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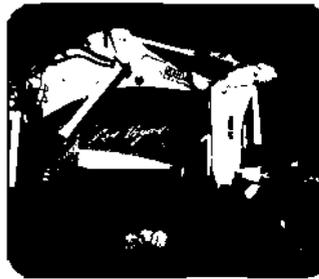
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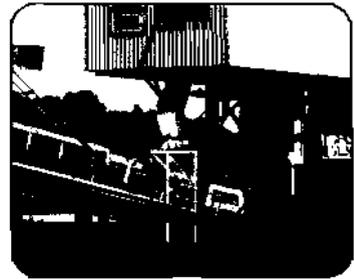
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THIS ISSUE

This month, Coal Age gives readers a glimpse of what they can expect to see at MINExpo 2008, the world's largest mining equipment exposition. On the cover, dozers move overburden at Phoenix Coal's Schoate mine. (Photo by Lee Buchsbaum, www.lmbphotography.com)

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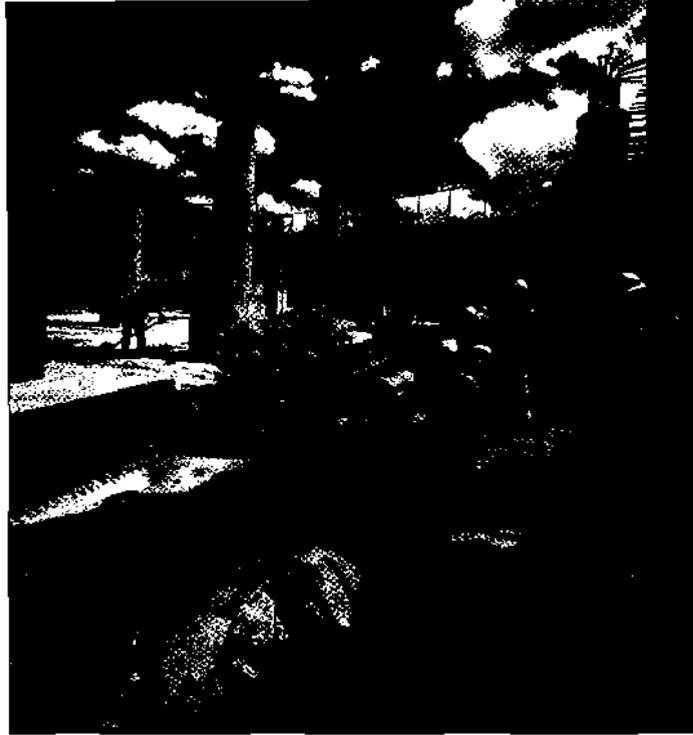
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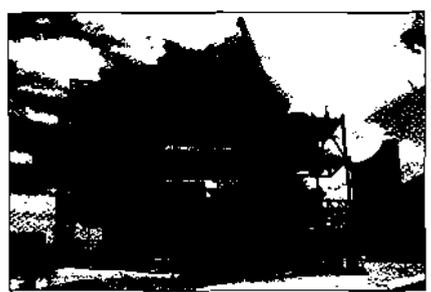
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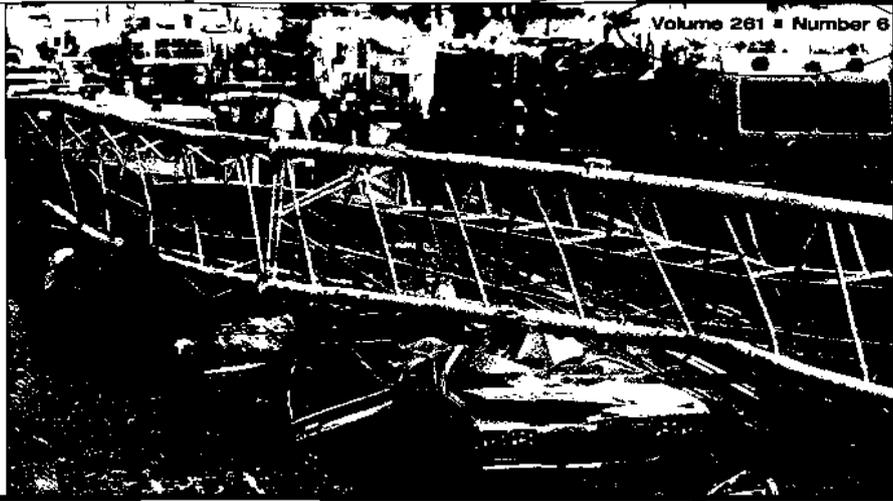
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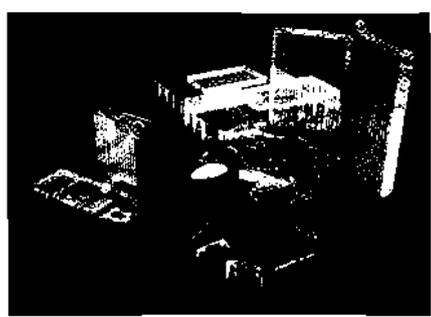
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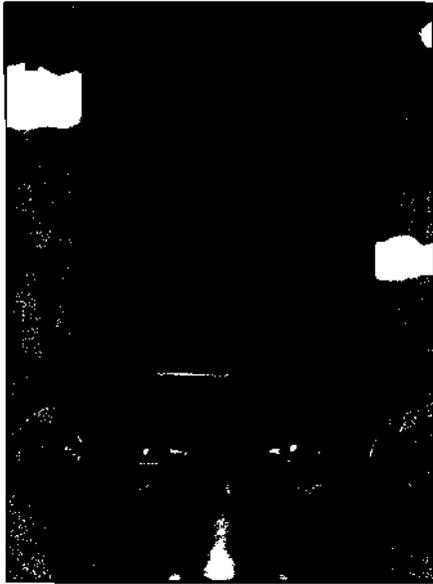
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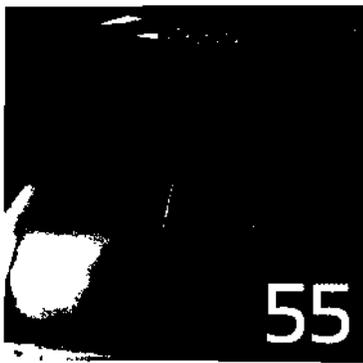


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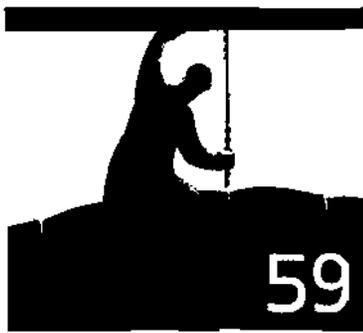
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A decade of drought has taken a terrible toll on rural landscapes and farming businesses in southeastern Australia.



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Cattle grazing in a mountain
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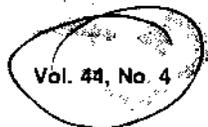


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The devastation from the 2007 Southern California wildfires was widespread, affecting seven counties and damaging over 150 miles of highway roadside. Rapid post-fire site assessment, combined with the early reservation of critical materials and effective application of materials by erosion control contractors led to successful revegetation. For the full story, see page 36.

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Land and Water (ISSN 0192-9458) is published bimonthly by Land and Water, Inc., 320 A Street, P.O. Box 1192, Fort Dodge, IA 50501-9925. Telephone (515)576-3191, Fax (515)576-2600. Land and Water is edited for contractors, engineers, architects, government officials and those working in the field of natural resource management and restoration from idea stage through project completion and maintenance. Subscription rates: One year - \$20.00, Two years - \$35.00, Three years - \$50.00. Foreign - add \$12.00 per year. All non-paid subscriptions are mailed on a rotating basis as receive occasional copies as free. Dodge Iowa and other additional mailing offices. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written consent of the publisher. Land and Water assumes no responsibility for statements expressed by contributors.

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VOL. 60, NO. 8 AUGUST 2008

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Since its takeover of Falconbridge, Xstrata has become a major player in the global nickel industry. Now the company is expanding its operations in Ontario with the construction of its Nickel Rim South project, page 28. Also, Canada's oil sands fields are operating at capacity. But oil sands' image may cause the industry some problems, page 33. Cover design by Nate Huriarek, ME's Production Designer.

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Issue Editor:
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Cover illustration
Punchstock

Department art
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Printed on recycled paper

The views expressed in *Natural Resources & Environment* are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the policies of the American Bar Association, the Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources, or the employer of the authors. For more information about NR&E, visit online at www.ababooks.org.

Rangelands



**Volume 30 No. 4
August 2008**

Published bimonthly:

February, April, June, August, October, December

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RANGELANDS (ISSN 0190-0528) is the official publication of the Society for Range Management (SRM) and is published bimonthly in February, April, June, August, October, and December. Publishing services are provided by Allen Press Publishing Services, 810 East 10th Street, Lawrence, Kansas 66044. SRM members receive *Rangelands* as a benefit of membership. Calendar-year subscription prices are \$135.00-200.00 for institutions. Additional surface charges may apply to subscribers located outside of the USA. The online version of *Rangelands* can be found online at www.srmjournals.org. Subscriptions, changes of address, and requests for missing issues should be sent to Allen Press Association Management, P.O. Box 7065, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

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PERIODICALS POSTAGE paid at Denver, Colorado, and additional offices.

POSTMASTER: Address service requested to *Rangelands*, PO Box 7065, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

PRINTED IN USA

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UNIVERSITY OF
COLORADO LAW REVIEW

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