

**WYOMING RECLAMATION ECOLOGY CENTER:
A NEW RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH INITIATIVE¹**

by

G.F. Vance²

Abstract: In the 1999 University of Wyoming's Academic Plan, Action Item #69 states that "With the assistance of the Vice President for Research, the department (i.e., Renewable Resources) should pursue discussions with the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) to support development of a Reclamation Center". Over the course of several years, individuals in Soil Science, Rangeland Ecology, and Watershed Management disciplines have developed, in consultation with OSM, University of Wyoming's Research Office and Graduate School, and College of Agricultural Administration, a preliminary document that defines the need, focus and role of a Reclamation Center. Upon discussion with the Renewable Resources faculty, it was decided that a more appropriate title for the center should be "**RECLAMATION ECOLOGY CENTER**" and that the mission of the center should involve the development and deliver of state-of-the-art research, education, and outreach programs that emphasize the importance of near surface reclamation and restoration of disturbed ecosystems. An undergraduate minor has been proposed that will be titled "**Reclamation and Restoration Ecology**". In addition, certificate programs will be developed to provide educational opportunities to current and future graduate students and practicing reclamationist, ecologists, soil scientists, and rangeland specialists. An outreach program will also be designed in an efforts to benefit industry, regulatory, consultants, etc. personnel. The poster presentation will provide details of the "**RECLAMATION ECOLOGY CENTER**" initiative and its role in research, education, and outreach activities related to Wyoming and the western United States.

Additional Keywords: WyREC, Reclamation and Restoration Ecology, Undergraduate Minors, Graduate Certificates

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²George F. Vance, Soil and Environmental Sciences Professor, Department of Renewable Resources, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82071-3354, gfv@uwyo.edu