Definitions for Environmental Reclamation, Remedy, and Restoration

Legal Term Definition, Reclamation (per MT DEQ):
Actions taken to restore mined land or to abate, control or prevent the adverse effects of mining as required by Montana and federal law to a post-mining land use approved by the DEQ.
DEQ Reclamation Priorities:

**Priority one:** The protection of public health, safety, general welfare and property from the extreme danger of adverse effects of mineral mining and processing practices

**Priority two:** The protection of public health, safety, and general welfare from the adverse effects of mineral mining and processing practices; and

**Priority three:** The restoration of land and water resources and the environment previously degraded by the adverse effects of mineral mining and processing practices.

Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) states that mining operations shall establish "a diverse, effective, and permanent vegetative cover of the same seasonal variety and native to the area ... and capable of self-regeneration and plant succession."
Legal Term Definition for Remediation
Cleanup or other method used to remove or contain a toxic spill or hazardous materials from a Superfund site.

Legal Term Definition, Restoration:
Actions designed to return injured natural resources and services provided thereby to baseline conditions or to accelerate the natural recovery process.
Environmental Quality and the “3 R’s”

“Natural” baseline/restoration goal

Mining era

Environmental Quality

Time

Remediation

Reclamation

Restoration

“Natural” recovery

Copyright Pat Munday 2000