



BERNIER CONSTRUCTION, INCORPORATED PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Title: Gray Hill Abandoned Mine Reclamation Project

Location: Jay Township, Elk County, PA

Scope: Provide labor, materials, equipment, and supervision to reclaim an abandoned surface coal mine area

Berner Construction was awarded a contract from the PA Department of Environmental Protection to reclaim an abandoned surface coal mine area. The project was located in Jay Township, Elk County, PA on approximately 104 acres of both private property and State Game Lands 311. This ecosystem restoration project included clearing and grubbing, implementation of the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan, removal and disposal of solid waste, reclamation of dangerous high wall, alkaline addition, incorporation of paper mill sludge, and site restoration including final grading and brush pile construction to sustain the existing wildlife habitats.



Clearing trees with the feller/buncher machine

Most of the felled trees were chipped onsite and the chips sent offsite for use as pulp. The remainder of the trees and stumps were stockpiled along the bottom of the site to form brush piles for use as small animal habitats.

The E&S Control Plan included construction of collection ditches, sedimentation basins, and spillways to control drainage. 1,560,000 cubic yards of soil were relocated during the backfilling effort.

The abandoned coal mine area contained a high wall that was unstable and dangerous to vehicles, pedestrians, and wildlife. The former coal mine and high wall were reclaimed and high calcium alkaline material was strategically placed throughout the reclamation effort to help neutralize the acid mine drainage that seeps from the former mine site. The area was backfilled and graded to provide a structurally stable slope. The project commenced with clearing and grubbing activities and removal and disposal of solid waste.



Alkaline Material Placement