

# Fourth Annual ARRI Mined Land Reclamation Conference



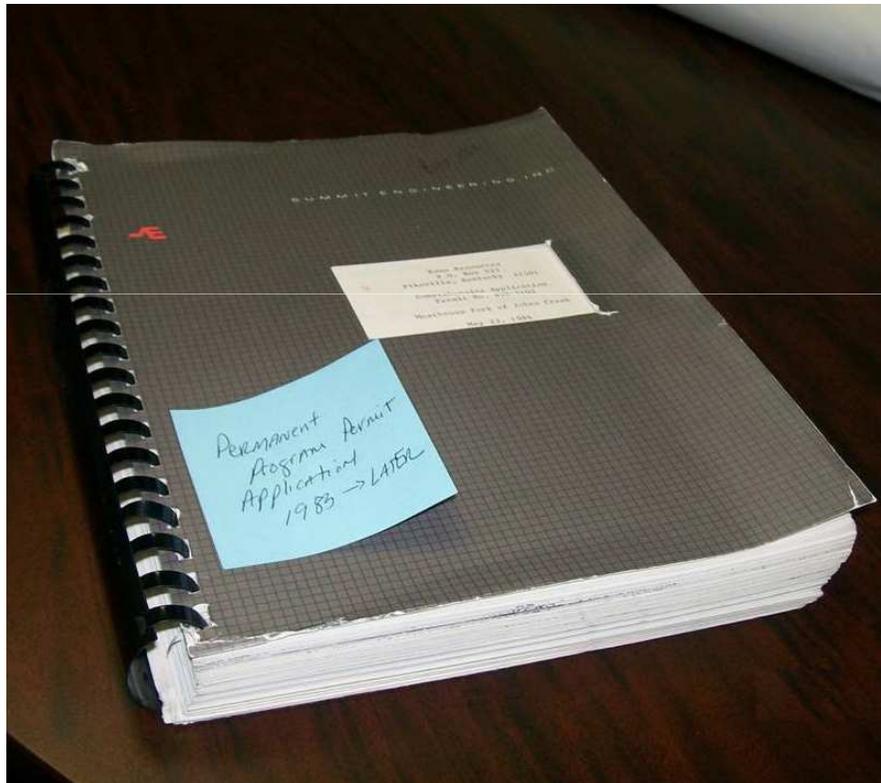
## **Mine Reforestation: A Coal Miner's Perspective**

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**Alpha Natural Resources**

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# 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

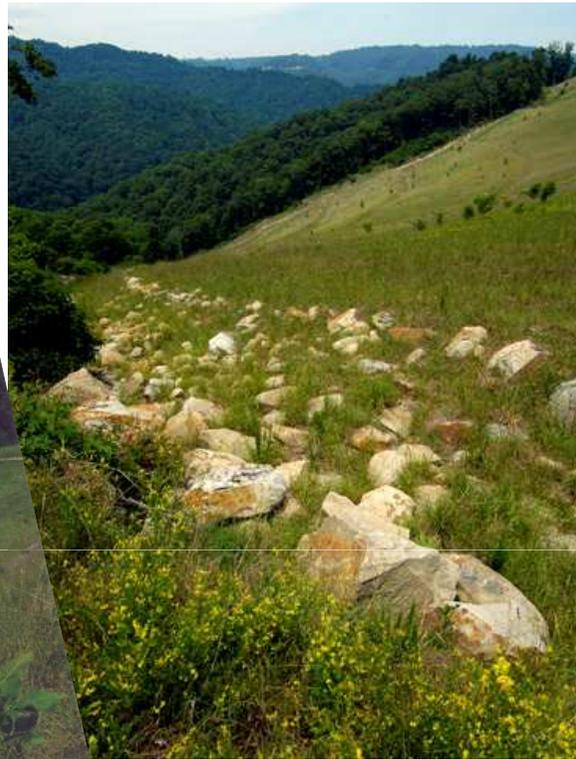
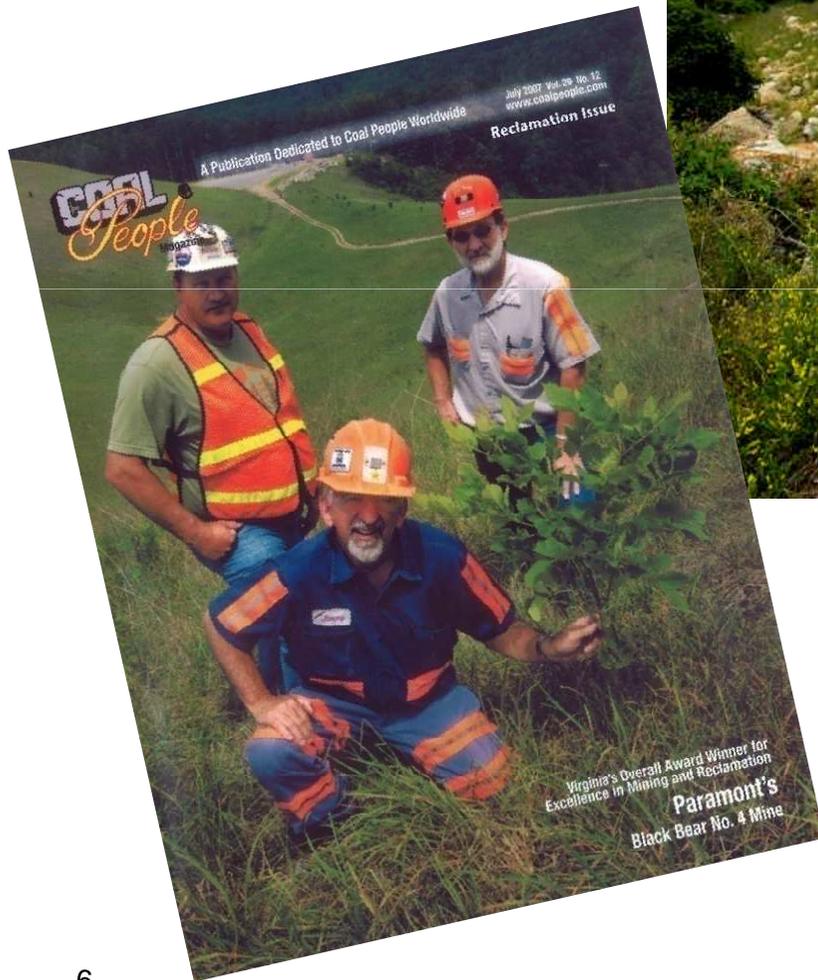


*The first stream channel built using natural reconstruction methods on a Virginia minesite.*

## 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**

# Reclamation: A Serious Commitment



## Reclamation: Forestry Reclamation Approach

- **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?



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