Planning, Implementation, and Analysis of Success in Revegetating Lignite Mines in Texas[1]

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Abstract: Large lignite mining operations in Texas span a variety of vegetation communities from the piney forests of the east to the semi-desert thornscrub at the Mexican border. This diverse expanse of ecoregions presents numerous challenges during surface mine reclamation and requires detailed planning of revegetation practices and annual large-scale commercial seed availability. Since June of 2013, Blackland Environmental LLC has consulted the Texas lignite mining industry in the successful revegetation of thousands of forested and grassland habitats state-wide. These efforts have afforded Blackland the opportunity to test and evaluate various planting methods, seed sources, varieties, and germplasms as well as best management practices to achieve the applicable revegetation success performance standards. Through years of experience in evaluating reclaimed mined lands Blackland has also identified opportunities to enhance the post-mine lands for wildlife through modified revegetation practices and revised land management concepts.

Additional Key Words: numerous challenges, revegetation success standards, opportunities to enhance.