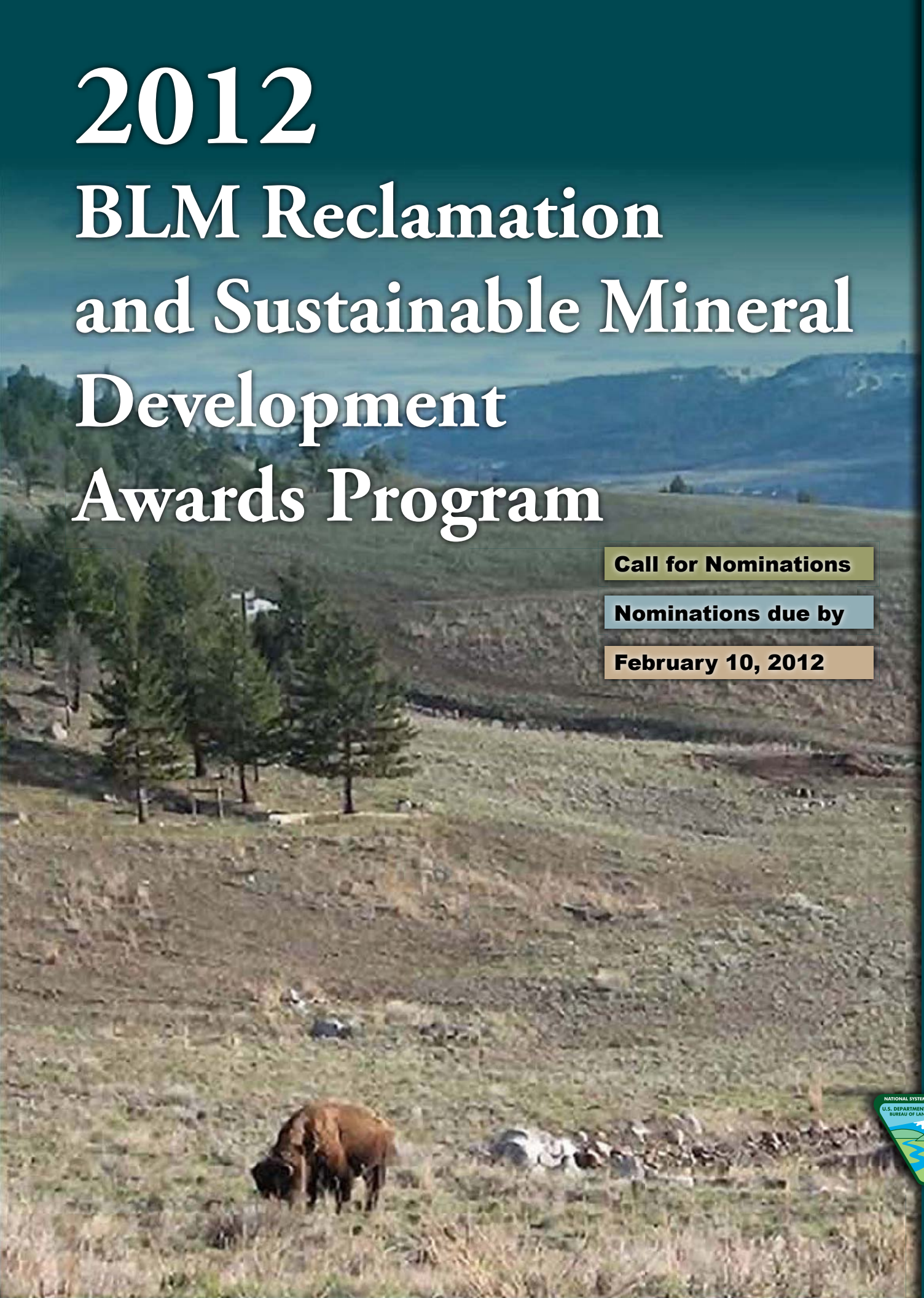
2012
BLM Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards Program

Call for Nominations

Nominations due by

February 10, 2012

BLM



Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards Program

The Department of the Interior (DOI) is the nation's principal conservation agency that protects America's natural resources and heritage, honors our cultures and tribal communities, and supplies the energy to power our future. The DOI manages more than 500 million acres of surface land, or about one-fifth of the land in the United States. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for more than 245 million surface acres, as well as 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate. Much of this land is managed for resource protection, 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 DOI requested that the BLM institute its own annual awards program open to nationwide solid mineral operations (non-coal), without regard to land ownership.

The underpinning of the BLM awards 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 five award categories are: ***The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award, The Hardrock Mineral Community Outreach and Economic Security Award, The Hardrock Mineral Small Operator Award, The Hardrock Mineral Director's Award, and The "Fix a Shaft Today!" Award***. The purpose of the awards is to recognize work in any of the three components of sustainable development: environmental health, social responsibility, and economic security. Coal operators are not eligible for recognition through this program but are encouraged to participate in the reclamation awards program managed by the OSM.

Cover photo: 2011 Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award winner, TVX Mineral Hill Mine reclaimed site in Montana

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. Candidates may qualify for this award if they have demonstrated outstanding efforts in working with the public, the DOI, or other regulators to further multiple-use objectives in a solid minerals area. In addition to high-quality reclamation, an operator may have undertaken extraordinary measures to reduce the footprint of the operation on the land, decreasing the need for reclamation. When evaluating nominations in this category, 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. This award may be granted to operators or 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 that existed prior to mining
- Being a leader in developing, establishing, and implementing good environmental practices

2011 Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award winner, TVX Mineral Hill Mine (Montana)

Arsenic Hill before reclamation

Arsenic Hill during reclamation

Arsenic Hill after reclamation

TVX Mineral Hill Mine (Montana)

The Hardrock Mineral 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. When evaluating nominations in this category, judges will also consider any particularly creative ways operators or organizations incorporated community concerns in their development or closure plans. Particularly notable examples of the following kinds of activities would qualify a nominee for this award:

- Engaging local communities and other affected organizations in an open, honest, and effective consultation process 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

2011 Hardrock Mineral Community Outreach and Economic Security Award winner, Alaska Miners Association - Small Scale Mining Committee (Alaska)

The Hardrock Mineral Small Operator Award

recognizes environmental stewardship achievements of operators with less than 15 employees. Like The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award, this award recognizes operators or organizations who have demonstrated continuous or repeated efforts to successfully meet or exceed federal, state, or local reclamation requirements with minimal oversight. Candidates may qualify for this award if they have demonstrated outstanding efforts to work with the public, the DOI, or other regulators to further multiple-use objectives in a solid minerals area. 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, 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 examples of activities that may merit this award, please see the earlier description for The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award.

2011 Hardrock Mineral Small Operator Award winner, Compass Mining, Inc. (Alaska)

The Hardrock Mineral Director's Award

will be awarded to one operator for outstanding achievement in a particular area of sustainable development. This award recognizes 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.

The "Fix A Shaft Today!" (FAST!) Award

recognizes active participation in the FAST! Campaign, which is a partnership initiative aimed at eradicating unsafe abandoned mine land (AML) features, especially open mine shafts. The FAST! Campaign is focused on six southwestern states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah) where hardrock AML accidents are on the increase. High-use areas where accidents are occurring include recreation areas, such as off-highway vehicle/motorcycle lands, trails, campgrounds, and special-use permit areas.

Individuals or organizations can be nominated for this award. Examples of activities eligible for recognition with a FAST! Award would include one or more of the following:

- Locating and reporting open shafts using global positioning system equipment and digital photography
- Assisting in posting warning signs, fencing, and other access controls
- Conducting required surveys for threatened and endangered species (e.g., bats) in order to meet National Environmental Policy Act obligations; constructing bat gates/grates/cupolas
- Public education and outreach about AML dangers
- Filling of shafts

In addition to any of these activities, providing funding or in-kind contributions to support the activities or providing funding in support of mitigation should also be noted on a nomination, provided that the mitigation actions occur on private land.

Nominations are to be made by FAST! sponsors or organizations familiar with the completed activities. Nominations should provide a succinct description of the challenges related to the FAST! project, the nominee's achievements or contributions, and the subsequent results. Estimated cost savings to the government may be included.

2011 "Fix A Shaft Today!" (FAST!) Award winner, Teck American, Incorporated (Washington)

Who is eligible for an award?

Operators or organizations 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, The Hardrock Mineral Director's Award, or The "Fix a Shaft Today!" Award. Solid mineral development includes mining for a wide variety of commodities including precious metals, base metals, industrial minerals, and construction materials. Nominees must clearly demonstrate a commitment to excellence. Please note that nominations are not limited to operations on BLM-managed land, even though the BLM is providing administrative support for this award to the DOI. In furtherance of the BLM and U.S. Forest Service "Service First" initiative, operators or organizations conducting activities on lands administered by the 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. Mining companies, regulatory authorities, nearby landowners, and members of the general public may nominate operators or organizations for these awards. 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. If a candidate is being nominated for more than one award category, please submit a separate nomination package for each award category. Nominations should be mailed to the BLM state office (Attention: Solid Minerals) that has jurisdiction of public lands in the state the operation is located. Nominations must be received by the appropriate BLM state office by February 10, 2012. State offices are listed at the end of the brochure.

Required Information

Each nomination should include the following:

Cover sheet containing:

- Company, organization, or person submitting nomination
- Name and location of the nominated operation or organization
- 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 inches or smaller and include a description explaining what is illustrated and a date.

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

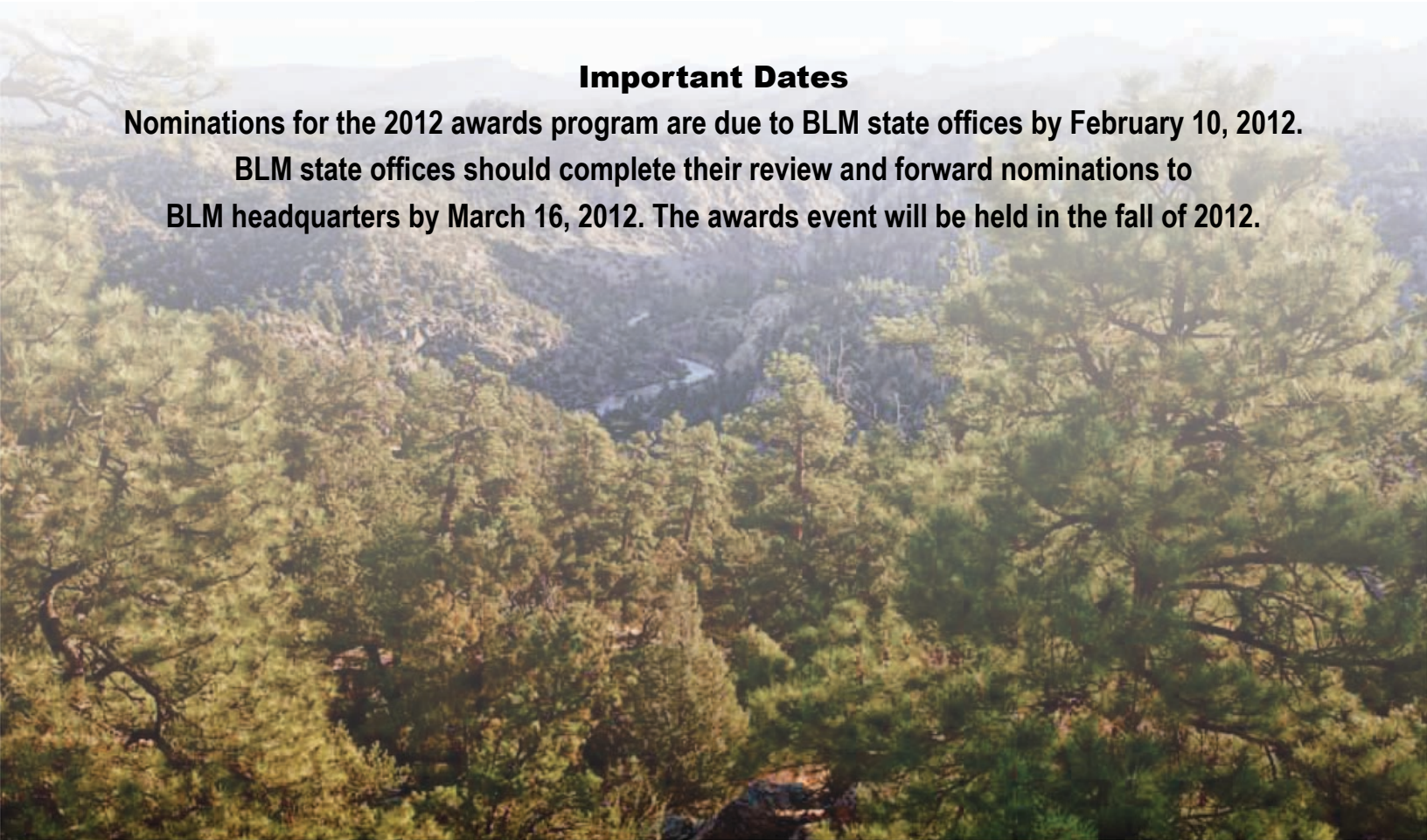
Note: Supporting documentation, such as letters of recognition from regulators or community officials, is not required but may be submitted with the nomination. In addition, videos or DVDs highlighting the success of the nominated activity may also be submitted.

Selection of Award Winners

Each BLM state office will review the nominations it receives, verify the information contained in the nomination, and confirm 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 then 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 below criteria.

The judges' scores are tallied, and the finalists are selected. Judges will be encouraged to use their personal experience to guide them when evaluating the unique aspects of each application. There may be situations when the criteria do not adequately capture all of the unique characteristics; judges may then modify the criteria by consensus if there is a need to do so. Judges determine the number of finalists that are selected. Award winners will then be selected from the list of finalists. There is no minimum or maximum number of awards that may be granted in any year, and there also doesn't necessarily have to be a winner in each category every year.

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 of the problem addressed by the project or program	20
Extent to which the project or program exceeds regulatory requirements or public expectations	25



Important Dates

Nominations for the 2012 awards program are due to BLM state offices by February 10, 2012. BLM state offices should complete their review and forward nominations to BLM headquarters by March 16, 2012. The awards event will be held in the fall of 2012.

BLM State Office Mailing Addresses and Areas of Jurisdiction

BLM Alaska State Office
Attn: Solid Minerals
222 West 7th Ave., #13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7504
(907) 271-5960
Jurisdiction: Alaska

BLM Arizona State Office
Attn: Solid Minerals
One North Central Ave.
Suite 800
Phoenix, AZ 85004-4427
(602) 417-9200
Jurisdiction: Arizona

BLM California State Office
Attn: Solid Minerals
2800 Cottage Way
Suite W-1623
Sacramento, CA 95825-1886
(916) 978-4400
Jurisdiction: California

BLM Colorado State Office
Attn: Solid Minerals
2850 Youngfield St.
Lakewood, CO 80215
(303) 239-3600
Jurisdiction: Colorado

BLM Eastern States State Office
Attn: Solid Minerals
7450 Boston Blvd.
Springfield, VA 22153-3121
(703) 440-1600
Jurisdiction: Subsurface federal lands in Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, 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

BLM Idaho State Office
Attn: Solid Minerals
1387 South Vinnell Way
Boise, ID 83709
(208) 373-4000
Jurisdiction: Idaho

BLM Montana State Office
Attn: Solid Minerals
5001 Southgate Dr.
Billings, MT 59101
(406) 896-5000
Jurisdiction: Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota

BLM Nevada State Office
Attn: Solid Minerals
1340 Financial Blvd.
Reno, NV 89502
(P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520)
(775) 861-6400
Jurisdiction: Nevada

BLM New Mexico State Office
Attn: Solid Minerals
301 Dinosaur Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87508
(P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115)
(505) 954-2000
Jurisdiction: Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

BLM Oregon State Office
Attn: Solid Minerals
333 S.W. 1st Ave.
Portland, OR 97204
(P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208)
(503) 808-6001
Jurisdiction: Oregon and Washington

BLM Utah State Office
Attn: Solid Minerals
440 West 200 South
Suite 500
Salt Lake City, UT 84101-0155
(P.O. Box 45155
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155)
(801) 539-4001
Jurisdiction: Utah

BLM Wyoming State Office
Attn: Solid Minerals
5353 Yellowstone Rd.
Cheyenne, WY 82009
(P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, WY 82003-1828)
(307) 775-6256
Jurisdiction: Wyoming and Nebraska

BLM/WO/GI-11/017+3500