

New Mexico

Abandoned Mine Land Workplan

Period: FY2007 – FY2013

Summary

There are over 140 hardrock mining districts in New Mexico. About a half dozen are presently active, mining primarily copper, molybdenum, gold, and silver. The rest have left a legacy of scattered abandoned hardrock mine sites throughout the state.

New Mexico currently has an inventory of over 600 known hardrock abandoned mine land (AML) sites on BLM-managed land that pose physical safety hazards to the public. To date, over 200 sites on BLM land with physical safety hazards have been remediated, mostly by the New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Bureau (NMAMLB) with fees imposed on Federal coal production under the authority of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. There are no known sites on BLM land in New Mexico that may impact water resources.

AML Physical Safety Sites

Over 2500 high-risk mine features, mostly open shafts and adits, have been identified within the 600 known AML sites on BLM managed lands in New Mexico. The sites are within the jurisdiction of the Las Cruces and Taos Field Offices. Sites that have been given priority for remediation are those near recreation sites and high public use areas. They include Lake Valley; Orogrande; Boston Hill; Cerrillos Hills, and, along the Mexico border in Hidalgo and Luna Counties. Lake Valley is an historic mining area and town along a Back Country Byway; it contains hiking trails and restored historic buildings. Orogrande is a mining district in Otero Country that is used by the public for recreational mining, hiking and exploring. Boston Hill, south of Silver City, is a planned recreational and open space area for the city. Cerrillos Hills is an historic mining area and includes a county park with hiking trails. The Mexico border is frequented by border patrol agents and undocumented aliens; many of the mine features in this area present significant physical hazards.

Table 1.

Priority Physical Safety Hazard Sites					
RECREATION AND HIGH USE AREAS	# OF AMM SITES	FY START	FY FINISH	EST BLM COST (1)	KEY PARTNERS
Lake Valley	10	2005	2008	\$20,000	New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Bureau
Orogrande	15	2001	2007	\$35,000	New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Bureau
Cerrillos Hills	5	1997	2006	\$15,000	New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Bureau
Boston Hill	5	2003	2008	\$200,000	WERC (A Consortium For Environmental Education & Technology Development) NMAMLB
Border	10 (est)	2007	2012	\$200,000	New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Bureau

Note: BLM costs include some or all the following: Inventory; coordination and consultation; inspection and maintenance; & cooperative agreements.

Table 2. Workload Targets

PE	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
BH	0	15	10	0	0	0	0	0
HP	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	0
JK	NA							
NP	NA							
NQ	NA							

* BH=Inventory/Assessment, HP=Physical Hazard, JK=Environmental Hazard, MG=Monitoring, NP=Evaluate Cost Avoidance/Cost Recovery, NQ=Process Hazmat Cost Avoidance/Cost Recovery Cases

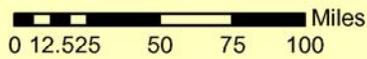
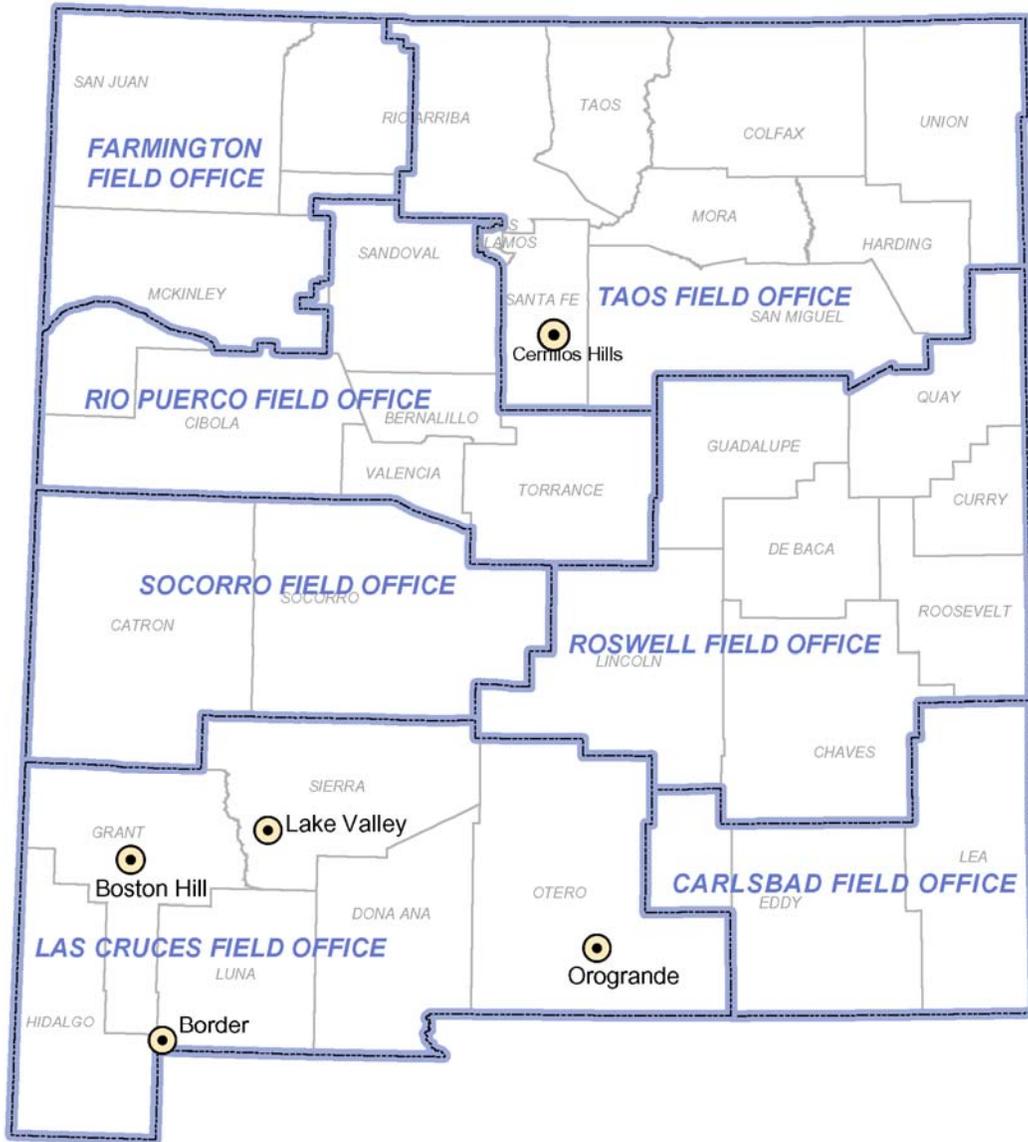
For specific details on planned, ongoing and completed projects, go to the BLM AML web site at http://www.nm.blm.gov/nmso/aml/aml_home.htm.

Key AML Contact

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NEW MEXICO ABANDONED MINE LAND PROGRAM
 PRIORITY AML PHYSICAL HAZARDS SITES NEAR HIGH PUBLIC USE AREAS



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Produced by the New Mexico Geographic Sciences Team
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LEGEND

- AML SITE
- FIELD OFFICE BOUNDARY
- COUNTY BOUNDARY