

# **2013 TEEA Winner Innovative Operations/Management Category: Texas Westmoreland Coal Company, Jewett**

## **Narrator**

Every day, the Westmoreland Mine near Jewett produces between 12 and 15,000 tons of coal.

## **J. Denny Kingsley, President & General Manager, Texas Westmoreland Coal Company**

You know, we have two permits, but together they run about 34,000 acres.

## **Narrator**

But one of the most satisfying sites for Manager Denny Kingsley are these grass-filled pastures.

## **J. Denny Kingsley**

This is all mined out land, I mean, to look at it you might not recognize that as something that was mined.

## **Derrell Ezell, Environmental Superintendent, Texas Westmoreland Coal Company**

We've made some pretty good strides as far as changing how we plan and how we model a lot of our reclamation.

## **James Light, Operations Production Superintendent, Texas Westmoreland Coal Company**

We've laid out all the contours of the graded land.

## **Narrator**

Aerial surveys document what the landscape looks like prior to mining.

## **James Light**

I'll use that to look at where I need to put streams. Constantly looking for opportunities there to make it a little bit above and beyond what's the minimum required.

## **Narrator**

The final plans are then digitally encoded to provide earth movers with precise guidance.

**J. Denny Kingsley**

He can design a landscape, turn that into a digital terrain model, and then upload that into a dozer in the field, who can at that point in time grade to that elevation.

**Narrator**

Hydromulch is used to quickly establish new grass; special webbing is used in erosion-prone areas to retain soil; and new streams are shaped around these contours.

**Jeremiah McKinney, Environmental Consultant, HF & Associates, Inc.**

When you get a meandering stream you've got areas where pools develop and it creates habitat.

**Narrator**

The process is guided by a simple goal.

**J. Denny Kingsley**

When we leave we don't really want you to know we were here.

**Narrator**

And validation comes in many forms.

**J. Denny Kingsley**

We've given many tours, and I guess the biggest single comment that's consistent between all the groups is 'I can't believe this was mined once'.