



Land Reclamation

Reforestation of Surface-Mined Lands in Kentucky, developing new standards for industry



reclamation of mined lands through model projects in reforestation, headwater stream restoration, water quality improvement, wildlife habitat enhancement, and atmospheric carbon dioxide mitigation

Reforestation of Surface Mined Lands in Kentucky



Led by Donald Graves in the UK Department of Forestry, the project will develop and verify reforestation techniques on

post-mined lands using high-value hardwood tree species. In addition, the project seeks ways to promote terrestrial carbon sequestration through reforestation to capture and store carbon dioxide with concomitant reduction of certain pollutants. The developed methods should reduce potential flooding and decrease water pollution in the watershed. This project particularly targets eastern Kentucky, where nearly 98 percent of Kentucky's currently permitted mining is located. Partnering with the Department of Forestry are the UK College of Engineering's Department of Mine Engineering, the UK College of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Division's Stream Mitigation Team, along with industry support.