



WRTT Conference Call



October 16, 2006

Monday 1:30 PM (MDT)

Call: (877) 931-2837 : Passcode: 128 093

National : MCRTT : ARTT

- a. NTTT Projects Status Report
 - i. Mid-Continent Region All-Hands Meeting
 - ii. National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Study
 - Presentation distributed to WRTT members
- b. Applied Science FY05 (MT University) – Revegetation
 - i. Modified Completion Date – January 07
 - ii. Paper presentation following completion

The primary objectives of this applied science pilot project are to identify landscape and substrate factors required for major community types when native vegetation or other approved vegetation is to be used in reclamation, as required by OSM and the Montana Strip and Underground Mine Reclamation Act. Final bond release is limited in Montana largely due to inadequate revegetation to meet full bond release standards. There is an escalating need for contemporaneous reclamation and successful revegetation that can lead to full bond release.

- c. Applied Science FY06 – Awards Initiated September 2006

University of Wyoming: *Influence of Plant Community Structure and Topsoil Handling Method on Soil Structure Development and Microbial Community Recovery in Reclaimed Soil.*

The overall objective of this proposed research is to determine the influence of topsoil handling practice and plant community type on soil structure development and microbial community recovery (including recovery of mycorrhizal fungi) on surface mine reclamation sites.

Colorado State University: *Establishing Shrubs to Achieve Bond Release on Colorado Coal Mines: A Demonstration of Methods.*

The Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology (CDMG) sponsored a five-year study from 2000 to 2004 to evaluate native shrub establishment on reclaimed coal-mined lands. Despite the apparent success of some of these treatments, continued monitoring of the study plots is necessary to make meaningful evaluations of these treatments as many effects may not have been apparent during the early initial stages of this study. They propose to collect vegetation cover and shrub density data on these plots during an additional year (2006 or 2007). The

longer-term evaluation will allow us to make informed recommendations to mine operators. This will result in fewer planting failures and reduced reclamation costs.

USDA Forest Service: *Response of Transplanted Aspen to Drip Irrigation on Reclaimed Mine Lands.*

This research builds on work previously funded by the Seneca Coal Company in western Colorado to identify factors that limit the growth and survival of planted aspen. A 2-year project with year 1 funded by Seneca Mine and year 2 funded by OSM.

d. National Mine Map Repository (NMMR):

This is a facility that provides abandoned coal mine maps to private citizens, developers and real estate companies, federal, state, and local agencies, consultants and engineering firms, mining companies, and OSM employees. It serves as a point of reference for mine maps and related information for surface and underground mines throughout the United States. {Contact: Paul Coyle, OSM Pittsburgh, (412) 037-2833}

Underground Mine Map Initiative – Site Visits

- Colorado: November 2nd (scheduled with Sandy)
- New Mexico: October 10-11th (completed)
- North Dakota: October 31st – November 1st (scheduled with Jim and Bill)

e. Library

- i. What functions do you find useful now?
 - It is not being used very much
- ii. What functions would you like to see on NTTTT website?
 - Maintaining a listing of upcoming conference should be a component
- iii. Send comments to pclark@osmre.gov

WRTT & Service Managers

a. Charter Review

1. Initial Comments?
 - Model after ARTT and MCRTT charters that were distributed at the August WRTT meeting. Paul to distribute ASAP.
2. Send Feedback to pclark@osmre.gov by Dec 8th, 2006

b. Software Distribution

1. AMD Treat v. 4.0
2. GMS v. 6.0
3. Galena v. 4.02
4. Contacts working?
 - Yes, people are getting the updates for the software they use

c. Annual WRTT Meeting – Planned to be in Utah during April, 2007

Future Workshops/Conferences/Meetings/Symposia, etc.

- a. CCB Forum (Columbus, OH) – November 14th — 16th
- b. ASMR Annual Meeting (Gillette, WY) – June 2007

WRTT Member Reports/Information

- Alaska: Russ Kirkham (unavailable for call); no report
- Colorado: Sandy Brown - Substantial landslides at Trapper Mine. Will send photos to Lou Hamm for use in the TIPS Galena class.
- Montana: Catherine Dreesbach for Angela McDannel – staff continuing to get leaner as key personnel move on.
- New Mexico: David Clark – Coal exploration of Lee Ranch is occurring to explore potential for expansion.
- North Dakota: Jim Deutsch – Undergoing an office move and in transition.
- Utah: Amber Fortner – No Report
- Wyoming: Marcelo Calle – The Governor has approved the WDEQ to request funding for the IT Initiative during the upcoming Supplemental Budget session.
- ABQ Field Office: Willis Gainer (unavailable for call); no report
- Casper Field Office: Alan Boehms (unavailable for call); no report
- Denver Field Division: Howard Strand (unavailable for call); no report
- Denver PSD: Mychal Yellowman for Karen Jass; no report

Technical Assistance & Training

1. TIPS currently offers four different Mobile Computing classes:
 - Introduction to GPS with Garmin eTrex Vista C – four classes in FY07
 - Trimble GeoXT, Terrasync and PF Office: Mobile Computing for Reclamation – one class in FY07
 - Trimble GeoExplorer 3 GPS & PF Office: Advanced GPS Mapping for Reclamation – one class in FY07
 - ArcPad 7: Mobile GIS for Reclamation Mapping and Analysis – two classes in FY07

In addition, Alan Boehms is available for onsite instruction of any of the above classes (except for the Garmin class) and offer onsite hands-on support as a special request from a State.

2. Hydrology Assistance Requested for EIS Public Meetings
- Black Mesa / Kayenta Mines; Kayenta, AZ
3. Hydrology Assistance Requested for Spring Investigation
-Hualapai Tribe; Peach Springs, AZ