

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Abandoned Mineral Lands (AML)

February 2010

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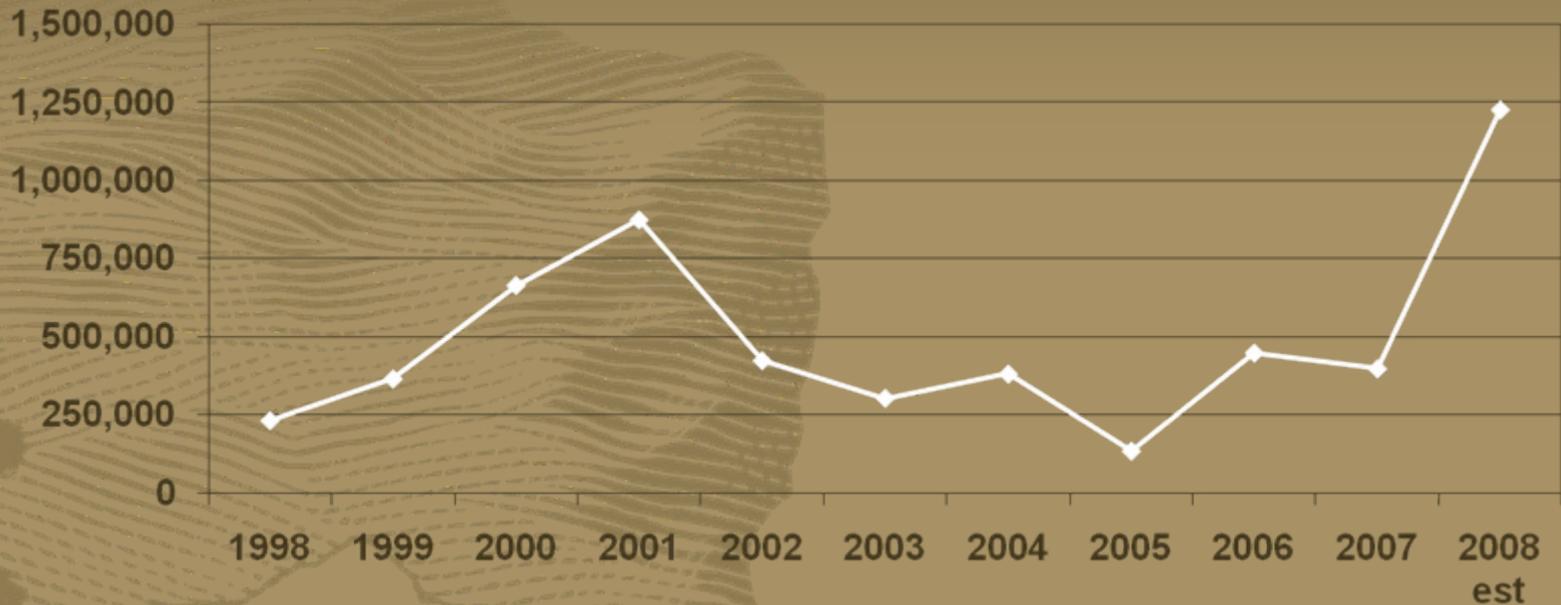
NPS Abandoned Mineral Lands

- Abandoned mine lands (AML) are defined as those lands or sites previously used for the extraction of minerals for which no responsible party can presently be identified.
- Management responsibility thus falls to the National Park Service or other land managing agencies for mitigating health and safety hazards and remediating environmental impacts associated with these sites
- Despite the existence of physical and environmental hazards, abandoned mine lands in the West represent a remnant of this region's rich history and thus have long been popular destinations for tourists.

NPS AML Inventory

- 3,100 sites with over 7,000 features in 127 park units
 - California and Nevada park units have 55% of the sites and over 80% of the individual mine features (e.g., adits, shafts, spoil piles, abandoned structures)
- Initial cost estimate for mitigation
 - \$233 million total
 - Includes \$60 million estimate for high priority sites
- Inventory and cost estimate will likely increase as NPS refines data and completes inventories
- Enhanced AML database is now available for further input using field recordation software

Centrally Tracked AML Project Funding FY 1998 – 2008 est.





Partial Treatment of Sites



Incomplete Inventory

Varying Hazard Standards

INCONSISTENT FUNDING



California National Parks Abandoned Mines 2008 and 2009 Appropriations

40+ Hazardous Mine Features in 4 Parks

- Mojave National Preserve (\$910K)
 - 20 hazardous mine openings, Morning Star engineering
- Joshua Tree National Park (\$89K)
 - 5 hazardous mine openings
- Point Reyes National Seashore (\$400K)
 - 8 quarries with hazardous highwalls
- Death Valley National Park (\$260K)
 - Additional support for mitigation at the Keene Wonder Mine and the Skidoo Mine complexes

Inspector General's Audit Report

Audit Report: Abandoned Mine Lands in the Department of the Interior - July 25, 2008

“...public safety is at risk on DOI lands because physical and environmental hazards at AML sites have been ignored for decades.”

Recommendations for the NPS:

- Request adequate funding to support program goals and mitigate sites.
- Implement immediate temporary or permanent measures at high-risk features.
- Explore and exploit opportunities for sharing resources, expertise, and best practices with BLM to strengthen AML programs.

American Recovery and Revitalization Act - ARRA

Pacific West Region AML Projects

Total of ca. 100 projects for \$16.5M

Hard closure projects in the Desert Parks and California:

- Death Valley NP – 8 projects – ca. \$4.9M
- Great Basin NP – 4 projects – ca. \$325K
- Joshua Tree NP – 22 projects – ca. \$1.1M
- Lake Mead NRA – 10 projects – ca. \$369K
- Mojave NPRES – 34 projects – ca. \$5.2M
- Point Reyes NS – 1 project – ca. \$36K
- Whiskeytown NRA – 7 projects – ca. \$1.25M
- Yosemite NP – 2 projects – ca. \$182K
- In addition a SWAT Team will be engaged to carry out temporary mine closures (fences) – ca. \$1.62M

AML TREATMENT ISSUES

- IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY
- PRESERVE WILDLIFE HABITAT
- MINIMIZE IMPACTS ON HISTORIC FABRIC AND THE VISUAL CHARACTER OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES
- CONDUCT COMPLETE INVENTORIES
- BUILD A LONG TERM INTER-AGENCY AML PROGRAM

PROGRAM BUILDING – LIFE AFTER ARRA

■ INVENTORY:

- Cooperative Agreement with CA AML Unit providing 3 years of two inventory crews

■ COMPLIANCE:

- Programmatic Agreement with CA SHPO with a 5 year life
- EA's at DEVA, MOJA, WHIS with 5 year life

■ CONTRACTING:

- Standardized designs, specs, and cost estimates
- IDIQ contracts with multiple awards, 5 year life,

Temporary and Long-term Closures



Capitol Reef NP: Oyer Uranium Mine
Vandalized fences were replaced with heavy-duty “bat gates.” Long-term and permanent closures are the ultimate goal of the NPS AML Program. Wildlife habitat is a concern as is historic preservation.

Paymaster Mine – Mojave NP – Bat Cupola Installation



Johnny Shaft – Mojave – PUF Fill and Culvert Gate



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EVENING STAR MINE MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

EVENING STAR MINE MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE

BEFORE



AFTER



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

SUZANNE R MINE MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE

BEFORE



AFTER



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

BUTCHER KNIFE MINE MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE

BEFORE



AFTER



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Mine Restoration – Morning Star Mine Mojave National Preserve BEFORE



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Mine Restoration – Morning Star Mine Mojave National Preserve AFTER



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**SKIDOO MINE COMPLEX
DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK
ARRA**



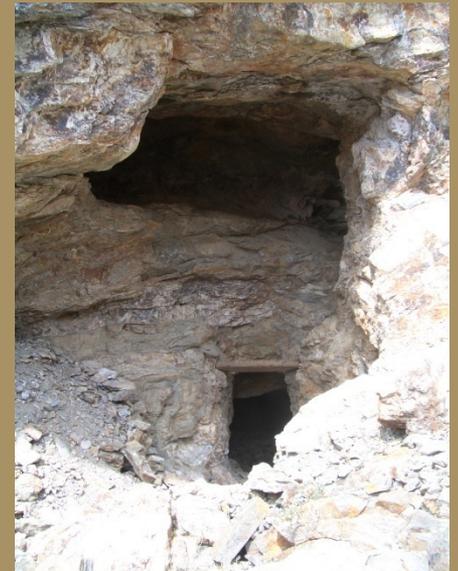
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SKIDOO MINE COMPLEX DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK ARRA



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Keane Wonder Mine and Tramway





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