

Peabody's North Antelope Rochelle Mine Earns Wildlife Stewardship Award for Restoration of Habitat

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The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has presented Peabody Energy's North Antelope Rochelle Mine (NARM) - the world's largest and most productive coal mine - with an Industry Reclamation and Wildlife Stewardship Award for best practices to restore essential habitat for big game, mammals, birds and raptors over the past quarter century.

Returning lands to a condition that is equal to or better than before mining occurred is a core principle of Peabody's mission. Restored lands in the Powder River Basin create important habitat for elk, deer, antelope, sage grouse and many other species. Multiple studies have been conducted to refine land restoration practices for wildlife habitat and advance the understanding of regional wildlife populations.

"The North Antelope Rochelle Mine produces more coal in a year than all but a handful of coal companies and countries," said Eric Ford, Peabody's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. "We take great pride using sustainable practices that balance resource development with environmental excellence. I applaud our team for creating a collaborative model that allows wildlife to flourish through best practice and best science."

The NARM environmental team conducted a series of studies, which include a multi-year evaluation of the mine's sage grouse population. Scientists used radio transmitters to track bird movements and locations, enabling the team to evaluate vegetation preferences for land restoration plans.

The team also engaged in a 20-year study of golden eagles nesting on or nearby the mine lease area, enlisting wildlife experts to seasonally observe and record data. Another study tracked big game populations to assess regional trends. And the mine's award-winning 'Project Forkhorn' education program enhances wildlife and aquatic habitat, while involving area middle and high school students in planting activities.

Peabody's Powder River Basin mines are safe and productive, with a strong track record of environmental excellence. NARM achieved record production of nearly 100 million tons of coal in 2008, alongside a record safety rate that was 88 percent better than the industry average. NARM also has been recognized by the U.S. Department of the Interior and the state for good neighbor practices and land restoration.

Peabody has earned nearly 20 awards for stewardship in the past two years. The company has restored nearly 6,200 acres, planted more than 250,000 trees and recycled more than 19,000 tons of materials this past year while creating \$14 billion in direct and implied economic benefits in communities around the world.

Peabody Energy is the world's largest private-sector coal company, with 2008 sales of 256 million tons and \$6.6 billion in revenues. Its coal products fuel 10 percent of all U.S. electricity generation and 2 percent of worldwide electricity.

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