



# Department of the Interior Recovery Investments

*Investing in America's Economic Recovery*



## Abandoned Mine Lands Projects

### Need

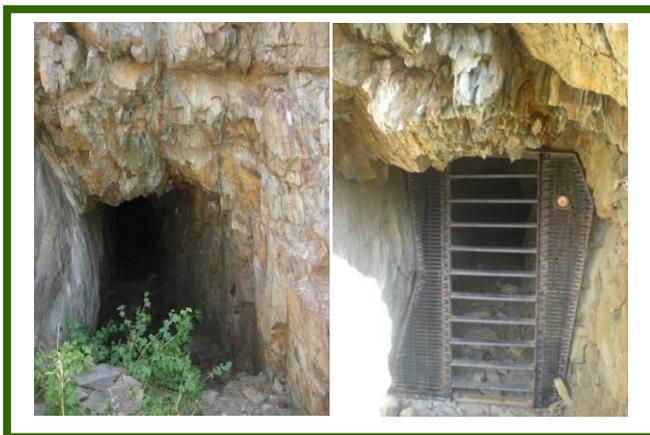
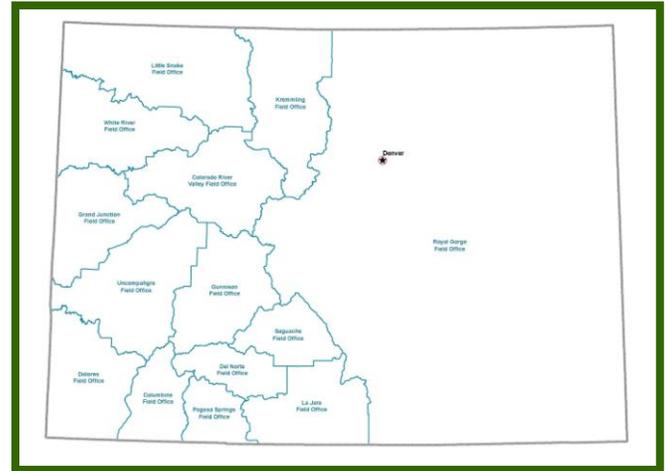
A long history of mining has left a legacy of unsafe mine openings across Colorado. The most significant types of abandoned mine hazards on public lands are open shafts and adits. These openings need to be safeguarded to prevent injury or death to those visiting public lands. While there is a need to protect the public from safety hazards, there is also a need to protect bat habitat in abandoned mines.

### Recovery Act Funding

BLM Colorado received \$947,000 in ARRA funding for 13 mine safety closure projects.

### Benefits

Closing these dangerous openings improves public safety. The use of bat gates where bats are present preserves bat habitats.



### More Information

#### War Eagle Mine Safety Closure Project

The War Eagle Mine Safety Closure Project is one of the 13 closure projects that received ARRA funding. This three-county project closed unsafe mine openings at 21 locations. This area has a high volume of summer recreational use that brings the public into close contact with unsafe mine openings. An increase in the number of residences and

ranchettes also brings the public closer to unsafe mine openings. To secure these openings, backfilling and closures with bat gates were used. Bat gates are used to exclude the public and to protect bat habitats by allowing bats to enter and exit the mine openings.

For more information on Colorado AML ARRA projects, contact Stuart Cox, Colorado ARRA Coordinator, Colorado State Office, 303-239-3805, [Stuart\\_Cox@blm.gov](mailto:Stuart_Cox@blm.gov).