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For a more environmentally friendly and conservation-focused approach, the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Aggregate Production Operations (APOs) can emphasize long-term sustainability, habitat preservation, and community well-being. Here's a proposed list of conservation-focused BMPs:

1. Dust Control

Eco-Friendly Methods: Use biodegradable dust suppressants or natural binding agents, avoiding chemical suppressants harmful to the environment.

Vegetative Barriers: Plant native trees and shrubs around operational areas to trap dust and improve air quality.

2. Water Management

Maximized Recycling: Implement closed-loop water systems to recycle water used in washing and processing aggregates.

Rainwater Harvesting: Collect and utilize rainwater for operational needs to reduce reliance on natural water bodies.

Wetlands Restoration: Develop artificial wetlands near operations to manage water runoff and enhance biodiversity.

3. Erosion and Sediment Control

Native Plantings: Use native vegetation to stabilize soil, control erosion, and reduce the need for artificial barriers.

Green Buffer Zones: Establish wide vegetative buffer zones around water bodies to filter sediments and protect aquatic ecosystems.

Permeable Surfaces: Use permeable pavements for access roads to minimize stormwater runoff.

4. Habitat Protection

Biodiversity Conservation: Conduct environmental impact assessments to identify and protect critical habitats for wildlife.

Wildlife Corridors: Create corridors to allow wildlife movement across operational areas.

Temporary Habitat Use: During reclamation phases, create temporary habitats like ponds or grasslands to support local species.

5. Energy Efficiency

Renewable Energy Sources: Transition to solar or wind energy for powering operations and equipment.

Energy-Efficient Equipment: Use equipment with high energy efficiency ratings to reduce carbon emissions.

6. Noise and Light Pollution Control

Natural Barriers: Utilize earth berms and vegetative screens to reduce noise pollution.

Shielded Lighting: Use downward-directed, motion-sensitive lighting to minimize light pollution and its impact on nocturnal wildlife.

7. Reclamation and Land Rehabilitation

Progressive Reclamation: Begin land restoration efforts in inactive areas while operations are ongoing.

Rewilding: Restore the land to its natural state by planting native flora and reintroducing fauna.

Community Involvement: Work with local communities and conservation groups to ensure reclamation efforts align