

9 VEGETATION

9.1 SCOPE

A reference area, approximately one acre in size was selected in July 1983, encompassing pinyon-juniper-grass and riparian vegetation types (Plate 9-1). The reference area was selected on the basis of similarity with vegetation types which were believed to have occurred within the disturbed area before mining. This was done in conjunction with Mr. Lynn Kunzler of the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGGM). Further discussion with the D.O.G.M. has determined that there are better reference areas nearer to the mine site, therefore this area will no longer be used as a reference area.

In 1993, reference areas were selected for the Shower House Pad disturbance and the Tank Seam Access Road disturbance. The areas were selected in conjunction with Susan White of the D.O.G.M. These areas are also shown on Plate 9-1. The Shower House Pad reference area will also be used for the shop, sediment pond A, scale house, and coal storage areas. The Tank Seam Access Road reference area will also be used for the mine access road.

In 1996, a reference area was selected by Patrick Collins for the proposed Wild Horse Ridge disturbance. In 2001 he selected an area for the Wild Horse Ridge Tank Seam Pad area. These areas are shown on Plate 9-1.

9.2 METHODOLOGY

A reconnaissance-type survey was conducted within each vegetation type believed to have been disturbed, then correlated to reference areas in undisturbed areas. Quantitative sampling was conducted by Larry Germain and Paige Waldvogel, under contract with Mel Coonrod in August 1983. Additional species composition information was compiled in 1982 by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Specific efforts were made to locate and identify species proposed or listed as threatened or endangered, noxious weeds and selenium indicators.