



ABANDONED MINE LANDS

Scott Ludwig
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Caring for the Land and Serving People.

WARNING! DANGER!

Abandoned mines are deadly! Don't get trapped!



STAY OUT!

STAY ALIVE!

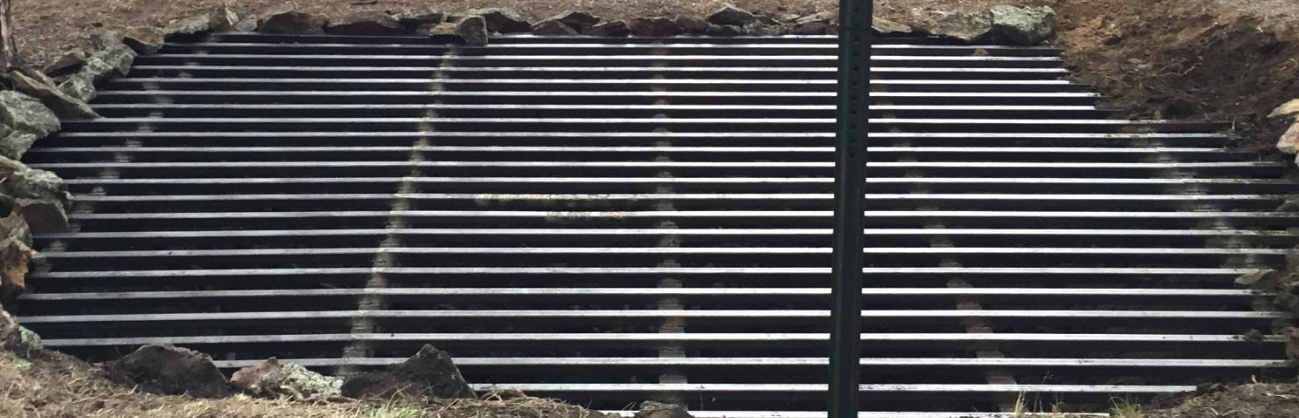
Damaging or removing this sign is a felony pursuant to ARS 27-318D.
Entry into these workings is criminal trespass.

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FS AML Safety Program History

- Tied to President Clinton's Clean Water Action Plan & EPA's efforts to require land management agencies to mitigate discharges from abandoned mines.
- In late 1990's, Forest Service received approximately \$10 million to address environmental impacts at abandoned mine sites. Funding was allocated out of the NFVW BLI.
 - USDA also provided funds under HWHW.
- In early 2000's, AML Safety funding Earmark was established as a result of fatalities associated with physical safety hazards such as open adits, vertical shafts, dilapidated structures, etc...
 - Funds were also used to begin inventory efforts.
 - Also funded out of the NFVW BLI.





FS AML Safety Program

An Abandoned Mine is:

- A mine that shows no evidence of an active claim or claimant activity.
- A mine where activities have ceased with no indication that the mine operator or any identified successor, claimant, operator, or other third party intends to resume any mining related activity.
- A mine located on or affecting Public lands.
- Where persons or entities outside of the Federal Government conducted exploration, development, mineral extraction, processing, reclamation, maintenance, or any other operations.



FS AML Safety Program

- Minerals & Geology Program- Administers the **AML Safety Program**.
- AML Safety Program Managers plan/conduct Non-CERCLA mitigation of physical hazards, inventories of abandoned mines, NEPA, compliance with 228 regulations, oversee construction of safety closures, etc....
- Engineering Program- Administers the **Environmental Compliance and Protection (ECAP) Program**.
- Regional Environmental Engineers & OSC's plan/conduct CERCLA Non-Time Critical-Removal Actions (under EO & NCP), Environmental Compliance Audits, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Compliance, etc...
- In 2017 funding for both AML & ECAP were combined into the **Safety and Environmental Restoration (SER) Program**.





For Bats Living on a Mountain Top in Michigan (Ottawa NF)

For Bats Living in a High Rise in Idaho (Salmon-Challis NF)





FS AML Safety- R2 Agreements

- Region Two AML Safety program partners with Colorado (DRMS) and State of Wyoming (WYAML).
 - Master Participating and Non-Funded Participating Agreements. ECAP participates in the Colorado Agreement but not in the Wyoming Agreement.
- Forest Service leverages Congressional appropriations, States leverage OSM funds to complete project work on NFS.
 - In Wyoming alone, in FY 19 WYAML identified \$2.7M in AML Safety project work on NFS lands and the FS contributed \$52K.



FS AML Safety Program

- Both programs are currently funded out of Safety & Environmental Restoration in the NFMG BLI.
 - In 2017, WO AML Safety & ECAP Earmarks were eliminated.
- Subsequently, Regions were funded based on a 5 year average of WO AML Safety & ECAP Allocations.





FS SER Combined Program Funding FY 2020

Region	Amount
1	\$2,117,000
2	\$3,070,000
3	\$2,257,000
4	\$1,743,000
5	\$2,280,000
6	\$1,170,000
8	\$840,000
9	\$830,000
10	\$575,000
Total	\$15,000,000





Questions?

