



Reclaiming the Land is in Our Nature

From the time we began mining in 1982 to today, San Miguel Electric Cooperative has been working diligently to return the land to “as good as or better than” its original state, and in collaboration with landowner expectations and regulatory requirements. The land is sustainable for future generations to use for agricultural or recreational purposes. Here at our Christine, Texas mine and plant, we have now reclaimed and fully released 20 percent of the land; another 49 percent is in the process of being reclaimed and released. All the while, we continue to provide 42 South Texas counties with an affordable, dependable power supply to fuel their homes and businesses.



Nearly three million acres restored

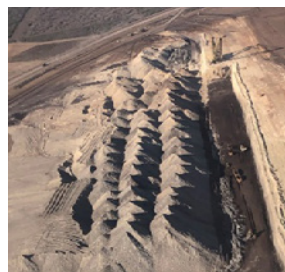
Before 1950, there was very little post-mining reclamation in the U.S. In 1977, however, Congress passed the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA), which is comprised of two programs: one for regulating active coal mines and the second for reclaiming mined lands.

Prior to receiving a mining permit, operators must present a detailed and comprehensive plan for reclaiming the land. The plan must include the pre-mining land's existing condition, proposed use of the land, a timetable and plans to adhere to relevant air- and water-quality regulations. Mines must also post a performance bond to ensure that monies will be available to complete the reclamation if the operator is unable to do so. The amount of the bond must equal the amount needed to complete the proposed reclamation plan. The bond is not released until after the state or federal regulatory agency has verified that the reclaimed lands are sustainable and concluded that the reclamation is successful, which could be more than 10 years after the reclamation process has been completed.



Restoring the land

Reclamation is a vital part of a mining operation's culture and – for San Miguel – a passion. We work closely with our landowners to restore the land to their preference. This can include pastureland, which uses vegetation, such as grasses, to provide feed benefits to ranch animals and build soil stability.



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Mining education – one teacher at a time

If you see a group of Texas science teachers digging through the coal reserves, they are not looking to fill their Christmas stockings. They are part of the Texas Mining and Reclamation Association's (TMRA) Teacher Workshop program, which since 1991 has taught more than 1,500 teachers the true story of Texas mining. San Miguel Electric Cooperative participates in this award-winning program, which thus far has reached more than 1.5 million students through its teacher outreach. During the week-long sessions, teachers participate in hands-on labs, visit mines, quarries and reclamation areas, and then return to their classrooms with earth science facts and real-world, problem-solving activities that encourage students to use critical thinking skills. The program is recognized by the Governor's Conference on Math, Science and Technology, certified by the Texas Environmental Education Advisory Council and is a professional development provider of the State Board of Education Certification.



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Preserving native plant species

When San Miguel found that the endangered black lace cactus was growing on its property, it worked with area agencies to help protect it, including Sul Ross State University, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens and Nature Center. Black lace cactus is a succulent perennial that occurs in coastal grasslands and openings in dense scrublands and woodlands along the Gulf Coastal Plain.



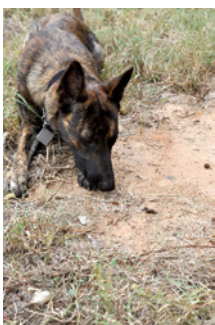
San Miguel transported a selection of the cacti to researchers at Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens and Nature Center, later replanting them at the mine in areas that were not being mined. On its south lease, San Miguel modified a pond spillway so that it would not go through an area that contained the species. In addition, San Miguel removed a corner of

the permit boundary to avoid plant disruption. Through these accommodations, research work, monitoring and relocation, San Miguel is ensuring that the black lace cactus will flourish at its South Texas property.

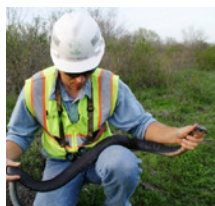
Protecting the iconic horny toad – and a very special snake



Thanks to supporting organizations like San Miguel Electric Cooperative, the Texas horned lizard may be making a comeback in Central Texas. This threatened species, commonly referred to as the "horny toad," has declined or disappeared in many places in Texas since the late 1960s. San Antonio Zoo's Center for Conservation and Research is seeking to reverse this trend by producing lizards in captivity and then releasing them into habitats that can support the species. To assess the success of the reintroduction, the program is training a K-9 Dutch Shepherd named Gren to detect free-range lizard scat in the field. San Miguel is very pleased to sponsor a project that seeks to conserve and manage the ecology, life history and evolution of a beloved species.



San Miguel is also working to protect the Eastern indigo snake (commonly called the blue indigo snake, black snake, blue gopher snake or blue bull snake), which is present on the permitted land. Listed as "threatened," the blue indigo uses the burrows of small mammals, such as prairie dogs and armadillos, for their dens. When threatened, the Texas indigo snake will flatten its head, hiss and vibrate its tail. Despite this impressive display, indigo snakes are not venomous. Indigo snakes will attack and eat rattlesnakes; but not to worry, a unique adaptation makes them resistant to the venom.



The horny toad and the blue indigo are just two of the species that San Miguel Electric Cooperative is working to protect on its permitted land.

About Us

San Miguel Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a member-owned mining and power generation cooperative that serves the people of Texas' rural communities, working and living in partnership with its members. Through integrity, hard work and a commitment to safety, San Miguel maintains a dependable power supply at the lowest possible and competitive cost.