will commence:

**Immediately following approval of this EXNI.**

What legal authority does the operator have to conduct exploration on the above-described land? Include a copy if available.

Deed     Lease     US Forest Service Permit     Pending US Forest Service Permit     Other

Will the operator conduct uranium exploration?     Yes     No    If yes, a permit pursuant to SDCL 45-6D must be obtained.

PAID  
JUN 07 2024  
Ck#  
Acct# \$250

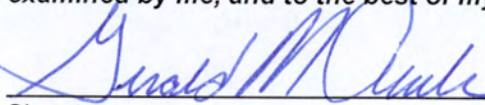
**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Please reference SDCL 45-6C. This Notice of Intent must be accompanied by:

1. A plan of reclamation pursuant to Section 8.
2. A topographic map pursuant to Section 9.
3. A fee of \$250 payable to the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources pursuant to Section 17.
4. A surety in an amount to be determined by the department pursuant to Section 19.
5. Any written landowner consultations giving alternative preferences for the reclamation of the affected land pursuant to Section 16.

Applicant affirms that the surface owner has been notified of the proposed mineral development and that said surface owner is aware of his rights to compensation for damages to property pursuant to SDCL 45-5A. Applicant hereby affirms that the mineral exploration will be conducted pursuant and subject to the provisions of SDCL 45-6C, and all regulations promulgated thereunder, that he will grant access to the SD Board of Minerals and Environment or its agents to the area under notice from the date of the notice and thereafter to assure compliance with the provisions of SDCL 45-6C.

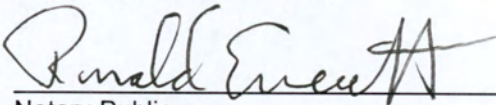
*I declare and affirm under the penalties of perjury that this claim (petition, application, information) has been examined by me, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, is in all things true and correct.*

  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chief Operating Officer**  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: June 05, 2024

STATE OF South Dakota  
 COUNTY OF Lawrence

On this 05 day of June, 2024, before me personally appeared Gerald M. Aberle, who acknowledged himself to be the Chief Operating Officer (Title) for DTRC LLC and that he is authorized to execute the Notice of Intent for the purposes contained therein.

 My Commission Expires: November 18, 2027  
 Notary Public \_\_\_\_\_



**FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY**

DATE APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ BOND AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_ EXNI NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chairman, SD Board of Minerals & Environment

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

IN THE MATTER OF THE )  
APPLICATION OF )  
DTRC LLC ) CERTIFICATION OF )  
\_\_\_\_\_) )  
STATE OF South Dakota ) APPLICANT )  
\_\_\_\_\_) )  
COUNTY OF Lawrence ) )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

I, Gerald M. Aberle, the applicant in the above matter after being duly sworn upon oath hereby certify the following information in regard to this application:

I have read and understand South Dakota Codified Law Section 1-41-20 which provides:

*"The secretary may reject an application for any permit filed pursuant to Titles 34A or 45, including any application by any concentrated swine feeding operation for authorization to operate under a general permit, upon making a specific finding that:*

- (1) *The applicant is unsuited or unqualified to perform the obligations of a permit holder based upon a finding that the applicant, any officer, director, partner, or resident general manager of the facility for which application has been made:*
  - (a) *Has intentionally misrepresented a material fact in applying for a permit;*
  - (b) *Has been convicted of a felony or other crime involving moral turpitude;*
  - (c) *Has habitually and intentionally violated environmental laws of any state or the United States which have caused significant and material environmental damage;*
  - (d) *Has had any permit revoked under the environmental laws of any state or the United States; or*
  - (e) *Has otherwise demonstrated through clear and convincing evidence of previous actions that the applicant lacks the necessary good character and competency to reliably carry out the obligations imposed by law upon the permit holder; or*
- (2) *The application substantially duplicates an application by the same applicant denied within the past five years which denial has not been reversed by a court of competent jurisdiction. Nothing in this subdivision may be construed to prohibit an applicant from submitting a new application for a permit previously denied, if the new application represents a good faith attempt by the applicant to correct the deficiencies that served as the basis for the denial in the original application.*

*All applications filed pursuant to Titles 34A and 45 shall include a certification, sworn to under oath and signed by the applicant, that he is not disqualified by reason of this section from obtaining a permit. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, that certification shall constitute a prima facie showing of the suitability and qualification of the applicant. If at any point in the application review, recommendation or hearing process, the secretary finds the applicant has intentionally made any material misrepresentation of fact in regard to this certification,*

consideration of the application may be suspended and the application may be rejected as provided for under this section.

Applications rejected pursuant to this section constitute final agency action upon that application and may be appealed to circuit court as provided for under chapter 1-26."

I certify pursuant to 1-41-20, that as an applicant, officer, director, partner, or resident general manager of the activity or facility for which the application has been made that I; a) have not intentionally misrepresented a material fact in applying for a permit; b) have not been convicted of a felony or other crime of moral turpitude; c) have not habitually and intentionally violated environmental laws of any state or the United States which have caused significant and material environmental damage; (d) have not had any permit revoked under the environmental laws of any state or the United States; or e) have not otherwise demonstrated through clear and convincing evidence of previous actions that I lack the necessary good character and competency to reliably carry out the obligations imposed by law upon me. I also certify that this application does not substantially duplicate an application by the same applicant denied within the past five years which denial has not been reversed by a court of competent jurisdiction. Further;

"I declare and affirm under the penalties of perjury that this claim (petition, application, information) has been examined by me, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, is in all things true and correct."

Dated this 05 day of June, 2024

Gerald M. Aberle

Applicant (print)

[Handwritten signature of Gerald M. Aberle]

Applicant (signature)

Subscribed and sworn before me this 05 day of June, 2024.

[Handwritten signature of Notary Public]

Notary Public (signature)

My commission expires: 18 November 2027



PLEASE ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NECESSARY TO DISCLOSE ALL FACTS AND DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO SDCL 1-41-20 (1) (a) THROUGH (e). ALL VIOLATIONS MUST BE DISCLOSED, BUT WILL NOT AUTOMATICALLY RESULT IN THE REJECTION OF AN APPLICATION

In preparing this reclamation plan, please address each item in detail, referencing SDCL 45-6C-8 and 45-6D-9. Please refer to the reclamation standards outlined in SDCL 45-6C-27 through 45-6C-34, SDCL 45-6D-33 through 45-6D-39, and the state's hole plugging regulations as detailed in ARSD 74:11.

1. Describe the type of reclamation the operator proposes to achieve in the reclamation of the affected land.

**DTRC LLC and its exploration drilling contractors strive to minimize the potential surface impacts of the exploratory drilling program. The exploration drilling operations would include removal of existing growth media (topsoil) when feasible, then stockpiling, reshaping, and interim reseeding of the topsoil, which would then be utilized for future reclamation activities at the project site. Topsoil stockpiles would be clearly located and appropriately marked as such. Best Management Practices (“BMPs”) for potential sedimentation and erosion control would be implemented at the project site for areas of new disturbance. These BMP (e.g. ditches, sumps, berms, wattles, straw bales or silt fences) at potential affected area pursuant to SDCL 45-6C-32. Exploration drill pad sump (sumps) would be located on the uphill side of the exploration drill pad site when feasible and construction may include installation of a liner system, if needed to retain liquids at the drill pad site. Safety fencing would be implemented around the sumps for safety purposes and to prevent the potential of small wildlife from entering the sumps. In addition, means will be implemented in the sump to allow any wildlife to exit from the sump if needed. Areas where exploration drilling pads (up to 39 [approximately 9 acres]) and/or new exploration drill trails (up to 3,200 feet [approximately 1 acre]) are constructed would be reclaimed following completion of exploration drilling activities. For exploration drilling activities on existing roads/trails, no reclamation activities would occur on the existing previously used roads/trails (up to 50,600 feet [approximately 19 acres]). The newly disturbed area of the exploration drill pads would be recontoured and regraded as necessary, the exploration drill pad sump liner system (if installed) would be folded in place and punctured and then the entire sump area backfilled with native materials to the area. The entire exploration drill pad area, including sump area would be reclaimed. Reclamation activities would include recontouring, regraded, placement of topsoil and seeding with reclamation seed mixture. For areas where exploration access trails and/or exploration drill pad construction are necessary, the newly disturbed affected area of the exploration access trial would be regraded to approximate original contours where feasible using native materials to the area. Once these regrading activities are completed, the area of the exploration access trials would be reclaimed. Reclamation of one site would be conducted concurrent while exploration drilling activities continue at another site, when feasible and pending weather conditions. The post-mining land use for the exploration project area would be woodland grazing, which would be accomplished by reclaiming to an open canopy area within the forested surroundings.**

2. Provide a proposed timetable for seeding and replanting indicating when and how the reclamation plan will be implemented. Such a timetable shall be developed in consultation with the County District Conservationist as to the nature of the soils and native vegetation in the area of the proposed operation. These recommendations shall be followed, if any are provided, and copies of all correspondence shall be provided to the Department.

**Reclamation seeding will take place after recontouring and regrading of disturbed areas is completed. Seedings would be done on a clean, semi-smooth, weed free seedbed with effective seeding methods. DTRC LLC would control potential noxious weeds on newly disturbed areas impacted by exploration drilling activities throughout operations of the project and for 1-year post-reclamation. Weeds would be clipped and/or sprayed by licensed applicator before they compete against the seeding for moisture and light. All reclamation processes, seed mixtures, seasonal constraints and timing and guidance will be based on South Dakota NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Critical Area Planting Code 342 as suggested by the Lawrence County Conservation District and the local NRCS requirements and recommendations, per 45-6C-16; Consultation with surface owner--Preferences for reclamation and travel restrictions, as well as with the conservation district and NRCS offices. Fertilizer would be applied as necessary. Reseeding of the reclaimed sites would be conducted if the initial reclamation is not successful.**

The seed mixture or reseeded exploration drill pad sites and exploration access roads/trails consists of local native species and was developed based on recommendations following consultation by the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office. Consultation with NRCS was completed on 04 June 2024 for this project. Previously recommended reclamation seed mixtures approved for DTRC LLC existing Exploration Notice of Intent (EXNIs) is again recommended as the seed mixture for this project based on that consultation. A copy of that recommended reclamation seed mixture by NRCS is attached to this EXNI.

3. Describe how the reclamation plan will rehabilitate the affected land.

The goal of the reclamation plan is to rehabilitate and restore the newly affected lands to woodland grazing habitat. Planting of grasses would control erosion and protect the topsoil. Numerous forb and shrub species are expected to volunteer on the reclaimed areas because ground disturbance associated with exploration activities would be limited as compared to surrounding areas of vegetation. A grass, forb, shrub, and subshrub community is expected to develop as reclamation matures, which would support woodland grazing and provide an edge effect to support the wildlife in the area

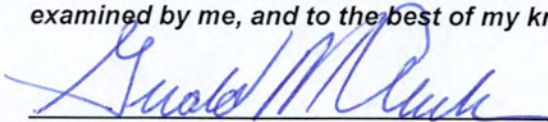
4. Describe the anticipated temporary and permanent plugging and capping procedures to be used. Please refer to SDCL 45-6C-28 through 45-6C-30, SDCL 45-6D-33 through 45-6D-35, and the state's hole plugging regulations as detailed in ARSD 74:11.

At a minimum DTRC LLC commits to following all South Dakota laws and statues concerning hole plugging and abandonment and alternatively would execute a full cement grout where needed, such as any instance where aquifer cross contamination is feasible. All exploration drill holes would be plugged in accordance with ARSD 74:11:08 and SDCL 45-6C-28 through 45-6C-30. Additionally, DTRC LLC would utilize, if required, the *General Alternate Plugging Plan* that was submitted on 11 August 2022 to DANR and approved by DANR on 05 October 2022 for all DTRC LLC EXNI permits. The drill holes may penetrate the Deadwood Formation and the Precambrian, which are water-bearing units or aquifers in the Black Hills. If an aquifer is penetrated, the exploration drill holes will be plugged from bottom to top using bentonite grout, which complies with the requirements of ARSD 74:11:08:05 and ARSD 74:11:08:05:01 (i.e. requirements for plugging exploration drill holes that penetrate single unconfined aquifers and confined or multiple aquifers). In the event that a confined aquifer is penetrated, the weight of the bentonite grout column would be sufficient to overcome formation pressure, or the hole would be plugged using cement grout. Records regarding aquifers encountered during drilling and plugging methods used would be retained for each exploration hole and those records would be provided to the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) upon request. All exploration drill holes will be plugged immediately upon completion while the drill rig is still on the exploration drill pad. In the event that a drill hole needs to remain open for more than 30 days, DTRC LLC will apply for an alternate plugging schedule to temporarily keep the hole open.

5. Provide the estimated cost of implementing and completing the proposed reclamation, and, the estimated cost of plugging and sealing each test hole.

Reclamation of each drill pad is estimated to cost approximately \$1,000. Reclamation of exploration access roads and trails is expected to cost approximately \$5,000 per linear mile. Plugging and sealing drill holes is estimated to cost \$1,000 per hole. DTRC LLC has a statewide surety bond of \$100,000 in place with the State of South Dakota in lieu of drill program specific surety bonds (SDCL 45-6C-19).

*I declare and affirm under the penalties of perjury that this claim (petition, application, information) has been examined by me, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, is in all things true and correct.*



Signature

Date: June 05, 2024

Title: Chief Operating Officer

Timm Comer

---

**From:** Westlake, Andrea - FPAC-NRCS, SD <andrea.westlake@usda.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 4, 2024 10:42 AM  
**To:** Timm Comer  
**Subject:** [External]DTRC LLC Consultation with local Conservation District for Reclamation Plan - 2024 EXNI Richmond Hill Applications  
**Attachments:** Critical Area Seeding Guidance.pdf; Seed Mix\_June 2024.pdf

**Caution:** This is an external email. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

You don't often get email from andrea.westlake@usda.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Timm,

I have reviewed the maps and the previous seeding that has been utilized. The previous mix will work for this new project as well (see attached seed mix). I also included a critical area seeding guidance document for more information on the seeding process.

Feel free to contact me if you need anything else.

Thank you!

## **Andrea Westlake**

**Rangeland Management Specialist**  
**Belle Fourche Field Office**  
1837 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue S  
Belle Fourche, SD 57717  
Office: 605-892-3368 x3076  
Cell: 605-220-4749

**From:** Kirkman, Yvette - FPAC-NRCS, SD <Yvette.Kirkman@sd.nacdnet.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 3, 2024 3:06 PM  
**To:** Westlake, Andrea - FPAC-NRCS, SD <andrea.westlake@usda.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: [External Email]Fwd: DTRC LLC Consultation with local Conservation District for Reclamation Plan - 2024 EXNI Richmond Hill Applications

Yvette M. Kirkman – District Mgr.  
Butte/Lawrence/Elk Creek Conservation Districts  
1837 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Belle Fourche, SD 57717  
PH - (605)892-3368 x3  
FAX - 855-254-6028

**From:** Karl Jensen <kfjensensd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 3, 2024 12:24 PM  
**To:** Kirkman, Yvette - FPAC-NRCS, SD <Yvette.Kirkman@sd.nacdnet.net>



**Subject: [External Email]Fwd: DTRC LLC Consultation with local Conservation District for Reclamation Plan - 2024 EXNI  
Richmond Hill Applications**

**[External Email]**

**If this message comes from an unexpected sender or references a vague/unexpected topic;  
Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.**

**Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: [Spam.Abuse@usda.gov](mailto:Spam.Abuse@usda.gov)**

Yvette,  
This is the email that I received.  
See you Wednesday evening.  
Karl

----- Forwarded message -----

**From: Timm Comer <[tcomer@dakotagoldcorp.com](mailto:tcomer@dakotagoldcorp.com)>**

**Date: Fri, May 24, 2024 at 10:06 AM**

**Subject: DTRC LLC Consultation with local Conservation District for Reclamation Plan - 2024 EXNI  
Richmond Hill Applications**

**To: Mitch Faulkner (NRCS) <[mitch.faulkner@usda.gov](mailto:mitch.faulkner@usda.gov)>**

**Cc: Karl Jensen Lawrence County CD <[kfjensensd@gmail.com](mailto:kfjensensd@gmail.com)>, Tuschen, Victor - NRCS, Belle Fourche,  
SD <[Victor.tuschen@usda.gov](mailto:Victor.tuschen@usda.gov)>, Yvette.Kirkman Butte County Conservation District  
<[Yvette.Kirkman@sd.nacdnet.net](mailto:Yvette.Kirkman@sd.nacdnet.net)>, Crystal Hocking <[crystal.hocking@respec.com](mailto:crystal.hocking@respec.com)>**

Mitch,

Dakota Gold Corp. ("DGC") is preparing for submittal of Exploration Notices of Internet ("EXNI") Application(s) with the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources ("DANR") for DTRC LLC. Either 1 or 2 EXNI application will be submitted in the very near future and both project areas are proposed for the Richmond Hill area. Whether the proposed activities will be submitted as a single application or two separate application has yet to be determined. However, the area of the activities will not change and I am presenting both proposed project areas as one for review.

DGC would request consultation on a recommended seed mixture to be utilized under the reclamation plan(s) that will be submit as part of the EXNI application(s) for DTRC LLC, per SDCL 45-6C-8(2).

Enclosed with the email are the following for use for your review to assist in your consultation on a recommended seed mixture.

The following is a description of what is included with this email:

- ***DTRC LLC 2024 EXNI Richmond Hill Drill Program\_No Confidential Stamp.pdf***: Proposed project site (highlighted in tan) in the Richmond Hill area of Lawrence County.
- ***USDA\_All\_Ecological\_Sites\_DTRC LLC\_2024 EXNI Richmond Hill Applications.pdf***: All Ecological Sites report that was created from the NRCS website on the project area.
- ***Seed Mixture EXNI 440 444 446.pdf***: Previously recommended seed mixture being utilized on eight (8) current EXNI Permits, including EXNI 440, EXNI 444 and EXNI 446 at Richmond Hill area, currently held by DTRC LLC.

DGC would prefer to also utilize the currently recommended seed mixture for the Richmond Hill area, and would request your concurrence if appropriate. The recommended seed mixture for existing DTRC LLC EXNI 440, EXNI 444 and EXNI 446 approved by DANR are in the same area as this proposed project area. However, should you recommend an alternative seed mixture, DGC would implement that recommended seed mixture as part of the submitted reclamation plan to the DANR as part of the EXNI Application.

Thank you for your time as it pertains to this matter and your assistance. Should you need any further information, please contact me.

Regards,

Timm

**Timm Comer**

ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTOR

[tcomer@dakotagoldcorp.com](mailto:tcomer@dakotagoldcorp.com)

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C +1 719 203 0567



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Instructions

SEEDING PLAN

MLRA

Producer Dakota Gold Corp. Conservation District: Lawrence 62

Program CTA Practice No. 342 Practice Name: Critical Area Seeding

CI or Referral No. \_\_\_\_\_ Contract # \_\_\_\_\_ *Caution - Practice may not work with Prepared Mix*

Resource Concern (CPPE Impact)	Purpose:
	342- Stabilize areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion by wind or water

PLANNED		Seedbed Preparation
Tract		Clean, smooth, weed free seedbed will be prepared
Field		
Acres	1.00	
Group or Site	Critical Area Group	
Site	Loamy or Silty Texture	
Date to be Planted	Web Soil Survey TechNote4 Early Spring Prior to 5/15	Protection Provided
Alternative planting dates		
Seeding Equipment	Special Grass Drill	Clip weeds before they compete for moisture and light
Companion Crop	None	

PLANNED						
Species	1/ Select Improved Variety (recommended) or select common seed (see note below)	Percent in Mixture	Pure Live Seeds (PLS) per square foot	Pure Live Seed (PLS) lbs/ac Needed	Acres to Seed	Pure Live Seed (PLS) lbs Required
Western wheatgrass		55.0	41.48	8.02	1.00	8.02
Big bluestem		15.0	6.75	1.67	1.00	1.67
Sideoats grama		9.0	2.25	0.54	1.00	0.54
Slender wheatgrass		20.0	7.50	2.11	1.00	2.11
Green needlegrass		5.0	2.25	0.54	1.00	0.54
Little bluestem		3.0	1.35	0.21	1.00	0.21
Western yarrow		1.0	0.38	0.01	1.00	0.01
Purple prairie clover		1.0	0.38	0.06	1.00	0.06

**To meet SD NRCS Standards Please Note:**

1/ Improved varieties recommended above have no restrictions on their origin.

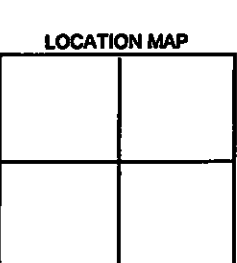
1/ Origin of Common grass seed must be ND, SD, NE, MT, WY, MN, or IA. Exception: Smooth Bromegrass any locale.

1/ Common Native forbs and legumes will originate or be grown in (USA): ND, SD, NE, MT, IA, WY, ID, WA, OR, MN, WI, and (CAN): AB, BC, MB, ON, SK.

- Seed test must be completed according to SD Seed laws (see link below) and no more than 9 months prior to the date planted.
- All legumes must be pre-inoculated. Producer will provide all seed tags to NRCS Legume Inoculants
- Tetrazolium (TZ) tests may be used as a substitute for germination tests ONLY for Green Needlegrass
- For Alfalfa Salinity tolerance use F or G from the web site link → Alfalfa Variety Ratings
- \* Pubescent wheatgrass and Intermediate wheatgrass are the same species and can be substituted for one another at any time.
- \*\* Thickspike wheatgrass may be substituted for western wheatgrass if the later is not available but only west of the Missouri River.

To calculate the amount needed multiply the western wheatgrass seeding rate by .72

SD Seed Laws Codified Laws Statute 38-12A Seed testing SD state seed-lab



Tract

N \_\_\_\_\_

S. \_\_\_\_\_

T. \_\_\_\_\_

R. \_\_\_\_\_

Planning Assistance By: Andrea Westlake 5/9/2024

Name Date

Plan Meets SD Standards (if no explain) Yes  No

## Guidance for Critical Area Planting (342)

The following is an excerpt from RANGE TECHNICAL NOTE NO. 4 PERENNIAL VEGETATION ESTABLISHMENT GUIDE.

For detailed information see Range Tech Note 4 at: <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/details>  
Click link, Pick State (SD), Select Section 1, Pick All Tech Notes, Range, then Tech Note 4

Seeding of a critical area may take place at any time of the year as long as a reasonable expectation of a successful seeding establishment is expected.

### Site Preparation:

Follow guidance for seedbed preparation (Section 2 above) and the additional following criteria.

If necessary, divert offsite water away from the critical area. This may require a permanent conservation practice, or in other instances, a temporary measure that will be effective during the period of establishment. Where practical, grade to permit the use of conventional equipment for seedbed preparation, seeding, mulch application, and anchoring. Cabling of equipment to prevent rollover may be necessary on some slopes such as newly constructed dams.

On construction sites where the exposed and underlying soil material will not support adequate vegetation, minimum topsoil dressing of six inches will be applied as part of construction.

After construction is complete, the seedbed will be worked to a depth of three to five inches to break up compacted areas and permit rapid root development. Drag or pack to break up large clods and firm the seedbed.

Where slopes are steeper than 1.5:1, use some means other than vegetation to stabilize slopes.

### Species Selection:

Allowable species will be selected from Table 7 for the appropriate MLRA.

A minimum of 75% of the mixture will be made up of sod forming species. Grass mixtures may include all native species, all introduced species, or a mixture of native and introduced species. Mixing smooth brome grass, Kentucky bluegrass, and/or crested wheatgrass with native species is not typically recommended.

When smooth brome is to be seeded in a mixture, do not include more than 10% of other native or introduced species for early establishment.

Single species may be used on saline or wet areas (Table 7).

Do not select aggressive species such as smooth brome grass when the adjacent area is dominated by native species.

When quick growth and/or protection of a critical area is needed, a quick establishing grass can be added in addition to the selected permanent seeding mixture. Use either slender wheatgrass or annual ryegrass. Slender wheatgrass can be used statewide and annual rye grass can be used in MLRAs 102A, 102B, 102C, 53B, 53C, 55B, 55C, 63B, 66, and 62. Add a maximum of three PLS pounds per acre of slender wheatgrass or a maximum of two PLS pounds per acre of annual ryegrass to the selected full seeding.

### Conventional Seeding:

Seeding activities will follow recommendations found elsewhere in this technical note unless otherwise stated in this section.

Seeding rates will be 1.5 times those recommended in Table 2 when using a drill (recommended rate multiplied by 1.5).

When possible, drilling will be accomplished perpendicular to the slope. On grassed waterways, drilling will follow a serpentine pattern.

### Broadcasting:

Many critical area plantings are too steep or too small to efficiently and safely utilize a drill. In these cases, seed may be broadcast and incorporated by harrowing, packing, or raking by hand. When broadcast seeding, increase the seeding rates found in Table 2 by two times (recommended rate multiplied by two).

### Hydroseeding:

On sites that are too steep for regular equipment to operate, the use of a hydro seeder is an acceptable alternative. Seed, fertilizer, and mulch materials will be applied in one operation. Limit the application of 150 pounds of solids per 100 gallons of water. If a legume seed is included in the mixture, any lime or fertilizer should be applied separately. A second trip may also be needed to apply an asphalt emulsion to long fiber mulches.

When using hydroseeding technique, increase seeding rates found in Table 2 by a factor of two (recommended rate multiplied by two).

**Sodding:**

Sod may be used on areas requiring immediate cover to prevent erosion. The sod should be in strips or blocks of native grass mixture, switchgrass, prairie cordgrass, reed canary grass, or other suitable grasses. Bluegrass sod is to be used only when the area is irrigated and is desired for aesthetic purposes. Sod materials are to be taken from solid, thick growing stands.

Sod will be cut in strips of uniform width and to a uniform thickness of at least three inches for tall grass and ½ to 1½ inches for short grasses. Lay sod within 24 hours after it was cut.

Sod strips should be carefully placed in rows across (at right angles) to the direction of slope. The sod strips will be placed together tightly so that no open joints are left between the strips or between the end of strips. Joints between the end strips will be staggered. Any spaces between the joints will be filled with topsoil and all edges covered with topsoil at least two inches deep. The edge of the sod at the top of slopes will be turned under and a layer of soil compacted over the edge so as to conduct surface water over and onto the top of the sod. The sod will be well tramped to help it remain in place.

**Fertilizing:**

Do not fertilize predominantly warm-season grass seeding unless the soil material is very infertile.

Thoroughly mix all fertilizer into the upper three to five inches of the soil during final seedbed preparation.

Apply fertilizer based on the recommendations from a soil test or apply 30 to 40 lbs. of actual Nitrogen (N) and 40 to 60 pounds of Phosphorus pentoxide (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) per ac. Ten to 15 tons of manure per ac may be used in lieu of the commercial fertilizer and will also increase organic matter.

On medium textured soils, the addition of 5 to 10 lbs. of zinc per ac may speed up growth.

**Mulching:**

All mulching will be done in accordance with the SD CPS for Mulching (484). Mulching of critical area plantings is required for any of the following conditions:

Where seeding cannot be accomplished during the approved seeding periods and a cover crop is not used;

On grassed waterways, where a cover crop or companion crop is not used, and seeding is placed on a bare seedbed, and the design velocity is more than 2.5 feet per second;

Where a grassed waterway is established at the time of terrace construction, and the channel slope is 2% or greater;

On slopes 3:1 or steeper that are 10 feet or more in vertical height or longer than 20 feet; on cut south and west facing slopes; On all saline and alkaline areas.

Drill grass in the prepared seedbed, immediately prior to mulching or at the next suitable seeding period after mulching.

**Management of Critical Areas During and After Establishment :**

Weeds will be controlled as described elsewhere in this technical note. All use will be excluded until vegetation is well established.

Mow grassed waterways for hay annually after establishment. Other critical areas may be mowed as needed for stand maintenance.

Fertilize as necessary to maintain stand.

Inspect critical areas each spring and following heavy rain. Reshape and reseed eroded areas promptly.

Reinforce grass seeding where stands are thin.

**Manage any grazing use to ensure long-term survival of the stand**

**Lift tillage implements and shut off sprayers when crossing critical areas. Do not till parallel to grassed waterways.**

**Avoid vehicular travel on critical areas.**

**Providing Food, Cover, and Shelter for Wildlife:**

**Wildlife habitat should be considered when developing critical area planting plans and species selection. For plant species to improve wildlife habitat, refer to the SD CPS Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645).**

Timm Comer

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**From:** Timm Comer  
**Sent:** Friday, May 24, 2024 10:06 AM  
**To:** Mitch Faulkner (NRCS)  
**Cc:** Karl Jensen Lawrence County CD; Tuschen, Victor - NRCS, Belle Fourche, SD; Yvette.Kirkman Butte County Conservation District; Crystal Hocking (Respect)  
**Subject:** DTRC LLC Consultation with local Conservation District for Reclamation Plan - 2024 EXNI Richmond Hill Applications  
**Attachments:** USDS\_All Ecological Sites\_DTRC LLC\_2024 EXNI Richmond Hill Applications.pdf; Seed Mixture EXNI 440 444 446.pdf; DTRC LLC 2024 EXNI Richmond Hill Drill Program\_No Confidential Stamp.pdf

Mitch,

Dakota Gold Corp. ("DGC") is preparing for submittal of Exploration Notices of Internet ("EXNI") Application(s) with the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources ("DANR") for DTRC LLC. Either 1 or 2 EXNI application will be submitted in the very near future and both project areas are proposed for the Richmond Hill area. Whether the proposed activities will be submitted as a single application or two separate application has yet to be determined. However, the area of the activities will not change and I am presenting both proposed project areas as one for review.

DGC would request consultation on a recommended seed mixture to be utilized under the reclamation plan(s) that will be submit as part of the EXNI application(s) for DTRC LLC, per SDCL 45-6C-8(2).

Enclosed with the email are the following for use for your review to assist in your consultation on a recommended seed mixture.

The following is a description of what is included with this email:

- ***DTRC LLC 2024 EXNI Richmond Hill Drill Program\_No Confidential Stamp.pdf:*** Proposed project site (highlighted in tan) in the Richmond Hill area of Lawrence County.
- ***USDA\_All Ecological Sites\_DTRC LLC\_2024 EXNI Richmond Hill Applications.pdf:*** All Ecological Sites report that was created from the NRCS website on the project area.
- ***Seed Mixture EXNI 440 444 446.pdf:*** Previously recommended seed mixture being utilized on eight (8) current EXNI Permits, including EXNI 440, EXNI 444 and EXNI 446 at Richmond Hill area, currently held by DTRC LLC.

DGC would prefer to also utilizes the currently recommended seed mixture for the Richmond Hill area, and would request you concurrence if appropriate. The recommended seed mixture for existing DTRC LLC EXNI 440, EXNI 444 and EXNI 446 approved by DANR are in the same area as this proposed project area. However, should you recommend an alternative seed mixture, DGC would implement that recommended seed mixture as part of the submitted reclamation plan to the DANR as part of the EXNI Application.

Thank you for your time as it pertains to this matter and your assistance. Should you need any further information, please contact me.

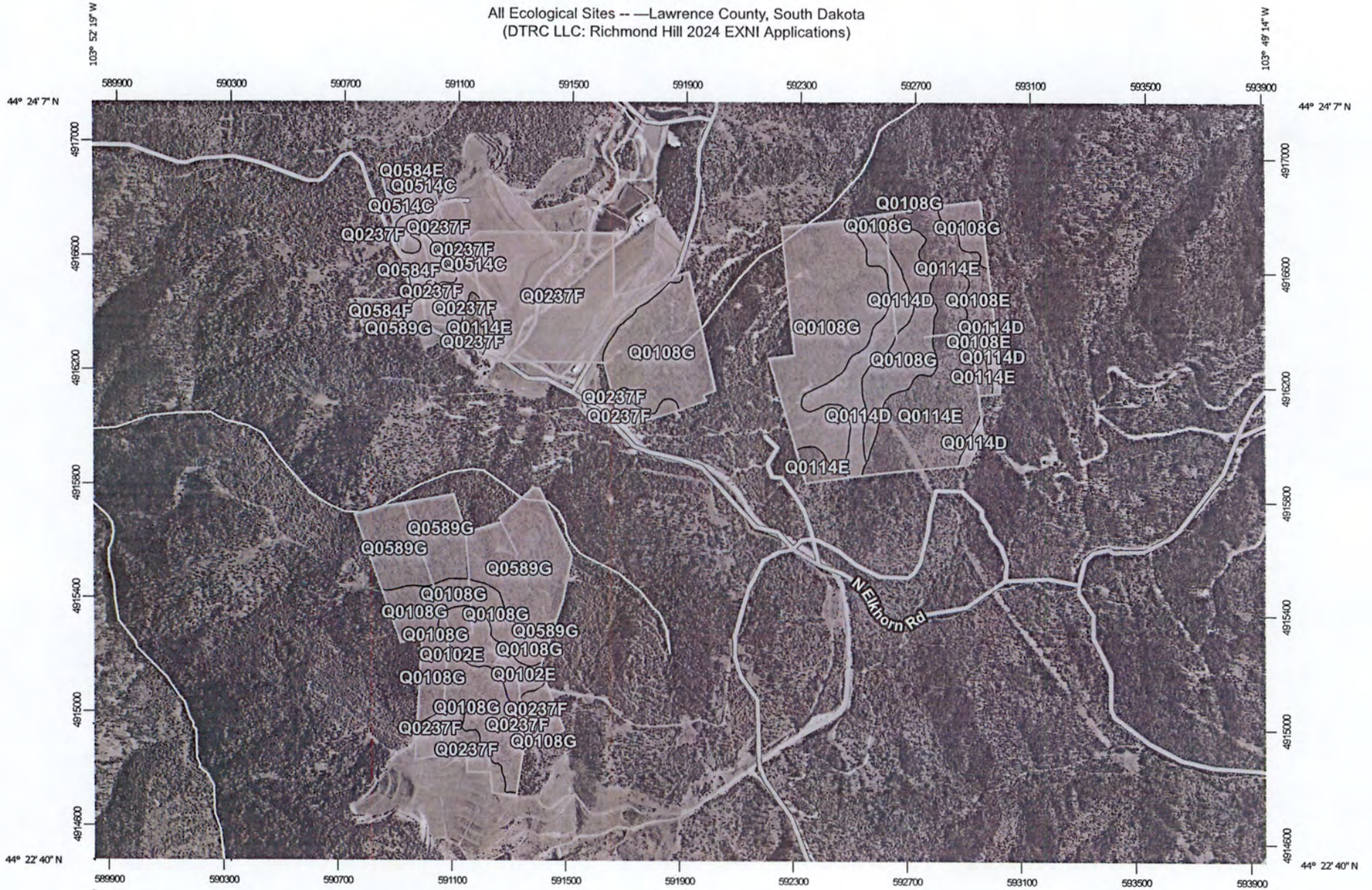
Regards,  
Timm

**Timm Comer**  
ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTOR  
[tcomer@dakotagoldcorp.com](mailto:tcomer@dakotagoldcorp.com)  
O +1 605 717 2541  
C +1 719 203 0567

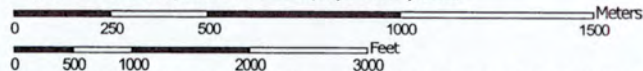


# ATTACHMENT 1

All Ecological Sites -- Lawrence County, South Dakota  
(DTRC LLC: Richmond Hill 2024 EXNI Applications)




Map Scale: 1:18,700 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.



Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 13N WGS84







## MAP LEGEND

### Area of Interest (AOI)







 Area of Interest (AOI)

### Soils







#### Soil Rating Polygons

-  F062XA051SD
-  F062XB052SD
-  F062XC053SD
-  F062XY054SD
-  R062XY999SD
-  Not rated or not available

#### Soil Rating Lines

-  F062XA051SD
-  F062XB052SD
-  F062XC053SD
-  F062XY054SD
-  R062XY999SD
-  Not rated or not available

#### Soil Rating Points

-  F062XA051SD
-  F062XB052SD
-  F062XC053SD
-  F062XY054SD
-  R062XY999SD
-  Not rated or not available

### Water Features

 Streams and Canals

### Transportation

-  Rails
-  Interstate Highways
-  US Routes
-  Major Roads
-  Local Roads

### Background

 Aerial Photography

## MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Web Soil Survey URL:  
Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Lawrence County, South Dakota  
Survey Area Data: Version 26, Sep 13, 2023

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Jun 16, 2022—Aug 8, 2022

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

### All Ecological Sites —

Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Component name (percent)	Ecological site	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Q0102E	Goldmine-Goldmine, moderately deep complex, 10 to 40 percent slopes	Goldmine (50%)	F062XY054SD — Mod. Steep to Steep High Mountain Slopes	16.1	3.9%
		Goldmine, moderately deep (25%)	F062XY054SD — Mod. Steep to Steep High Mountain Slopes		
		Goldmine, shallow (10%)	F062XY054SD — Mod. Steep to Steep High Mountain Slopes		
		Pactola, cool (5%)	F062XY054SD — Mod. Steep to Steep High Mountain Slopes		
		Rock outcrop, igneous (5%)	R062XY999SD — Non-site		
		Virkula, cool (5%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine		
Q0108E	Grizzly-Mineshaft complex, 10 to 40 percent slopes	Grizzly (50%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine	6.3	1.5%
		Mineshaft (30%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine		
		Mineshaft, shallow (5%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine		
		Pactola (5%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine		
		Rock outcrop, igneous (5%)	R062XY999SD — Non-site		
		Virkula (5%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine		
Q0108G	Grizzly-Mineshaft complex, 40 to 80 percent slopes	Grizzly (40%)	F062XA051SD — LRU A Pine	153.1	37.4%
		Mineshaft (35%)	F062XA051SD — LRU A Pine		
		Rock outcrop, igneous (8%)	R062XY999SD — Non-site		
		Grizzly, extremely stony (7%)	F062XA051SD — LRU A Pine		
		Mineshaft, shallow (5%)	F062XA051SD — LRU A Pine		
		Rubbleland, igneous (4%)	R062XY999SD — Non-site		

Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Component name (percent)	Ecological site	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
		Virkula (1%)	F062XA051SD — LRU A Pine		
Q0114D	Grizzly-Virkula complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes	Grizzly (45%)	F062XC053SD — LRU C Pine	23.4	5.7%
		Virkula (30%)	F062XC053SD — LRU C Pine		
		Mineshaft (6%)	F062XC053SD — LRU C Pine		
		Grizzly, thick surface (5%)	F062XC053SD — LRU C Pine		
		Grizzly, sandy surface (5%)	F062XC053SD — LRU C Pine		
		Pactola (4%)	F062XC053SD — LRU C Pine		
		Cordeston (3%)	R062XY043SD — Valley Loam		
		Citadel (2%)	F062XC053SD — LRU C Pine		
Q0114E	Grizzly-Virkula complex, 10 to 40 percent slopes	Grizzly (50%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine	53.0	13.0%
		Virkula (30%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine		
		Grizzly, sandy surface (4%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine		
		Mineshaft, shallow (4%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine		
		Mineshaft (4%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine		
		Pactola (4%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine		
		Cordeston (2%)	R062XY043SD — Valley Loam		
		Rock outcrop, igneous (2%)	R062XY999SD — Non-site		
Q0237F	Typic Udarents, reclaimed, 3 to 60 percent slopes	Udarents, reclaimed (100%)	R062XY999SD — Non-site	86.9	21.2%
Q0514C	Citadel-Vanocker complex, 2 to 12 percent slopes	Citadel (50%)	F062XC053SD — LRU C Pine	10.1	2.5%
		Vanocker (30%)	F062XC053SD — LRU C Pine		
		Hickok (10%)	F062XC053SD — LRU C Pine		
		Rock outcrop, limestone (5%)	R062XY999SD — Non-site		

Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Component name (percent)	Ecological site	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
		Rockerville, moist (5%)	R062XA024SD — Shallow Loamy - North		
Q0584E	Vanocker-Citadel complex, 10 to 40 percent slopes	Vanocker (55%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine	2.0	0.5%
		Citadel (25%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine		
		Sawdust, moist (5%)	R062XA012SD — Thin Upland - North		
		Hickok (4%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine		
		Rock outcrop, limestone (4%)	R062XY999SD — Non-site		
		Rockerville, moist (4%)	R062XA024SD — Shallow Loamy - North		
		Rockoa, moist (3%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine		
Q0584F	Vanocker-Citadel complex, 20 to 60 percent slopes	Vanocker (50%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine	3.1	0.8%
		Citadel (20%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine		
		Cordaston (5%)	R062XY043SD — Valley Loam		
		Rock outcrop, limestone (5%)	R062XY999SD — Non-site		
		Sawdust, moist (5%)	R062XA012SD — Thin Upland - North		
		McCooley (4%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine		
		Hickok (3%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine		
		Maitland, silt loam (3%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine		
		Tollflat (3%)	F062XB052SD — LRU B Pine		
		Rockerville, moist (2%)	R062XA024SD — Shallow Loamy - North		
Q0589G	Vanocker-Sawdust, moist-Rock outcrop complex, 40 to 80 percent slopes	Vanocker (40%)	F062XA051SD — LRU A Pine	54.8	13.4%
		Sawdust, moist (30%)	R062XA012SD — Thin Upland - North		
		Rock outcrop, limestone (15%)	R062XY999SD — Non-site		

Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Component name (percent)	Ecological site	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
		Citadel (5%)	F062XA051SD -- LRU A Pine		
		Rapidcreek, rarely flooded (5%)	R062XA020SD -- Loamy Overflow - North		
		Rockerville, moist (5%)	R062XA024SD -- Shallow Loamy - North		
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>				<b>408.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Instructions

SEEDING PLAN

MLRA

Producer: DTRC LLC Conservation District: Lawrence MLRA: 62

Program: CTA Practice No.: 342 Practice Name: Critical Area Seeding

CI or Referral No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Contract #: \_\_\_\_\_

Resource Concern (CPPE Impact): \_\_\_\_\_ Purpose: 342- Stabilize areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion by wind or water.

PLANNED		Seedbed Preparation
Tract	NA	Clean, smooth, weed free seedbed will be prepared
Field	NA	
Acres	1.00	
Group or Site	Critical Area Group	
Site	Loamy or Silty Texture	Protection Provided
Date to be Planted	Early Spring Prior to 5/15	
Alternative planting dates		Clip weeds before they compete for moisture and light
Alternative planting dates		
Seeding Equipment	Special Grass Drill	
Companion Crop	None	

Species	1/ Select Improved Variety (recommended) or select common seed (see note below)	Percent in Mixture	Pure Live Seeds (PLS) per square foot	Pure Live Seed (PLS) butac Needed	Acres to Seed	Pure Live Seed (PLS) Req Required
Western wheatgrass		105	41.43			
Big bluestem		55.0	20.63	8.02	1.00	8.02
Sideoats grama		15.0	6.75	1.87	1.00	1.87
Stander wheatgrass		9.0	2.25	0.64	1.00	0.64
Green needlegrass		20.0	7.50	2.11	1.00	2.11
Little bluestem		5.0	2.25	0.64	1.00	0.64
Western yarrow		3.0	1.35	0.21	1.00	0.21
Purple prairie clover		1.0	0.38	0.01	1.00	0.01
		1.0	0.38	0.06	1.00	0.03

To meet SD HRCs Standards Please Note:

1/ Improved varieties recommended above have no restrictions on their origin.

1/ Origin of Common grass seed must be ND, SD, NE, MT, WY, MN, or IA. Exception: Smooth Bromegrass any locale.

1/ Common Native forbs and legumes will originate or be grown in (USA): ND, SD, NE, MT, IA, WY, ID, WA, OR, MN, WI, and (CAN): AB, BC, MS, ON, SK.

- Seed test must be completed according to SD Seed laws (see link below) and no more than 9 months prior to the date planted.
- All legumes must be pre-inoculated. Producer will provide all seed tags to HRCs Legume inoculant
- Tetrazofum (TZ) tests may be used as a substitute for germination tests ONLY for Green Needlegrass
- For Alfalfa Salinity tolerance use F or G from the web site link -> Alfalfa Variety Ratings
- Pubescent wheatgrass and intermediate wheatgrass are the same species and can be substituted for one another at any time.
- Thickspike wheatgrass may be substituted for western wheatgrass if the later is not available but only west of the Missouri River.

To calculate the amount needed multiply the western wheatgrass seeding rate by .72

SD Seed Laws Conserv Laws Statute 33-12A Seed testing SD state seed-laws

LOCATION MAP


Tract: \_\_\_\_\_

Planning Assistance By: Mitch Faulkner 11/1/2021  
Name Date

Plan Meets SD Standards (if no explain) Yes  No

N  
S  
T  
R