

Abstract

In FY 1995, the Dorcheat Soil and Water Conservation District, with assistance from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), submitted a request to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for a Section 319 Clean Water Act grant to reclaim an abandoned surface mine for educational/demonstration purposes.

Approximately 30 operating units, averaging 100 acres each, contributed to the degradation of the water quality in the proposed project area. Typical soils in the area are highly erodible in nature and have slopes from 3 to 8 percent. Soil is lost at rates exceeding 50 tons per year following clearing and excavation activities.

To support the request, the Dorcheat district reported that the site to be addressed was located at Yellow Pine community south of Minden in Webster Parish, Louisiana. It consisted of an abandoned gravel pit of approximately 20 acres that had not been actively used in 5 years.