Urban Stormwater Workgroup Meeting

OCTOBER 15, 2024

Biochar Amendment Interpretation Request

Choosing an Approach

USWG can proceed in 3 ways with the proposed request for BMP approval:

1. Do not pursue at this point
2. Pursue using guidance from the USWG's BMP Interpretation Policy (2016)
3. Recommend convening a full expert panel to review the practice, when resources become available.

The BMP Interpretation Policy

- The process should clarify and reinforce the existing BMP expert panel protocol and process, and never be used to undercut or re-open an existing urban BMP expert panel.
- The BMP must represents a real change on the ground that occurs in the present day (e.g., no historic BMP discoveries).
- The proposed BMP must have verification procedures that are at least as stringent as the "parent" BMP.
- The proposed BMP should not create problems when it comes to reporting it in Scenario Builder.

The BMP Interpretation Policy - Process

- CSN will convene a team to review the white paper that was developed by the proposers
  - 2-3 folks who have expertise/experience with these coagulant systems, plus 2-3 state and local reps.
  - The goal is to catch any issues, request any additional information or clarifications, and make sure the recommendations reflect best available science.
- USWG review of the final recommendations and make an approval decision.
- This process does not require full review by the Watershed Technical Workgroup, though the CAST team would be part of the recommendations development, and it can be requested that the proposal be coordinated with the WTWG.
- Targeted completion date: March/April 2025

The “Full Panel” Review Process

- USWG and CSN would develop panel scope of work
- Scope could be limited to biochar in BMPs, or be expanded to include in-site soil amendments and other soil health practices
- Panel charge and membership would be finalized in Summer 2025, and panel would kick off in Fall 2025, once UNM Panel has largely completed its work.
- Target completion date: December 2026

Solar Loading Rates

Background

- Following Peter Claggett's presentation in April, the USWG was asked to provide guidance on relative loading rates for a series of proposed new land uses.

- Proposed new land uses for solar development sites

- CSN began literature review over the summer

Summary Takeaways

No known studies evaluating runoff quality from solar land uses

Some work on impacts on hydrology and soil condition

Most studies to date are biased toward more idea sites

Some level of best professional judgement will be required for defining relative loading rates

Impacts on Soils and Runoff

General recognition of soil degradation

- Re-grading
- Compaction
- Loss of vegetative cover (even if temporary)

Runoff and erosion only measured at site scale

Sites behave more like disconnected impervious

- Curve numbers are higher than natural conditions but lower than impervious

Erosion increases at sites compared to pre-development

Potential paths forward

Two Land Uses:

- Solar Impervious
- Solar Pervious

Solar Impervious

- No available literature
- Difficult to separate impacts of 3D space
- Proposed relative loading rate equal or similar to Buildings and Other

Solar Pervious

- Could try to simulate increased runoff with PV-SMART tool (more precise, unknown accuracy)
- Could target relative rate between Turf Grass and Roads