

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Royal Gorge Field Office  
3028 E. Main Street  
Canon City, CO 81212**

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-200-2013-062 CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional):

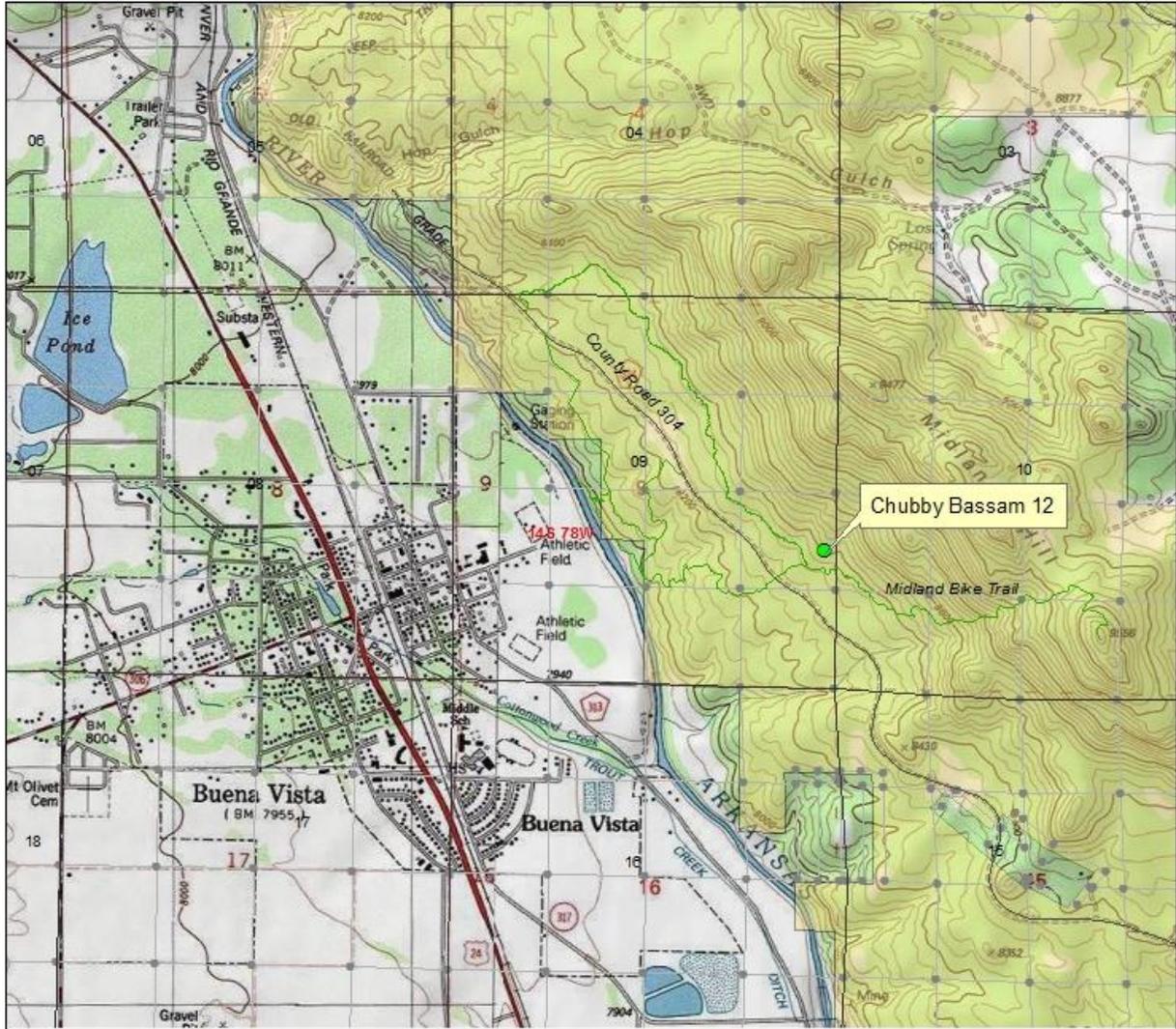
PROJECT NAME: Chubby Bassam AML Safety Closure

PLANNING UNIT: Royal Gorge Resource Area, Arkansas River Sub-Region 1, May 1996

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Colorado, Chaffee County, Sixth Principal Meridian  
(Buena Vista East) T. 14 S., R. 78 W., sec. 9, NE1/4SE1/4.

APPLICANT: BLM

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed action is to safeguard a hazardous mine opening related to historic mining in the Buena Vista area. Chubby Bassam 12 is an abandoned mine on BLM that has been included in an abandoned mine land cleanup project led by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety. The other sites in this project are on US Forest Service and private land. It is located east of Chaffee County Road 304, and approximately 300 feet east/northeast of the intersection of the Midland Bike Trail and Trail 6032A (Fig. 1). Previously closed openings are in the area (Fig.2). A waste rock dump associated with Chubby Bassam 12 is nearby and has been covered by vegetation. The proposed method of closure is to cover the opening with a grate containing a bat gate and an access door (Fig.3). The mine is a potential bat habitat. Design for the proposed closure adheres to the General Bid Specifications for the Colorado Inactive Mine Reclamation Program, State of Colorado, March 2009. Access for large equipment is not possible or necessary. It is probable that ATV's will be used to transport materials and equipment to and from the site. Approximately 500 feet will be on the Midland Bike Trail east of County Road 304. An additional 200 feet of the travel distance will be off of the maintained trail to the mine entrance. Stipulations for contract workers using ATV's include limiting the total number of trips, reducing speed to minimize disturbance, repairing any disturbances caused during travel, and posting signs that inform trail users of equipment along the trail. Work should not take place for longer than two days. Road and/or trail improvements are not being considered and will not be authorized, except for light pruning of trees to facilitate equipment access.

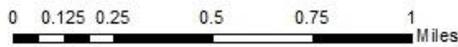


### AML Chubby Bassam Physical Safety Closure

DOI-BLM-CO-200-2013-062 CX

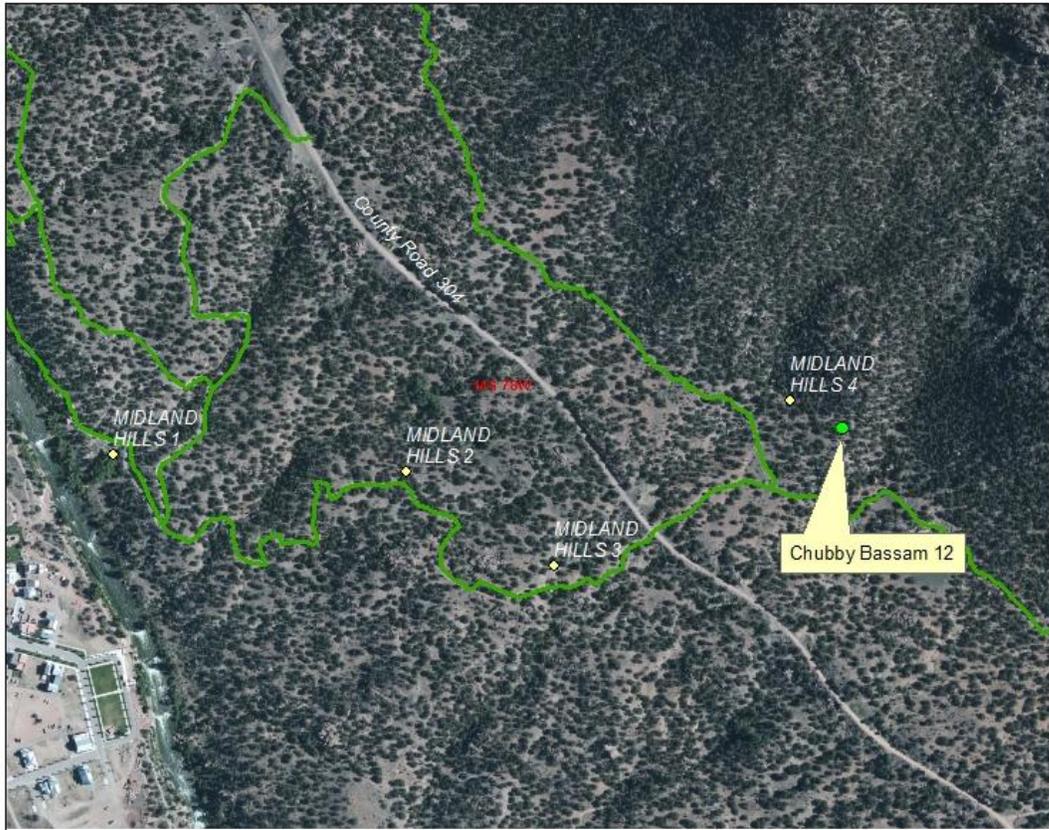
6th PM, T14S R78W Sec. 9 NE1/4SE1/4

- Legend**
- Chubby Bassam 12
  - Roads
  - Trails
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - Private



**NOTE TO MAP USERS**  
 No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked or current status on any specific tract of land.

Figure 1: Topographic map showing the general location of the Chubby Bassam 12 adit.



**AML Chubby Bassam Physical Safety Closure Detail**

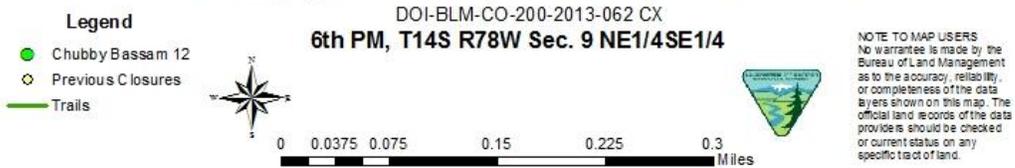


Figure 2: Chubby Bassam 12 is near closed openings, as well as within a mile of the Arkansas River.



Figure 3: Opening of the Chubby Bassam 12 adit. The opening is 5 x 4 ft. The adit is approximately 100 feet deep and has been dug into a granite outcrop.

**PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:**

Name of Plan: Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: May 1996

Decision Number: Arkansas Subregion #1

Decision Language: Management Guidance/ Assumptions common to all Eco-Subregions, Hazards Management: Existing sites/areas from past mineral development considered to be potentially hazardous will be reclaimed in coordination with the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board hazard abatement program.

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW:** This proposed action is listed as a Categorical Exclusion in DOI Departmental Manual Part 516 Chapter 11.9 J. (8). None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Exclusion Criteria	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		x

2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; lands with wilderness characteristics; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X

<b>INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW</b>			
<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>Initials/date</b>
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	MR, 4/16/2013
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	-----
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Weeds	JL, 04/19/2013
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife,	DG,4/29/13

		Riparian/Wetlands	
Stephanie Carter	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	-----
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology	MJS, 4/18/2013
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 4/17/2013
Ty Webb	Prescribed Fire Specialist	Air Quality	TW, 4/18/13
Jeff Covington	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	JC, 4/17/13
Kalem Lenard	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	KL, 4/17/2013
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	-----
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	KR, 4/17/13
Martin Weimer	NEPA Coordinator	Environmental Justice, Noise, SocioEconomics	mw, 5/6/13
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MMW, 4/16/13
Michael Troyer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	-----
Vera Matthews	Realty Specialist	Realty	VM, 4/29/2013
Steve Craddock	Realty Specialist	Realty	-----
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	SC, 4/30/2013
Bob Hurley	Fire Management Officer	Fire Management	BH, 4/16/2013

**REMARKS:**

**Cultural Resources:** Although cultural resources were found near the area of potential effect [5CF2841; see report CR-RG-13-125 (P)], no sites determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) were found. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on any historic properties (those eligible for the NRHP).

**Native American Religious Concerns:** No possible traditional cultural properties were located during the cultural resources inventory (see above). There is no other known evidence that suggests the project area holds special significance for Native Americans.

**Threatened and Endangered Species:** Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no records of any federally listed or BLM sensitive species within or near the project area. The Proposed Action will not result in impacts to TES species.

**Minerals:** As of April 17, 2013 there are no mining claims located in T. 14 S., R. 78 W., Sec. 9 NE1/4SE1/4. Prior to closure, this physical safety hazard will be posted in accordance with WO IM 2010-0045.

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER: Melissa Smeins

SUPERVISORY REVIEW: Jay Raiford

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

DATE: 5/6/13

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this Categorical Exclusion and have decided to implement the Proposed Action.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 10 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

/s/ Keith E. Berger  
Keith E. Berger, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 5/7/13