

Mark Knell Wins The 2011 North Dakota Wildlife Society Habitat Award

The North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society presented its 2011 Habitat Award to Mark Knell, Environmental Engineer and Project Manager with the North Dakota Public Service Commission's AML Division. This award is presented annually to an individual or group that has made a substantial contribution toward preserving and establishing high quality wildlife habitat in North Dakota.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department nominated Knell for this award for his dedication to enhancing wildlife habitat as part of the design and management of abandoned mine land reclamation projects. Knell designed and managed a series of projects at the Custer Mine, near Garrison, ND, which included formation of a shoreline around an 8-acre trout pond so anglers can now fish about 95% of this pond from shore.



Mark designed and managed this 1999 AML Project at the Custer Mine, near Garrison, ND, that included backfilling a dangerous surface mine highwall and forming a shoreline around an 8-acre trout pond and wetland.

Knell also designed and managed AML projects within the North Beulah Mine and Harris M. Baukol Wildlife Management Areas near Beulah and Noonan. His work on these projects resulted in the construction of ponds, diversions, and wetlands that enhance wildlife habitat and sporting and recreational opportunities for North Dakota residents and visitors. Many of these wetlands were designed in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited. Reclamation designs also included tree planting and seeding of dense nesting cover.



Mark Knell receiving the 2011 Wildlife Society's Habitat Award for North Dakota

During his 30-year career, Knell has designed and managed the reclamation of more than 15 miles of dangerous surface mine highwalls. This work was accomplished by moving 10 million cubic yards of spoil material to reclaim and revegetate more than 3000 acres of dangerous abandoned mine lands. Knell's exemplary AML work has included the construction of approximately 50 wetlands and planting more than 58,000 trees. Knell is appreciated and congratulated for this well-deserved award and his excellent AML work.

**Bill Dodd, Assistant Director, AML Division,
North Dakota Public Service Commission**

Assistant Professor of Soil Science Position Available

The Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences (LRES) and Montana State University (MSU)-Bozeman announce a new tenure-track faculty position (70% teaching/20% research/10% service) to complement a strong multi-disciplinary department. For this position, we seek an individual dedicated to strong teaching performance in the soil sciences, who has experience in the area of Land Rehabilitation/Reclamation/Restoration. This academic year position is available beginning August 2012. Screening will begin January 10 and continue until a suitable applicant is found. Applicants must obtain a copy of the official vacancy announcement at the MSU website: <http://www.montana.edu/jobs/faculty>. Please see our departmental website: <http://landresources.montana.edu/> for information about LRES and the opportunity to join this vibrant department. MSU is an ADA/EO/AA/Veteran's Preference employer.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SPECIFICATIONS

400 - 500 words. Articles subject to editing. Submit in e-mail or hard copy. 2 photo limit. Include author's name, title of article, captions for photos. Submit photos in TIF (preferred) or JPG format, 300 DPI, and original photo size. E-mail photos as individual files, not embedded.

Deadline for Spring Edition is April 15, 2012.

Email articles to steve.hohmann@ky.gov or mail articles to:

Steve Hohmann, Director
Division of Abandoned Mine Lands
Department for Natural Resources
2521 Lawrenceburg Road
Frankfort, KY 40601

For more information, call Steve Hohmann, Mark Meade or Ben Enzweiler at 502-564-2141.