

2017 BLM Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Award Winners

For 2017, the BLM presented awards recognizing outstanding efforts made in implementing the principles of sustainable development in mining and reclamation. A video on the awards is available at this link here: <https://youtu.be/gICBdursXj4>.

The **Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award** recognizes achievements demonstrating continuous or repeated efforts to successfully meet or exceed Federal, State or local reclamation requirements with minimal oversight.

The **Hardrock Mineral Small Operator Award** recognizes achievements demonstrating continuous or repeated efforts to successfully meet or exceed Federal, State or local reclamation requirements with minimal oversight, specifically for operators with less than fifteen employees.

The **“Fix A Shaft Today!” (“FAST!”) Award** recognizes active participation in the FAST! Campaign, a partnership initiative aimed at eradicating unsafe abandoned mine land features, especially open mine shafts.

Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award Winner: Teck American Incorporated

In the mid-1980s, Teck American Incorporated (Teck) acquired the inactive McCracken silver mine located approximately 50 miles southeast of Kingman, Arizona. Although Teck had never processed any mineral ore on the property, it voluntarily partnered with the BLM Kingman Office to clean up mining waste from historical milling activities in an arroyo on BLM-managed public land adjacent to the site. To reduce the potentially elevated risk to human health and the environment from exposure to the historical mine waste, Teck signed a letter of agreement under the BLM’s Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act authority to conduct a voluntary non-time-critical cleanup action. The cleanup consisted of removing accessible mining waste from BLM-managed land and placing it in a repository constructed on Teck-owned property. The cleanup also significantly reduced the potential for migration of mining waste outside the project via surface runoff, erosion, and wind dispersion. Environmental Resources Management (ERM) of Scottsdale, Arizona submitted the nomination.

Hardrock Mineral Small Operator Award Winner: Tertiary Minerals US Inc.

The BLM Battle Mountain District, Mount Lewis Field Office minerals staff nominated Tertiary Minerals in recognition of exceptional reclamation work on the Stevens Basin exploration project, which involved exploration for fluorspar. Fluorspar is used as a flux in the steel making process, but predominately as a source of fluorine for the chemical industry. After conducting exploration activities involving over 24 drilling sites, Tertiary Minerals began reclamation work, focusing attention on re-contouring roads and revegetation. Despite the challenges of multiple use on the public lands, including arid

climate and alkaline soils, Tertiary Minerals did an exceptional job removing invasive weed species from reclaimed sites and using trees and brush to block access to reclaimed roads.

***Hardrock Mineral Small Operator Award Winner:
XII Caesars Gold LLC***

The BLM Fairbanks District Office, Eastern Interior Field Office, nominated XII Caesars Gold LLC in recognition of their innovative approach to mining and reclamation practices. Since purchasing placer claims in 2010, XII Caesars Gold and the operator have produced landscapes that are recovering faster with greater biological potential than typical of mined lands in the region. In one area, they laid out an old hose that was leaking and added holes to make it a soaker hose to water a site and encourage seed growth. When there was a need to dewater an active mining pit, a few hours before they intended to mine, they would pump the water onto the seeded reclamation.

***“Fix A Shaft Today!” Award Winner:
Havasu 4 Wheelers***

Havasu 4 Wheelers is a non-profit organization that has worked with the BLM Lake Havasu Field Office (LHFO) since 2010 in a partnership initiative aimed at eradicating unsafe abandoned mine land (AML) features, especially open mine shafts. The organization has donated approximately \$10,000 worth of in-kind services in the form of volunteer labor and machinery to help the LHFO meet recreation and mineral program goals. During 2016, members fenced and repaired the 15 fenced sites. Public education and outreach about AML dangers are a prominent part of the organization’s focus. The BLM Lake Havasu Field Office submitted the nomination.