



## **BERNER CONSTRUCTION, INCORPORATED PROJECT SUMMARY**

**Project Title:** Winslow Hill IV Sites 3896 and 3897 Abandoned Mine Reclamation Project

**Location:** Benezette Township, Elk County, PA

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

Berner Construction was awarded a contract from the PA Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, to reclaim an abandoned strip coal mine site located in Benezette Township, Elk County, PA. The 40-acre ecosystem restoration project includes clearing and grubbing, implementation of the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan, alkaline addition, channel excavation, grading, site restoration and tree planting.



**Elk Grazing on Restored Land**

The project included the placement of 101,000 tons of high alkaline limestone at the base of the highwall and installation of 3,215 linear feet of rock-lined channel. The alkaline material was imported from the neighboring coal mine/quarry site. Berner craft and supervisory personnel were MSHA trained to allow access to the mine site. Berner personnel loaded and transported the alkaline rock from the quarry to the project site. A front end loader was equipped with a weighing system so that each load of rock leaving the quarry was weighed and tallied in the overall rock transportation and placement effort.

Approximately 463,300 cubic yards of displaced materials from the mining operation was used to backfill and grade the abandoned mine site. An additional 8 acre parcel was added to the project during the reclamation activities. The 6 acre parcel was graded to match adjacent contours and was subsequently restored by fertilizing, seeding and mulching in accordance with the project plans and specification.



**Retention Pond and Rock-lined Channel  
with Elk Grazing in the Background**

Berner's Caterpillar D-11 and D-10 bulldozers were used to perform the soil grading operation. Berner utilized a TopCon GPS system, mounted on the D-10R bulldozer to maintain the proper grades through the duration of the project.

The final site restoration included planting 3,500 trees and seeding, fertilizing, and mulching 40 acres of restored area. Added organic material in the form of papermill sludge was incorporated into 18 acres of the 40 acre site.