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Reclamation and revegetation of lands disturbed by oil shale development in Colorado

Jack Clark

Clark Mining Services, LLC, Centennial, CO, United States

Through the years, there has been a substantial amount of surface disturbance in Colorado due to oil shale development. Since the 1970s, various oversight agencies have required reclamation of these disturbed lands. To satisfy the regulations and restore or convert the disturbed lands to an approved land use, many companies conducted tests under many different conditions to develop successful reclamation/revegetation techniques. This paper will present examples of some of the testing conducted at various sites to restore disturbed lands to an approved land use, examples of reclamation/ revegetation activities, and examples of successful reclamation. American Shale Oil, LLC (AMSO) is actively pursuing development of its Research, Development and Demonstration oil shale lease on the public lands in Rio Blanco County. AMSO is using appropriate revegetation techniques developed over the last 30-40 years by industry, government, and academia.