

A SURVEY OF SUCCESSFUL MINELAND REVEGETATION TECHNIQUES¹

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Abstract. Since the Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) was enacted in 1977, the definition of successful mineland revegetation has often been debated and is the central focus of bond release requirements. Over the past 29 years, mine operators have tried several techniques to achieve cover and production values that equal or exceed pre-mine conditions, as well as diversity or shrub density goals and standards. Results of a preliminary survey of mine operators in Wyoming and Montana outlining successful practices to date was presented at the combined state meeting of the Wyoming Society for Range Management and Soil and Water Conservation Society. From these preliminary results, a second survey targeting a broader audience of coal, uranium, and bentonite producers was gathered. Results of this survey will be the focus of this presentation.

Additional Key Words: coal, uranium, bentonite, SMCRA, and bond release.

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