

# Cloud Peak Energy Mine Awarded Top National Reclamation Award

06.11.2017 | [Business Wire](#)

[Cloud Peak Energy Inc.](#) (NYSE:CLD), one of the largest U.S. coal producers and the only pure-play Powder River Basin (&ldquo;PRB&rdquo;) coal company, today announced its Spring Creek Mine, located near Decker, Montana, received the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (&ldquo;OSMRE&rdquo;) 2017 Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Award for enhanced reclamation success through the diversity of topography, soil and vegetation. The award was presented at the National Mining Association&rsquo;s awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., on November 6, 2017.

Reclamation plans at the Spring Creek Mine incorporate a variety of livestock grazing, pastureland and wildlife habitats into the post-mining environment. The mine&rsquo;s reclamation program utilizes a four-pronged approach to maximize post-mining diversity in designated post-mine wildlife habitat areas, including a special emphasis on the following aspects of surface mine reclamation: hydrology, vegetation, substrate and topography. This approach has yielded outstanding reclamation success with numerous reclamation fields exhibiting exceptional diversity, while also achieving the ultimate objective of establishing enduring wildlife habitat. The advantages of a diverse post-mining landscape include improved grazing potential and wildlife use.

&ldquo;We take great pride in reclaiming the land we mine. This award highlights the strong commitment of everyone at Spring Creek and Cloud Peak Energy to returning land to a condition as good if not better than before mining began, while meeting the post-mine land use that is essential to reclamation bond release,&rdquo; said Colin Marshall, President and CEO of Cloud Peak Energy. &ldquo;Cloud Peak Energy has a strong record of using innovative approaches to successfully reclaim the land after mining is complete. It is gratifying that the federal government has recognized the success of our approach to reclamation with its highest honor in five of the last eight years&mdash;this is a tremendous accomplishment by everyone at Cloud Peak Energy.&rdquo;

Cloud Peak Energy&rsquo;s mines have received the Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Award in 2009 (Spring Creek Mine), 2010 (Antelope Mine), 2014 (Antelope Mine) and 2015 (Cordero Rojo Mine). The mines received the awards for various projects reclaiming previously mined areas and successfully reintroducing native plants.

&ldquo;The long-term benefits of the successful establishment of vegetative diversity is exactly what reclamation should look like,&rdquo; added Dave Schwend, General Manager of the Spring Creek Mine. &ldquo;The success of these practices at the Spring Creek Mine provides a pathway for other mining operations. These reclamation methods utilized can be implemented at other mining operations throughout the west, thereby promoting the establishment of similarly productive and valuable habitats.&rdquo;

In addition to the 2017 reclamation award, Cloud Peak Energy&rsquo;s Antelope and Cordero Rojo Mines were also partners in the 2017 OSMRE Good Neighbor Award presented to the Thunder Basin Grasslands Prairie Ecosystem Association for the collaborative effort among colleagues (within and among mines), neighbors, lessees, government agencies and local agricultural producers to implement coordinated conservation projects that reach beyond permit obligations to positively impact regional conservation efforts and land management decisions.

Spring Creek mined and shipped approximately 10.3 million tons of low sulfur coal in 2016. Coal mined from Spring Creek is shipped primarily to electric utilities and industrial customers in the northwest, midwest, northeast and southwest United States, various Canadian provinces and exported to Asian utility customers via the Westshore terminal in British Columbia, Canada.

About Cloud Peak Energy®

[Cloud Peak Energy Inc.](#) (NYSE:CLD) is headquartered in Wyoming and is one of the largest U.S. coal producers and the only pure-play Powder River Basin coal company. As one of the safest coal producers in the nation, Cloud Peak Energy mines low sulfur, subbituminous coal and provides logistics supply services. The Company owns and operates three surface coal mines in the PRB, the lowest cost major coal producing region in the nation. The Antelope and Cordero Rojo mines are located in Wyoming and the Spring Creek Mine is located in Montana. In 2016, Cloud Peak Energy shipped approximately 59 million tons from its three mines to customers located throughout the U.S. and around the world. Cloud Peak Energy also owns rights to substantial undeveloped coal and complementary surface assets in the Northern PRB, further building the Company's long-term position to serve Asian export and domestic customers. With approximately 1,300 total employees, the Company is widely recognized for its exemplary performance in its safety and environmental programs. Cloud Peak Energy is a sustainable fuel supplier for approximately three percent of the nation's electricity.

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Die URL für diesen Artikel lautet:

<https://www.rohstoff-welt.de/news/281425--Cloud-Peak-Energy-Mine-Awarded-Top-National-Reclamation-Award.html>

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