

## SUCCESSION ON AN ABANDONED COAL REFUSE PILE STABILIZED WITH AMERICAN BEACHGRASS<sup>1</sup>

Samuel DePue and Robert Glennon<sup>2</sup>

**Abstract:** American beachgrass (*Ammophila breviligulata*) was planted on an abandoned coal refuse pile in March, 1991 to cool the surface, add organic matter to the substrate and trap seeds from adjacent plant communities. After four growing seasons, the area has been colonized by indigenous species. Both forbs and woody species have established themselves. Immediately adjacent to the surrounding forest, blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*) and smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*) are the principle species in the successional community. In the center of the pile 100 feet away from the forest stickseed (*Lappula echinata*) is the principle species. The beachgrass is still present at a 56 percent survival rate in the center of the pile with 18 stems per plant. Immediately adjacent to the forest, the beachgrass has a 28 percent survival with 6 stems per plant.

**Additional Key Words:** Reclamation, Abandoned Mine Land, American Beachgrass.

---

<sup>1</sup>Poster presented at the 1995 National Meeting of the American Society for Surface Mining and Reclamation, Gillette, Wyoming, June 5-8, 1995.

<sup>2</sup>Samuel Depue, District Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, 114 Gott Road, Princeton, WV 24740; Robert Glennon, Plant Materials Specialist, Soil Conservation Service, Harrisburg, PA.