

STATE OF NEVADA ABANDONED MINES PROGRAM

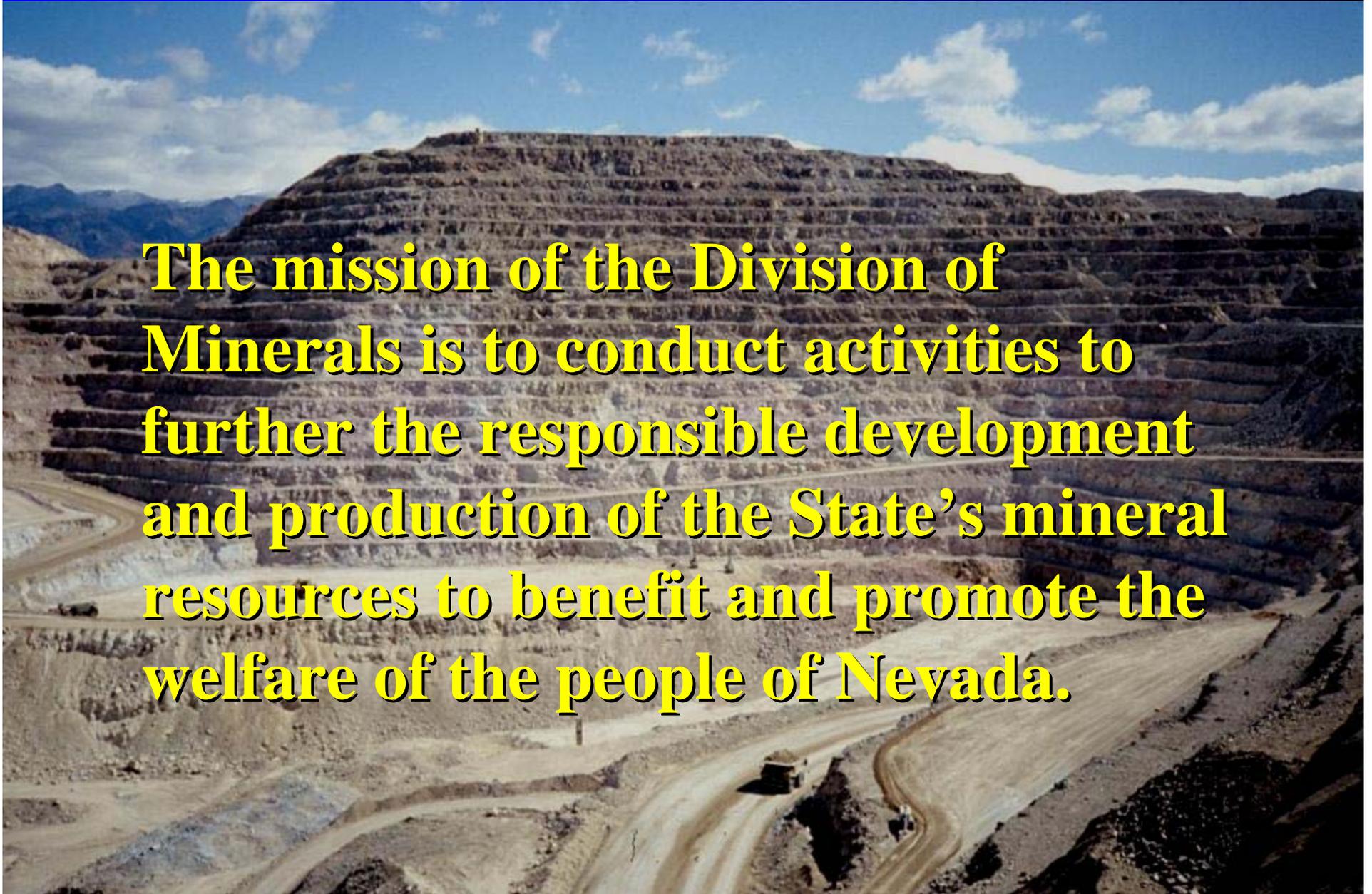
**Natives Impacted by Mining Conference
September 22-24, 2009
Reno, Nevada**

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MISSION

The mission of the Division of Minerals is to conduct activities to further the responsible development and production of the State's mineral resources to benefit and promote the welfare of the people of Nevada.



WHO WE ARE

- **State Agency and part of the Commission on Mineral Resources (CMR)**
- **CMR is 7 members appointed by the Governor from the minerals industry**
- **Offices in Carson City (8 employees) and Las Vegas (2 employees)**
- **Annual budget of \$1,200,000**
- **No general fund money in budget, all revenue from fees on mineral industry**

WHAT WE DO

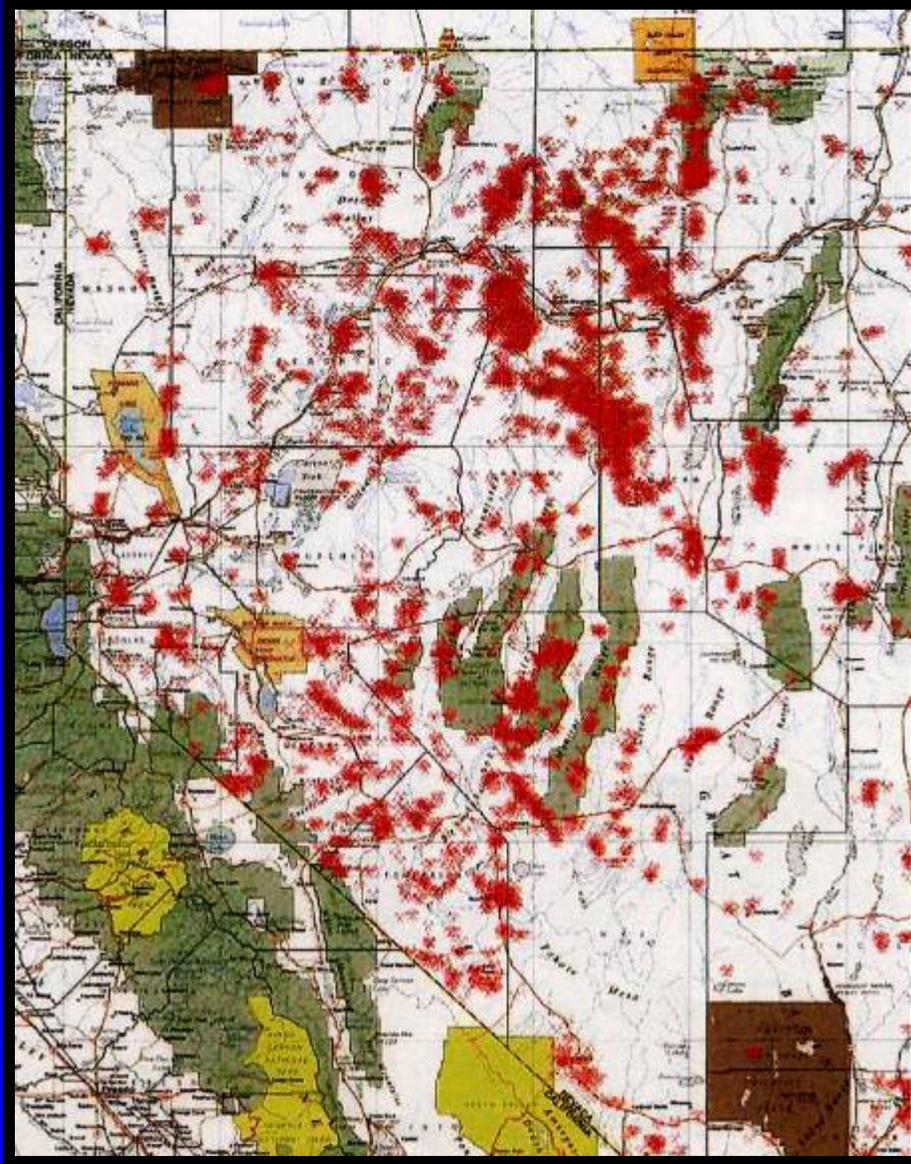
- **Industry Relations and Government Affairs**
- **Abandoned Mines Program**
- **Minerals Education, including the Nevada Earth Science Teacher's Workshops**
- **Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Program**
- **Mines Registry**
- **State Reclamation Bond Pool**

NEVADA MINING INFO

- **Major Mines of Nevada – NDOM**
– <http://minerals.state.nv.us>
- **The Nevada Mineral Industry – NBMG**
– www.nbmг.unr.edu
- **Economic Overview of the Nevada Mining Industry – NvMA**
– www.nevadamining.org

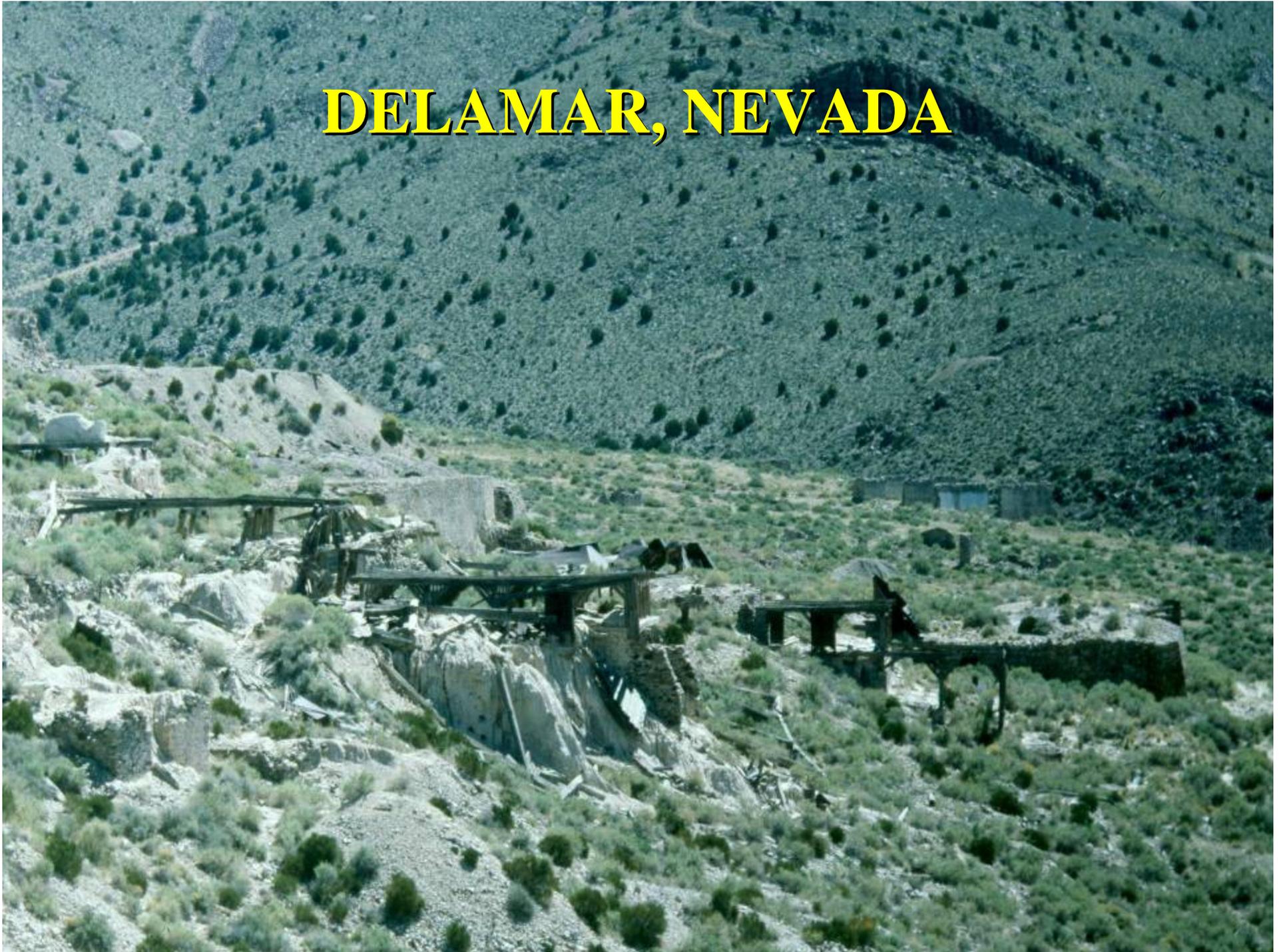
ABANDONED MINE LANDS

- **Mining and prospecting has occurred all across Nevada for last 150 years**
- **526 identified mining districts**
- **Over 200,000 mining-related features**
- **Estimated 50,000 mining-related features (adits, shafts, tunnels, declines, pit high-walls) considered hazardous to people**



For every mine, adit, shaft or prospect symbol on a topographic map, there are 2 to 3 more waiting to be found.

DELAMAR, NEVADA



GOODSPRINGS, NEVADA









ES-1552
Logged
6-4-07
Looking N

06/04/2007



ES 1577
Logged
6-5-07
Looking NW

06/05/2007



ES-1556
6-4-07
Logged
Looking N

06/04/2007

CALL TO ACTION

- **Nevada Legislature created the State Abandoned Mine Lands Program in 1987**
- **Financed by fees paid by mining industry**
- **Three Program Activities Mandated:**
 - **State-wide Inventory of Sites**
 - **Securing of Hazardous Mines**
 - **Public Awareness Campaign**

STATE-WIDE INVENTORY

- **Locate on the ground using GPS**
- **Record information including a written description, sketch and photograph**
- **Apply numerical hazard ranking based on location and type of mine opening**
- **Conduct land ownership research to determine current land owner or party responsible for securing mine**

SECURING OF HAZARDOUS MINES

- **Notify land owners of responsibility to secure mine hazards on their property**
- **Division of Minerals secures mine openings on public land if no responsible party exists**
- **Mine hazards are fenced, barricaded, posted with warning signs, sealed or backfilled**
- **Division of Minerals maintains records of mine securing work**

“STAY OUT AND STAY ALIVE”

13,735 Discovered - 9,830 Secured (1987 – 2008)



2009 Summer Interns



**8 UNR-Mackay Students
Investigated Over 6,000 Abandoned
Mine Features In 14 Counties,
Inventoried 499 New Hazards and
Secured 275 Dangerous Conditions**



EAGLE SCOUT SECURING PROJECT



107 projects since 1992 resulting in 540 securings

AML BAT GATE PROJECTS

BEFORE



AFTER



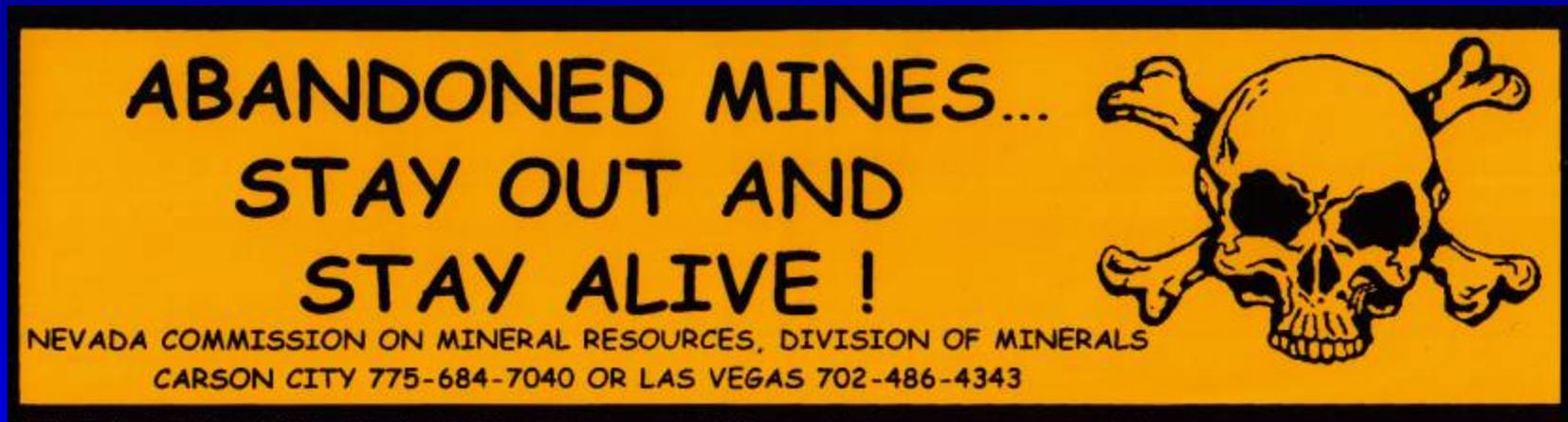
AML BACKFILL PROJECT



WF-98
BACKFILL
10-3-05

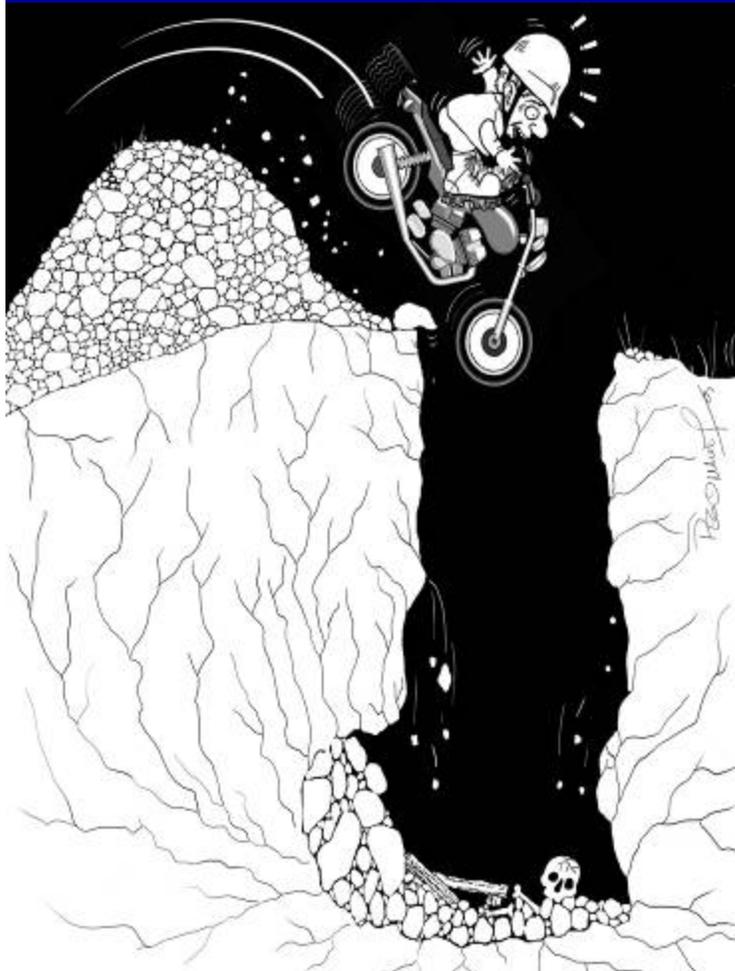
448
BACKFILLS
2000 to 2008

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



**Brochures, bumper stickers,
magnets, stickers, pencils, mugs,
and SQUEEZE BATS!**

2008 “STAY OUT AND STAY ALIVE”



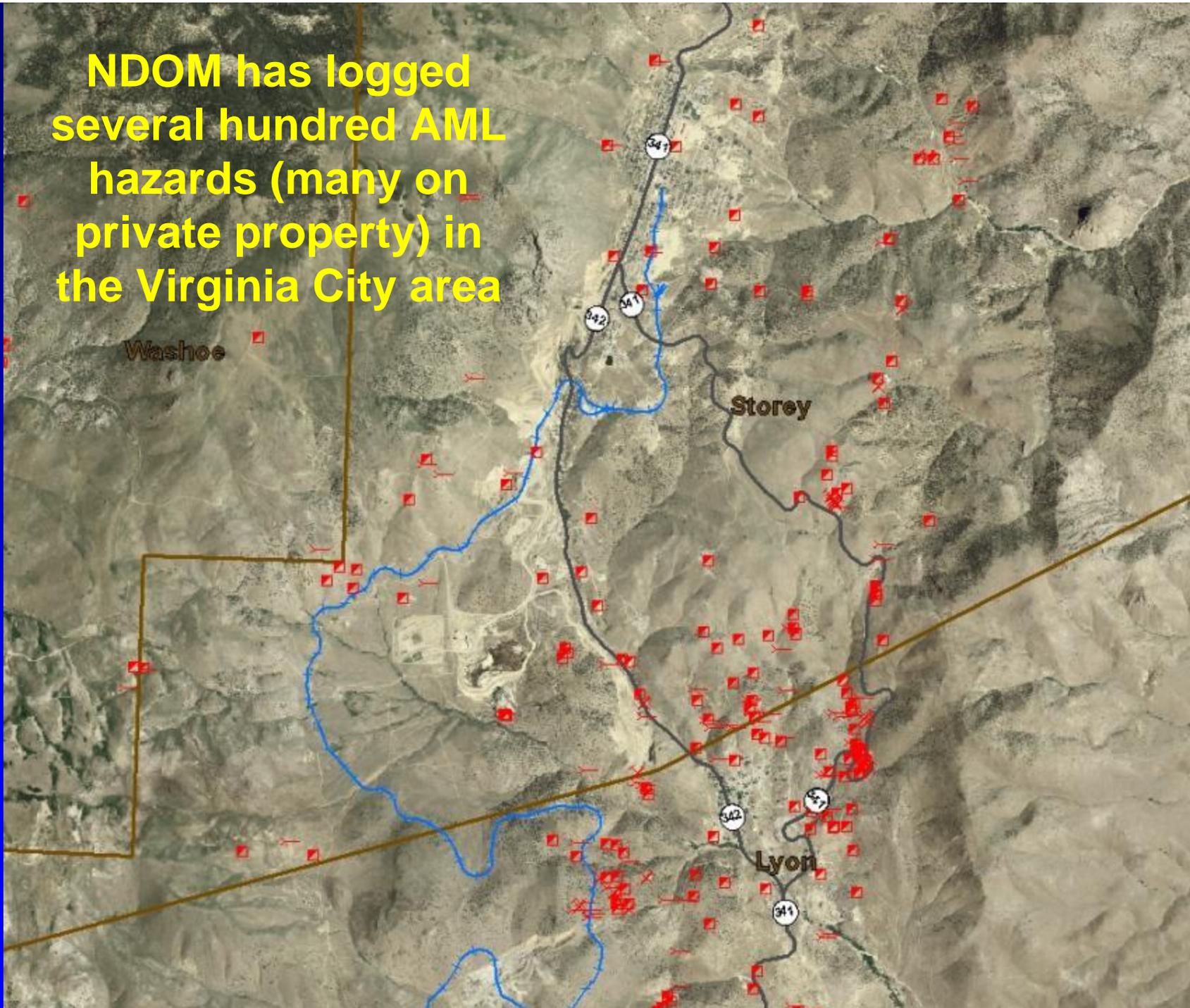
- 1,700 AML educational mini-units and 74,000 AML brochures sent to 4th and 8th grade classrooms statewide
- Each school library has the AML companion video, with additional copies provided free upon request
- Over 100 AML classroom presentations made to more than 2,900 children
- Presented AML message at public events to over 6,000 children and adults
- Public Service Announcement (co-produced with BLM) addressing hazards of OHV use in regions containing abandoned mines



Virginia City, Nevada (looking south)

**Historic mining
activities have
resulted in
hundreds of
abandoned mine
openings in the
Virginia City area**

**NDOM has logged
several hundred AML
hazards (many on
private property) in
the Virginia City area**



Osbiston Shaft (ST-82), August 11, 1995

'Wow! Wow! Wow! We've definitely got something serious here'

Mine shaft collapses, leaves monster hole

Virginia City:
Earth gives way to
expose 2,700-foot-
deep chasm.

8-12-95

By Sevil Omer
GAZETTE-JOURNAL

VIRGINIA CITY — Roger Williams discovered something really big missing from the vacant lot Friday where he usually watches kids play.

"It was the ground," said Williams, shaking his head. "It was there when I left work on Wednesday night. Now, it's a really big hole."

The hole is so deep you could stack the World Trade Center and Empire State Building in it and still have room at the top.

On Friday, stunned officials stood near the site of the old mining shaft at the end of Washington Street, which collapsed sometime between sundown Thursday and 8:30 a.m. Friday.

The chasm at the corner of the city's dump was 50 feet wide, sinking down 2,700 feet into the earth.

Brian Skillington, a Virginia City building official, clenched red sheets of paper in his hand waiting to post the warning signs on a fence being erected around the area.

"Wow! Wow! Wow!" shouted Charles Haynes, a Storey County commissioner, who returned to safety after ducking under yellow police tape to see what was over the edge. "We've definitely got something serious here."

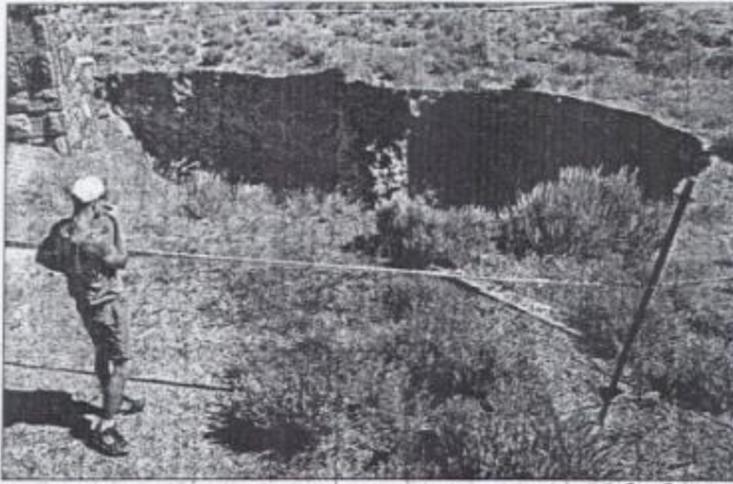
The hole is 75 feet away from Virginia City High School.

"The property is a good distance away and is no threat to students," said Dan Piel, a Storey County School District spokesman. "We even had our own hole."

During the lunch hour Oct. 1, 1992, the ground above an old mining shaft below South D Street collapsed in front of Hugh Gallagher Elementary School, swallowing the principal's car and threatening to do the same with part of the building.

Students often congregated in the area of Friday's collapse when school was in session.

"I am so glad school was not in session," said Williams, who



OLD MINE SHAFT: Jason Plaut of Artistic Fence looks at the big hole Friday before fencing it off.

VIRGINIA CITY MINE-SHAFT COLLAPSE

- Name:** Osbiston.
- Dug:** Late 1800s to a depth of 2,700 feet.
- History:** About 30 years ago the shaft was plugged with old car bodies and leveled off with dirt at the surface.
- Cause:** The makeshift plug gave way, reopening the shaft.

works at the Transfer Station, which is the city dump.

"I'm glad no one was hurt or out here at the time it went down," said Williams, who has lived in Virginia City for 13 years. "Those mine shafts are something else."

Mine shafts crisscross beneath Virginia City where more than \$400 million in silver and gold was pulled from the Comstock Lode from 1859 until the turn of the century. But few areas of the city are threatened by subsidence, the settling of ground in the mines.

Haynes and other officials say

See MINE on page 8A



New Savage Mine (ST-84), September 1, 1996

No air killed mine duo

BY TEYA VITU
Special Staff Writer

VIRGINIA CITY — This mining town's high school and middle school kept the men who created their music programs and single-handedly kept music alive at both schools for more than a decade until his death Sunday in the fenced-off New Savage Mine.

Virginia City's revered music teacher John Montgomery, 35, and friend Jonathan Reece, 35, of Winters, Calif., slipped behind a chain-link fence to explore the mine on L Street. Just behind the fence a posted sign bore crossbones and warning: "Keep Out, Bad Air."



MONTGOMERY

Both men were found dead behind mounds of sloping dirt near the mine's opening. They were victims of the bad air, according to the autopsy performed Monday.

The Washoe County Coroner's Office determined the cause of death as asphyxiation due to apnea or lack of oxygen, Stacey County Under Sheriff Bruce Larson said in a press release.

"When you have somebody like Montgomery, living here is absolutely devastating to the community," said John Tyson, Stacey County Sheriff's spokesman. "I don't know a single person who didn't like him."

Robert Goodson, a 12-year resident of Virginia City, has two grown children who took music classes from Montgomery.

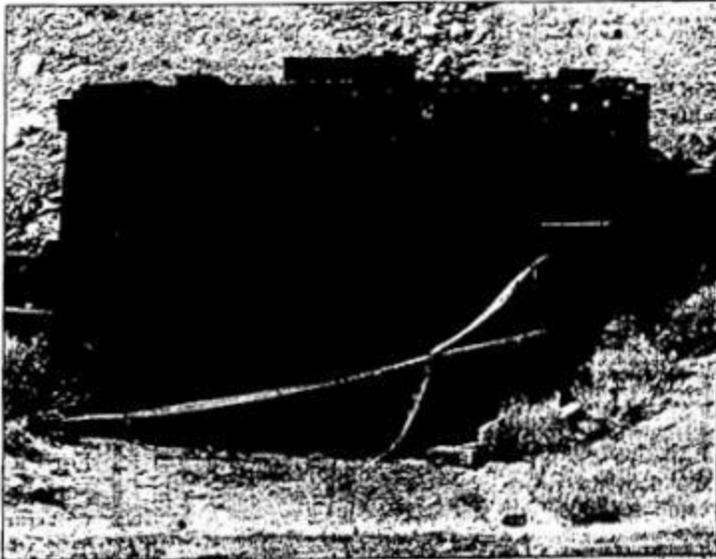
"This is going to devastate a lot of people," Goodson said. "A lot of kids that graduated and went away come back to see him. He could relate to all ages."

He taught music to students in fifth through 12th grade at the middle and high schools in Virginia City but his musical service to the community didn't stop there.

"I went to the high school one day and saw a barber shop sign to him," remembered retired Brian Skillington, who sings in a barber shop quartet. "He wrote it down as four-part harmony for me. That's the kind of guy he was."

Montgomery also had a fascination with mines. He actually helped

PHOTO BY MINE, BACK PAGE



Above is the fenced-off opening to the New Savage Mine, located south of Main Street in Virginia City, where two men entered Sunday to explore the mine, but never came out alive. At right, sign warns of "Bad Air" which ultimately led to the deaths of Virginia City music teacher John Montgomery, and his friend Jonathan Reece, visiting from California.



Double steel doors now block the tunnel entrance.

NEVADA APPEAL 9-3-96

American Flat Millsite (ST-92), October, 1996

16 year old boy killed in ATV
accident at millsite



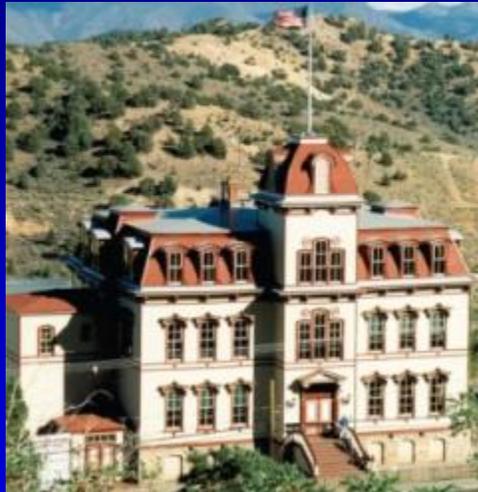


**Collapse of
abandoned mine
workings next to the
Virginia City Middle
School in downtown
Virginia City**



**(note the principal's
car in the hole)**

Commission on Mineral Resources and Division of Minerals Cooperative AML Project with 4th Ward School



Stay Out and Stay Alive Hologram Exhibit (only Hologram Museum Exhibit in Nevada)

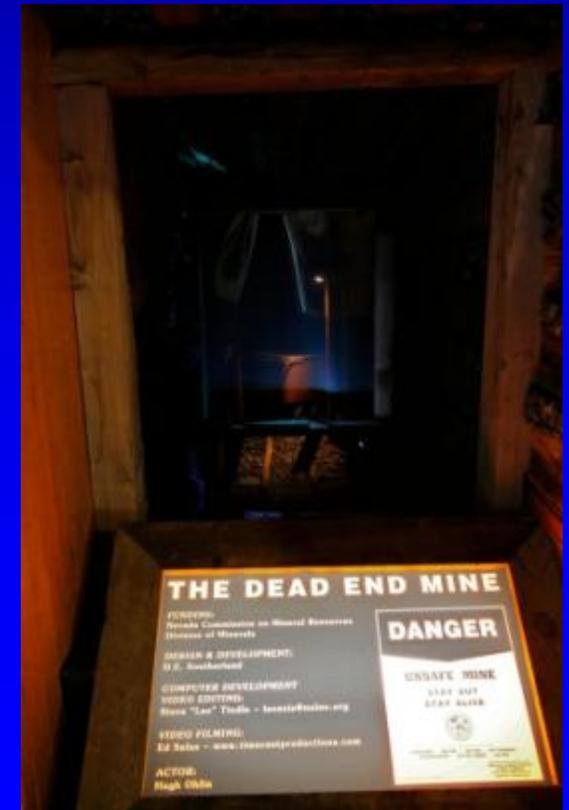
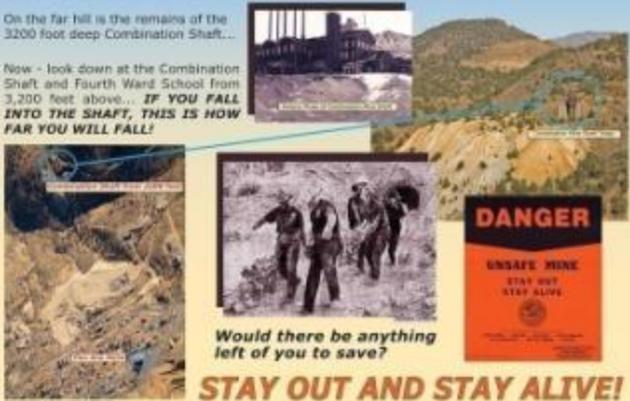
LOOK OUT THIS WINDOW →

On the far hill is the remains of the 3200 foot deep Combination Shaft...

Now - look down at the Combination Shaft and Fourth Ward School from 3,200 feet above... **IF YOU FALL INTO THE SHAFT, THIS IS HOW FAR YOU WILL FALL!**

Would there be anything left of you to save?

STAY OUT AND STAY ALIVE!





Gold, Round Mountain

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Opal, Virgin Valley