

Coal Reclamation

Peabody Group's Big Sky Coal Mine near Colstrip was the first in the industry to restore natural buttes that rise above the prairie using the upper portion of the old mine highwall. Creating bluff extensions is just one of the innovative techniques employed to restore mined lands to a productive condition. Using a two-phase seeding protocol for warm season grass, forb and shrub establishment is one of the methods used to improve results. Big Sky also has a tree and shrub planting program aimed at restoring woody habitat and ponderosa pine while improving community diversity. As a result of Big Sky's efforts, native wildlife populations have returned to reclaimed areas relatively quickly, and livestock grazing on reclaimed lands demonstrates further success.

<http://www.mii.org/Rec/bigsky/bigsky.html>

Western Energy Company (WECO) has operated a surface coal mine in Colstrip since 1968. The mine typically disturbs and reclaims approximately 350 acres per year. Prior to large-scale mining activities, wildlife surveys conducted at Colstrip documented the area to be excellent sharp-tailed grouse habitat. Efforts to re-establish sharp-tailed grouse on reclaimed mine lands at WECO have used the following three components; luring, habitat re-establishment and rangeland management. WECO has reclaimed nearly 6,000 acres of rangeland, and plants approximately 20,000 shrub and tree tublings each year.

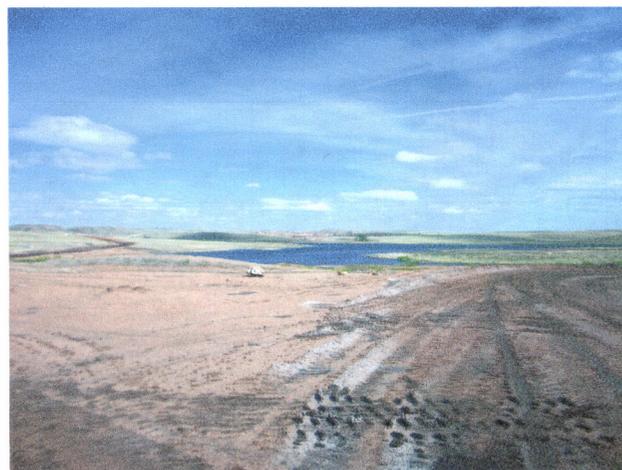
<http://www.mii.org/Rec/rosebud/rosebud.html>



Arch Coal Black Thunder Mine (Wyoming)

11,664 acres permanently reclaimed

21 awards since 1995 for wildlife,
environmental achievement and mining
excellence.



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Al Ekblad Statement regarding House Joint Resolution 9 – Joint Resolution Supporting Coal

“The Montana State AFL-CIO and its 45,000 members from all across Montana - who work in all sectors of employment from professional to blue collar and the service sector - have repeatedly affirmed strong support for traditional and industrial forms of energy development, particularly those that decrease our nation’s dependence on foreign energy development in volatile regions. Coal energy increases the potential for high-paying, family-sustaining jobs in Montana – high-quality jobs of which we are in desperate short supply and it increases the tax base of our state. We support House Joint Resolution 9.”