

SUITABILITY OF POST-SMCRA RECLAIMED MINES FOR REFORESTATION

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Abstract: Many reclaimed coal-surface mine sites in the eastern US are not in productive use. Reforestation of these lands could provide benefits, including timber production and carbon sequestration. Currently, little information is available on the characteristics and extent of the land resource base created under SMCRA. Our objective was to determine the suitability of eastern US coal-mined lands for reforestation. Study sites in 4 eastern states was selected randomly from agency permitting records. Sampling points on 25 sites were selected using a randomization procedure. At each sampling point, soil properties affecting reforestation potentials and vegetation characteristics were measured. Results will be reported.

Additional Key Words: Surface mine reclamation, mine reforestation, carbon sequestration

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