

Life Cycle of a Successful Reclamation Program¹

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Abstract: Westmoreland Coal Company – Rosebud Mine is located near Colstrip, Montana. The 25,000-acre surface coal mine consists of five separate mining permits. Of the two mined-out areas, one permit area is slated for final bond release and the other is nearly reclaimed. The Rosebud Mine produces sub-bituminous coal and supplies the Colstrip steam-electric power station. Reclamation has always been an integral part of the mining operation at the Rosebud Mine and is committed to reclaiming all mining-related disturbances to a use equal to or better than what existed prior to mining. Since the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, a lot has been learned over the past 42 years in the realm of a successful reclamation program. Reclamation tasks include soil material salvage/redistribution, pit backfilling, regrading/ contouring, drainage construction, revegetation, environmental monitoring, and post-mine land use. This presentation will discuss reclamation activities for an area near final bond release and what has been learned from the life cycle of award-winning reclamation at the Rosebud Coal Mine.

Additional Key Words: Listing of those not in the title.

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 3. Work reported here was conducted near 45° 52' 30" N; 106° 46' 36" W.