



Hazards Eliminated on Hundreds of Abandoned Mines in Nevada

Mining companies today are required to reclaim mine sites when activities are completed. But the West contains hundreds of thousands of abandoned mines from previous centuries when miners simply walked away from the sites. These abandoned mines are sometimes hard to see and cause human injuries and fatalities every year, as people fall into them or ride over them. Location and remediation of abandoned mines on public lands is a national priority for both the Department of the Interior and the BLM.



Before

Thousands of historic abandoned mines exist in Clark County, Nevada, and the BLM works with the State, County and the mining industry to locate, remediate and secure these sites. ARRA funds are helping to finance many of these mine closures.

The Clark County Abandoned Mine Project will use \$1.6 million in ARRA funds to permanently close dangerous abandoned mines in Clark County by using environmentally and culturally sound methods to



After

preserve historic features and wildlife habitat. The project is funded through an interagency agreement with the BLM, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation. Additional partners include the Nevada Department of Wildlife; Nevada Division of Minerals and private wildlife, botanical, and cultural contractors.

The project is expected to be completed by January 2011. The required cultural and biological surveys have been done, and more than 160 of the most dangerous mines have already been closed. This project will allow the closure of an additional 160 high-priority sites near Las Vegas and other southern Nevada communities. On 58 of these sites, shafts, adits and other hazards have already been closed. Site work includes bat gates, bat grates, foaming and backfilling. Local purchases include supplies, crew support, vehicle maintenance, lodging and meals for crews, and steel for construction of bat gates.