

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Vegetation & Soils Monitoring of Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Sites Administered by BLM
Type of Project : Research
Funding Agency: Bureau of Land Management
Other Partners/Cooperators: Not Applicable
Effective Dates: July 1, 2004 through May 31, 2006
Funding Amount: \$32,388
Investigators and Agency Representative: Dennis Neuman – Contact info: e-mail: dneuman@montana.edu phone: (406) 994-4821 Reclamation Research Unit Dept. Land Resources & Environmental Sciences Montana State University 106 Linfield Hall Bozeman, MT 59717
Project Abstract: The intent of this project is two-fold: to develop a post-reclamation qualitative assessment tool specific to BLM AML sites and to describe a quantitative vegetation and soil monitoring program under which data and information are gathered from selected, reclaimed AML sites administered by BLM. The qualitative assessment tool will be based on existing ones developed for EPA (QRA and BRES), and will be consistent, in approach, with tools being developed for the USFS by RRU. The purposes of the monitoring program (Browne 2004) are as follows: 1) Determine the effectiveness of past reclamation practices, 2) develop baseline data to determine trends or changes in vegetation, soils, and water quality and 3) schedule maintenance activities if needed in the future at these sites. Most of the field work including vegetation measurements and the collection of vegetation and soils is being conducted by a graduate student pursuing a Master of Science degree from the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences. A thesis topic based on the described work is being formulated by the student and approved by the Thesis Committee.
Outcomes with completion dates (reports, publications, workshops, videos, etc.): Progress reports, and draft and final reports will be prepared by the principal investigator and submitted to the BLM designated Project Manager on a schedule mutually agreed to. The graduate student will prepare a MS thesis document that satisfies all requirements of the LRES Department at MSU. A copy of the thesis document will be submitted to the BLM designated Project Manager. A meeting to discuss this project and other BLM sponsored projects is scheduled for January 2005.
Keywords: Reclamation evaluation, abandoned hard rock mines, mine tailings, metal contamination
<i>For Administrative use only:</i> <i>Date Annual Report Received:</i> <i>Date Final Report Received:</i> <i>Publications, etc. on file:</i>