MINING AND RECLAMATION CYCLE

At SIM’s mine site, small areas are mined then reclaimed quickly and efficiently, so that valuable minerals are extracted with minimal impact, and landowners get the use of their land back in short order. Here’s how it works:

1. Timber is cleared and topsoil is removed and stored nearby.
2. Sand is excavated from the pit. The heavier minerals are separated from the lighter minerals at the wet mill. Lighter sand is returned to the pit while the heavy mineral sand concentrate is trucked to the mineral separation plant for further processing.
3. Only about 2% of the sand is removed permanently. The lighter sand tails refill the previously mined pit (usually within one month), then it’s graded to pre-mine contours. Topsoil is replaced, and pine trees replanted. The replaced topsoil provides viable seed and root stock for native understory species as well as soil nutrients and microbes needed by the pine seedlings.

LIFECYCLE OF EACH MINING RECLAMATION AREA – START TO FINISH - IS LESS THAN ONE YEAR.