Trout Unlimited - A Nonprofit Approach to Mine Reclamation[1]

Rob Roberts[2]

Abstract: Trout Unlimited has been working with state, federal, and private partners since 2004 to tackle the challenging issue of abandoned mine reclamation. Since that time, TU has expanded our reach into six different western states; completed 25 successful abandoned mine restoration projects, and restored habitat and water quality in 150 stream miles. While the body of our successful project and policy work grows, the underlying framework and objectives for our Western Abandoned Mine Restoration Program remain the same: (1) implement high-priority watershed-scale mine restoration projects that achieve ecological benefits for fish and rivers across the West, (2) organize and build the capacity of local stakeholder groups to continue long-term restoration and conservation projects in western communities, and (3) drive the development of dedicated funding sources and legislative and/or policy changes. To provide a better understanding of how TU works the following presentation will provide an in-depth look at specific projects ranging from large-scale placer mine reclamation to environmental remediation of mine waste. By the end of the presentation, we hope to not only inform the industry of the vital role non-profits can play in reclamation, but also provide an example of how a collaborative approach will be essential in future reclamation plans[3].

Additional Key Words: abandoned mine, restoration, habitat, water quality, stakeholders

---

1. Oral paper presented at the 2019 National Meeting of the American Society of Mining and Reclamation, Big Sky, MT. Welcome Back to Montana, The Land of Reclamation Pioneers, June 3 - 7, 2019. Published by ASMR; 1305 Weathervane Dr., Champaign, IL 61821.
2. Rob Roberts, Abandoned Mine Reclamation Coordinator, Trout Unlimited, 312 N. Higgins Ave., Suite 200, Missoula, Montana 59802.
3. Work reported here was conducted near 46.872427N, -113.993568W.