

## **2008 Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards Program**

Sponsored by the United States Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management

The Department of the Interior (DOI) is the nation's principal conservation agency. Its mission is to protect America's treasures for future generations, provide access to our nation's natural and cultural heritage, offer recreation opportunities, honor our trust responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives and our responsibilities to island communities, conduct scientific research, provide wise stewardship of energy and mineral resources, foster sound use of land and water resources, and conserve and protect fish and wildlife. The DOI manages 507 million acres of surface land, or about one-fifth of the land in the United States, including 95 million acres managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service, 84 million acres managed by the National Park Service and 262 million acres managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Much of this land is managed for resource protection, such as at Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks, two of the nation's crown jewels, but other lands are managed for multiple use benefits including mineral development.

The DOI created the Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards Program to showcase some of the finest examples of responsible mineral resource development. The DOI through the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) has presented reclamation awards to coal operators since the initiation of the awards program in 1986. In 2002, the Department requested that the BLM institute its own annual award program and that the program be open to non-coal solid mineral operations nationally without regard to land ownership.

The underpinning of BLM's award program is sustainable development - development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The four award categories are: *The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award*, *The Hardrock Mineral Community Outreach and Economic Security Award*, *The Hardrock Mineral Small Operator Award*, and *The Hardrock Mineral Director's Award*. The purpose of all four awards is to recognize work in any of the three components of sustainable development: environmental health, social responsibility, and economic security. Coal operators will not be eligible for recognition through this program, but are encouraged to participate in the reclamation award program managed by the OSM. Below is a description of the four categories of BLM awards.

### **The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award:**

*The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award* highlights the component of sustainable development that relates to environmental stewardship. This award recognizes achievements demonstrating continuous or repeated efforts to successfully meet or exceed Federal, State or local reclamation requirements with minimal oversight. Outstanding efforts to work with the public, the DOI, or other regulators to further multiple-use objectives in a solid minerals area would qualify candidates for this award. In addition to high quality reclamation, an operator may have undertaken extraordinary

measures to reduce the footprint of the operation on the land, reducing the need for reclamation. When evaluating nominations in this category, the judges will consider the extent to which the operator consulted and cooperated with other stakeholders to determine the goals of reclamation and post mining land use. Recognition with this award may be granted to organizations that provide outstanding examples of any of the following:

- Adopting best practices to minimize environmental degradation and adapting them to local conditions as necessary.
- Preventing pollution and minimizing noise and dust during operations.
- Handling hazardous materials safely.
- Reclaiming the land to prevent erosion and planting native species targeting the same plant communities as existed prior to mining.
- Being a leader in developing, establishing and implementing good environmental practices.

#### **The Hardrock Mineral Community Outreach and Economic Security Award:**

*The Hardrock Community Outreach and Economic Security Award* highlights the component of sustainable development that relates to concern shown for community responsibilities and the economic benefits of mineral development. This award recognizes the successful coordination of projects with local and regional stakeholders. Projects that contribute to the quality of life or demonstrate concern for the long-term health of the local community can be recognized in this category. In evaluating nominations in this category, the judges will also consider any particularly creative ways operators incorporated community concerns in their development or closure plans. Particularly notable examples of the following kinds of activities could qualify a nominee for an award:

- Engaging local communities and other affected organizations in an open, honest and effective process of consultation for the entire project life.
- Promoting health and safety both on and off the project site.
- Investing in programs that improve the skills and productivity of the workforce.
- Developing strategies for sustaining the local economy after mine closure.
- Being a progressive and constructive partner in advancing the economic and social infrastructure of the community.

### **The Hardrock Mineral Small Operator Award:**

*The Hardrock Mineral Small Operator Award* recognizes achievements in environmental stewardship of operators with less than fifteen employees. Like The Hardrock Environmental Award, this award recognizes operators who have demonstrated continuous or repeated efforts to successfully meet or exceed Federal, State or local reclamation requirements with minimal oversight. Outstanding efforts to work with the public, the DOI, or other regulators to further multiple-use objectives in a solid minerals area would qualify candidates for this award. In addition to high quality reclamation, an operator may have undertaken extraordinary measures to reduce the footprint of the operation on the land, reducing the need for reclamation. When evaluating nominations in this category, the judges will consider the extent to which the operator consulted and cooperated with other stakeholders to determine the goals of reclamation and post mining land use. For additional information regarding examples of activities that may merit this award, please see the above description for The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award.

### **The Hardrock Mineral Director's Award:**

*The Hardrock Mineral Director's Award* will be awarded to one operator for outstanding achievement in a particular area of sustainable development. Like last year, the award will recognize an operator whose dedication and commitment to excellence has resulted in the use of a new or innovative design or technique that allows or enhances successful operations in technically challenging conditions or in critical environmental settings. The nomination should include specific information about the innovative design or technique as well as reasons why the award is merited.

### **Who is eligible for an award?**

Operators in the solid mineral industries (non-coal) can be nominated for *The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award, The Hardrock Mineral Community Outreach and Economic Security Award, The Hardrock Mineral Small Operator Award, or The Hardrock Mineral Director's Award*. Solid mineral development includes mining for a wide variety of commodities including precious metals, base metals, industrial minerals, and construction materials. Operators who are nominated must clearly demonstrate a commitment to excellence. Please note that nominations need not be limited to operations on land managed by the BLM even though BLM is providing administrative support for this award to the DOI. In furtherance of the BLM/U.S. Forest Service "Service First" initiative, operators conducting activities on lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service are encouraged to apply, as are those operating on private lands.

## How do I nominate an operator or organization for an award?

Nominations are the beginning of the selection process. Operations (without regard to land ownership) and organizations in the solid minerals industries (non-coal) can be nominated for an award. Mining companies, regulatory authorities, nearby landowners and members of the general public may nominate operations. Company officials and employees may nominate their own operations for recognition.

Nominations must contain all of the information listed in the “Required Information” section of this announcement and indicate the award category for the nomination. Nominations should be sent to the BLM State Office (**Attention: Solid Minerals**) with jurisdiction for public lands in the State where the operation is located. Nominations are to be received by the BLM State Office by **March 7, 2008**. The addresses for BLM State Offices, their areas of their jurisdiction, and phone numbers (of the Public Room) are shown in the following table.

BLM State Office and Mailing Address	Area of Jurisdiction
Alaska State Office Bureau of Land Management 222 West 7th Avenue, # 13 Anchorage, AK 99513-7599 907-271-5960	Alaska
Arizona State Office Bureau of Land Management One North Central Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85004 602-417-9200	Arizona
California State Office Bureau of Land Management 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-1834 Sacramento, CA 95825 916-978-4400	California
Colorado State Office Bureau of Land Management 2850 Youngfield Street Lakewood, CO 80215 303-239-3600	Colorado

<p>Eastern States State Office  Bureau of Land Management  7450 Boston Boulevard  Springfield, VA 22153  703-440-1600</p>	<p>Subsurface Federal Lands  in Alabama, Arkansas,  Connecticut, Delaware,  Florida, Georgia, Illinois,  Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky,  Louisiana, Maine,  Massachusetts, Maryland,  Michigan, Minnesota,  Mississippi, Missouri, New  Hampshire, New Jersey,  New York, North Carolina,  Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode  Island, South Carolina,  Tennessee, Vermont,  Virginia, West Virginia and  Wisconsin</p>
<p>Idaho State Office  Bureau of Land Management  1387 South Vinnell Way  Boise, ID 83709  208-373-3889</p>	<p>Idaho</p>
<p>Montana State Office  Bureau of Land Management  5001 Southgate Drive  Billings, MT 59101  (P.O. Box 36800, Billings, MT 59107-6800)  406-896-5004</p>	<p>Montana, North Dakota and  South Dakota</p>
<p>Nevada State Office  Bureau of Land Management  1340 Financial Boulevard  Reno, NV 89502  (P.O. Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520-0006)  775-861-6400</p>	<p>Nevada</p>
<p>New Mexico State Office  Bureau of Land Management  1474 Rodeo Road  Santa Fe, NM 87505-0115  (P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115)  505-438-7471</p>	<p>Kansas, New Mexico,  Oklahoma and Texas</p>

<p>Oregon State Office  Bureau of Land Management  333 S.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  Portland, OR 97204  (P.O. Box 2965, Portland, OR 97208)  503-808-6001</p>	<p>Oregon and Washington</p>
<p>Utah State Office  Bureau of Land Management  440 West 200 South, Suite 500  Salt Lake City, UT 84101  (P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155)  801-539-4001</p>	<p>Utah</p>
<p>Wyoming State Office  Bureau of Land Management  5353 Yellowstone Road  Cheyenne, WY 82003  (PO. Box 1828, Cheyenne, WY 82007)  307-775-6256</p>	<p>Wyoming and Nebraska</p>

**Required Information**

Each nomination should include the following:

Cover sheet containing:

- Company, organization or person’s name making nomination
- Name and location of the nominated operation
- Award category
- Name, address, phone number and email address (if available) of a contact person in the company or organization and of the person submitting the nomination, if different.

Narrative Description including:

- Brief history and background of the mining practice, reclamation or community activity nominated for the award
- Description of the specific activity or practice, including specifics on problems, solutions, benefits and unusual circumstances
- Effectiveness of the work, quantified where possible

- Transferability of the work or value of the accomplishments to other mining or mineral management operations
- Long term benefits to the land owner, neighboring properties and the community
- Statement summarizing why the award is deserved

Photographs:

Photographs should be included if they help to document the success of the nominated activity. Not all nominated activities can be photographed, but pictures should be included when available. Photographs should be 8” by 10” or smaller and include a description explaining what is illustrated and a date.

Format:

Please submit seven copies of the nomination on 8½” by 11” paper. A copy of the nomination will be provided to each judge. There is no limit on the number of photographs you can include.

Supporting documentation, such as letters of recognition from regulators or community officials, is not required but may be submitted with the nomination. Additionally, videos or DVDs highlighting the success of the nominated activity may also be submitted.

**Selection of Award Winners**

Each BLM State Office will review the nominations submitted to that office, verify the information contained in the nomination and that the operation or program complies with applicable regulations. All nominations will be accompanied by a Statement of Findings, prepared by the BLM State Office, and will be forwarded to the BLM Headquarters Office for referral to a panel of judges.

The panel of judges will consist of mining experts and may be State or Federal employees, employees of academic institutions or members of the public. Each judge will rate each application based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Maximum Points
Clarity and thoroughness of the nomination	10
Effectiveness of the project or program	25
Transferability of the technique, practice or program	20
Difficulty presented by the problem addressed by the project or program	20
Extent to which the project or program exceeds regulatory requirements or public expectations	25

The judges' scores are then tallied and the finalists are selected. The judges will be encouraged to use their personal experience to guide them when evaluating the unique aspects of each application. There may be situations where the categories above do not adequately capture all of these unique characteristics. The judges may modify the categories by consensus if there is a need to do so. The award winners will then be selected from the list of finalists. The judges determine the number of finalists that are selected. There is no minimum or maximum number of awards that may be granted in any one year. There may not be a winner in all of the categories each year.

### **Important Dates**

Nominations for the 2008 awards program are due to BLM State Offices by ***March 7, 2008***. BLM State Offices will complete their review and forward nominations to BLM headquarters by April 7, 2008. It is anticipated that the results of the judging will be announced in late July. The awards event will be held in the Fall of 2008.