Fourth Annual ARRI
Mined Land Reclamation Conference

Mine Reforestation:
A Coal Miner’s Perspective

John P. Jones
Dir. of Environmental Affairs
Alpha Natural Resources

June 2010
Coal Mining is Heavily Regulated

Mining Permit circa 1983

Mining Permit circa 2005
Past Reclamation Practices

- Revegetation of the site using fast growing species that provide quick soil stabilization as well as food and cover for wildlife, these include
  - Fescue
  - Autumn olive
  - White pine
  - Black locust
  - Sawtooth oak
Current Reclamation Practices

• Focus on restoration of native hardwood forests for wildlife habitat and future harvesting
• Increase plant species diversity
• Emphasis on reducing compaction of mine soils during reclamation
Reclamation: A Serious Commitment

The first stream channel built using natural reconstruction methods on a Virginia minesite.

Black Bear #1 Surface Mine - Wilder, Va.

- Interstate Mining Compact Commission National Mine Reclamation Award
- Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative Excellence in Reforestation Award
- Va. Mining Association 2006 Reclamation Award
- National Assn. of State Land Reclamationists 2006 National Mine Reclamation Award
- Va. DMLR Excellence in Mining & Reclamation Award
Reclamation: A Serious Commitment

“Repeat Performance”
Black Bear #4 Surface Mine

- National Association of State Land Reclamationists 2007 National Mine Reclamation Award
- Office of Surface Mining regional Excellence in Reforestation Award
- Va. Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative Excellence in Reforestation Award
- Overall Winner, 2007 Va. DMLR Excellence in Mining & Reclamation Award
• Strive to create a suitable rooting medium for good tree growth comprised of topsoil, weathered sandstone and/or the best available material.
• Loosely grade the soiling material to create a non-compacted growth medium.
• Use native and non-competitive ground covers that are compatible with growing trees.
• Plant at least two types of trees; early succession species for wildlife and soil stability, and commercially valuable crop trees.
• Use proper tree planting techniques.
Reclamation: Riparian Zone Restoration with FRA
Reclamation: Encourage Research
Reclamation: Encourage Research
Reclamation: Natural Restoration (Black Bear)
Any Questions?

Alpha Natural Resources

www.alphanr.com