

BLM Nevada News

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 08-22

FOR RELEASE: June 24, 2008

CONTACT: Heather Emmons, 775-861-6594, heather_emmons@blm.gov



Reclamation activities at the MacArthur Mine waste rock dump

MacArthur Mine reclamation complete

Yerington, Nev.—Reclamation of the waste rock dump at the abandoned MacArthur Mine site, six miles northwest of Yerington is complete. The mine was reclaimed as part of BLM’s mining law program requiring reclamation and closure of mine sites and to eliminate an eyesore north of Yerington along the Alternate US 95 highway.

Funding for the project was provided by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) using the reclamation bond and additional funding sources including contributed funds from the Nevada Division of Minerals (NDOM) and the Nevada Mining Association (NvMA).

Reclamation activities on the waste rock dump began in November, 2007 with a contractor, Hunewill Construction, that was hired through a state-administered contract. The BLM conducted a site investigation to determine the adjacent native vegetation and then prescribed a seed mix to match site conditions and provide long term sustainability. BLM and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) personnel completed the seeding process in February 2008. The Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) provided the use of an ATV and harrow that greatly facilitated seeding.

As the mine is entirely within BLM-managed lands, Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) for the project was the responsibility of BLM. Personnel from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation also assisted with the QA/QC process.

The reclamation was a joint effort between BLM, NDEP, NDOM, NvMA and NDF.

“On behalf of all the agencies and partners that came together to complete this reclamation project, we are all pleased with the results,” Craig Smith, BLM Nevada geologist, said. “The goal was to improve the site so it blended in with the rest of the surrounding environment, as part of BLM’s ‘Visual Resource Management’ system, and I believe we successfully accomplished that goal.”

BLM’s Visual Resource Management (VRM) system helps to ensure that actions taken on public lands today will benefit the landscape and adjacent communities in the future. Any activities that occur on these lands, such as recreation, mining, timber harvesting, grazing or road development, for example, have the potential to disturb the surface of the landscape and impact scenic values. VRM is a system for minimizing the visual impacts of surface-disturbing activities and maintaining scenic values for future generations.