

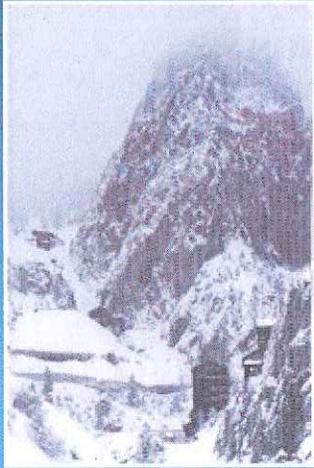
Colorado's Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program

Joint Senate-House AGR Committee
Hearing
April 3, 2013

DRMS Organization



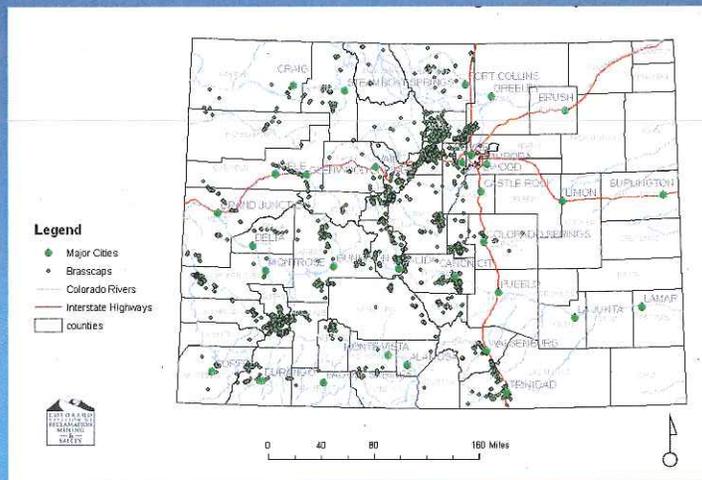
Colorado Inactive Mine “AML” Reclamation Program



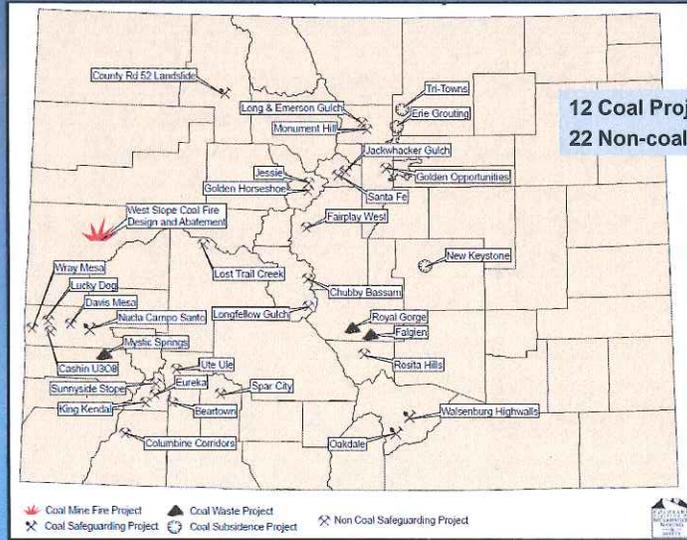
Addresses hazards and environmental problems associated with abandoned or inactive “legacy” mines.

Mine properties that operated prior to 1977 before reclamation laws were enacted.

Reclaimed and Safeguarded Legacy Mine Sites

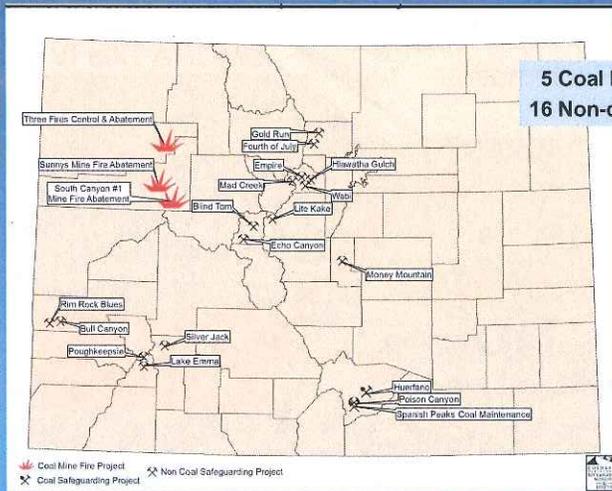


Projects 2012



12 Coal Projects
22 Non-coal Projects

Proposed Projects 2013

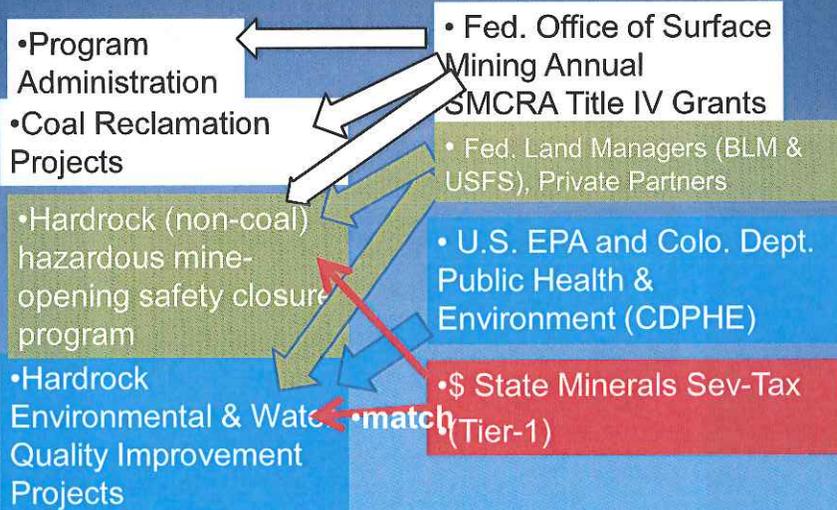


5 Coal Projects
16 Non-coal Projects

Colorado AML Funding

- **SMCRA Funding \$6.7 – \$8M Annual Grants**
From reclamation fees paid on Colorado's coal production and 2006 Reauthorization of AML program that provides payback of funding withheld from state's program in the past (3-yr. grant periods)
- **State Severance Tax**
 - Non-coal hazards
 - Nonpoint Source Funding (\$375,000 for match 319/conservation projects)
 - AML Fund (SB 05-190 -- \$500,000/year)
- **Partnerships**
 - Federal, State, Local, Industry, Private

AML Program Activities \$\$\$ Funding Sources \$\$\$



Public Safety: Hazardous Mine Openings



Collapsing uranium mine adit



Open gold mine adit

Open Shaft



Open Stope



Timbered vertical Shaft w/ladder



Hazards



Safeguarding



Hardrock Safety Closures



Setting pre-cast Shaft Panels

Historic Preservation



- Deterioration and eventual collapse of historic mining structures:
- Restoration or stabilization projects
 - Intriguing and often unique old buildings and structures

Coal Mine Safety Closures



On-going maintenance and emergencies related to new subsidence events occurring over shallow underground coal mines

Coal Mine Subsidence



Drilling and Grout Stabilization of part of Bonanza Drive



Coal Mine Fire Abatement



Thirty-three known AML coal mine fires exist statewide:

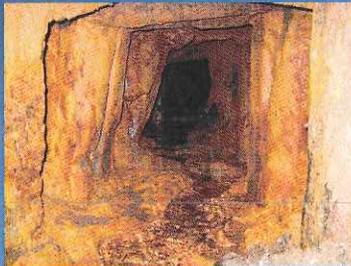
Clearing Vegetation for Wild Fire Mitigation

Exclusion Fencing for Public Protection

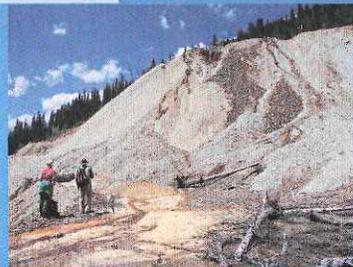
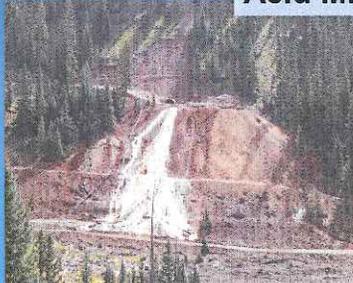
Subsidence Abatement

Coal Fire Control and extinguishment where possible

Water Quality Improvement



Acid Mine Drainage



Watershed Partnerships

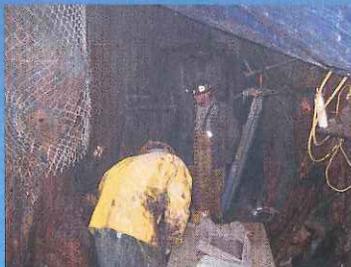
Restoration of legacy-mining impacted streams

Activities:

- technical assistance
- Watershed metals-loading characterization
- reclamation project design and execution
- contracting and reclamation construction management



Water Quality Improvement Projects





Water Quality Improvement



Typical mine waste reclamation: excavation and removal to repository; restoration of wetlands after removal

Millsap Tailings Reclamation



Before



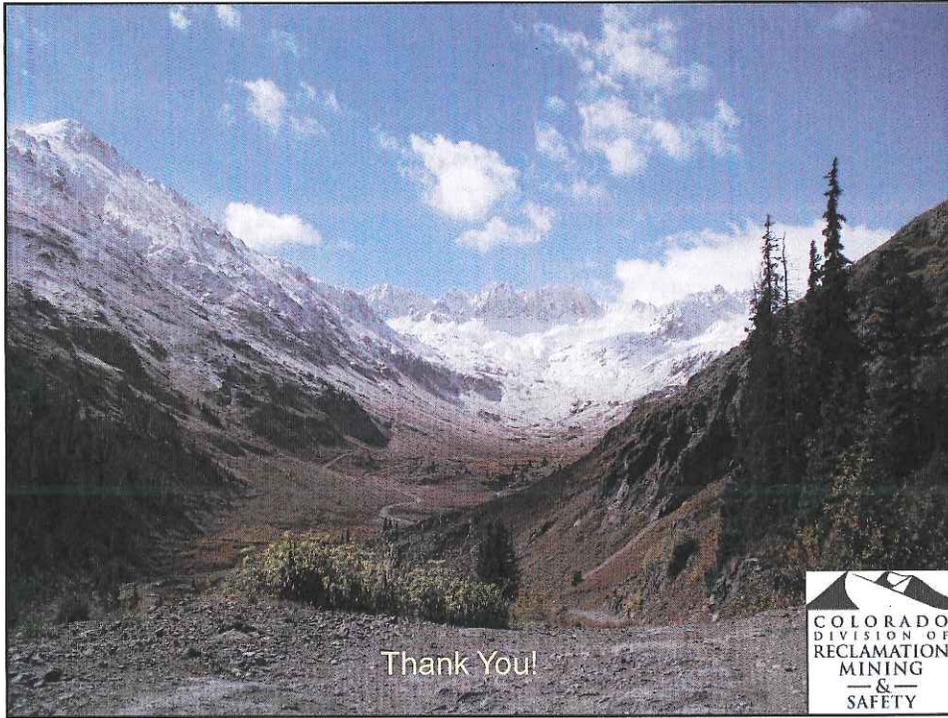
Shortly after

Projects Completed – FY 11-12

	Design and Construction Project Expenditures	Number of Projects	Number of Openings Safeguarded	Acres Reclaimed
Non-coal safety closures & maintenance	\$ 1,677,023.67	30	446	110
Coal projects & maintenance	\$ 3,466,744.25	31	3	44.7
Enviro & WQ projects	\$ 1,557,949.84	41	0	21.50
Bond Forfeiture Projects	\$ 236,362.90	21	6	44
Other supporting (NEPA/BATS) projects & Outreach, etc.	\$ 262,446.47	7	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 7,200,527.13	130	455	219.7

Accomplishments

- Over 9,000 hazardous and dangerous mine openings have been safeguarded since 1981.
- Currently safeguarding ~350- 450 additional mine features annually at current funding levels.
- 2,000 acres of mined land reclaimed
- Numerous Federal agency and partners providing approximately \$4 million in additional funding



Thank You!

