

Utah Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Water Quality

# NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ABANDONED MINES IN UTAH



August 2011

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Acknowledgements

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to acknowledge the federal, state, and local agencies who have generously provided the assistance and resources necessary to complete this project. In addition, numerous people have contributed invaluable expertise and insight into mines and nonpoint source related issues in Utah.

Kris Jensen	US EPA Region VIII
Carol Russell	US EPA Region VIII
Steve Bubnick	US EPA Region VIII
David Rathke	US EPA Region VIII
Jay Silvernale	US EPA Region VIII
Terry Snyder	BLM Utah State Office
Martha Manderbach	USDA Forest Service-R4
Briant A. Kimball	US Geological Survey
Charles Condrat	Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Mary Ann Wright	Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
Mark Mesch	Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
Chris Rohrer	Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
Ken Wyatt	Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
Bill Bradwisch	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Mike Reichert	Utah Division of Water Quality
Jim Bowcutt	Utah Division of Water Quality
Harry Judd	Utah Division of Water Quality
Keith Eagan	Utah Division of Water Quality
Steve Jensen	Salt Lake County; Public Works Department
Natalie Rees	Salt Lake County; Public Works Department
Marian Hubbard	Salt Lake County; Public Works Department
Juliette Lucy	Utah Geological Survey
Tom Ward	Salt Lake City Public Utilities
Keith Hanson	Salt Lake County Service Area #3
David Litvin	Utah Mining Association
Ted Fitzgerald	Trout Unlimited
Kerry Gee	United Park City Mines
Kelly Payne	Kennecott Utah Copper
Jim Baker	Snowbird Ski Corporation
Al Tunbridge	Alta Ski Lifts Corporation

We are deeply indebted to Chris Rohrer of the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining for his diligence and insight in regard to Best Management Practices, Mike Reichert for his guidance and oversight of this plan, Kris Jensen for her thoughtful insights and assistance, and to Steve Jensen for chairing the Technical Advisory Committee.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Table of Contents

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION .....	1
	Potential Effects .....	2
	Pollution from Uranium Mines .....	2
	Implementation of Control Strategies .....	3
	Examples of 319 Funded Projects .....	3
	Follow-up Monitoring .....	3
	Mining Technical Advisory Committee .....	4
II.	ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING .....	5
	Mine Location .....	5
	Geology .....	5
	Uranium .....	5
	Precious and Base Metals .....	5
	Phosphate .....	5
	Black Shale .....	6
	Precipitation .....	6
	Rivers and Streams .....	6
	Elevation and Topography .....	6
	Land Use Ownership .....	7
	Vegetation .....	7
	Geographic Information System .....	7
III.	UTAH'S APPROACH TO NONPOINT CONTROL FOR ABANDONED MINES .....	20
	Identification of impacted streams .....	20
	Preliminary Information Gathering .....	22
	Stream and mine discharge characterization .....	22
	Mine/groundwater sources and pathways .....	23
	Mine waste characterization .....	23
	Setting goals for nonpoint source mine projects .....	24
	Establishing strategies .....	24
IV.	BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES .....	25
	Introduction .....	25
	Areas of Concern .....	25
	Purposes of Best Management Practices .....	26
	BMPs for Control of Acid Rock Drainage .....	27
	Diversion .....	27
	Removal .....	28
	Isolation .....	28
	Manipulation of Water Chemistry .....	28
	Treatment of Water to reduce/remove contaminants .....	29
	BMPs for Control of Radiological Problems .....	30
	BMPs for Control of Sediment and Erosion .....	30
	BMP Planning and Design .....	32
	BMP References .....	32
	Sources of Current BMP Research Information .....	33
V.	PRIORITIES AND GEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE .....	35
	Targeting Tools .....	35
	State Water Quality Limited Waters .....	35
	Source Water Protection Program .....	36
	Public Involvement/Watershed Approach .....	36

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Table of Contents

### TABLE OF CONTENTS—Continued

VI. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES .....	38
Goal 1—Watershed reconnaissance studies .....	38
Goal 2—Protect surface and groundwater .....	39
Goal 3—Build long term partnerships .....	40
Goal 4—Educate and inform .....	41
Table of Milestone Dates .....	42
VII. IMPLEMENTATION.....	45
Federal and State Initiatives .....	45
Reclamation Projects Funded by DOGM .....	45
CERCLA .....	46
Clean Water Act .....	47
Good Samaritan Legislation .....	47
Voluntary Clean-up Program .....	48
Implementation Milestones.....	48
Authorities and Jurisdiction .....	49
United States Environmental Protection Agency .....	49
National Forest Service .....	51
Utah Bureau of Land Management .....	53
United States Geological Survey .....	56
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining .....	57
Utah Geological Survey .....	59
Utah Division of Water Quality .....	61
Salt Lake County .....	64
Salt Lake City Corporation .....	65
Non-profit organizations .....	66
Trout Unlimited .....	66
VIII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION.....	67
IX. INFORMATION NEEDS AND STRATEGIES .....	67
X. REFERENCES .....	68
XI. GLOSSARY OF TERMS .....	70
Appendix A ___ DOGM's Mine Inventory .....	78
Appendix B ___ Water Quality Standards .....	80
Appendix C ___ Technical Action Committee Members.....	89
Appendix D ___ Factors contributing to QAPP and SAPs .....	91
Appendix E ___ User's Guide for Utah CWA 319 Water Quality Proposals.....	93
Appendix F ___ List of Acronyms .....	95
Appendix G ___ Sites of most pressing concern .....	97
Appendix H ___ List of Active Watershed Groups .....	98
Appendix I ___ Comments and Responsiveness Summary .....	99

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Figures

### FIGURES

Figure 1 Columbus-Rexall acid mine drainage, Alta, UT .....	1
Figure 2 Bog Mine in Mineral Basin of American Fork Canyon, Utah County, UT.....	2
Figure 3 Mine at Gold Hill, Tooele County, UT .....	3
Figure 4 Mine near Gold Hill in western Tooele County, UT .....	5
Figure 5 Sheeprock Mountains Project Area, Tooele County, UT.....	6
Figure 6 Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	6
Figure 7 Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	7
Figure 8 Temple Mountain Project area, Emery County, UT.....	7
Figure 9 Utah Mining Districts.....	8
Figure 10 Known Mineral Occurrences .....	9
Figure 11 Shafts, adits, and prospect symbols.....	10
Figure 12 Utah's Geology .....	11
Figure 13 Areas of Geologic Concern .....	12
Figure 14 Average Annual Precipitation .....	13
Figure 15 Major and minor waterbodies in Utah.....	14
Figure 16 Utah Stream Assessment 2006.....	15
Figure 17 Utah Lake Assessment 2006.....	16
Figure 18 Topography of Utah .....	17
Figure 19 Land Ownership in Utah .....	18
Figure 20 Dominant vegetation types in Utah.....	19
Figure 21 Temple Mountain Project area, Emery County, Utah.....	20
Figure 22 Star District Project Area, Beaver County, Utah.....	20
Figure 23 Systematic approach to mine reclamation in Utah .....	21
Figure 24 Mine tailings from abandoned mine.....	22
Figure 25 Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	23
Figure 26 Sheeprock Mountains Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	23
Figure 27 Stateline Project area, Iron County, UT.....	24
Figure 28 Star District Project area Beaver County, UT .....	24
Figure 29 Abandoned mining operation.....	24
Figure 30 Sheeprock Mountains Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	25
Figure 31 Star District Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	26
Figure 32 Sheeprock Mountains Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	27
Figure 33 Sheeprock Mountains Project area, Tooele County, UT.....	27
Figure 34 Sheeprock Mountains Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	28
Figure 35 Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	29
Figure 36 Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	29
Figure 37 Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	30
Figure 38 Sheeprock Mountains Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	31
Figure 39 Temple Mountain Project area, Emery County, UT.....	31
Figure 40 Mine at Gold Hill, Tooele County, UT .....	32
Figure 41 Sheeprock Mountains Project area, Tooele County, UT.....	32
Figure 42 Cherry Creek Project area, Juab County, UT.....	34
Figure 43 Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	35
Figure 44 Star District Project area, Beaver County, UT .....	36
Figure 45 Watersheds in Utah .....	37
Figure 46 Stateline Project area, Iron County, UT.....	38
Figure 47 Lulu Mine, San Francisco Mountains, Beaver County, UT.....	39
Figure 48 Old King David Mine, San Francisco Mountains Beaver County, UT .....	40
Figure 49 Abandoned mining operation.....	41
Figure 50 Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	42
Figure 51 Temple Mountain Project Area, Emery County, UT .....	45

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Figures

### FIGURES—Continued

Figure 52 abandoned mining operation .....	45
Figure 53 Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	46
Figure 54 Temple Mountain Project area, Emery County, UT .....	46
Figure 55 Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	47
Figure 56 Star District Project area, Beaver County, UT .....	47
Figure 57 Old King David Mine, San Francisco Mountains, Beaver County, UT .....	48
Figure 58 Old King David Mine, San Francisco Mountains, Beaver County, UT .....	48
Figure 59 Old King David Mine, San Francisco Mountains, Beaver County, UT .....	50
Figure 60 Sheeprock Mountains Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	50
Figure 61 Sheeprock Mountains Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	51
Figure 62 Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	52
Figure 63 Emma Mining District, Little Cottonwood Canyon, Salt Lake County, UT .....	53
Figure 64 Columbus-Rexall Mine Drainage, Little Cottonwood Canyon, SLCo, UT .....	54
Figure 65 Dutchman Flats, American Fork Canyon, UT .....	55
Figure 66 Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	56
Figure 67 Old King David Mine, San Francisco Mountains, Beaver County, UT .....	57
Figure 68 Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	57
Figure 69 Sheeprock Mountains Project area, Tooele County, UT .....	58
Figure 70 Star District Project area, Beaver County, UT .....	60
Figure 71 Albion Basin, Little Cottonwood Canyon, UT .....	61
Figure 72 Mill Creek, Salt Lake County, UT .....	62
Figure 73 Wetlands adjacent to Great Salt Lake .....	63
Figure 74 Jordan River, Salt Lake County, UT .....	64
Figure 75 Big Cottonwood Creek, Salt Lake County, UT .....	65
Figure 76 Parley's Creek, Salt Lake County, UT .....	66
Figure 77 Completed pond and slope re-vegetation of Alta Fen project .....	67

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Introduction

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah is partially adapted from the plan used by the State of Colorado. The following topics are addressed in this plan: 1) background information in regard to nonpoint source (NPS) pollution from abandoned mines in Utah, 2) Utah's environmental setting, 3) Utah's approach to nonpoint control for abandoned mines, 4) best management practices, 5) priorities and geographic perspective, 6) goals and objectives, and 7) implementation.

The primary objective of this document is to outline a systematic approach for both identification and cleanup of surface and groundwater from abandoned metal mine sites in the state of Utah. This document will not address pollution from abandoned coal mines. With approval of the Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the state will become eligible to utilize CWA Section 319 funds to remediate nonpoint source pollution from abandoned mines. However, no project will be implemented through the 319 program without the consent of the property owner.

Mines are typically divided into three (3) categories: active, abandoned, and inactive. For the purposes of this document, abandoned mine sites are defined as mined facilities or sites where no permit was filed with the State or federal land managing agency. Although this plan specifically addresses abandoned mines, best management practices identified in this document may also be applied to other mine sites.

Mines and mining districts in Utah have great historical significance. Therefore, clean-up and/or remediation will attempt to maintain the historic fabric of the site whenever possible.

Abandoned mine sites present some of the most difficult challenges to water quality improvement in Utah and the nation. This is due to the nature of the pollutants and also to the difficult administrative, regulatory, and legal challenges involved with controlling the sources of pollutants, since neither water nor pollutants

observe jurisdictional boundaries. Without intervention, most of these sites will not be returned to their pre-impact state. Natural processes alone will take decades or centuries to restore drastically disturbed mine sites, if restoration occurs at all. In addition, complications exist due to the lack of a Potentially Responsible Party<sup>1</sup> (PRP) that is inherent in the definition of an abandoned mine. Other complications are the remote locations, high altitude, and minimal infrastructure that often accompany abandoned hardrock mine sites.

Given this setting, it is important to seek solutions that rely upon technologies that are practical for the locations and monetary resources available; and therefore, the nonpoint source mining program relies upon hydrologic controls and "passive" treatment technologies. Current treatment methods that may greatly reduce nonpoint source pollution problems associated with abandoned mines are outlined in the Best Management Practices section of this document.



**Figure 1. Columbus-Rexall acid mine drainage, Alta, UT.**

<sup>1</sup> Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, comes from many diffuse sources. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters, and even our underground sources of drinking water. These pollutants include: 1) Excess fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides from agricultural lands and residential areas; 2) Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from urban runoff and energy production; 3) Sediment from improperly managed construction sites, crop and forest lands, and eroding streambanks; 4) Salt from irrigation practices and acid drainage from abandoned mines; 5) Bacteria and nutrients from livestock, pet wastes, and faulty septic systems; 6) Atmospheric deposition and hydromodification.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Introduction

According to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGMA), between 17,000 and 20,000 abandoned mines exist in the State. Mining-related nonpoint source (NPS) pollution from abandoned mines in Utah is widespread and diverse and contributes to the impairment of numerous streams throughout the State. Under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, states, territories, and authorized tribes are required to develop lists of impaired waters on a biennial basis. Impaired waters are those water bodies that do not meet water quality standards set by their beneficial use designation even after point source limits have been met.

“Beneficial use” can be explained simply as the role a government—either local or national—chooses to have a water body fulfill. Therefore, section 303(d) requires that the state, territory, or tribe establish priority rankings for waters on the lists and develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for these waters. A TMDL is essentially a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive in a 24 hour period and still meet water quality standards. Because abandoned mine-related pollution is considered nonpoint source, CWA Section 319 funding may be sought to clean-up and restore these impaired water bodies. A user’s guide to the application and funding process for 319 monies is provided in Appendix E.

As an example of water body impairments due to abandoned mine-related sources, a scoping study conducted by the Western Governors’ Association Mine Waste Task Force reported that Utah has 25,020 acres affected by



**Figure 2. Bog Mine in Mineral Basin of American Fork Canyon, Utah County, UT**

abandoned mines, with an associated 83 miles of polluted streams (Durkin and Herrmann, 1994). Notably, most of the known mining-related NPS pollution in Utah results from abandoned metal mines. Mine drainage from abandoned coal mines is generally alkaline due to low-sulfur coals and abundant carbonate. As a result, coal mine drainage is relatively minor in comparison with abandoned metal mines. Additionally, cleanup of abandoned coal mines is currently being conducted under existing programs.

### Potential Effects of Abandoned Mines

Pollution from hard-rock precious metal, base metal, and iron mining is created by digging up and moving tons of rock and soil and then separating the valuable metal from the rock through chemical treatment or smelting of the crushed material. This process usually generates large amounts of waste, the disposal of which can create several problems:

1. Heavy metal contamination can reduce soil productivity or sterilize the soil altogether. The absence of vegetation can make the site more susceptible to runoff, soil erosion, and potentially unstable ground.
2. Acid drainage containing acidity, iron, manganese, aluminum, iron hydroxide and sulfuric acid can enter waterways and water supplies.
3. Alkaline runoff, high in salts and sediments, also occurs.
4. Blown dust and mine wastes are a source of air pollution.
5. Ruptures of dams, ponds, and impoundments can flood adjacent lands and discharge pollutants into waterways (Buck and Gerard, 2001).

### Pollution From Uranium Mines

Abandoned uranium ore mines present unique challenges. In order to extract uranium, mills crush large quantities of rock and separate out the uranium. Radioactive sand and slimes are a byproduct of extraction and remain radioactive for hundreds of thousands of years. By 1978, the U.S. Government Accounting Office recorded 140 million tons of on-site uranium mine waste piles at twenty-two abandoned and sixteen operational

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Introduction

mills in the West. Continued production resulted in the addition of six to ten tons of mine waste per year (Grahame and Sisk, 2002).

Accidental releases of mine waste solutions into watercourses and runoff of rainwater from mine waste piles contribute to the contamination of surface water. The 40-year-old Atlas mill mine waste pile at Moab, Utah, located 750 feet from the Colorado River, covers 130 acres and leaks on average 57,000 gallons per day of contaminated fluids into the river (Grahame and Sisk, 2002). The radioactive isotopes that are released in the mining and milling process are slowly making their way downriver into the sediments and major surface water reservoirs of Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

Seepage from mine waste ponds and direct injection of wastes into the subsurface contribute to ground water contamination. Wells that tap into these aquifers provide much of the drinking and irrigation water for the arid Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin.

Uranium mine waste piles threaten air quality in various ways. Radioactive dust from the piles is dispersed by wind. The piles produce radon gas, a deadly substance that has caused a five-fold increase in lung cancer among uranium miners. The use of mine waste as building and landfill materials was widespread throughout the 1950s and 1960s (Grahame and Sisk, 2002).

### Implementation of Control Strategies

In response to the numerous effects of abandoned mine-related nonpoint source pollution, an appropriate control strategy should be identified and implemented. Examples of control strategy options are outlined in the Best Management Practices section of this document. Once a control strategy is determined for an affected stream segment, the next step is to determine how best to implement those activities to attain the goals. A number of regulatory, nonregulatory, voluntary, and incentive-based approaches and programs are available for abandoned mine sites. These choices range from voluntary clean up efforts conducted by landowners, to issuance of various types of discharge permits, to Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319 nonpoint source program grant assistance, to removal and remedial actions under the Comprehensive Environmental



**Figure 3. Mine at Gold Hill, Toole County, UT**

Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

The implementation of the strategies may combine these various program elements, or employ a limited number of these options, depending upon the needs and complexity of a particular stream segment or abandoned mine site.

### Examples of 319 Funded Projects

A handful of 319 funded projects are currently underway in Utah. As part of the TMDL for Little Cottonwood Creek, a remedial investigation, feasibility study, and implementation of passive mine discharge treatment have been conducted for the Columbus Rexall Mine drainage. Additionally, 319 monies have been used for abandoned mine related nonpoint source reduction in Mineral Basin of American Fork Canyon, and Silver Creek outside of Park City, UT.

### Follow-up monitoring

Once implementation of the strategies have begun, it is important to monitor the results of the work performed to determine if the controls applied to the various sites are effective, and eventually, to monitor the stream segment to determine if the established goals are being attained. The time frames for improvements, both on site, and in stream are highly variable, and it is important to recognize that there may be a lag time between the implementation of controls and the realization of results.

### **Mining Technical Advisory Committee**

The Mining Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Utah Nonpoint Source Task Force has overseen the development of this plan. The TAC serves the State as both an advisor and purveyor of technical expertise in abandoned mine issues and will likely continue in this capacity beyond the development of this plan. The purpose of the committee is to advance efforts to protect and improve water quality, and facilitate the restoration of its beneficial uses, such as recreation, water supply, aquatic life and agriculture. The committee consists of non-governmental organizations, federal, state and local governments. Government agencies include: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, Utah Geological Survey, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah Division of Water Quality, Salt Lake County Public Works Department, and Salt Lake City Public Utilities. Non-governmental entities include: the Utah Mining Association, Trout Unlimited, United Park City Mines, Kennecott Utah Copper, Snowbird Ski Corporation, and Alta Ski Lifts Corporation (Appendix C).

### II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

#### Mine Locations

Mining activities have had major impacts on both the environment and economic development of Utah. Seventy-five economically exploited minerals or commodities have been identified in Utah. Of these, 14 commodities (coal, copper, gold, silver, zinc, beryllium, gilsonite, potash, uranium, iron, lead, molybdenum, phosphate and salt) have made Utah a major mineral producer both nationally and internationally (Utah Mining Association, 2004). Mining activities have been conducted throughout the State. The most extensive mining districts are located in the Colorado Plateau of southeastern Utah (Figure 9). Uranium, coal, and potash are the primary minerals in this area. Silver, gold, and numerous other precious minerals have historically been mined throughout northern Utah in the Wasatch Range and Great Basin (Figure 10). Three great districts, Bingham, Park City and Tintic, are especially notable for their size and production. Mercur, Gold Hill, Ophir and San Francisco are other important districts. Numerous abandoned mine sites—a small number of which impact surface and groundwater systems—remain throughout the State from both historical and recent activities. In addition, since metal mining operations are concentrated in areas with significant deposits of base and precious metals (e.g. gold, silver, lead, zinc and copper), background metal concentrations, as well as sulfur, arsenic and other potential environmentally harmful elements tend to also be high in these areas.



**Figure 4. Mine near Gold Hill in western Tooele County, UT.**

Shaft, adit, and prospect mine location data available from the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (Figure 11) shows the statewide distribution of mining.

#### Geology

Mining-related water contamination is largely controlled by the geology of ore deposits and human development of the deposits. There are several maps and databases which can be combined to delineate areas of concern for mining-related water contamination caused by mining of various commodities. Several examples follow.

#### Uranium

Uranium was mined extensively in the 1940s to 1980s from fluvial Triassic and Jurassic sandstones on the Colorado Plateau. Uranium-ore deposition was governed by ground-water circulation through ancient buried-stream channels in these sandstones that contained fossil organic material (Stokes, 1986). Potential uranium-related water problems can be delineated by overlaying uranium-mining district outlines and mine location point data onto a simplified geologic map which shows outcrops of the uranium-bearing sandstones (Figure 13).

#### Precious and Base Metals

Gold, silver, lead, zinc, molybdenum, copper, and iron are typically associated with intrusive rocks intruded into older, usually Paleozoic, host rocks such as limestone or sandstone. These intrusives may, (1) contain metals (porphyry deposits), (2) directly mineralize intruded host rock (contact metamorphic deposits), or (3) mineralize intruded host rock through associated hot, mineral-laden fluids (hydrothermal deposits). Potential metal deposit-related water problems can be delineated by overlaying metals mining district outlines and mine location point data onto a simplified geologic map which shows granitic intrusive bodies (Figure 13).

#### Phosphate

Phosphate was deposited in Utah during the Mississippian and Permian Periods in restricted marine basins with low oxygen content which allowed organic material to be preserved. Phosphate is mined for the phosphorous content

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Environmental Setting

but typically contains significant quantities of uranium and metals like chromium, selenium, vanadium, and others. Idaho phosphate producers have experienced selenium pollution problems adjacent to their mines. Potential phosphate-related water problems can be delineated by overlaying mine location point data onto a simplified geologic map which shows outcrops of the phosphate-bearing stratigraphic units (Figure 13).

### Black Shales

Black shales were deposited in deep marine basins over a very long period of time ending in the Cretaceous Period. In most instances, the high organic content of the shales resulted in the concentration of metals in the shale; however, not all shales in Utah contain high metals concentrations. These shale were only occasionally mined as a raw material for clay brick manufacture. Black shale may affect background concentrations of metals in mining districts. Potential elevated metal concentrations can be delineated by overlaying mine location point data onto a simplified geologic map which shows outcrops of the carboniferous shales (Figure 13).

### Precipitation

Mean annual precipitation in Utah (Figure 14) varies from less than 5 to over 65 inches per year. The majority of the western and southeastern portions of the State receive minimal precipitation (less than 10 inches per year), whereas, the central mountainous region of the State may receive upwards of 65 inches annually (Spatial Climate Analysis Service, 2000). Mean annual precipitation may be used



Figure 5. Sheeprack Mountains Project Area, Tooele County, Utah.



Figure 6. Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, Utah.

as a key component when identifying areas to target for cleanup of nonpoint source pollution from mining related impacts.

### Rivers and Streams

Notably, major waterbodies in Utah are also concentrated in the central and northeastern regions of the state, although, several large rivers are located in the southeastern portion of the State (Figure 15). Intermittent flow areas—delineated by light blue lines—are found throughout Utah. Although some areas receive minimal precipitation, metals and radioactive constituents may infiltrate surface and groundwater systems statewide through intermittent flow channels. The location of these flow channels may therefore assist in the identification of remediation sites.

In addition to stream and river locations, existing stream and lake assessment data is a vital component of identifying abandoned mine sites. The Utah Division of Water Quality compiles impairment data annually (Figure 16 and Figure 17), which may be used to prioritize restoration activities.

### Elevation and Topography

Similar to the distribution of precipitation, Utah has great disparity in regard to elevation (Figure 18). Two mountain ranges (Wasatch and Uintah) dominate Utah's topography. The Wasatch mountain range is north-south-trending. Mount Nebo, at 11,928 feet (3,636 meters), is located just east of the town of Nephi, and is the highest peak in the Wasatch Range. Alternately, the Uintah mountain range is east-west-trending and

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Environmental Setting

contains Kings Peak [13,528 feet (4,124 meters)], which is the highest peak in Utah (Milligan, 2000). In contrast, the majority of the western and southeastern regions of the State have elevations less than 4,300 feet (~1,300 meters). Because steep slopes may facilitate pollution dispersal, the topography of the State is extremely valuable when determining potentially contaminated sites.

### Land Use/Ownership

Federal and State agencies own approximately 73% of land in Utah (Loomis, 2002). As can be seen in Figure 19, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages the majority of lands in the western and eastern regions of the State.

Private land is concentrated in the central and northcentral regions of the State; National Forest Service (NFS) land is also concentrated in this central area. The majority of National Park System (NPS) land is found in Utah's southeastern desert and several Native American Reservations are located in the eastern portion of the State. Land ownership is a necessary component of any mitigation plan and will be used to determine both present and previous use of land parcels throughout Utah.



Figure 8. Temple Mountain Project area, Emery County, Utah.

Conifer-Aspen and Mountain Brush communities dominate the central and northeastern mountainous regions.

### Geographic Information System (GIS)

Statewide mining location, geology, hydrology, elevation, land status, and vegetation data in a digital format may be combined in a Geographic Information System (GIS) model to aid in identifying potentially polluted sites.



Figure 7. Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, Utah.

### Vegetation

Dominant vegetation may be a useful surrogate for both soil and hydrology. Consistent with precipitation and elevation data, Figure 20 shows that Herb-Shrub and Grasses/Sedges plant communities dominate the western and southeastern portions of the state; whereas,

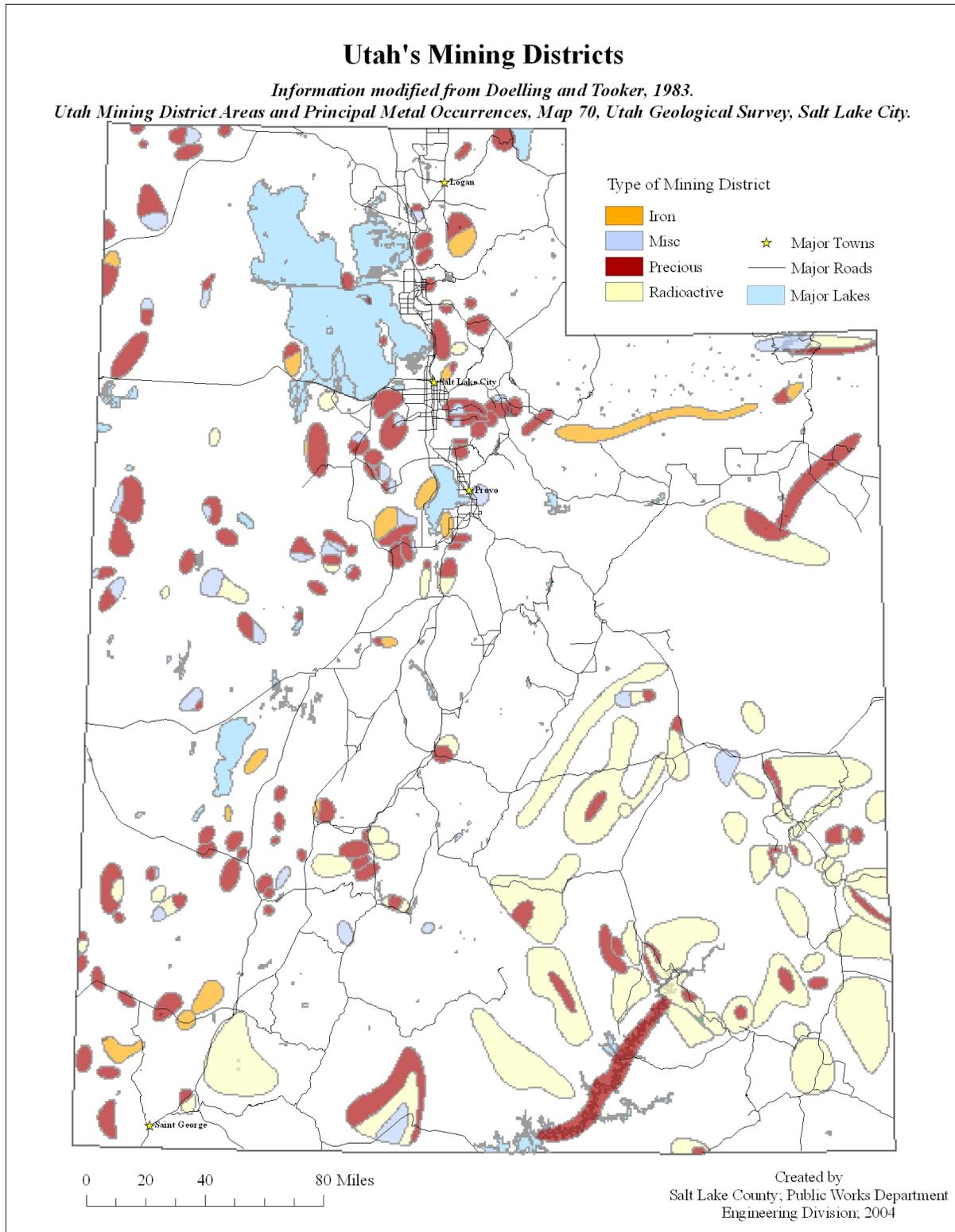


Figure 9. Utah's Mining Districts

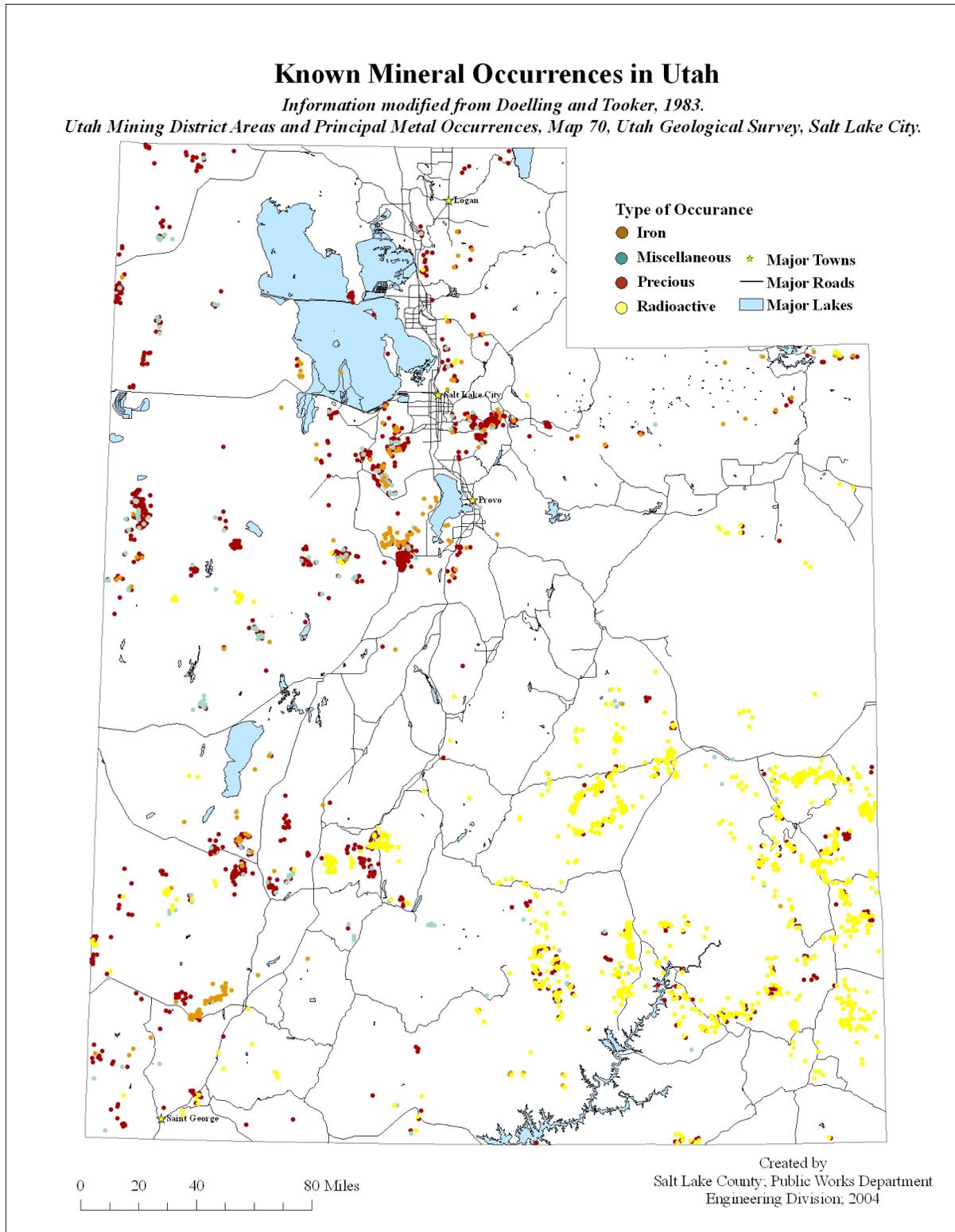


Figure 10. Known Mineral Occurrences in Utah

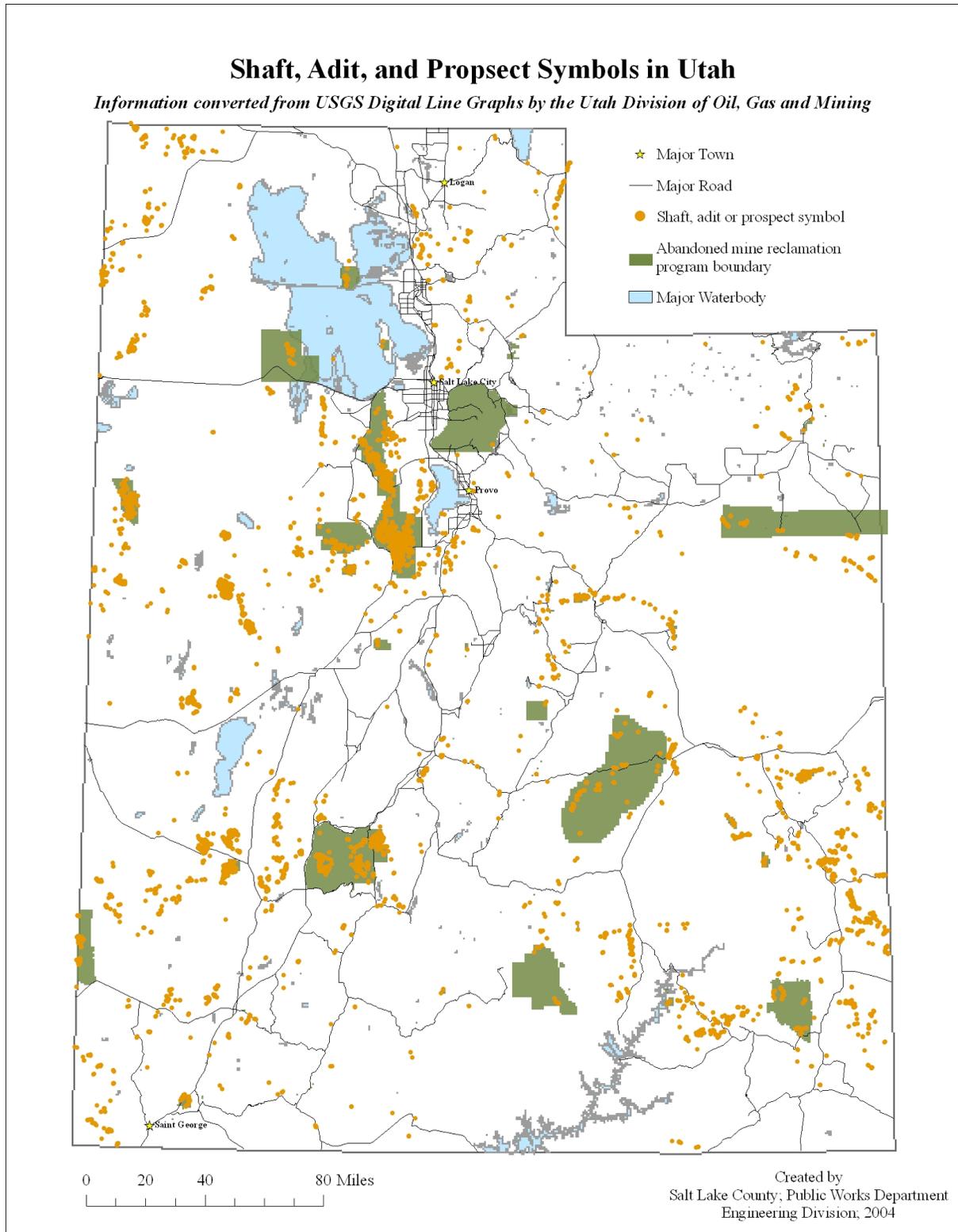


Figure 11. Shaft, Adit, and Prospect Symbols in Utah

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Environmental Setting

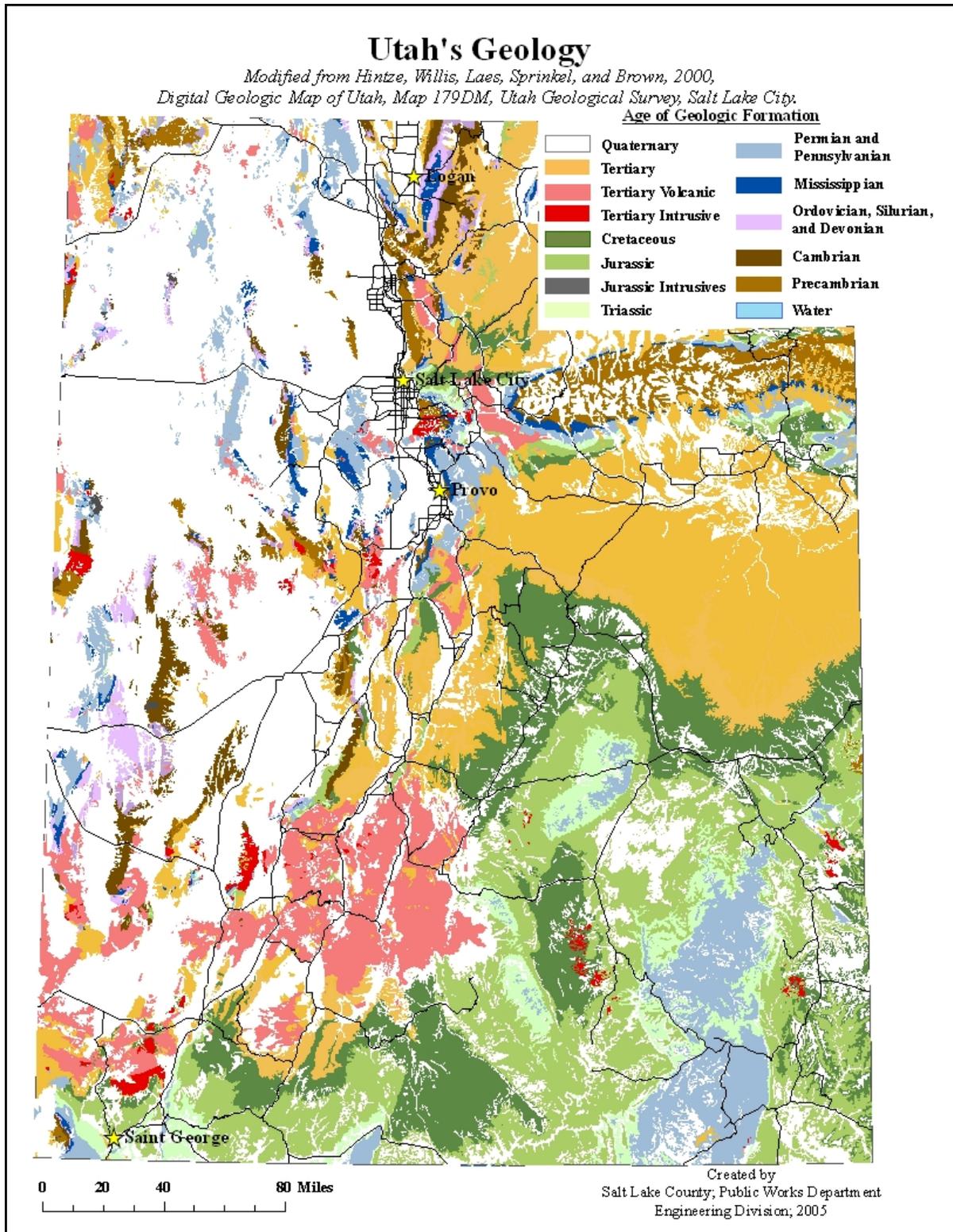


Figure 12. Utah's Geology

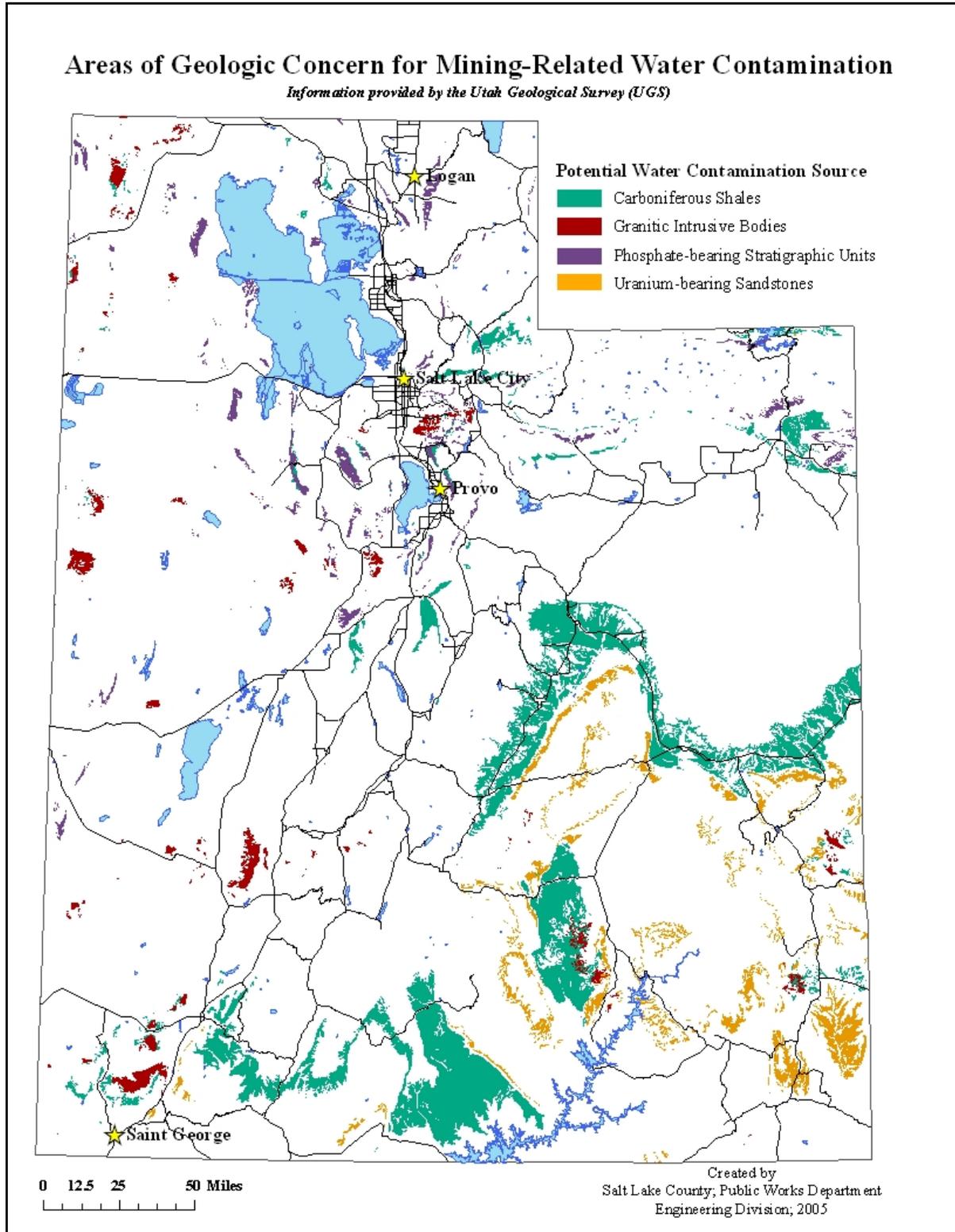


Figure 13. Areas of Geologic Concern for Mining-Related Water Contamination

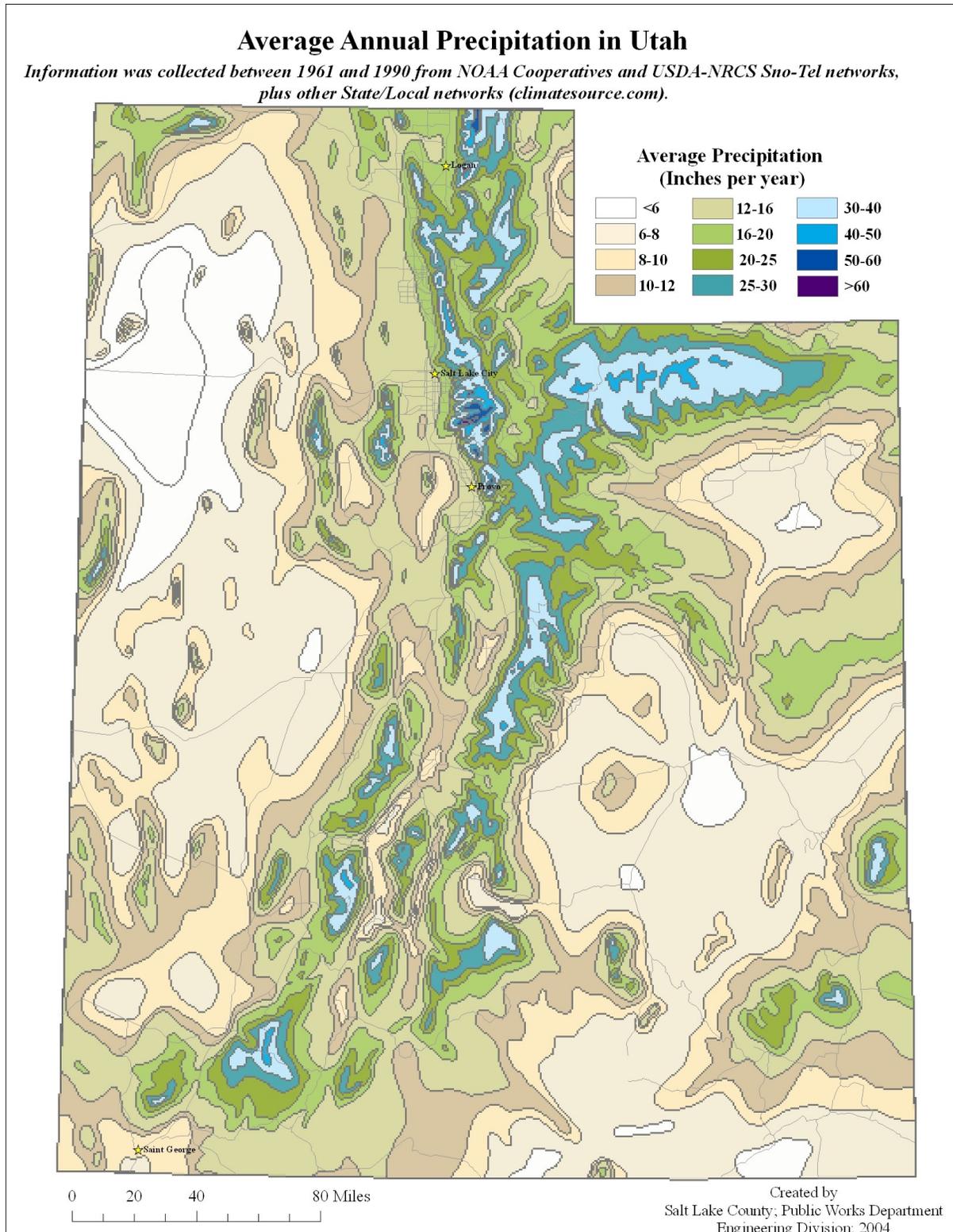


Figure 14. Average Annual Precipitation in Utah

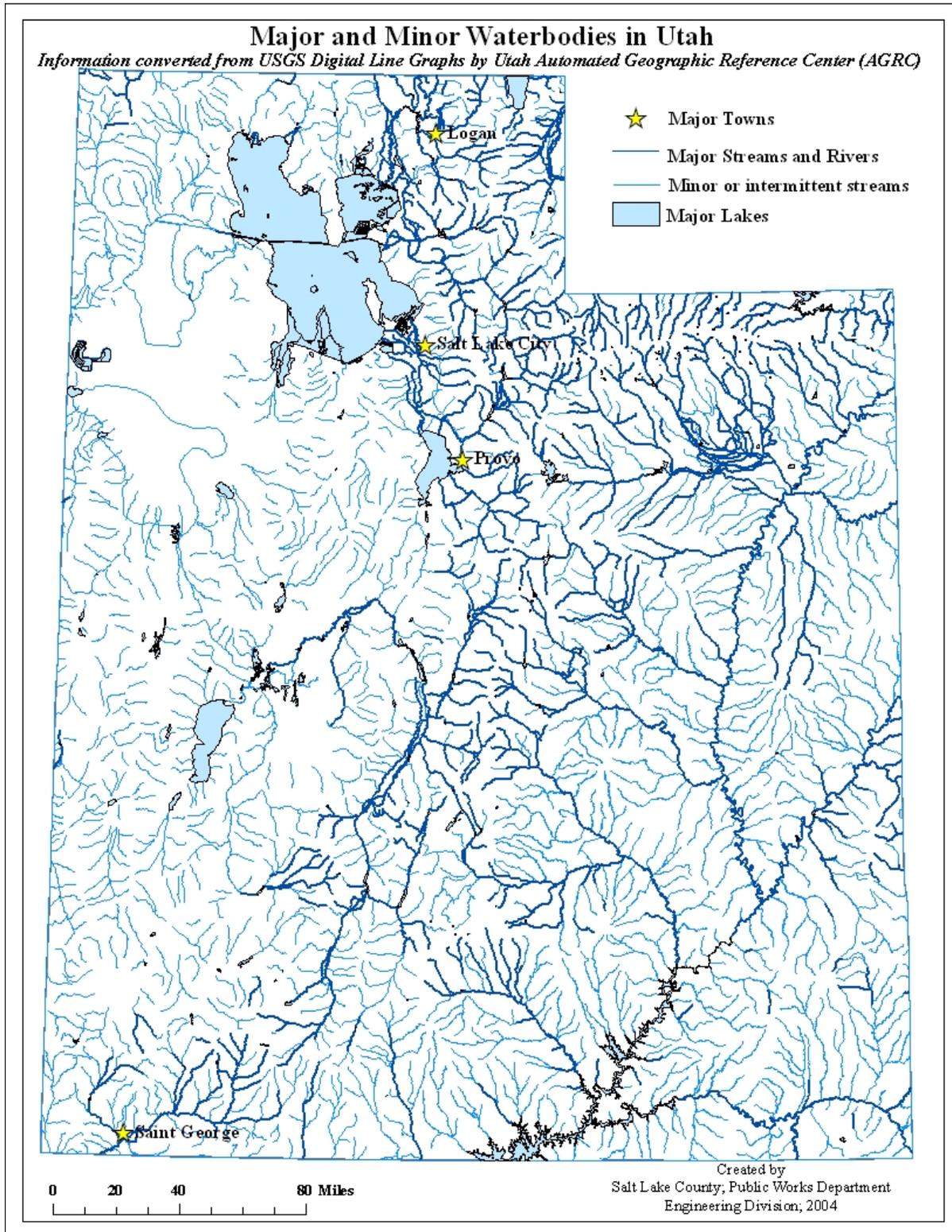


Figure 15. Major and Minor Waterbodies in Utah.

### Utah Stream Beneficial Use Assessment - 2006

Information provided by the Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ)

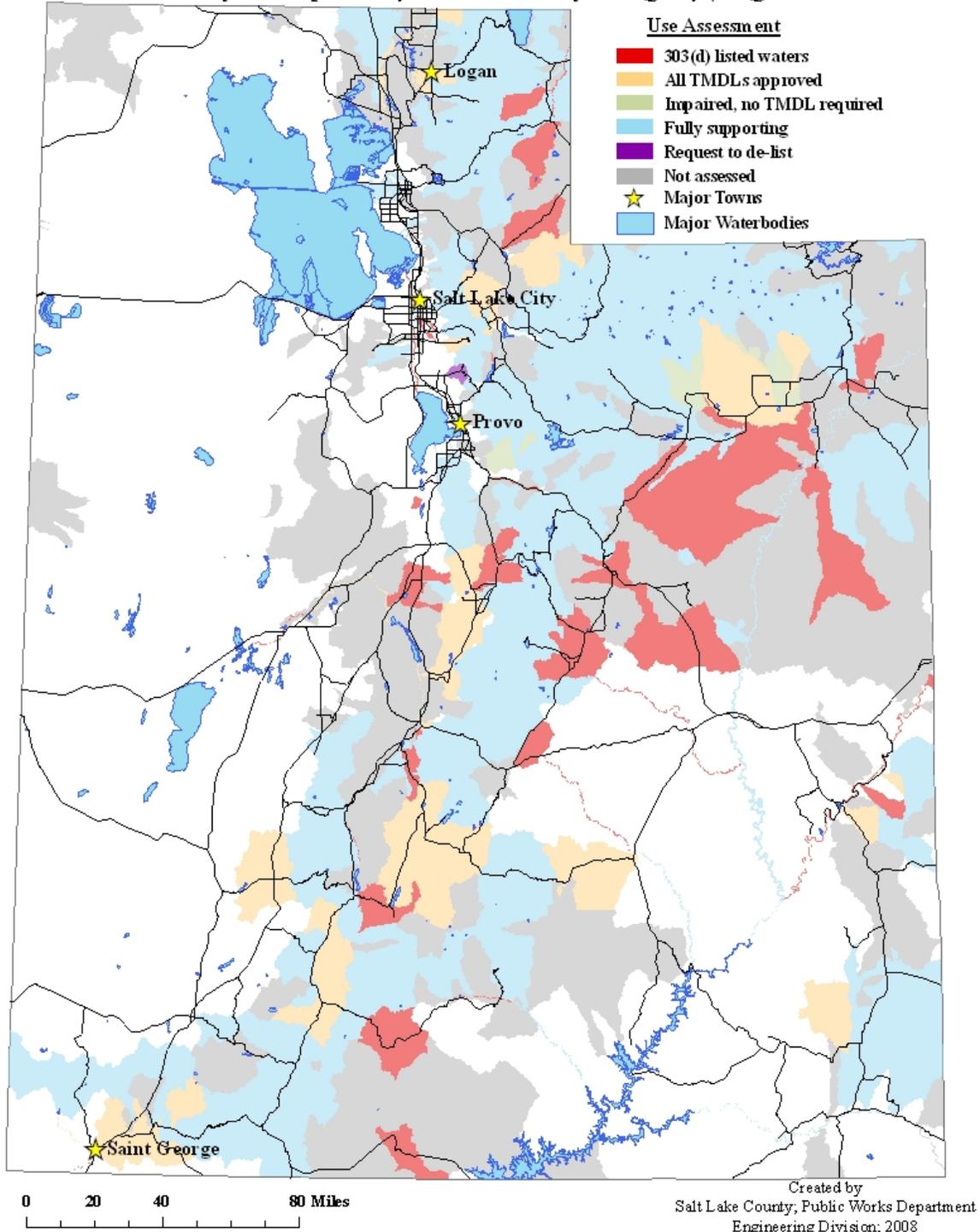


Figure 16. Utah Stream Beneficial Use Assessment — 2006

### Utah Lake Beneficial Use Assessment - 2006

Information provided by the Utah Division of Water Quality

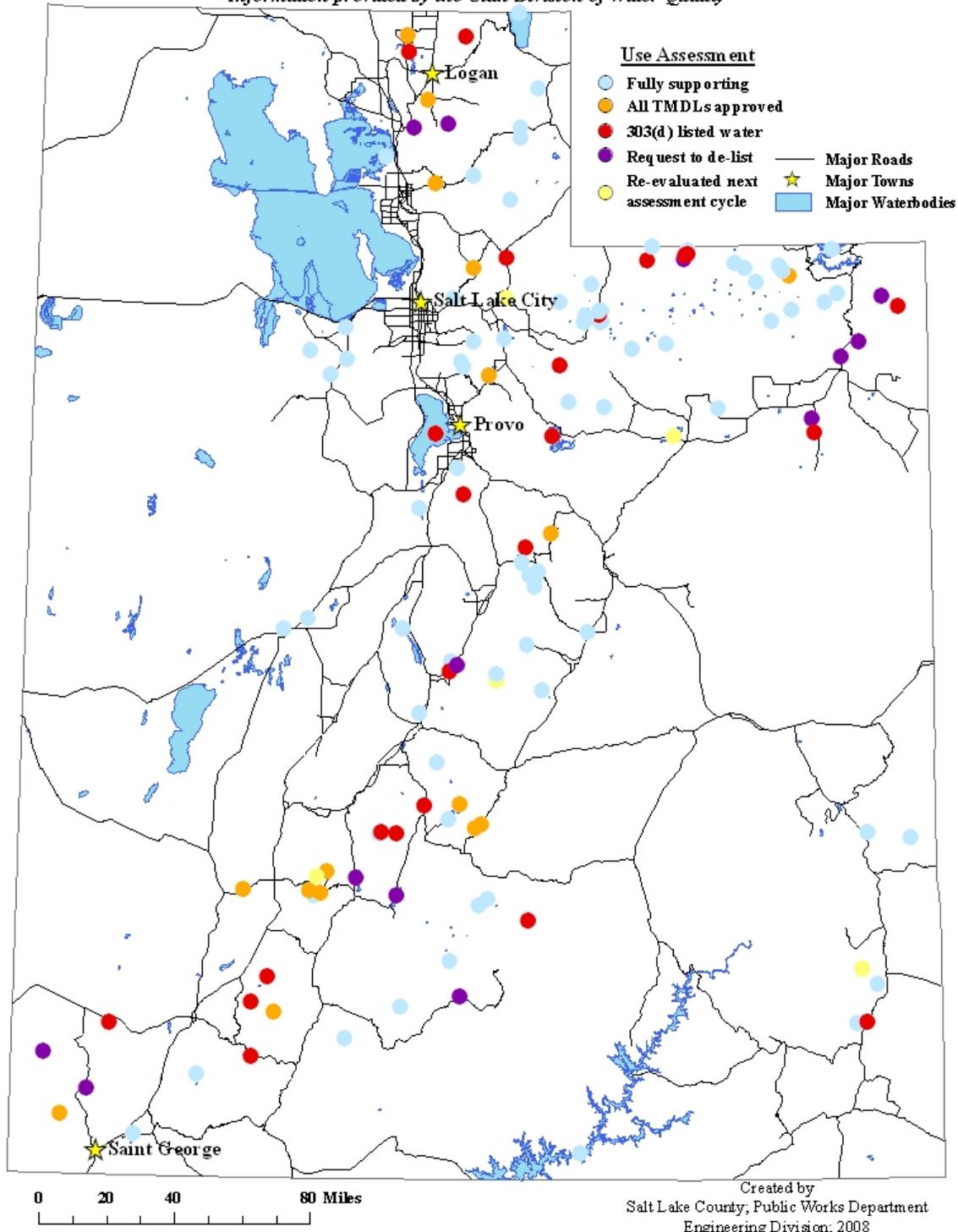


Figure 17. Utah Lake Beneficial Use Assessment — 2006

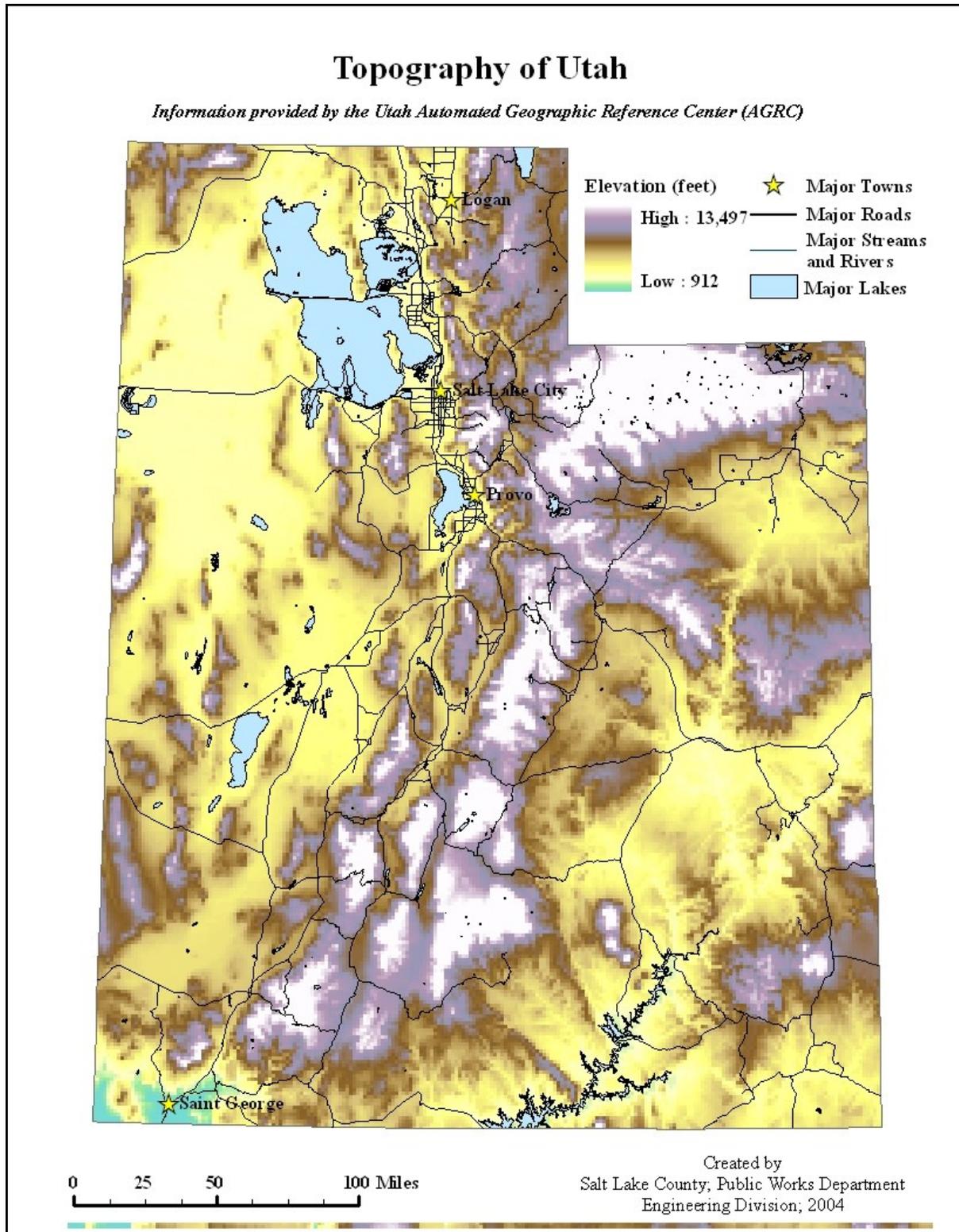
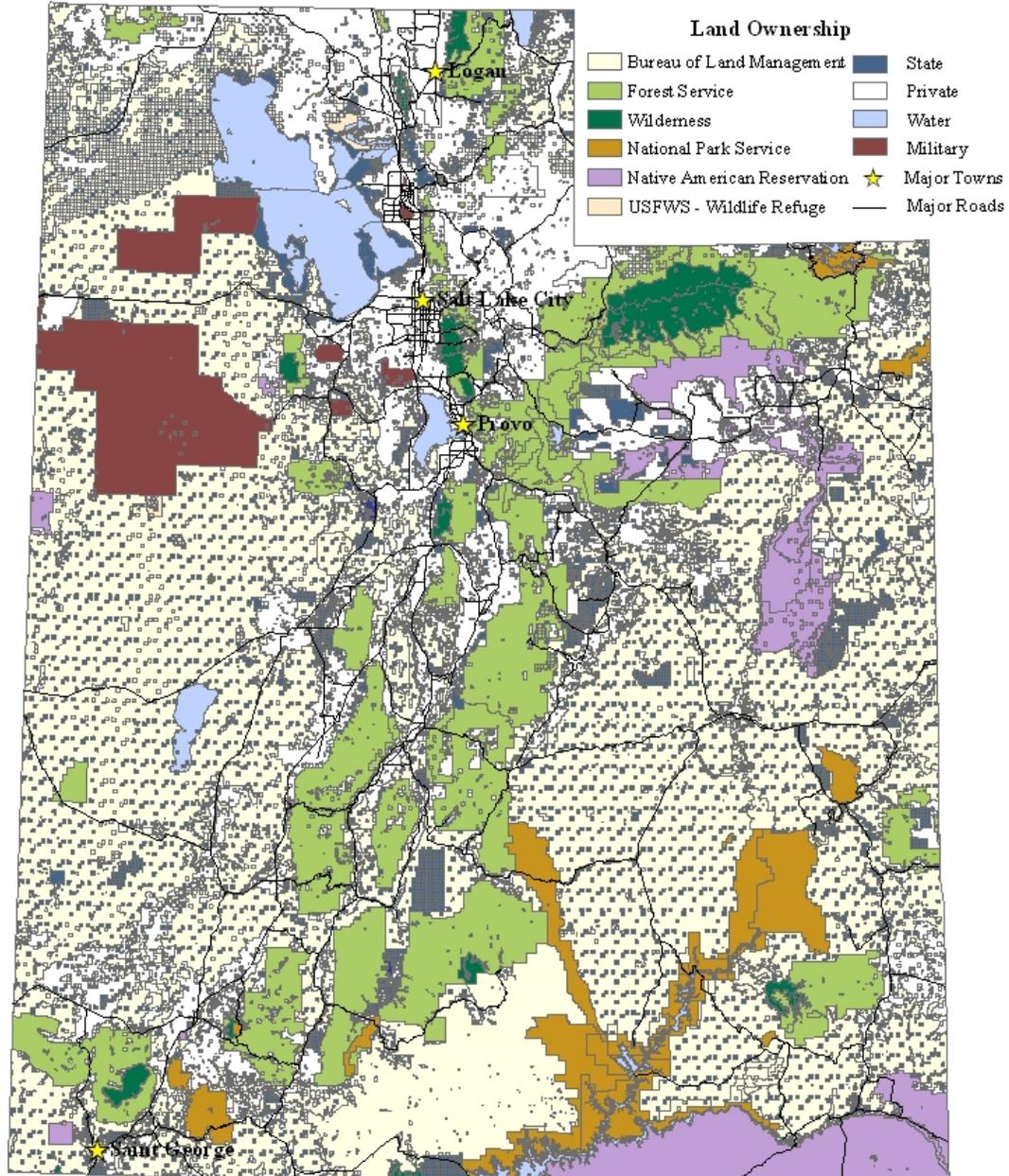


Figure 18. Topography of Utah

### Land Ownership in Utah

*This data set was converted to ARC/INFO format by the AGRC from USGS Digital Line Graph files (DLG).*



0 25 50 100 Miles

Created by  
Salt Lake County, Public Works Department  
Engineering Division, 2004

Figure 19. Land Ownership in Utah

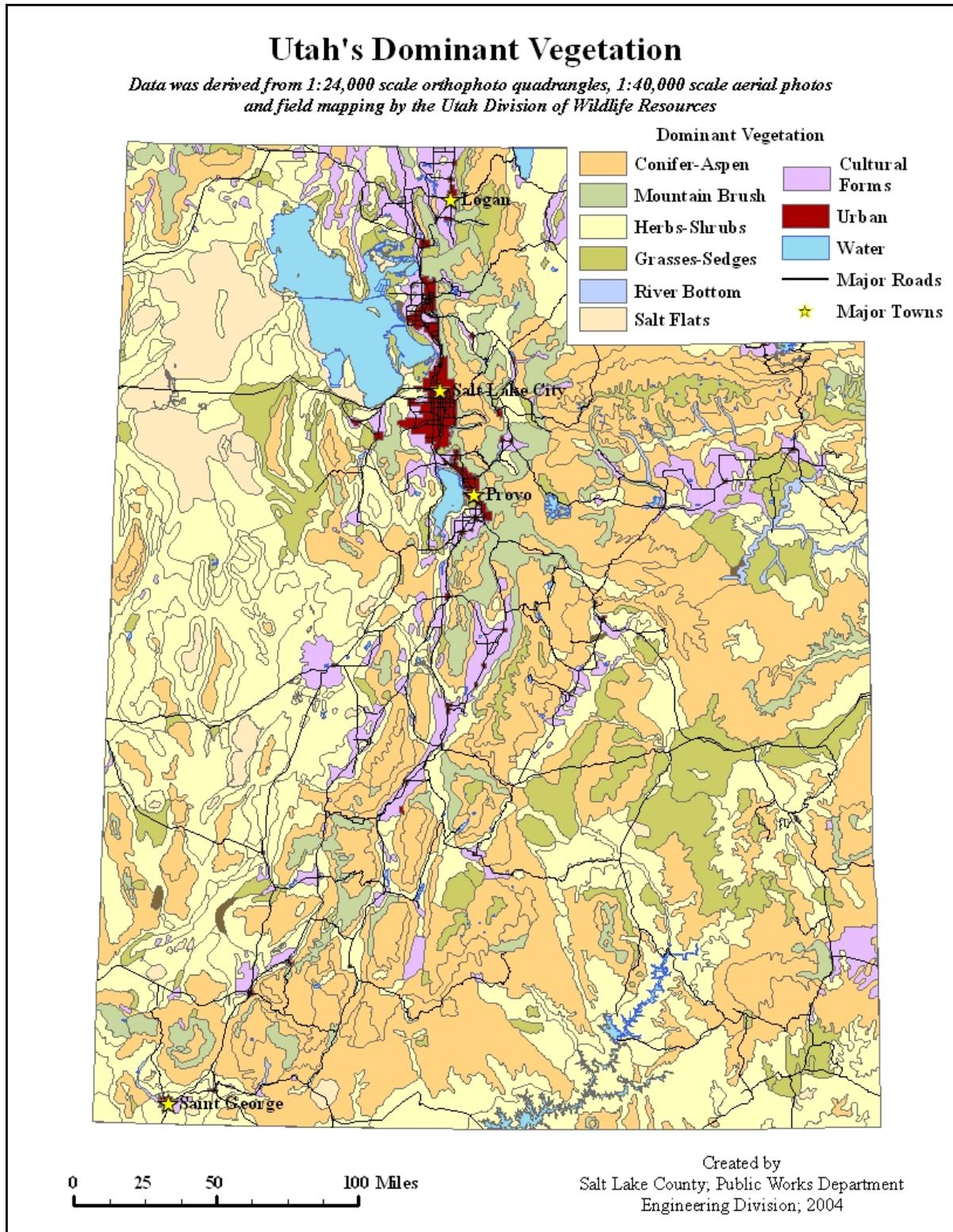


Figure 20. Utah's Dominant Vegetation

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Utah's Approach to Nonpoint Source Control for Abandoned Mine Sites

### III. UTAH'S APPROACH TO NONPOINT SOURCE CONTROL FOR ABANDONED MINE SITES

Utah's mining nonpoint source program is designed to address mining water quality impacts that are the result of mining activities that occurred previous to the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972. The program takes an iterative approach, in conjunction with the State's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program, to the control of these sources. This approach begins with the identification of stream segments that are impaired due to abandoned mine related sources. The process uses a scientific approach to remediation based upon the targeting of sources of pollution through the collection of data, setting of goals for cleanup, determining clean up strategies, and use of appropriate regulatory and non-



Figure 21. Temple Mountain Project area, Emery County, Utah



Figure 22. Star District Project area, Beaver County, Utah

regulatory mechanisms to implement those strategies. It also provides follow-up monitoring to determine if the efforts are successful (Figure 23).

#### Identification of Mining Impacted Streams

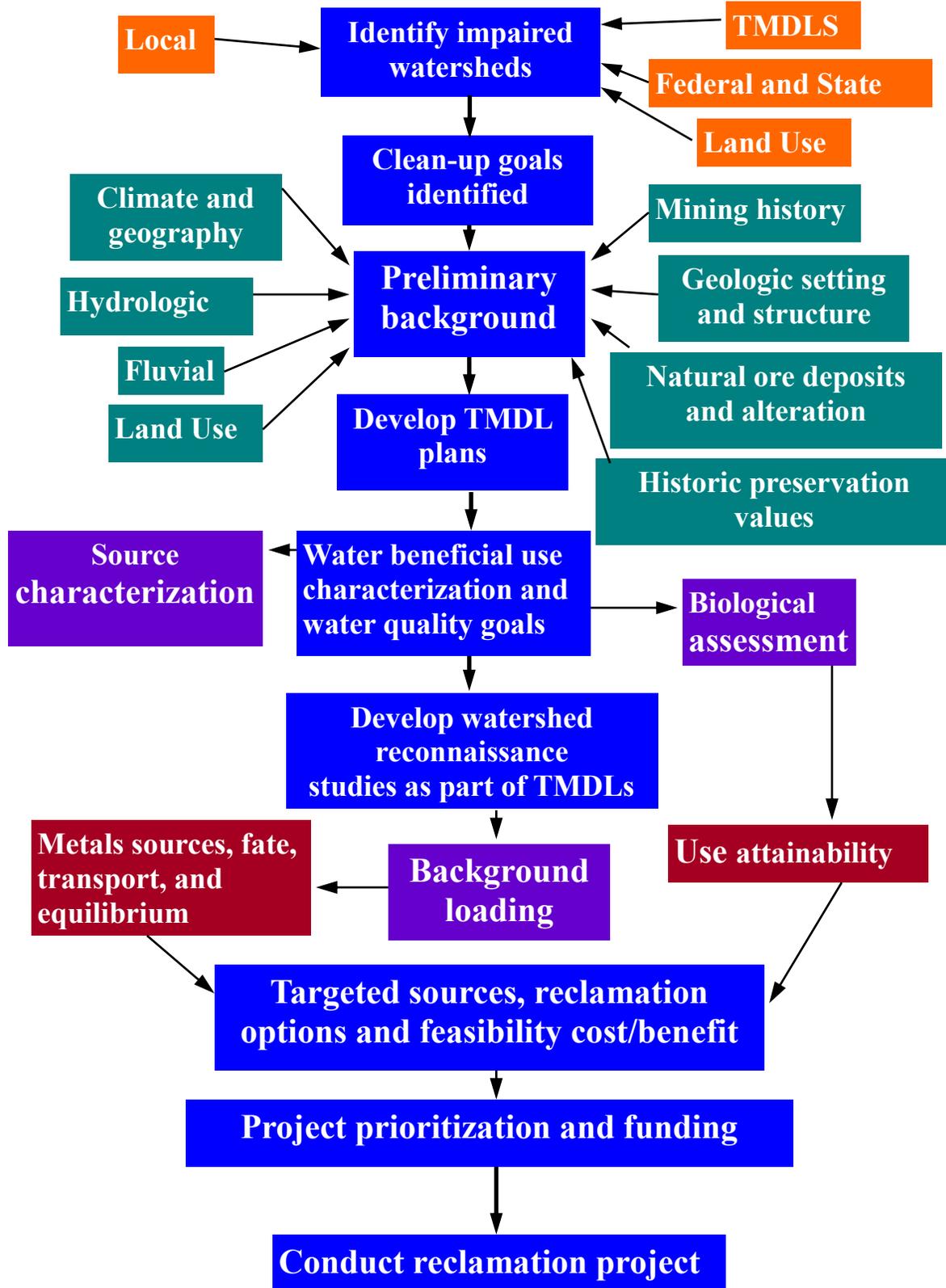
In Utah, significant work has been done to address abandoned mine reclamation. However, minimal stream chemistry information was available for most of these actions. Therefore, in conjunction with the development of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Watershed Plans, it is critical to characterize the chemical, physical, and biological health of impacted segments in order to determine the full impacts of these activities and the potential for restoring, or improving beneficial uses.

A systematic program for scientific data collection, which characterizes pollution sources and stream health, is the process most states use. This information should be gathered prior to taking the next steps and ultimately prescribing actions for the abatement of pollution and preparation of specific project implementation plans. Metal source characterization also provides data for prioritization of mine sites for cleanup and reclamation. In addition to source characterization, reconnaissance watershed studies should include aquatic and biological assessment as well as background loading investigations as part of TMDL development.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Utah's Approach to Nonpoint Source Control for Abandoned Mine Sites

Figure 23. Systematic Approach to Mine Reclamation in Utah



# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Utah's Approach to Nonpoint Source Control for Abandoned Mine Sites

It should be noted that conducting such an extensive investigation requires a large staff effort as well as funding mechanisms to pay for the staff, necessary equipment, and laboratory costs. To begin with, the State of Utah chooses a different approach—coordinating with other agencies and organizations in identifying known areas and known sources of pollution.



Figure 24. Mine Tailings from abandoned mine

### Preliminary Information Gathering

Watershed assessment begins with gathering a wide range of information about the watershed. Factors for consideration include:

- Mining history
- Geologic setting
- Structural setting, climate and geography
- Stream hydrology
- Land ownership
- Hydrologic impacts
- Current land use
- Historic sites
- Ore mineralogy
- Ore deposition
- Alteration mineralogy
- Mining methods
- Beneficial use of water

### Stream and Mine Discharge Characterization Surface

The most important characterization tool for streams and mine discharge is surface water sampling. Stream and mine discharge samples provide data to isolate the most important pollutant sources in a watershed. For some locations it may be possible to accomplish this characterization with a tracer-injection and synoptic-sampling analysis. Results can subsequently aid in the prioritization of sites and projects. In order for sample data to be meaningful, the data must be accurate and reproducible. Sampling plans and protocols help to assure the accuracy of data by creating standard procedures for data collection and management.

Each project requires both Sampling Analysis Plans (SAP) and Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP) (Appendix D).

### Initial Field Reconnaissance

Some of the factors that may be considered in the initial field reconnaissance studies of streams and mine discharge include:

- Accurate locations of all draining adits and shafts
- Field measurements of pH, conductivity, and temperature
- Analysis of Total Suspended Solids
- X-Ray Fluorescence investigations
- Flow estimates
- Map flow pathways to streams
- Visual metals indications, precipitates and staining
- Seasonal flow and chemistry variations
- Tracer study locations and design of program
  - Fluorescent dye tracing
  - Ionic tracer methods
  - Injection and recovery sampling locations
- Fate and transport modeling

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Utah's Approach to Nonpoint Source Control for Abandoned Mine Sites



Figure 25. Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, Utah.

### Mine/Groundwater Sources and Pathways

#### Groundwater Source and Pathway Studies

Groundwater source and pathway studies determine the contribution that mine discharge may have to local groundwater systems, and can delineate contaminant pathways.

#### Initial Field Reconnaissance

Some of the factors that may be considered in the initial field reconnaissance studies preceding mine groundwater sources and pathway sampling include:

- Structural geologic evaluations such as faults, fractures, and joint systems in addition to porosity and permeability estimates of rock units
- GPS locations of all springs and seeps
- Temperature surveys of adits and springs
- High-flow and low-flow measurements and comparisons to adit discharges
- Existing well data (upstream and downstream)
- Tracer injection studies

### Mine Waste Rock Characterization

#### Mine Waste Sampling

The QAPP and the SAP for the sampling of mine waste rock are similar to those for surface water sampling in that the goal is to assure accurate and reproducible results. The difference between surface water and mine waste samples is the availability and mobility of metals. Mine waste may contain high levels of heavy metals, however the waste may have a minimal impact on water quality if the metals are not leached from the waste. The chemistry of each waste pile is different and samples can help determine the impact that the site has on the watershed.

#### Initial Field Reconnaissance

Some of the factors that may be considered in the initial field reconnaissance studies of mine waste rock include:

- Accurate locations of waste deposits
- pH and reactivity of wastes
- Gangue minerals and buffering potential
- Volume estimates of individual deposits
- Visual indications of pollution such as vegetative stress and oxide staining
- Secondary metal oxide formation
- Seepage, contact with water and proximity to streams
- Background radioactive constituent readings
- Stability with respect to erosion and stream encroachment



Figure 26. Sheeprock Mountains Project area, Tooele County, Utah.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Utah's Approach to Nonpoint Source Control for Abandoned Mine Sites

### Setting Goals for Specific Nonpoint Source Mine Projects

Establishing goals for stream segments impacted by abandoned mines requires the collection of the data mentioned above and the consideration of existing water quality standards as well as stream classifications. An understanding of the potential productivity of the stream system and its aquatic ecology is also necessary to establish appropriate goals for clean up projects. Generally this means a Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) for stream segments to determine the appropriate beneficial uses, the levels of protection for sensitive aquatic species, and the ability of the watershed and site to produce and sustain that desired use. Some pertinent water quality standards for aquatic life, agricultural, and recreational use are provided in Appendix B. Since the establishment of goals may influence the actions taken in local communities, it is important that the process is conducted with the benefit of local involvement and participation.



Figure 27. Stateline Project area, Iron county, Utah.

### Establishing Strategies

Once the goals for a clean up effort are established, the next step is to analyze how such goals may be attained. This process of strategizing often involves considering the sources of pollution, the range of possible controls, the effectiveness of those controls, and then comparing the results of various clean up strategies or scenarios against the goal for water quality improvement. This process may be fairly simple, if the numbers of sites considered are few; however, this process may be very time consuming and complex if the



Figure 28. Star District Project area, Beaver County, Utah

number or the characteristics of sites are large and highly varied.

Preparing reclamation strategies and alternatives requires a significant knowledge of the site to determine the potential effectiveness of various control scenarios. Additional specific site characterization work may be required to determine the most appropriate and cost effective means of control. Strategies may require computer modeling to determine if the composite of various scenarios will allow established goals to be attained. The results of these strategy efforts may be reflected as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) targets for stream segments listed under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act.



Figure 29. Abandoned mining operation

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Utah's Approach to Nonpoint Source Control for Abandoned Mine Sites

### IV. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

#### Introduction

Mining, by its nature, brings un-weathered rock materials from the interior of the earth to the surface. Mining and subsequent processing of ore break the rock into fine particles, vastly increasing the surface area available for chemical reactions with air, water, and bacteria. Underground mine workings act as wells, collecting ground water and providing a conduit for water to the surface. Waste rock historically was dumped immediately downhill of a mine, an act of expedience that put the wastes directly in the path of water discharged from the mine. If the mine water had not already become contaminated in the mine, it would become contaminated percolating through the dump. Clean surface runoff can similarly become contaminated by flowing over or through waste dumps. This section summarizes management practices that may be employed to address impacts from mining activities.

Mills produce tailings in slurries that flow downstream and deposit in waterways. Mill tailings frequently contain the same contaminating minerals as mine wastes and impact aquatic organisms similarly.

#### Areas of Concern

Local geology, surface and groundwater hydrology, and mining technology (e.g. underground vs. open pit) all affect the degree to which water quality is diminished by abandoned mines. In Utah, several categories of water pollution are of particular concern. Acid rock drainage, heavy metals, radioactivity and sediment are some of these categories.

Acid rock drainage is a problem not only because of the effects of the acidity itself on aquatic life, but because metals in the rock are mobilized by acidic conditions. The dissolved metals, depending on concentration, can have acute or chronic toxicity on fish, wildlife, livestock, and humans.

Sediment eroded from mine sites increases water turbidity and deposits silt on fish spawning areas, as well as carrying chemical pollutants from the mine into headwater streams of use for municipal water supply.

Acid rock drainage, also known as acid mine drainage (both terms are frequently referred to by their acronyms, ARD and AMD) forms when surface water or shallow groundwater reacts with rock containing sulfide minerals such as pyrite and air to form sulfuric acid. The acid leaches heavy metals from mineralized rock and keeps the metals in solution. Typical metals mobilized by ARD are iron, aluminum, manganese, copper, arsenic, and zinc and to a lesser extent, lead, selenium, silver, and cadmium. These metals are then dispersed in the water draining from the mineralized areas. As ARD gradually neutralizes, the dissolved metals may cause elevated levels of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), which may impact downstream aquatic and culinary uses. Iron commonly is one of the metals mobilized by ARD; it precipitates as an orange or yellow coating on rocks and vegetation in the stream channel. This staining, called "yellow boy," is a dramatic visible indicator that ARD is present in a watercourse. Acid drainage can adversely impact aquatic and human health when it contaminates surface water and groundwater.



Figure 30. Sheeprack Mountains Project area, Tooele County, Utah

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Utah's Approach to Nonpoint Source Control for Abandoned Mine Sites



**Figure 31. Star District Project area, Tooele County, Utah**

Sediment and colloidal material<sup>2</sup> resulting from mining and milling activities can contaminate streams, rivers, wetlands and other riparian areas. Sediment and colloid loads often contain high concentrations of heavy metals, radioactive constituents, or other dissolved solids that can destroy aquatic habitats as well as release metals and radioactive constituents to the water column. Sediment and colloids at high enough levels in the water can also affect suitability of the water for human uses such as agriculture and drinking water.

### **Purposes of Best Management Practices**

Best management practices<sup>3</sup> (BMPs) are those techniques proven to effectively reduce environmental degradation. Some abandoned mine nonpoint source best management practices, especially those directed at controlling soil erosion and sediment loss, employ simple, “low-technology” ideas. Others require sophisticated engineering and specialized machinery. Some BMPs cost nothing; others can cost millions. Regardless of cost or complexity, BMPs set the bar for reclamation because they work. BMP manuals give reclamation planners a toolbox of techniques to draw from and guidelines for designing reclamation projects.

BMPs provide a standard of comparison for reclamation proposals. Project proposals funded by the Mining Nonpoint Source Management Program should make use of BMPs to achieve the following goals:

- Prevent adverse human health impacts.
- Improve habitat conditions for fish and wildlife.
- Prevent mine and mill waste sediments containing heavy metals or radioactive constituents from entering surface waters to achieve TMDL as applicable.
- Manage and control the process of acid water formation and heavy metal mobilization that may contaminate surface water and groundwater.
- Enhance the natural beauty and visual quality of a reclaimed area.

Remediation<sup>4</sup> of water quality problems originating at abandoned mines is an evolving, dynamic science. Ideally, the “best” in “best management practice” is a moving target. Today’s cutting edge BMP may be tomorrow’s standard operating procedure. Over time, some techniques will prove successful and become widely adopted; others may not live up to their initial promise and will be discarded as better techniques come available.

BMPs for mining related nonpoint source pollution in Utah need to address both primary categories of problems: acid rock drainage and sediment. A wide range of technologies can be applied to the remediation of abandoned mined lands. Management of acid rock drainage entails practices that are more or less unique to mine reclamation. Sediment and erosion control at mine sites share techniques with BMPs for construction, forestry, and agricultural settings.

<sup>2</sup> Sediment and colloids are both solid particles suspended in the water column. Sediment particles are held in suspension by the water’s motion and will eventually settle out when the water velocity drops. Colloids are so very fine that they are suspended in the water by Brownian motion and do not settle out by gravity. Although they do not settle out, colloids can accumulate in sediments when flow is “filtered” through alluvial deposits or when they are taken up by living organisms.

<sup>3</sup> A best management practice, often referred to simply as BMP, is a proven practice (or combination of practices) that is determined to be the most effective, practical, economical, and technologically sophisticated means to better manage mining wastes and prevent or reduce contamination of groundwater.

<sup>4</sup> “Remediation” has a specific meaning within the CERCLA (Superfund) context when applied to contaminated sites, including mines and mills. It is used here in its common, general sense of a treatment or process to reduce or eliminate a problem.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Utah's Approach to Nonpoint Source Control for Abandoned Mine Sites



Figure 32. Sheeprock Mountains Project area, Tooele County, Utah.

### BMPs for Control of Acid Rock Drainage

BMPs to remediate acid drainage and dissolved metals generally take one of these approaches:

- *Divert* clean water away from reactive materials to prevent contamination.
- *Remove* reactive materials from contact with water.
- *Isolate* reactive materials from surface and/or subsurface water to prevent contamination.
- *Manipulate water chemistry* to favor desired conditions.
- *Treat* contaminated water to remove contaminants.

The first three approaches try to prevent contamination from happening; the others try to remove contamination after it has occurred. The preventive methods are based on this oversimplified reaction describing ARD formation: sulfide mineral + water + air = ARD. Bacteria catalyze the process. Remove any component from the mix and ARD does not form. The treatment methods work on a more sophisticated understanding of the suite of chemical reactions that cause ARD. Many remediation methods may work on more than one approach at the same time.

In general, Utah's Nonpoint Source Management Plan favors "passive" forms of treatment; however, when prevention of ARD by keeping reactive minerals separated from water is not feasible, methods that reduce or remove acidity and dissolved metals from the water are needed. These methods require a more

nanced understanding of ARD chemistry and require more sophisticated engineering and technology. ARD treatment technologies are classed as active or passive treatment. Active treatment requires ongoing inputs of energy, labor, materials, and money to operate and maintain a treatment facility or apparatus. Passive treatments are designed to be self-sustaining once started and to operate without external energy inputs and with only occasional maintenance. Since orphaned or abandoned mines are often remote and most organizations engaged in mine reclamation cannot commit the resources for long-term water treatment, active technologies are usually not desirable. Passive methods are generally preferred. No active treatment BMPs are discussed here.

### Diversion

Diversion methods keep clean water away from reactive materials such as mine dumps, mine waste, and ore bodies. At its simplest, diversion can be a small ditch upslope of a mine dump to route surface runoff around the dump. Good quality water flowing from a mine portal onto a dump can be diverted in a pipe or channel around the dump instead. Impermeable soil covers or "store release" soil caps can be used to prevent infiltration of precipitation into mine waste piles. A more complex diversion method is sealing underground rock fractures with grout to prevent groundwater from contacting sulfide mineral deposits.

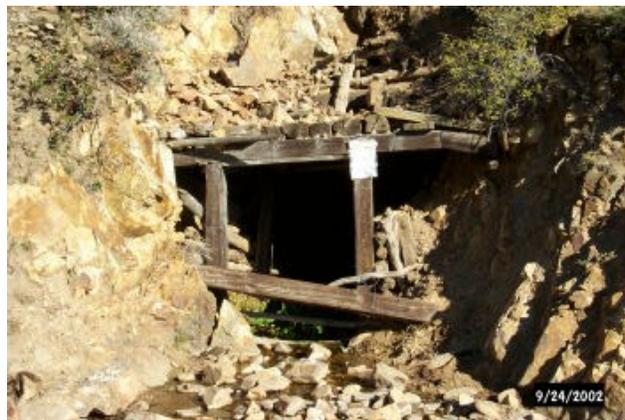


Figure 33. Sheeprock Mountains Project area, Tooele County, Utah.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Utah's Approach to Nonpoint Source Control for Abandoned Mine Sites



**Figure 34. Sheeprock Mountains Project area, Tooele County, Utah**

### Removal

Removal is a simple way to prevent ARD. Mine wastes were sometimes dumped directly into perennial or intermittent stream channels. Adit discharges sometimes flow directly onto dumps. Where mine wastes lie in the path of water, the wastes can be excavated and moved to a dry location. Multiple small waste piles can be moved and consolidated into a single pile to reduce the effective area exposed to rainfall and runoff. Wastes should be graded to divert runoff away from the waste rather than infiltration, and minimize erosion. Once physically removed from contact with water, the wastes can be further protected with flow barriers to isolate them from water as discussed below.

### Isolation

Reactive mine wastes can be isolated from water by burial or capping. This puts a layer of uncontaminated inert material over the reactive material. The cover layer limits the contact of the wastes with water and air, reducing acid generation. The cover shields the wastes from erosion and can act as a growth medium for vegetation, which provides additional erosion control benefits and aesthetic improvement. Capping or burial can be done with the wastes *in situ* or removed to a disposal site. A cap may be as simple as a layer of local soil obtained onsite, or it may be a complex, multilayered barrier of engineered materials, such as compacted clay, synthetic geotextiles, or geomembranes designed to reduce infiltration and subsequent leaching. The specific design of the cover layer depends on the characteristics of the site and the acid generating potential of the wastes. A surface cap is often sufficient, but some situations may

require a liner under the wastes to completely encapsulate the material.

### Manipulation of Water Chemistry

Several passive treatment methods work by introducing alkalinity into the system to raise the pH of the water. Dissolved metals are less soluble at higher pH's and precipitate out of solution. Some passive treatment methods take advantage of biological processes to alter pH and metal solubility.

*Anoxic Limestone Drains*—Anoxic limestone drains are constructed so that ARD water is directed through coarse limestone in a sealed, saturated system, such as a plugged adit or closed trench. Oxygen-free conditions are required so that metal hydroxide precipitates do not form in the drain and coat the limestone, stopping the neutralization action and clogging pore space. Water leaving the anoxic drain is then aerated in a settling pond to allow the metals to precipitate.

*Oxic Limestone Drains*—Oxic limestone drains are an alternative to anoxic drains where dissolved metal concentrations are low. ARD is allowed to flow over limestone in an open trench. It has the advantage that the “consumption” of limestone can be monitored and the trench refilled as necessary. Success in the western United States has been limited due to a higher iron and aluminum content in ARD, which precipitates and “armors” the limestone surfaces. These systems are often compromised by high precipitation events and spring snowmelt runoff.

*Aqueous Lime Injection*—Aqueous lime injection is a passive method to introduce neutralizing agents into mine drainage. Clean water is passed through a pond containing an alkaline neutralizing agent such as kiln dust or fly ash. The high pH effluent is mixed with the mine drainage before it enters a settling pond. The pH of the mine drainage is subsequently lowered. This system depends on having an economical source of neutralizing agent available.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Utah's Approach to Nonpoint Source Control for Abandoned Mine Sites

### Treatment of water to reduce/remove contaminants

*Inhibition of Sulfur Oxidizing Bacteria*—Some types of bacteria, notably *Thiobacillus ferroxidans*, mediate certain steps of the series of chemical reactions that convert sulfide minerals into sulfuric acid (ARD). By controlling the bacteria, the production of ARD can be controlled. One method to reduce acid formation in abandoned coal refuse piles uses a surfactant detergent in time-release pellets to inhibit bacterial growth.

*Sulfate Reducing Wetlands*—Just as *Thiobacillus* bacteria play a role in ARD generation and can be exploited for its control, other types of bacteria play a role in ARD neutralization and can be put to work treating ARD. These bacteria use the oxygen in the sulfates found in ARD for their respiration and in the process reduce the sulfates to sulfides, which react with dissolved metals in the water to form insoluble precipitates. This bacterial action both raises the pH of the water and removes metals. A common method of cultivating bacteria for ARD treatment is the sulfate reducing wetland. These are shallow artificial basins with a gravel and perforated pipe subdrain collection system. On top of this is placed a thick layer of organic matter (such as manure, compost, straw, or sawdust) to act as a growth substrate and source of carbon for the bacteria. ARD in open pit mine impoundments has been successfully treated by simply dumping large amounts of molasses (carbon source for bacteria) and methanol (to



Figure 35. Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, Utah.



Figure 36. Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, Utah.

force the bacterial respiration to be aerobic) directly into the water.

*Oxidation Wetlands*—Unlike sulfate reducing wetlands, oxidation wetlands reduce ARD through oxidation. These wetlands look and function like typical natural wetlands. Familiar wetland plants, like cattails, sedges, rushes, and algae aerate the water and cause metals to precipitate. The metals adsorb to the plants and accumulate in the organic sediments.

*Institutional Controls*—Institutional controls use physical barriers and/or land use restrictions to reduce the potential for human exposure to harmful material. Fencing, signage, and road closures can discourage visitation to mine sites. Removal of structures can make a site less appealing to visit. While institutional controls can reduce human exposure to risk, they do nothing to address the source of the contamination or prevent its spread. Furthermore, they are easily circumvented and are not totally effective at preventing exposure. However, institutional controls can be useful tools for mitigating impacts from abandoned mines.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Utah's Approach to Nonpoint Source Control for Abandoned Mine Sites

### BMPs for Control of Radiological Problems

Radiation adds another dimension to the health and environmental hazards of abandoned mines and makes uranium a special case. However, some of the same BMPs for controlling ARD and sediment are applicable since control of exposure still hinges on isolation, stabilization, and immobilization. However, uranium is water soluble and therefore may exist outside of ARD situations that are mobilized. As a metal, uranium is subject to mobilization in acidic conditions and therefore is also subject to ARD control techniques. Erosion control practices to stabilize mine waste dumps prevent uranium-bearing particles from migrating into the environment. Uranium mine reclamation projects may have radiation-specific design features (such as measures to address radon gas emissions and worker safety protocols) but will also use standard nonpoint source control BMPs.

Uranium mines are plentiful in the Colorado Plateau of southeastern Utah and in other locations such as Marysvale. Additionally, uranium may occur in small quantities in association with other minerals statewide.



Figure 37. Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, Utah.

### BMPs for Control of Sediment and Erosion

BMPs for control of sediment and erosion generally take one of three approaches:

- *Manage runoff* to reduce its quantity and velocity.
- *Stabilize* fine soil or mine waste particles in place.
- *Trap* mobilized particles before they leave the site.

These processes are interrelated. Most erosion control techniques work on more than one erosion mechanism at the same time. For instance, plant leaves reduce the force of raindrop impact while the roots bind soil particles together. Soil surface roughness traps windblown organic debris (e.g. leaves, seeds) and moisture in the pockets, which aids the establishment of vegetation.

Construction activities to reclaim mine sites or to implement ARD remediation BMPs themselves create soil disturbance that can cause erosion. Excavation, regrading, and burial of mine dumps and mill mine tailings turn an abandoned mine site into an active construction zone with its own set of erosion risks. An area beyond the original footprint of the mine site will be disturbed for access roads, borrow sites, and disposal sites. Erosion initiated by construction activities is detrimental because it depletes soils of nutrients and structure at the disturbance site. Erosion at the disturbance site then results in deposits of silt at a downstream location. Any remediation project design needs to incorporate erosion control BMPs for construction disturbance as well as for erosion present at the mine.

Reducing the quantity and velocity of surface water runoff reduces the ability of runoff to displace soil particles and encourages infiltration. Reducing the gradient of slopes reduces runoff velocity. Surface roughness keeps water in one place and encourages infiltration. The scale of roughness can range from a few inches (tracking with cleats of crawler-type equipment) to several feet (terracing, dozer gouges). Roughness can be accomplished using standard earthwork equipment (dozers, trackhoes, or hand tools in small areas) although there are also specialized pocking and imprinting implements on the market. Ripping or subsoiling compacted soils allows water to infiltrate and helps root penetration.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Utah's Approach to Nonpoint Source Control for Abandoned Mine Sites



**Figure 38. Sheeprock Mountains Project area, Tooele County, Utah.**

Mulches attenuate raindrop impact and absorb moisture, releasing it gradually. Mulches include straw (must be certified weed-free), plant wastes (e.g. leaves, wood chips, pine needles) and a variety of commercial products (e.g. excelsior or coconut fiber blankets and wood fibers applied by hydroseeding equipment).

Although there are chemical soil binders available for short-term soil stabilization, the best way to keep soil in place is to establish vegetation. Vegetation provides a permanent, self-maintaining, soil cover that binds soil particles in a network of roots.

There are a number of techniques and products available to trap eroded soil and keep it from leaving a site and entering waterways. Straw bale check dams and fabric silt fences are among the most familiar. Very large disturbed areas may need sediment ponds. Proper installation and maintenance of sediment trap structures are critical, since failure can result in severe erosion. Sediment traps should be seen only as temporary measures to bridge the time until vegetation can be established to provide long-term erosion control.

Watershed remediation projects that re-align stream channels or restore streams that have been channelized or filled by mining operations can have significant implications for erosion since they result in disturbance within an active stream channel. In the past decade or two there has been increasing awareness and understanding of the geomorphological

principles at work in determining the size, shape, and alignment of natural stream channels. Stream channel design is moving away from a traditional civil engineering approach (i.e. channel as a simple conduit for a design flow) towards more holistic and integrative approaches that incorporate biological bank stabilization techniques, geomorphic structural controls, etc. BMPs for work in stream channels should recognize this emerging school of thought, as stream channel restoration methods are being updated. BMPs for stream channel construction need to address material selection, season of operation, temporary diversions, habitat creation, equipment guidelines, and the experience and qualifications of contractors and overseers.

### Summary of Sediment and Erosion Control Techniques

- Excavation/burial
- Reduce runoff
- Reduce slope
- Terracing
- Mulching
- Re-vegetation
- Check dams
- Sediment traps
- Stream channel restoration



**Figure 39. Temple Mountain Project area, Emery County, Utah.**

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Utah's Approach to Nonpoint Source Control for Abandoned Mine Sites

### BMP Planning and Design

The previous discussion of BMPs has given a general overview of the range of techniques available for remediation of abandoned mine-related water problems. It has not addressed detailed design considerations or construction specifications. Proper application of BMP concepts requires analysis and understanding of the site characterization data outlined previously in Part III. It also requires a thorough understanding of the limitations of the BMPs. Not every BMP is appropriate for every situation.

The best source of assistance for planning and implementing any BMP will be in the locality where the BMPs are used. Local stakeholder groups and representatives from various natural resource management agencies, whether federal, state or local can assist in developing site-specific recommendations. These recommendations or designs account for the local climate, soils and hydrology of the area, as well as any social or cultural conditions.

Most of the BMPs described here need to be specifically tailored to a particular site. Considerations such as the dimensions and alignment of diversion ditches, the thickness and composition of caps to isolate mine wastes, the sizing and design of wetlands, and the selection of plant species to include in a seed mix all depend on the site-specific conditions. Guidelines for these design determinations can be found in the references listed below.

### BMP References

Two publications produced by agencies actively involved in mine reclamation provide an excellent overview and summary of BMPs in this field. They are:

*The Practical Guide to Reclamation in Utah*. 2000. Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil, Gas & Mining. This 163-page publication is only available electronically. It is available online and can be downloaded as a pdf-format file (7.6 Mb) at:

[ftp://ogm.utah.gov/PUB/MINES/Coal\\_Related/RecMan/Reclamation\\_Manual.pdf](ftp://ogm.utah.gov/PUB/MINES/Coal_Related/RecMan/Reclamation_Manual.pdf)

*Best Practices in Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation: The Remediation of Past Mining*



Figure 40. Mine at Gold Hill, Tooele County, Utah

*Practices*. 2002. Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Division of Minerals and Geology. This 42-page book is available in print or online and can be downloaded as a pdf-format file (1.0 Mb) at: [www.mining.state.co.us](http://www.mining.state.co.us).

Mines and ski areas often occur in similar areas with comparable challenges for reclamation (high elevation, poor soils, short growing seasons, steep slopes). The following publication, although oriented towards ski areas, has many BMPs directly applicable to abandoned mine situations, particularly with regards to construction erosion controls and revegetation.

*Ski Area BMPs (Best Management Practices): Guidelines for Planning, Erosion Control, and Reclamation*. 2001. USDA Forest Service, Wasatch-Cache National Forest. This 35 page book is available online and can be downloaded as a pdf-format file (42 kb) at: [http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/publications/pubs/screen\\_SkiBMPs.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/publications/pubs/screen_SkiBMPs.pdf)



Figure 41. Sheeprock Mountains Project area, Tooele County, Utah.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Utah's Approach to Nonpoint Source Control for Abandoned Mine Sites

### Sources of Current BMP Research Information

Several organizations of professionals and groups involved in mine reclamation and water resources hold conferences to present the latest developments in their fields. Papers cover both theoretical developments and on-the-ground applications. Proceedings may be difficult for the general public to find, as distribution is often limited to conference participants and a few academic libraries, but they are the best place to find the newest science. It may take years for developments in this field to make their way to wider interest publications. Articles may be obtained by contacting the sponsoring organization or using online search engines.

#### National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML P)

Organization of 26 state and tribal government agencies that conduct abandoned mine reclamation under the authority of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). Sponsors an annual conference. No permanent mailing address (association administration rotates annually among member organizations).  
E-mail: [naamlp@onenet.net](mailto:naamlp@onenet.net)  
[www.onenet.net/~naamlp/](http://www.onenet.net/~naamlp/)

#### High Altitude Revegetation Committee

Department of Soil and Crop Sciences  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, CO 80523  
(970) 484-4999  
[www.highaltitudereveg.com](http://www.highaltitudereveg.com)  
Sponsors an annual symposium and summer field tour. The focus is on revegetation of disturbed lands in high altitude environments (short growing seasons, harsh conditions, poor soils, steep slopes).

#### American Water Resources Association

4 West Federal Street  
P.O. Box 1626  
Middleburg, VA 20118-1626  
(540) 687-8390  
(540) 687-8395 fax  
E-mail: [info@awra.org](mailto:info@awra.org)  
[www.awra.org/index.html](http://www.awra.org/index.html)  
[www.awra.org/proceedings/proceedings.html](http://www.awra.org/proceedings/proceedings.html)

#### International Conference on Acid Rock Drainage (ICARD)

ICARD is a leading venue for the presentation of research on ARD. It is held every three years. It is sponsored by different organizations each time and has no permanent "home" address, either physically or on the Internet. Additional information can be found through online search engines or at the ICARD page on the International Network for Acid Prevention (INAP) website: <http://www.inap.com.au/lcard.htm>

#### American Society for Mining and Reclamation (ASMR)

3134 Montavesta Road  
Lexington, KY 40502  
(859) 335-6529  
(859) 335-6529 fax  
E-mail: [asmr@insightbb.com](mailto:asmr@insightbb.com)  
<http://ces.ca.uky.edu/asmr/Index.htm>  
Sponsors an annual conference on mined land reclamation and produces proceedings and other publications. Known as the American Society for Surface Mining and Reclamation (ASSMR) prior to 2001.  
<http://ces.ca.uky.edu/asmr/Annual%20Conferences.htm>

#### Reclamation Research Unit

Montana State University - Bozeman  
Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences  
College of Agriculture  
106 Linfield Hall, Bozeman, MT 59717  
(406) 994-4821  
(406) 994-4876 fax  
[www.montana.edu/reclamation/index.html](http://www.montana.edu/reclamation/index.html)  
The Reclamation Research Unit conducts research into remediation of drastically disturbed lands (particularly coal surface mining, but also other mining) and sponsors an annual symposium on reclamation. Symposium proceedings and other technical publications are available (see [www.montana.edu/reclamation/publications.htm](http://www.montana.edu/reclamation/publications.htm))

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Utah's Approach to Nonpoint Source Control for Abandoned Mine Sites

### Sources of Current BMP Research Information—Continued

#### Serials/Journals

Journal of the American Water Resources Association  
American Water Resources Association  
4 West Federal Street  
P.O. Box 1626  
Middleburg, VA 20118-1626  
(540) 687-8390  
[www.awra.org](http://www.awra.org)  
Bimonthly peer-reviewed journal of original articles on all water resources-related subjects. Known as *Water Resources Bulletin* prior to 1997.

Land and Water: The Magazine of Natural Resource Management and Restoration  
P.O. Box 1197  
Fort Dodge, IA 50501  
(515) 576-3191  
[www.landandwater.com](http://www.landandwater.com)  
Bimonthly magazine for contractors, engineers, architects, and government officials working in natural resources fields, with an emphasis on soil and water conservation practices.



**Figure 42.** Cherry Creek Project area, Juab County, Utah

#### Other Sources of Information

Acid Rock Drainage at Enviromine.  
Website created by Chris Mills and Andy Robertson in May, 1997. This website provides an excellent technical overview of acid rock drainage accessible to a general audience. The site explains ARD chemistry, predictive models, treatment, and has an extensive list of references.  
<http://technology.infomine.com/enviromine/ard/home.htm>

*Soil and Water Conservation Practices Handbook*. 1988. U.S.D.A. Forest Service Regions 1 and 4, Forest Service Manual 2509.22.

This U.S. Forest Service handbook addressing conservation practices is currently being revised and updated. Chapter 10 (Soil And Water Conservation Practices Documentation) of this handbook outlines a large number of soil conservation and erosion control practices that are applicable to mine reclamation. This document is available online and can be downloaded as a txt-format text file at:  
[http://www.fs.fed.us/cgi-bin/Directives/get\\_dirs/fsh?2509.18!..](http://www.fs.fed.us/cgi-bin/Directives/get_dirs/fsh?2509.18!..)

*Interim Report IV, Alta Wetland Fen Pilot Project 1999 Monitoring Season*. 2000. Salt Lake County Department of Public Works, Engineering Division, Water Resources Planning and Restoration. This report summarizes water quality and soil data taken in 1999 for the Alta fen pilot project.

Many commercial vendors of products used in reclamation (e.g. geotextiles, geomembranes, gabions, erosion control products) produce catalogs and other marketing materials with useful engineering and design information, including product specifications, design drawings, and manuals. These materials can be helpful in reclamation planning and design, though users should keep in mind that they represent a commercial point of view and may not be totally objective.

### V. PRIORITIES AND GEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE

There are four priorities for Utah's abandoned mine nonpoint source program. These priorities are often combined in individual actions and projects and include:

1. To abate known water quality impairments resulting from nonpoint source pollution.
2. To prevent significant future threats to water quality from abandoned mine sites.
3. To develop and implement new and existing technologies for water quality restoration.
4. To provide information and education to key decision-makers and landowners about the importance of nonpoint source initiatives.

These four priorities are incorporated in a geographic context to target the most critical needs for specific watersheds. By combining statewide GIS information (such as precipitation, elevation, location of impaired stream data, etc.), abandoned mine proposals will be ranked to help prioritize nonpoint source pollution projects in the State of Utah.

#### Targeting Tools

State water quality standards are the underlying framework for water quality management in Utah. Targeting tools that must be considered in the mining nonpoint source management program are the current 303(d) list. Subsequent 303(d) lists, and other Division of Water Quality policy or guidance documents. In developing the management program, these documents have been used to determine priorities for implementing nonpoint source activities for abandoned mines. The impaired segments listed in Utah's current 303(d) list stand as the official priorities for the program. All of these documents and their future updated submittals are incorporated as portions of this management program.

#### State Water Quality-Limited Waters

State water quality standards are the yardstick used by the Division of Water Quality to assess the status of an assessment unit. The state



Figure 43. Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, Utah.

compares recent information regarding the physical, chemical and biological condition of waterbodies with current water quality standards. Where technology-based effluent limits in discharge permits alone are not stringent enough to assure that water quality standards are met, these stream segments are designated water quality-limited and added to the 303(d) list. This list of impaired water of the state is updated every two years.

The 303(d) list includes the identification of the specific pollutant (e.g. metal or sediment) that targets the specific water quality problem for a given segment. Total maximum daily loads (TMDL) are required for all contaminants on all stream segments in the 303(d) list. As defined by the Environmental Protection Agency, a "TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, and an allocation of that amount to the pollutant's sources." The TMDL process must quantify the pollutant sources and allocate allowable loads to the contributing sources for all water quality-limited streams.

Evaluation of nonpoint sources is an essential component of the TMDL process. Stream segments on the 303(d) list will be targeted for nonpoint source controls. Mining-related nonpoint sources have a significant impact on the water quality of selected streams in Utah and will be given a high priority in this process. For metal loading, tracer-injection studies have recently provided valuable information on the location and

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Priorities and Geographic Perspective



**Figure 44. Star District Project area, Beaver County, Utah**

quantity of nonpoint sources in selected streams in the state, and the broader Rocky Mountain Region.

### **Source Water Protection Program**

Like many western states, Utah is a headwater state where the majority of our water supply comes from snow and rainfall within the State. Utah's surface water supplies originate in the high mountainous regions of central and northeastern Utah. Figure 45 shows the major watersheds in Utah and may be used to identify nonpoint source pollution impacts by watershed. Notably, several watersheds in Utah are impacted by abandoned mines and can be addressed in the assessment and implementations portion of individual Source Water Protection plans prepared by water utilities.

### **Public Involvement/Watershed Approach**

The trend in water quality management is toward a watershed-based approach, which is reflected in the assessment and implementation portion of the Source Water Protection Program. The watershed-based approach has led to a number of local and regional initiatives with diverse organizational models and functional roles. Notably, the listing of impaired waterbodies on the State's 303(d) leads to the development of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements. There are currently some twenty-five active local watershed committees throughout the State (See Appendix H).

The trend in water quality management is toward a watershed-based approach. This approach begins with comprehensive water quality monitoring throughout the drainage basin in an effort to identify both point and nonpoint sources

of pollution. The severity of the pollutant contributions often leads to determinations that the beneficial uses of the stream or lake cannot be met unless pollutant loads are significantly reduced. This process is often referred to as the TMDL evaluation, which ultimately leads to implementation of the most effective management practices to solve the problem.

The community plays a major role in this process, and may even inherit requirements for funding the implementation of management practices or pollutant reduction programs. Public involvement of both community interests and regulatory/financial stakeholders is essential to implementation of pollution control practices, with watershed committees often providing the vehicle for public participation. This watershed-based approach has led to many local and regional initiatives, such as watershed permitting, pollutant trading, annual stream clean-ups, and fund raising activities.

One example of how watershed-based approaches integrate with public involvement is the voluntary clean up of abandoned mines in the Mineral Basin district of American Fork Canyon, Utah, where the private non-profit Trout Unlimited organization is partnering with Snowbird Ski Resort and U.S Forest Service to accomplish clean up and stabilization of the abandoned Pacific Mine and other areas. Another example is development of cost-share arrangements between public and private organizations in Little Cottonwood Canyon to upgrade, re-construct and operate the Alta Wetland Fen, which treats acid drainage from the abandoned Columbus Rexall mine. Both projects have achieved extensive monitoring prior to the development of a TMDL and initiation of restoration efforts.

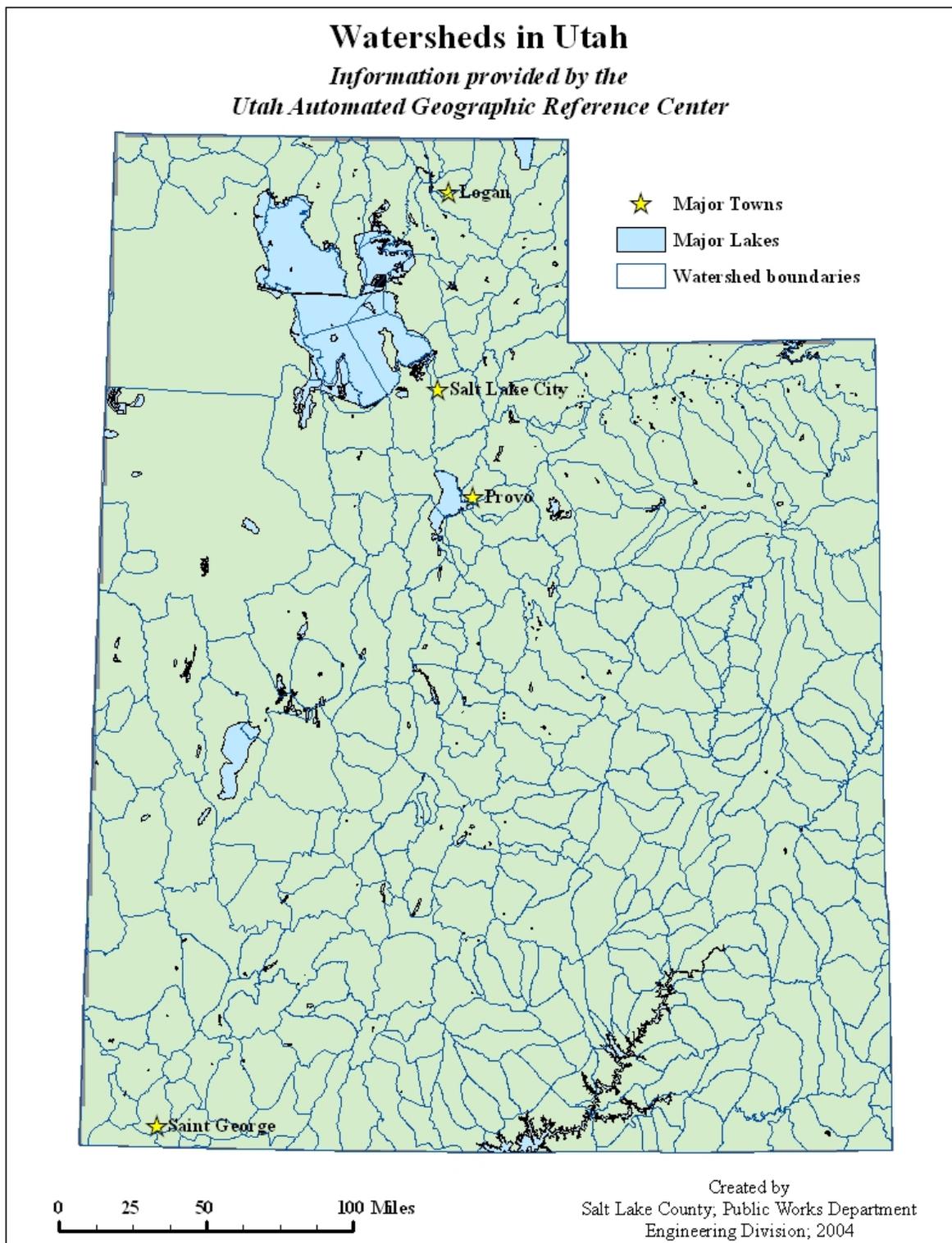


Figure 45. Watersheds in Utah

### VI. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals and objectives listed below can only be accomplished in the specified time frame if sufficient funds are allocated to these action items and if the regulatory climate encourages local and government participation.

**Goal 1 In association with TMDL development, conduct watershed reconnaissance studies for impacted watersheds to assess and characterize mining-related NPS problems and to identify threats to water quality.**

**Objective 1.** Identify and determine restoration goals in watersheds impacted by mining related NPS pollution. (Division of Water Quality and relevant Stakeholders)

Task 1 Identify sources of nonpoint source pollution in conjunction with appropriate TMDLs. (biennially)

Task 2 Conduct outreach activities during TMDL development to solicit input from local stakeholders and public on watershed concerns. (ongoing)

Task 3 Consult with federal and state agencies for input on problem identification and solutions during development of TMDLs. (According to TMDL development schedule)

Task 4 Conduct stream and mine discharge characterization studies.

**Objective 2.** Conduct source characterization studies for watersheds impacted by mining related nonpoint sources as part of relevant TMDL development as scheduled. (Division of Water Quality and relevant land management agencies)

Task 5 Conduct mine waste rock and tailings characterization studies.

Task 6 Conduct mine groundwater pathways characterization studies.

Task 7 Conduct aquatic and biological assessments of targeted watersheds.

Task 8 Conduct background loading studies for targeted watersheds.

**Objective 3.** Rank and prioritize individual mine sites for reclamation and water quality improvement projects as part of TMDL/ Watershed plans. (locally lead Watershed committees)

Task 9 Use source characterization data in conjunction with aquatic and biological assessment, background loading investigations, public input and cost benefit analysis to prioritize sites for reclamation. (biennially)



Figure 46. Staeline Project area, Iron County, Utah.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Priorities and Geographic Perspective

**Goal 2 Protect surface and groundwater by developing and implementing water quality projects using BMPs to:**

- A) return streams impacted by mining to designated uses**
- B) prevent significant threats to water quality from nonpoint source activities**
- C) develop and test technologies and reclamation strategies**

**Objective 1.** Develop water quality restoration and preservation projects for mine sites that have been characterized as high priority. (Locally led watershed committees)

- Task 10 Use site characterization and water quality data to determine existing applicable BMPs or develop new BMPs for use in water quality projects. (biennially)
- Task 11 Develop partnerships to promote, create and implement demonstration projects. (ongoing)



**Figure 47. Lulu Mine, San Francisco Mountains, Beaver County, Utah**

**Objective 2.** Implement Best Management Practices at mine sites that have been characterized as a high priority for watershed restoration or preservation. (Locally led Watershed committees and relevant land management agencies)

- Task 12 Assist project sponsors in obtaining funding for mining-related water quality reclamation and improvement projects from a wide range of sources including State Revolving Loan funds, severance tax funds, U.S. Office of Surface Mining, cost sharing and CWA Section 319 funds. (annually)
- Task 13 Conduct abandoned mine watershed restoration and demonstration projects. (ongoing)

**Objective 3.** Monitor selected NPS mining projects following grant approval and evaluate the success of Best Management Practices. (project sponsor)

- Task 14 Project sponsors will monitor selected completed NPS 319 water quality reclamation and improvement projects and compile results in final project reports. (Complete reports within three months following project completion)
- Task 15 Determine which BMPs are the most effective at reducing NPS pollution from abandoned mines.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Priorities and Geographic Perspective

### Goal 3 Build long-term partnerships to enhance cooperation between industry, environmental groups, and government in restoration of water quality affected mining related NPS pollution.

**Objective 1.** Foster and support a regulatory framework within which industry and private groups can participate in water quality restoration projects with appropriate liability protection. (Division of Water Quality and Relevant Stakeholders)

Task 16 Support Good Samaritan legislation by providing information to Legislators, Congress and other policy-making bodies on nonpoint source issues, particularly those related to mining.

Task 17 Support restoration of water quality affected by mining related NPS pollution from abandoned mine sites by assisting landowners or other interested parties. With financial or technical assistance. (ongoing)

**Objective 2.** Encourage local participation in water quality restoration and preservation

Task 18 Encourage volunteer opportunities at mining NPS projects. (annually)

Task 19 Assist in the formation and support of watershed groups. (ongoing)



Figure 48. Old King David Mine, San Francisco Mountains, Beaver County, Utah

**Objective 3.** Actively support federal agency efforts to improve and protect water quality in Utah within jurisdictional lands. (Division of Water Quality and Relevant Stakeholders)

Task 20 Coordinate with and support federal agencies in efforts to identify and implement water quality restoration and preservation projects. (ongoing)

Task 21 Meet annually with representatives of federal agencies to share information and develop strategies to assure compliance with State goals and objectives.

Task 22 Coordinate with appropriate land management agencies for cooperative monitoring activities in stream segments identified on the 303(d) list and others as negotiated. (annually)

**Objective 4.** Actively administer, participate in and support the Abandoned Mine component NPS program. (Relevant Stakeholders and land management agencies)

Task 23 Serve on the Abandoned Mine Advisory Committee to the NPS Task Force and advocate appropriate demonstration and watershed projects that pertain to mining related nonpoint source pollution. (annually)

Task 24 Review and update the Mining Nonpoint Source Management Plan as needed. (schedule 2015)

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Priorities and Geographic Perspective

### **Goal 4 Educate and inform target audiences regarding all aspects of NPS Mining Projects.**

**Objective 1.** Facilitate transfer and dissemination of 319 mining project results. (Relevant Stakeholders and land management agencies)

- Task 25 Provide GRTS standard reporting format to project sponsors. (annually)
- Task 26 Participate in local watershed committees. (ongoing)
- Task 27 Coordinate and attend field trips, workshops and conferences related to water quality and mine abandonment. (ongoing)
- Task 28 Solicit mining NPS stories when available for Utah Watershed Review. (annually)
- Task 29 Enter annual reports from project sponsors into the EPA Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS). (annually)



**Figure 49. Abandoned mining operation**

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Priorities and Geographic Perspective

**Table 1. Milestone Dates for State Goals and Objectives**

GOALS	TASKS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
<b>1. Watershed Reconnaissance in association with TMDL development.</b>	1. Identify sources of nonpoint source pollution in conjunction with appropriate TMDLs.	Biennially	DWQ and Relevant Stakeholders
	2. Conduct outreach activities during TMDL development to solicit input from local stakeholders and public on watershed concerns.	Ongoing	DWQ and Relevant Stakeholders
	3. Consult with federal and state agencies for input on problem identification and solutions during development of TMDLs.	TMDL Schedule	DWQ and Relevant Stakeholders
	4. Conduct stream and mine discharge characterization studies.	TMDL Schedule	DWQ and Relevant Stakeholders
	5. Conduct mine waste rock and tailings characterization studies.	TMDL Schedule	DWQ and Relevant Land Management Agencies
	6. Conduct mine groundwater pathways characterization studies.	TMDL Schedule	DWQ and Relevant Land Management Agencies
	7. Conduct aquatic and biological assessments of targeted watersheds.	TMDL Schedule	DWQ and Relevant Land Management Agencies
	8. Conduct background loading studies for targeted watersheds.	TMDL Schedule	DWQ and Relevant Land Management Agencies
	9. Use source characterization data in conjunction with aquatic and biological assessment, background loading investigations, public input and cost benefit analysis to prioritize sites for reclamation.	Biennially	Locally Led Watershed Committees



**Figure 50. Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, Utah**

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Priorities and Geographic Perspective

<b>2. Develop and Implement Water Quality Restoration and Preservation Projects.</b>	10. Use site characterization and water quality data to determine existing applicable BMPs or develop new BMPs for use in water quality projects.	Biennially	Locally Led Watershed Committees
	11. Develop partnerships to promote, create and implement demonstration projects.	Ongoing	Locally Led Watershed Committees
	12. Assist project sponsors in obtaining funding for mining-related water quality reclamation and improvement projects from a wide range of sources including State Revolving Loan funds, severance tax funds, U.S. Office of Surface Mining, cost sharing and CWA Section 319 funds.	Annually	Locally Led Watershed Committees and Relevant Land Management Agencies
	13. Conduct abandoned mine watershed restoration and demonstration projects.	Ongoing	Locally Led Watershed Committees and Relevant Land Management Agencies
	14. Project sponsors will monitor selected completed NPS 319 water quality reclamation and improvement projects and compile results in final project reports.	Within 3 Months of Project Completion	Project Sponsor
	15. Determine which BMPs are the most effective at reducing NPS pollution from abandoned mines.	Ongoing	Project Sponsor
<b>3. Build Long-Term Partnerships</b>	16. Support Good Samaritan legislation by providing information to Legislators, Congress and other policy-making bodies on nonpoint source issues, particularly those related to mining.	As requested	DWQ and Relevant Stakeholders
	17. Support restoration of water quality affected by mining related NPS pollution from abandoned mine sites by assisting landowners or other interested parties. With financial or technical assistance.	Ongoing	DWQ and Relevant Stakeholders
	18. Encourage volunteer opportunities at mining NPS projects.	Annually	Relevant Stakeholders and Relevant Land Management Agencies
	19. Assist in the formation and support of watershed groups.	Ongoing	Relevant Stakeholders and Relevant Land Management Agencies
	20. Coordinate with and support federal agencies in efforts to identify and implement water quality restoration and preservation projects.	Ongoing	DWQ and Relevant Stakeholders

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Priorities and Geographic Perspective

<b>3. Build Long-Term Partnerships</b>	21. Meet annually with representatives of federal agencies to share information and develop strategies to assure compliance with State goals and objectives.	Annually	DWQ and Relevant Stakeholders
	22. Coordinate with appropriate land management agencies for cooperative monitoring activities in stream segments identified on the 303(d) list and others as negotiated.	Annually	DWQ and Relevant Stakeholders
	23. Serve on the Abandoned Mine Advisory Committee to the NPS Task Force and advocate appropriate demonstration and watershed projects that pertain to mining related nonpoint source pollution.	Annually	Relevant Stakeholders and Relevant Land Management Agencies
	24. Review and update the Mining Nonpoint Source Management Plan as needed.	2015	Relevant Stakeholders and Relevant Land Management Agencies
<b>4. Educate and Inform Target Audiences</b>	25. Provide GRTS standard reporting format to project sponsors	Annually	Relevant Stakeholders and Relevant Land Management Agencies
	26. Participate in local watershed committees	Ongoing	Relevant Stakeholders and Relevant Land Management Agencies
	27. Coordinate and attend field trips, workshops and conferences	Ongoing	Relevant Stakeholders and Relevant Land Management Agencies
	28. Solicit mining NPS stories to publish in the Utah Watershed Review	Annually	Relevant Stakeholders and Relevant Land Management Agencies
	29. Enter annual reports from project sponsors into the EPA Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS).	Annually	Relevant Stakeholders and Relevant Land Management Agencies

### VII IMPLEMENTATION

The Nonpoint Source Program brings together regulatory, non-regulatory, voluntary, and incentive efforts to improve water quality. Some of the regulatory tools defined in the Clean Water Act and Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) can help watershed groups or agencies define priorities and find environmentally sound possible solutions for response projects. However, some of the most significant impediments to advancing voluntary and regulatory or liability incentive-based projects are related to regulatory issues. Some of the tools available for remediation of abandoned mining sites are discussed below.

#### Federal and State Initiatives/Financial Resources

Federal agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency provide funding for nonpoint source work with Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319 grant funds. Funds are available through the U.S. Office of Surface Mining (OSM) to address problems related to past mining operations. The funds come from fees paid by current coal mining operations. The fees are placed in a trust fund by OSM and are disbursed to states with approved programs for reclamation projects. In Utah the funds are administered by the Utah DOGM, Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program (AMRP). OSM funds are not restricted to coal mine reclamation, but are subject to certain limitations for use at mines for other commodities.



Figure 51. Temple Mountain Project Area, Emery County, Utah.



Figure 52. Abandoned mining operation

#### Reclamation Projects Funded by DOGM

The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) has conducted several notable watershed projects recently. Examples of these projects include:

- The Cottonwood Wash Project is a multiyear, multi-agency (AMRP, BLM, DWQ, USFS) project to reclaim abandoned uranium mines in Cottonwood Wash, west of Blanding. It removed mining wastes from stream channels, closed mine openings, reclaimed roadways, and re-vegetated disturbed lands.
- The Price River Coal Pile Project (Phases 1-3) removed approximately 350,000 cubic yards of coal refuse from the bank of the Price River (Carbon County). This coal was washing into the river during spring runoff and causing problems for downstream water users.
- The Lower Willow Creek Project removed approximately 100,000 cubic yards of coal refuse from the floodplain of Willow Creek (Carbon County).

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Implementation



**Figure 53. Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, Utah.**

- The Standardville Project removed coal refuse from about three miles of stream channel in Spring Canyon (Carbon County).

The AMRP has restored hundreds of acres of disturbed, eroding mined lands to productive uses.

Notably, a lot of DOGM's coal reclamation in the 1980s and 1990s had a significant water quality component. Additionally, most of DOGM's noncoal work has been public safety-oriented shaft and adit closures, due to the restrictions for noncoal reclamation attached to the OSM funding. Cottonwood Wash was an exception, due to the alternative funding.

### **Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)**

CERCLA is the federal program to clean up the nation's abandoned hazardous waste sites that pose a threat to health or the environment. CERCLA was amended in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act. The law has been used successfully all over the United States to clean up abandoned mine sites on private, state and federal land. The law is very powerful and has achieved dramatic remediation results.

CERCLA actions generally are reserved for those sites where there is a risk to public health, there is extensive contamination and no other cleanup mechanisms seem viable. Most large CERCLA mine site cleanups take place at sites listed on the National Priorities List, an EPA list of the nation's most contaminated sites.

One reason CERCLA is so powerful is that it contains broad legal authorities. Under CERCLA's joint and several liability provisions, those who are responsible for the contamination may be required to clean up the site or pay the cost of the clean up. Responsibility may fall on those who caused the contamination, owned the property when the contamination occurred, made the contamination worse at any time, or in some circumstances are the current property owner. At the same time, the law protects small waste contributors from major liability.

Because the liability net cast by CERCLA is so broad, it is important for those undertaking cleanups at abandoned mine sites under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act to work closely with EPA under the CERCLA planning and assessment framework. It is quite common for informed persons who work within this framework to participate in environmental cleanups without incurring liability.



**Figure 54. Temple Mountain Project area, Emery County, Utah.**

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Implementation

### Clean Water Act Authorities

The Clean Water Act provides opportunities for control of abandoned mine sites through several different means, but it also presents enormous challenges in terms of instituting passive treatment facilities from draining adits and tunnels, and difficult challenges for dealing with stormwater pollution. The Clean Water Act provides authority for the permitting of nearly all aspects of pollution at inactive mining sites; however, the practical reality of instituting such permits generally makes this option unattainable. Often individuals who never benefited from production of the mines own these sites, and because the mine is inactive, there is no source of funds generated by the facility to provide for treatment. The Section 319 program offers an opportunity in these difficult situations to assist with these problems.

Perhaps the most difficult obstacle to overcome in trying to treat drainage from adits and tunnels at abandoned sites is fear of liability. The fear of liability prevents any agency or party unassociated with these sources from becoming involved in their remediation. Section 319 funding can be very helpful in pursuing remediation at mining sites where both the CERCLA and Clean Water Act liability concerns can be accommodated. Occasionally, this requires specific Administrative Orders on Consent (AOC) with the EPA or other agency invoking their CERCLA authority. Storm-water permits may be required by the State to allow the work to proceed. States push the fines, conditions, and the imposition of standards. The EPA has an oversight role in this situation.



Figure 55. Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, Utah.



Figure 56. Star District Project area, Beaver County, Utah

### Good Samaritan Legislation

There is currently no provision in the Clean Water Act that protects participants from liability in reclamation projects that treat surface or groundwater impacted by mine-related NPS pollution. However, bills have been introduced in the House and Senate multiple times to address this concern. Most recently, in October of 2007, H.B.4011 was introduced to “facilitate the reclamation of abandoned hardrock mines.” This bill would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly known as the Clean Water Act) to authorize the permitting authority, with the concurrence of the state in which an abandoned or inactive mine remediation project is proposed or a federal agency or the Indian tribe which owns or has jurisdiction over the site on which a remediation project is proposed, to issue a Good Samaritan discharge permit to a Good Samaritan to carry out a project to remediate an inactive or abandoned mine site to reduce pollution caused by historic mine residue.

The latest major action on the Good Samaritan Bill was taken October 31, 2007 when this bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. On November 12, 2007, the Western Governors’ Association submitted a letter to Representatives Udall and Pearce in support of this bill.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Implementation

### Voluntary Clean-up Program

The Utah State Legislature passed the Voluntary Release Cleanup Program statute during the 1997 legislative session. This legislation created the Voluntary Environmental Cleanup Program (VECP) under the direction of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ), effective May 5, 1997. The purpose of the program is to encourage the voluntary cleanup of sites where there has been a contaminant release threatening public health and the environment, thereby removing the stigma attached to these sites which blocks economic redevelopment. Voluntary cleanup of these sites will hopefully result in clearing the pathway for returning these properties to beneficial use (<http://www.environmentalresponse.utah.gov/>).



**Figure 57. Old King David Mine, San Francisco Mountains, Beaver County, Utah**

### Implementation Milestones

The success of the Mining Technical Advisory Committee and the NPS Task Force are dependent upon the ongoing pursuit of the goals and objectives previously outlined. The structure of the organization must be flexible and capable



**Figure 58. Old King David Mine, San Francisco Mountains, Beaver County, Utah**

of responding to new technological, political, and cultural events. In order to accomplish the goals and objectives of the NPS Task Force and the State Mining Technical Advisory Committee will continue to:

1. Function as a distinct group of individuals, government entities and other stakeholders who have an interest in the special issues related to mining-related NPS pollution. Because of the diversity of the problems related to mining NPS pollutants, the solutions may be technologically complex and vary according to the site. The Mining Technical Advisory Committee can provide a forum for the discussion of mining issues and the development of solutions and project plans while recognizing the impacts that mining has on other features of a watershed.
2. Function as part of the larger group of individuals, government entities and stakeholders whose mission is to address all categories of NPS pollution throughout the entire state. The Mining Technical Advisory Committee participates in the development and implementation of policies and procedures that address all NPS issues.
3. Assist in obtaining and delegating funds for reclamation projects that address NPS pollution.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Authorities and Jurisdiction

### Authorities and Jurisdiction

To further protect Utah's waters from nonpoint source pollution originating from abandoned mines, the following is a compilation of the authorities and jurisdictions, legally established, for federal, state, and local agencies and organizations that have jurisdiction over nonpoint source pollution and mining related issues. Where applicable, individual agencies and/or organizations have provided the governmental mandate whereby their authorities have been granted.

#### Federal Agencies

##### United States Environmental Protection Agency

###### *Environmental Program Overview and Authorities*

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for the administration of seven Federal environmental regulatory laws: the Clean Air Act (CAA); the Clean Water Act (CWA); the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); the Comprehensive Environmental Response and Compensation Liability Act (CERCLA); the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA); and, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). An eighth Federal law, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires EPA to review all Federal actions that could adversely affect human health or the environment.

Though all the above laws could apply to activities at a mine site, few actually apply to the environmental effects caused by an abandoned mine. CERCLA will apply to an abandoned mine site if a Federal agency is planning any removal or remedial actions at the site. NEPA does not apply if CERCLA authority is used. The CWA can apply to waters issuing from an abandoned mine site whether there are any ongoing activities or not, Federal or otherwise. SDWA may apply when the abandoned mine site is in a source water area for a public drinking water supply. All of these laws are intended to protect the environment and human health from adverse effects that occur from human activities, whether those activities have occurred in the past, are currently ongoing, or are being planned.

###### *Abandoned Mine Lands*

NEPA and CERCLA may apply to actions that a Federal agency decides to conduct at an abandoned mine site. Certain actions, such as silvicultural, or road or quarry expansions, may require an evaluation conducted under NEPA. Other actions, such as a long-term plan to clean up mine wastes would be governed by CERCLA, and CERCLA-based rules would have to be followed. In other cases, the Federal land managing agency or EPA may decide if the mine wastes pose an imminent and substantial threat to the environment or human health. In these instances, CERCLA provides for emergency actions to be undertaken to remove the threat. Again, CERCLA-based rules would have to be followed to conduct the removal action.

Sometimes, the mine wastes themselves don't pose an imminent threat, and the only pollution coming from the abandoned mine are surface waters discharging to another body of water. The CWA may apply in these circumstances.

Although there are many exceptions, the CWA generally requires that all point source discharges of pollutants to Waters of the US obtain a permit. The permit will set limits to those discharges and require monitoring to ensure that water quality standards are being met.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Authorities and Jurisdiction

### United States Environmental Protection Agency—Continued

Each of these laws also provide some funding for activities that may help improve the environment, educate the public, or make a project more environmentally friendly. Section 319 of the Clean Water Act provides funding to States, and certain organizations or individuals, that may wish to mitigate the effects from nonpoint sources of pollution. The regulations promulgated in accordance with Section 319 require that the State follow an approved management plan when conducting such activities to mitigate the effects from nonpoint sources in order to qualify for funding under the CWA. The State of Utah has written this addendum in order to use Section 319 grant funds for activities conducted at non-Federal abandoned Mine Lands.



**Figure 60. Sheeprock Mountains Project area, Tooele County, Utah.**

There are many sources of funding for projects meant to improve the environment at an abandoned mine land. Some are for watershed activities, some just for clean rivers, or improving fish or wildlife habitat, or to help protect drinking water source areas, or for flood mitigation assistance, or not-for-profit mine drainage, and many more. For more information, EPA's catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection is a good place to start.

The internet address for the catalog web site is:  
<http://cfpub.epa.gov>



**Figure 59. Old King David Mine, San Francisco Mountains, Beaver County, Utah**

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Authorities and Jurisdiction

### United States Department of Agriculture—Forest Service

#### *Minerals Program Overview and Authorities*

The Intermountain Region of the Forest Service (FS) covers the states of Nevada and Utah, the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming, Utah, and central and southern Idaho. Part of the region also laps over into Colorado and California. The minerals and geology program in the Intermountain Region of the Forest Service is divided into the following program areas:

#### *Locatable Minerals*

Includes "hardrock" minerals such as gold, silver, and copper. They are disposed of under the authority of the General Mining Law of 1872 as amended. Locatable minerals are unique in that the right to explore for and develop these minerals is granted by statute. The Forest Service may regulate the surface resource impacts of such activities but not deny or materially interfere with the mining or exploration activity. Hardrock minerals on acquired lands are disposed of by lease rather than under the authority of the 1872 Mining Law. The surface use of operations conducted on mining claims located under the Mining Law of 1872 is governed by regulations found at 36 CFR 228, subpart A, for National Forest System lands. Notably, Executive Order 13016 gives CERCLA 106 authorities to the Federal Land Management Agencies. As required by regulations, mining claimants and their operators are responsible for reclamation of mining disturbances created at their sites.

#### *Leasable Minerals*

Oil and gas, phosphate, coal and geothermal resources fall into the leasable program and are governed under the authority of the Mining leasing Act of 1920 and the Mineral leasing Act for Acquired lands. Right to develop is granted by leases issued by the Bureau of Land Management. Forest Service may provide BLM with leasing recommendations in some cases (phosphate), and has consent authority on others (oil & gas, coal, geothermal). Once leases for oil and gas are issued, FS manages surface resource impacts of exploration/development, while BLM manages the mineral estate.

#### *Salable Minerals*

Salable materials, also referred to as common variety or mineral materials, include commodities like sand, gravel, cinders, rip rap and other materials whose value does not depend on unique physical or chemical properties. The Materials Act of July 31, 1947 provided for the disposal of mineral materials on the public lands through bidding, negotiated contracts, or free use. This is the one class of mineral over which the Forest Service has full authority.



**Figure 61. Sheeprock Mountains Project area, Tooele County, Utah.**

#### Contact information:

U.S.D.A. Forest Service  
Intermountain Region  
BioPhysical Resources  
Minerals Program Management  
324 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Ogden, UT 84040

Director: William LeVere  
Assistant Director of Minerals & Geology: Barry Burkhardt  
Website: [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Authorities and Jurisdiction

### United States Department of Agriculture—Forest Service Continued

#### *Geology Program*

The geology program covers the Region's following areas: geologic hazards, groundwater, paleontology, and forest planning.

#### *Mine Cleanup Program*

The hazardous materials abandoned mine and safety component of the minerals program is increasing in importance. The primary emphasis of this program is the identification and restoration of National Forest System lands disturbed by abandoned mineral activities and the protection of forest resources from releases of hazardous substances.

#### *Mine Cleanup Budget*

The Forest Service receives funding for mine hazardous substance cleanup, reclamation, and safety closures at abandoned mine sites through a variety of sources. One source is directly from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Hazardous Waste Management Group, in Washington, D.C., where funds are set aside at the Department level for cleanup of sites contaminated by hazardous substances. A second source is through the Forest Service Washington Office engineering staff in charge of the environmental compliance program. A third source is from the Forest Service Washington Office Minerals & Geology staff for reclamation and safety closures. All three of these programs require national competition for the funds.



**Figure 62. Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, Utah.**

#### *Authorities for Abandoned Mine Cleanup*

The Forest Service makes abandoned mine cleanup decisions based on the process of Federal Agency Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket, and the National Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) at sites that involve hazardous substances. The hazardous substances are identified in CERCLA section 101 (14) and is inclusive of nearly all federal laws. Chemicals, reagents, and heavy metals are all hazardous substances under the authority and direction of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, 42 U.S.C. §9601 et seq; 42 U.S.C. §9604, 9622(a) and 9622 (d)(3); Executive Order (EO) 12580, Title 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 2.60 (a)(40); Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2164.04 c, 2.1, effective November 10, 1994.

In order to review Removal Actions, consistent with the National Oil and Hazardous Substance Contingency Plan (NCP) 40 CFR 300, please visit <http://www.epa.gov>.

Removal actions must be consistent with CERCLA 120 (a)(4), and 120 (c) and (d). For safety closures, reclamation, and other actions at mines not involving hazardous substances, all federal agencies are required by the National Environmental Policy Act (promulgated in 1970; 42 U.S.C. Section 4321; 40 CFR Part 1500-1508) to analyze proposed actions involving federal lands and their potential effects. See <http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/nepa/nepaeqia.htm>. As a minimum, the federal agency should be coordinating the applicable sections in 40 CFR 300.405, 410, and 415 with the EPA before environmental or human health decisions are initiated.

For Forest Service mineral regulations, except for mine cleanup, refer to:  
<http://www.access.gpo.gov>

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

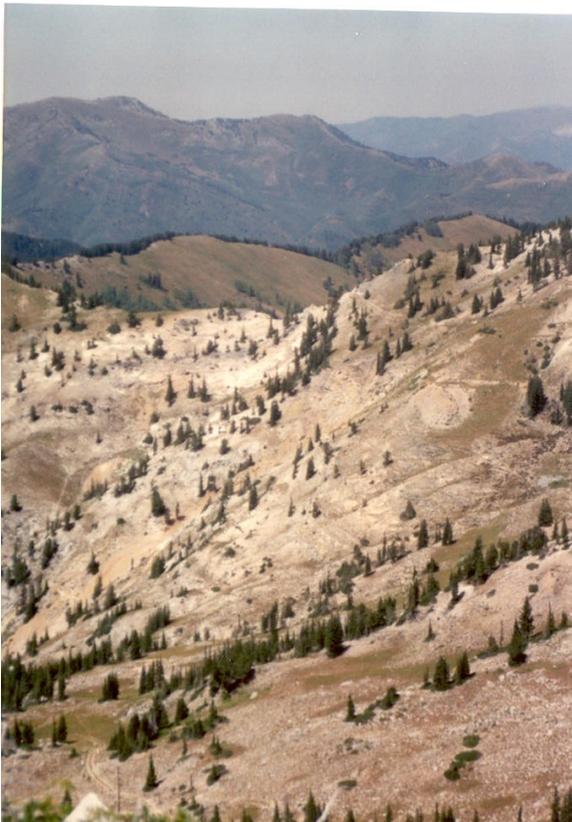
## Authorities and Jurisdiction

### United States (U.S.) Department of Interior—Utah Bureau of Land Management

#### *Solid Minerals Program*

The jurisdiction of the Utah Bureau of Land Management, Solid Minerals Program is management of solid mineral resources on public lands throughout the State of Utah. Our authority for managing public lands is the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.). This Act requires BLM to manage public lands to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of Federal lands.

Currently, Federal minerals are classified into one of three categories: (1) locatable minerals; (2) leasable minerals; and (3) salable minerals. Each of the mineral categories has additional specific authorities and regulations that mandate how they are managed. As they apply to Utah, the definition and pertinent regulations are as follows:



**Figure 63. Emma Mining District, Little Cottonwood Canyon, Salt Lake County, UT.**

#### *Locatable Minerals*

Locatable minerals include all valuable minerals such as gold, silver, uranium, vanadium, etc. not listed as leasable or salable minerals below, uncommon varieties of sand, stone, gravel, cinders, pumice, pumicite and clay. The main regulations for managing locatable exploration and mineral development are: Surface Management (43 CFR 3809), Exploration and Mining, Wilderness Review Program (43 CFR 3802) and Use and Occupancy under the Mining Laws (43 CFR 3715). The Surface Management regulations require the submission of a plan of operations or a notice and an associated financial guarantee for the mining activity as approved or accepted prior to the disturbance occurring on the ground.

Abandoned mines are mining activity that occurred prior to January 1, 1981 (effective date of the Surface Management regulations). The majority of the abandoned mines that will be addressed under this management plan are pre-regulation locatable mineral activity. If a mining claim exists on an abandoned mine, the mining claimant of record is given the opportunity to take reclamation responsibility for the mine site. If the mining claimant takes responsibility for the abandoned mine then they must comply with the Surface Management regulations and file a notice or plan of operations and a financial guarantee. If they do not, or will not take reclamation responsibility for the abandoned mine disturbance on a post-1955 mining claim, then BLM may take the necessary steps to protect public safety and prevent further unnecessary and undue degradation caused by the abandoned mine site. Our authority for this action is the Surface Resources Act of 1955 (30 U.S.C. Section § 612 (b)). The Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is considered another general authority to promote cleanup of AML sites that adversely affect watersheds.

An abandoned mine with a release of a hazardous substance also has additional authorities that include the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq. and the National Contingency Plan Regulations (40 CFR 300). By Secretarial Order

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Authorities and Jurisdiction

### United States (U.S.) Department of Interior—Utah Bureau of Land Management Continued



**Figure 64. Columbus-Rexall Mine Drainage. Little Cottonwood Canyon, UT.**

BLM has been delegated the authority to initiate removal or remedial actions for release or threat of release of hazardous substances. CERCLA has two main types of responses which are: removal response and/or remedial response. Removal responses are usually a short term immediate action taken to prevent, minimize, or mitigate damage to the public health or welfare to the environment. They can be emergencies or time-critical or non-time critical actions. A remedial response is a long-term action that is a permanent remedy to a release of hazardous substances. Sites of large magnitude, as listed on the National Priorities List (NPL), are usually cleaned up with a remedial response. Depending on the situation, there may also be cleanup response authorities under the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6991 et. seq.) for unauthorized landfills

and underground storage tanks. BLM can also utilize the Toxic Substance Control Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 2601 et. seq.) to respond to asbestos, radon and lead based paint found at abandoned mine sites.

In addition, the Wyden Amendment (PL 104-208, sec. 124, PL 105-277, sec. 136) which promotes watershed restoration and enhancement is another authority that BLM can use. Federal funds can be applied to lands owned by private, state, tribal or local entities. However, expenditures on the private land must be in the public interest and have direct benefits to biological resources on public land administered by BLM. The national strategy for evaluating and approving requests for funding and implementation criteria are provided in instruction memorandums. Use of this authority requires a partnership agreement and an MOU with the state.

#### *Leasable Minerals*

Leasable Minerals are all minerals except salable minerals on acquired lands, coal, phosphate, oil, gas, chlorides, sulphates, carbonates, borates, silicates or nitrates of potassium and sodium, native asphalt, solid and semi-solid bitumen and bituminous rock and geothermal resources. Leasable mineral regulations are as follows: Geothermal Resources Leasing (43 CFR 3200), Coal Management (43 CFR 3400), Leasing of Solid Minerals Other Than Coal and Oil Shale (43 CFR 3500) and Oil and Gas Leasing (43 CFR 3100). Only very old leases become abandoned mine sites. The vast majority of these types of mining operations are adequately reclaimed through lease terms and conditions, mine permit authorization or bond forfeitures.

#### *Salable Minerals*

Salable minerals are common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, cinders, pumice, pumicite and clay. The 43 CFR 3600 regulations establish procedures for the exploration, development, and disposal of mineral material resources on the public lands. These regulations provide for the environment as well as the protection of the resource. Mineral materials are disposed of through permits for free use or contracts for

## Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

sale. As reclamation practices have become standard operating procedures for all mining activity, few if any of these types of operations become abandoned mines.

### *Funding*

Through our budget process funds are allocated for abandoned mine water quality issues. In addition, a small amount of funds are provided for physical safety mitigation. The budget process requires planning of abandoned mine identification, characterization and reclamation/remediation at least 2 years out in order to obtain funding for a project. The Utah BLM works very closely with the State of Utah, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program to resolve not only physical safety issues but environmental issues as well at abandoned mine sites located on BLM administered lands. This working relationship allows us to leverage our funds to the maximum extent possible. The Utah BLM also works with the USGS to characterize site specific issues at AML sites. This working relationship includes sharing of funds (when possible), resources, and professional expertise.

There are two additional sources of funding available to BLM. They are the Special Cleanup (SCF) Fund and the Central HAZMAT Fund (CHF). The SCF is a BLM fund that requires submission of an application. All BLM offices nationwide compete for this funding. Projects are selected on merit. The CHF fund is a Department fund. Submission of an application is also required. All Department of Interior agencies compete for this funding. In addition, projects are selected on merit. The project selection criteria is as stringent, if not more stringent, than for SCF.

### Contact Information:

#### Street Address:

Bureau of Land Management  
Utah State Office  
440 West 200 South, Suite 500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

#### Mailing address:

Bureau of Land Management  
Utah State Office  
Post Office Box 45155  
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155



Figure 65. Dutchman Flats. American Fork Canyon, UT.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Authorities and Jurisdiction

### United States (U.S.) Department of the Interior – U.S. Geological Survey

The Utah District of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is a non-regulatory agency that provides science-based information to public as well as Federal, State, and local regulatory and land-management agencies. The information can aid in making decisions regarding mine-drainage issues. Data on the chemical composition of both water and rocks are available in many different data bases (<http://usgs.gov>).

The principal program related to mining has been the Toxic Substances Hydrology Program (<http://toxics.usgs.gov>). Beginning in 1986, the program focused on metal transport in streams affected by mining, with the overall goal to provide improved information and tools to support decisions related to management, risk assessment, remediation planning, and mitigation of the anthropogenic effects of mine drainage on watersheds and ecosystems. The focus of this research is two-fold: (1) To characterize hydrologic and biogeochemical processes that affect dispersal of metals and associated contaminants, and (2) to detail contaminant pathways to organisms. Results will support science-based decisions that will be cost effective and lasting, and could lead to new methods of remediation. The approach has been to study chemical processes within the hydrologic context of a watershed, using a two-step approach. First, instream experimentation has provided data about the processes affecting

metals. Second, development and application of solute transport models has helped to quantify rates and processes. Tracer-injection studies have been used in the design of methods to characterize mass loading from mining activities on a watershed scale. As part of the USGS Abandoned Mine Land Initiative (<http://amli.usgs.gov>), additional mass-loading studies began in support of the planning needs of Federal land management agencies. In Utah, mass-loading studies in Little Cottonwood Creek, American Fork Canyon, and Silver Creek have helped Federal and State agencies with decision making.

#### Contact information:

U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Utah District  
2329 W Orton Circle  
West Valley City, UT 84119  
801-908-5000

District Chief: Patrick Lambert  
([plambert@usgs.gov](mailto:plambert@usgs.gov))  
Web: <http://ut.water.usgs.gov>  
Toxics project chief:  
Briant Kimball ([bkimball@usgs.gov](mailto:bkimball@usgs.gov))



**Figure 66. Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, Utah.**

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Authorities and Jurisdiction

### State Agencies

#### Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM)

The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) in the Department of Natural Resources regulates exploration for and development of Utah's oil, gas, coal and other mineral resources. When exploration and developmental activities are completed, the division ensures that oil and gas wells are properly abandoned and mining sites are satisfactorily reclaimed. The division's staff works diligently to provide service to the citizens of the State of Utah, while striving to maintain the delicate balance between environment and industrial development.

Organizationally, within DOGM there is a functional split between oil and gas on one side and mining on the other. On the mining side, there are three programs: the Coal Regulatory Program, the Minerals Regulatory Program, and the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program.



**Figure 67. Old King David Mine, San Francisco Mountains, Beaver County, Utah**

#### Contact information:

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116  
801-538-5340

Legal Authority: 40-6, 40-8, 40-10 UCA  
Rules: R641-649 UAC  
Division Director: John Baza  
Associate Director for Mining: Dana Dean  
Website: <http://www.ogm.utah.gov>

#### *Coal Regulatory Program (CRP)*

Legal Authority: 40-10-1 UCA  
UCA Online:  
<http://www.le.state.ut.us>  
Rules: R645 UAC  
UAC Online:  
<http://www.rules.utah.gov>

Website:  
<http://ogm.utah.gov>

The CRP regulates the environmental aspects of coal mining operations under the authority of Title V of the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (P.L. 95-87) and corresponding State law. The CRP approves and monitors compliance with permits and reclamation plans for coal mining operations.



**Figure 68. Gold Hill Project area, Tooele County, Utah.**

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Authorities and Jurisdiction

### Division of Oil, Gas and Mining—Continued

#### *Minerals Regulatory Program (MRP)*

Legal Authority: Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act, 40-8-1 UCA  
UCA Online: <http://www.le.state.ut.us>  
Rules: R647 UAC  
UAC Online: <http://www.rules.utah.gov>  
Program Administrator: Paul Baker  
Website: <http://ogm.utah.gov>

The MRP regulates the environmental aspects of mines for minerals other than coal under the authority of the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act passed in 1975. The purpose of the Act is to ensure all mining operations in the State include plans for reclamation of the lands affected. The MRP approves and monitors compliance with permits and reclamation plans for noncoal mining operations. Mining operations are broken up into three categories: large mine (more than five acres of surface disturbance), small mine (five acres or less of surface disturbance), and exploration. All mining operations within the state are required to bond for reclamation of surface disturbance with the MRP prior to beginning operations. The MRP does not regulate the extraction of unconsolidated sand, gravel, or rock aggregate—consolidated material is regulated. Additionally, the MRP does not regulate oil and gas, or geothermal steam; smelting or refining operations; off-site operations and transportation; or reconnaissance activities.

#### *Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program (AMRP)*

Legal Authority: 40-10-25 UCA  
UCA Online: <http://www.le.state.ut.us>  
Rules: R643 UAC  
UAC Online: <http://www.rules.utah.gov>  
Program Administrator: Luci Malin  
Website: <http://ogm.utah.gov>

The AMRP reclaims mines of all commodities abandoned prior to 1977 under the authority of Title IV of the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (P.L. 95-87) and corresponding State law. It is a nonregulatory program. Primary funding for AMRP activities comes from the federal Abandoned Mine Land Fund administered by the U.S. Office of Surface Mining and derived from a tax on current coal production. Additional funding comes from Utah legislative appropriations from general funds, partnerships with other state or federal agencies, and other sources. The AMRP operates with an annual construction budget of approximately \$1.5 million.

====

#### NOTES:

UCA = Utah Code Annotated (Utah state laws)  
UAC = Utah Administrative Code (Utah state agency implementing regulations)



Figure 69. Sheeprock Mountains Project area, Tooele County, Utah.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Authorities and Jurisdiction

### Utah Geologic Survey (UGS)

The Utah Geological Survey (UGS) is a non-regulatory agency within the Utah Department of Natural Resources. Organizationally, within the Utah Geological Survey there are five programs: Economic and Mineral Resources, Environmental Sciences, Geologic Hazards, Geologic Information and Outreach, and Geologic Mapping. Water-quality studies are performed within the Environmental Science Program, which can provide up to about \$200,000 in in-kind match for outside-funded projects that provide at least a 50 percent match. The designation of “outside-funded” may include other governmental agencies.

#### *Data*

Utah Geologic Survey is the State agency charged with collecting, compiling, managing, and evaluating geologic data on the state’s energy and mineral resources and is a good source of detailed geologic maps and information for a particular mining district. The data are available in hard copy from the UGS and increasingly as digital GIS files. A digital geologic map of the state is available (Hintze, et. al 2000) as are digital 30 x 60 minute-scale geologic resource maps including oil, gas, coal, and geothermal, in addition to mineral resources available in a 1999 UGS data compilation (Sprinkel, 1999). Many of the geologic maps of the 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle maps are available in digital format from the UGS. The UGS maintains the Utah Mineral Occurrence System (UMOS) database, containing information on approximately 8,900 metallic and non-metallic mines, prospects, and occurrences in Utah. The database includes about 5,300 metallic and industrial rock and mineral records and more than 1,000 uranium records. Nearly 2,000 of the UMOS records are for sand and gravel deposits.

#### Contact information:

Utah Geological Survey  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 3110  
P.O. Box 146100  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6100  
801-537-3300

Division Director: Richard G. Allis  
Deputy Director: Kimm M. Harty  
Environmental Sciences Program Manager: Mike Lowe  
Website: <http://www.ugs.state.ut.us>

#### *Duties*

(A) Assist and advise state and local government agencies and state educational institutions on geologic, paleontologic, and mineralogic subjects.

(B) Collect and distribute reliable information regarding the mineral industry and mineral resources, topography, paleontology, and geology of the state.

(C) Survey the geology of the State, including mineral occurrences and ores of metals, energy resources, industrial minerals and rocks, mineral-bearing waters, and surface- and ground-water resources, with special reference to their economic contents, values, uses, kind, and availability in order to facilitate their economic use.

(D) Investigate the kind, amount, and availability of mineral substances contained in lands owned and controlled by the state, to contribute to the most effective and beneficial administration of these lands for the state.

(E) Determine and investigate areas of geologic and topographic hazards that could affect the safety of, or cause economic loss to, the citizens of the state.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Authorities and Jurisdiction

### Utah Geologic Survey (UGS) - Continued

(F) Assist local and state governments and agencies in their planning, zoning, and building regulation functions by publishing maps, delineating special earthquake risk areas, and, at the request of state agencies or other governmental agencies, reviewing the siting of critical facilities.

(G) Cooperate with State agencies, political subdivisions of the State, quasi-governmental agencies, federal agencies, schools of higher education, and others in the fields of mutual concern, which may include field investigations and preparation, publication, and distribution of reports and maps.

(H) Collect and preserve data pertaining to mineral resource exploration and development programs and construction activities, such as claim maps, location of drill holes, location of surface and underground workings, geologic plans and sections, drill logs, and assay and sample maps, including the maintenance of a sample library of cores and cuttings.

(I) Study and analyze other scientific, economic, or aesthetic problems as, in the judgment of the Utah Geological Survey (UGS) board, should be undertaken by the survey to serve the needs of the state and to support the development of natural resources and utilization of lands within the state.

(J) Prepare, publish, distribute, and sell maps, reports, and bulletins, embodying the work accomplished by the survey, directly or in collaboration with others, and collect and prepare exhibits of geological and mineral resources of the state and interpret their significance.

(K) Collect, maintain, and preserve data and information in order to accomplish the purposes of this section and act as a repository for information concerning the geology of the state.



**Figure 70. Star District Project area, Beaver County, Utah**

(L) Stimulate research, study, and activities in the field of paleontology.

(M) Mark, protect, and preserve critical paleontological sites.

(N) Collect, preserve, and administer critical paleontological specimens until they are placed in a repository or curation facility.

(O) Administer critical paleontological site excavation records.

(P) Edit and publish critical paleontological records and reports.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Authorities and Jurisdiction

### Utah Department of Environmental Quality; Division of Water Quality

#### *Utah Water Quality Act - 19-5 Utah Code Annotated*

The Water Quality Act (WQA) is the enabling legislation for Utah's water quality protection program. The act establishes the Water Quality Board, the Division of Water Quality and Utah's Water Quality Rules, Title R317, Utah Administrative Code. The following rules implement the provisions of the Water Quality Act.

#### *Definitions and General Requirements - R317-1 Utah Administrative Code (UAC)*

The general requirements define several important concepts relating to the regulation of mining operations. First, the rule prohibits an entity from discharging wastewater or depositing wastes or



**Figure 71. Albion Basin, Little Cottonwood Canyon, UT.**

other substances in violation of the Utah Water Quality Rules, R317 UAC. Second, it requires any person who wishes to construct any device for treatment or discharge of wastewater, first obtain a construction permit. The application for a construction permit requires submittal of complete plans, specifications and other pertinent documents covering the proposed construction for review. The construction permit, along with the Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (UPDES) and Groundwater Discharge permits are the primary mechanisms used by the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) for regulating various

components of mining operations such as heap leach pads, mine waste and solution ponds, waste rock dumps, and pits.

#### *Standards of Quality for Waters of the State - R317-2 Standards of Quality for Waters of the State - U.A.C. R448-2 UAC*

Utah's Water Quality Standards are the result of the development, review, revision and approval process outlined in 40 CFR 131 as authorized under Section 303 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The water quality standards define the water quality goals of the State's water bodies, by designating the use or uses to be made of the water and by setting criteria necessary to protect those uses. State water quality standards are adopted to protect public health and welfare, enhance the quality of the State's water, and to serve the purposes of the CWA. The water quality standards are designed to, wherever attainable, provide water quality for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish and wildlife and for recreation in and on the water and to take into consideration their use and value of public water supplies. The standards serve the dual purpose of establishing the water quality goals for a specific water body and serve as the regulatory basis for the establishment of water quality based treatment controls and strategies beyond the technology-based levels required by Sections 301(b) and 306 of the CWA.

#### *Ground Water Quality Protection Rules - R317-6 UAC*

A ground water discharge permit is required for any person or entity proposing to construct or operate a new facility which could result in a release of contaminants to ground water.

Utah's Ground Water Quality Protection Rules are based on three main regulatory concepts: to prohibit the reduction of ground water quality; to prevent ground water contamination, and; to provide protection based on different existing levels of groundwater quality. The rule consists of five main administrative components: ground water quality standards; ground water classification, ground water protection levels; aquifer classification procedures; and a ground

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Authorities and Jurisdiction

### Department of Environmental Quality; Division of Water Quality—Continued

water discharge permit system. Utah's ground water protection regulations provide an anti-degradation policy for ground water protection. This policy provides for the maintenance and protection of current and probable future beneficial uses of ground water, protection of higher quality waters at their existing water quality, and prevention of degradation of water quality that would be injurious to existing or potential beneficial water use.

The ground water quality standards are numerical standards for potential ground water contaminants. These standards are based on the maximum contaminant levels (MCL's) established under the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations authorized by the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments of 1986 and the National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations as authorized by the Safe Drinking Water Act. For pollutants without standards in the regulations, numerical standards will be established on a case-by-case basis by the Utah Water Quality Board, based on the most current and scientifically valid information available. As new standards are developed for pollutants by EPA, they will be reviewed and considered for adoption.

The regulations allow permitting by rule for certain classes of activities which pose little or no threat to ground water quality or are permitted by another State agency. The following classes of mining activities are permitted by rule: 1) small mining operations (mining, processing, or milling facilities handling less than 10 tons per day of metallic or nonmetallic ore and waste rock, not to exceed 2500 tons/year in aggregate); 2) drilling operations for metallic minerals, nonmetallic minerals, water, hydrocarbons, or geothermal energy sources when done in conformance with applicable regulations of the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining or the Division of Water Rights; and 3) natural ground water seeping or flowing into conventional mine workings which re-enters the ground by natural gravity flow prior to pumping or transporting out of the mine and without being used in any mining or metallurgical process. While facilities which fall into these classes are not required to obtain a ground water discharge permit, they are not



**Figure 72. Mill Creek, Salt Lake County, UT.**

allowed to exceed the ground water quality standards. Additionally, the Executive Secretary of the Water Quality Board can require a discharge permit for any facility or activity, exempt or not, if he determines that it constitutes a threat to ground water quality.

New facilities are required to apply best available technology to protect ground water, and in most cases, are designed to contain all pollutants and not allow a discharge.

#### *Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program R317-7 UAC*

UIC Regulations are designed to ensure contaminants do not escape from wells into aquifers. Wells used to inject fluids associated with the production of oil and natural gas or fluids used for enhanced hydrocarbon recovery are regulated by the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. All others are regulated by the Division of Water Quality. Most injection wells are authorized by rule and do not need individual permits but must submit notification. The Division of Water sets minimum construction, operating, monitoring, reporting, financial responsibility, closure and record keeping requirements for all permitted injection operations.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Authorities and Jurisdiction

### Department of Environmental Quality; Division of Water Quality—Continued

#### *Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (UPDES) - R317-8 UAC Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (UPDES) - U.A.C. R448-8*

Utah's Pollutant Discharge Elimination System is a federally based program resulting from the development, review, revision and approval process outlined in 40 CFR 123 as authorized under Sections 318, 402, and 405 of the CWA. Utah received primacy for the NPDES Program from EPA after demonstration that its program is no less stringent than the federal requirements. The UPDES Permit is the mechanism by which point discharges to the surface waters of the State are regulated. UPDES program requires permits for the discharge of pollutants from any point source into waters of the State. The program also applies to owners or operators of any treatment works treating domestic sewage and all industrial, municipal and federal facilities, except those on Indian lands. Besides typical municipal and industrial wastewater discharges, activities such as storm water discharges and construction dewatering require permits.

#### *Storm Water Permits:*

- General Industrial Storm Water Permit - Certain industrial facilities are required to be covered under the general industrial storm water permit. Facilities commonly covered in Utah are mines (including gravel pits), facilities that produce cement products, many wood product facilities, airports, junk yards, and scrap recycling facilities. Coverage is dependent on the facility's Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code.
- General Construction Stormwater Permit - Any construction that disturbs one acre of land or more needs either a UPDES Storm Water General Permit for Construction Activities or an alternate individual permit. Coverage under these permits must be obtained and erosion and sediment controls

must be installed prior to any grading activities at a site.

•

#### *Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1987 (PL 100-4)*

The Federal Clean Water Act of 1987 requires any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct any activity which may result in a discharge to the navigable waters of the United States shall provide the licensing or permitting agency a certification from the State that any such discharge will comply with the applicable provisions of sections 301 (Effluent Limitations), 302 (Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations), 303 (Water Quality Standards), 306 (National Standards of Performance), and 307 (Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards) of the Act. Section 401 of the Act further states that no such license or permit shall be granted if certification has been denied by the State. The Section 401 review and certification process is routinely performed by DWQ on projects throughout the State.



**Figure 73. Wetlands adjacent to Great Salt Lake.**

#### Contact Information:

Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Water Quality  
P.O. Box 144870  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870

#### Location:

288 North 1460 West  
Salt Lake City, UT  
Phone: 801-538-6146  
Fax: 801-538-6016  
Website: [www.waterquality.utah.gov](http://www.waterquality.utah.gov)

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Authorities and Jurisdiction

### Local Agencies

#### Salt Lake County Public Works Department

##### *County Authority*

Salt Lake County is a political subdivision of the State of Utah and has those statutory powers delegated and implied to counties contained in Utah Code Ann., Title 17, Chapter 50. Unlike other political subdivisions, however, counties have statutory authority for flood control. In this regard, Section 17-8-5 provides that "... *all laws and sanitary regulations against the pollution of water in natural streams, canals, and lakes shall be enforced by the county executives in their respective counties.*"

The Utah Water Quality Act, Section 19-5-107(1) (a) states that it is unlawful for any person to discharge a pollutant into waters of the state or to place or cause to be placed any wastes in a location where there is probable cause to believe it will cause pollution. The county has authority to enforce the prohibition on the discharge of pollutants under the Act, pursuant to the authority contained in Section 17-8-5.

Sections 17-18-1.5 and 1.7 provide that the county attorney shall appear for the State in the district court of the county in all criminal prosecutions. In addition, Section 26A-1-120(1) of the Local Health Department Act provides that the county attorney shall prosecute criminal violations of the public health laws and rules of the Departments of Health and Environmental Quality. Prosecution districts have been created under Section 17-16-2.5 in which the district attorney prosecutes crimes on behalf of the State.



Figure 74. Jordan River, Salt Lake County, UT.

##### *Local Health Department*

The Salt Lake Valley Health Department is a county health department organized pursuant to the Utah Local Health Department Act, Title 26A, Utah Code Ann., and has jurisdiction in all unincorporated and incorporated areas of the county. Section 26A-1-114 enumerates the powers and duties of a local health department. The Salt Lake Valley Health Department has adopted health regulations including Regulation #14 mandating the protection of water the watershed. In this regard, it should be noted that health regulation #14 is also incorporated in Chapter 9.24 of the Salt Lake County Code of Ordinances. The violation of a health regulation constitutes a class "B" misdemeanor.

##### *Public Nuisance*

Section 19-5-107(1)(b) of the Water Quality Act states that any violation of the prohibition on the pollution of waters of the state is a public nuisance. The Salt Lake Valley Health Department has authority under Title 26A to address any violation of the Act as a public nuisance. The District Attorney has authority under Section 76-10-806 to take legal action to abate a public nuisance.

##### *Citizen Suit*

Section 505 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.A. Section 1365) provides that any citizen may commence a civil action against any person who is alleged to be in violation of any effluent standard or limitation under the Act. The term "citizen" is defined in Section 505(g) and means any person having an interest which is or may be adversely affected. Under the terms of the citizen suit provision, a county may seek injunctive relief in Federal Court against any person discharging a pollutant in violation of the Act.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Authorities and Jurisdiction

### Salt Lake City Corporation—Department of Public Utilities

Several major acts have been passed that provide specific federal protections and give Salt Lake City extra territorial jurisdiction over public lands in the Wasatch Range canyons of Salt Lake County. The U.S. Congress passed acts in 1914 [Public Law 63-299] and in 1934 [Public Law 259] to set these lands aside to protect them from all mineral location, entry, or appropriation in order to protect water quality for the municipal water supply of Salt Lake City. Notably, specific wording is given to provide for cooperation between the U.S. Forest Service and Salt Lake City in managing these lands primarily for municipal water supply purposes. In turn, the Utah State Constitution provides extra territorial jurisdiction for Salt Lake City as a city of the first class to enact and enforce regulations to protect its water supply [UCA §10-8-15]. The Salt Lake City “Watershed Ordinance,” [SLC §17.02-04] regulates construction and recreation activities in the protected watershed areas of Salt Lake County to prevent pollution of the water supply.

NOTE: The 1990 U.S. Congress Public Law 101-634 Salt Lake City Watershed Improvement Act signed by President George Bush, Sr. affirmed the 1914 & 1934 acts and allowed for USFS/SLC land exchange. However, the land exchange portion of the act was dropped from consideration by former Salt Lake City Mayor Corradini May 28, 1996 due in part to the expensive and burdensome USFS requirement that the City provide title insurance for all City lands transferred to the USFS.



**Figure 75. Big Cottonwood Creek, Salt Lake County, UT.**

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Authorities and Jurisdiction

### Non-profit Organizations

#### Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited (TU) is a national conservation group dedicated to the mission to conserve, protect, and restore North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. TU is a private non-profit organization with over 100,000 members in 450 chapters nationwide.

TU's interest and purpose in participating on the committee preparing the mining component of the 319 Clean Water Act regulations for the State of Utah, centers on a recently announced program area for our organization. This new program area is Restoration of Abandoned Mine Sites. TU is undertaking efforts to:

- Raise public awareness of the adverse impacts resulting from abandoned, or orphaned, hard rock mining operations in watersheds throughout the western United States.
- Explore and develop partnerships beginning at the grass roots level pressing for restoration actions at specific sites that are polluting aquatic habitats and limiting fish productivity.
- Demonstrate economical methods appropriate for remedial actions at selected mine sites acceptable to land owners while complying with state and Federal agencies' procedures and regulations.



Figure 76. Parley's Creek, Salt Lake County, UT.

The North Fork of American Fork Canyon, Utah has been selected as a watershed where restoration actions on private properties will be pursued by TU to compliment the mine restoration efforts previously completed by the Forest Service on National Forest System lands in this canyon. This project will be used by TU as a demonstration of how partners can work cooperatively and collaboratively in restoring abandoned mine lands to productive sites while reducing the potential, and ongoing, releases of hazardous substances into the adjacent environment. Our efforts will demonstrate the need for an ongoing program at the state and Federal levels dedicated to selecting and funding restoration efforts at abandoned mine lands to compliment and expand the meager, yet sincere, efforts underway by state, Federal, and private entities.

As the largest fishery conservation group in the nation, Trout Unlimited will exercise its prestige and influence to raise concerns, solicit partners, secure funding, and implement restoration actions at abandoned mine lands and to influence legislators to support these efforts with legislation protecting and encouraging Good Samaritan efforts in this regard. We recognize the mining component of the 319 Clean Water Act for Utah, and add our support to the effort of preparing those regulations, as a piece of the solution that will further this effort in this state.

#### Contact information:

Chris Wood, Vice President - Natural Resources

Trout Unlimited

1300 North 17th Street, Suite 500

Arlington, VA 22209-3801

<http://www.tuutah.org>

### VIII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

There are two levels of monitoring and evaluation of NPS projects. One aspect is focused on the contribution a project makes towards accomplishing the greater goal of improving water quality throughout the State. The other aspect pertains to the individual project goals and if they were achieved. It is often difficult to evaluate the impacts of NPS mining projects on a wide geographic basis because the majority of individual problem sites appear in clusters in historic mining areas. Also, highly mineralized mining areas often have high levels of contamination resulting from the natural processes of weathering and erosion. Consequently, it is often not possible to isolate the impacts of an individual reclamation project site. With adequate characterization before remediation, however, there should be sufficient information to evaluate the accomplishment of goals. In addition to water quality data, other parameters for evaluation may include monitoring the health of associated biota, sedimentation and aesthetic appeal of a disturbed area.

### IX. INFORMATION NEEDS AND STRATEGIES

New technologies and existing best management practices for inactive mines are presently being developed and tested in demonstration projects. Because of the diversity of the problems related to abandoned mines, the solutions are technologically complex and vary according to the specific characteristics of the site. The educational element of the mining committee's goals are focused on raising public awareness of the impacts that acid rock drainage and mine waste have on water quality and disseminating information about successful reclamation techniques to targeted groups such as landowners, mining companies, associations and local governments.



Figure 77. Completed pond and slope re-vegetation of Alta Fen project.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## References

### X. REFERENCES

American Society for Mining and Reclamation (ASMR). (n.d.). Retrieved November 24, 2004 from <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/asmr/Annual%20Conferences.htm>.

American Water Resources Association. (n.d.). Retrieved November 24, 2004 from [www.awra.org/index.html](http://www.awra.org/index.html) and [www.awra.org/proceedings/proceedings.html](http://www.awra.org/proceedings/proceedings.html).

Buck, Stuart and David Gerard. (2001). Cleaning Up Mining Waste. Political Economy Research Center Research Study 01-1, November 2001. Retrieved January 5, 2005 from [http://www.perc.org/pdf/rs01\\_1.pdf](http://www.perc.org/pdf/rs01_1.pdf).

Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Division of Minerals and Geology. (2002). Best Practices in Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation: The Remediation of Past Mining Practices.

Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment, Water Quality Control Division. (2000). Colorado Nonpoint Source Assessment Report.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability (CERCLA). (1989). EPA/9234.1-02.

Daly, Chris and George Taylor. (2000). Spatial Climate Analysis Service 1961-1990. Retrieved May 9, 2005 from <http://nationalatlas.gov/atlasftp.html>.

Doelling, Hellmut H. and Edwin W. Tooker. (1983). Utah Mining District Areas and Principal Metal Occurrences, Map 70, Utah Geological Survey, Salt Lake City.

Durkin, Thomas V. and Jonathan G. Herrmann. (1994). Focusing on the Problem of Mining Wastes: An Introduction to Acid Mine Drainage, EPA Seminar Publication no. EPA/625/R-95/007 "Managing Environmental Problems at Inactive and Abandoned Metals Mine Sites". Retrieved May 9, 2005 from <http://technology.infomine.com/enviromine/publicat/amdintro.html>.

40 CFR Part 122, EPA Administered Permit Program: The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. (1978). Retrieved on May 9, 2005 from [http://www.labtrain.noaa.gov/labwaste/section1/122\\_1.htm](http://www.labtrain.noaa.gov/labwaste/section1/122_1.htm).

Grahame, John D. and Thomas D. Sisk, editors. (2002). Canyons, cultures and environmental change: An introduction to the land-use history of the Colorado Plateau. Retrieved January 5, 2005 from <http://www.cpluhna.nau.edu/>.

High Altitude Revegetation Committee, Department of Soil and Crop Sciences Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO. (n.d.). Retrieved November 24, 2004 from [www.highaltitudereveg.com](http://www.highaltitudereveg.com).

Hintze, Lehi F., Grant C. Willis, Denise Y.M. Laes, Douglas A. Sprinkel, and Kent D. Brown. (2000). Digital Geologic Map of Utah, Map 179DM, Utah Geological Survey, Salt Lake City.

International Conference on Acid Rock Drainage (ICARD). (n.d.). Retrieved November 24, 2004 from <http://www.inap.com.au/lcard.htm>.

*Journal of the American Water Resources Association*, American Water Resources Association. (n.d.). Retrieved November 24, 2004 from [www.awra.org/jawra/index.html](http://www.awra.org/jawra/index.html).

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## References

*Land and Water: The Magazine of Natural Resource Management and Restoration* (n.d.). Retrieved November 24, 2004 from [www.landandwater.com](http://www.landandwater.com).

Loomis, John B. (2002). *Integrated Public Lands Management: Principles and Applications to National Forests, Parks, Wildlife Refuges, and BLM Lands*. Columbia University Press

Milligan, Mark R. (2000). How was Utah's topography formed? *Survey Notes* 32(1). Retrieved May 9, 2005 from <http://geology.utah.gov/surveynotes/gladasked/gladtopoform.htm>.

Mills, Chris and Andy Robertson. (1997). *Acid Rock Drainage at Enviromine*. Retrieved November 24, 2004 from <http://technology.infomine.com/enviromine/ard/home.htm>.

National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML). (n.d.). Retrieved November 24, 2004 from [www.onenet.net/~naaml/](http://www.onenet.net/~naaml/).

Reclamation Research Unit, Montana State University - Bozeman. (n.d.). Retrieved November 24, 2004 from [www.montana.edu/reclamation/publications.htm](http://www.montana.edu/reclamation/publications.htm).

Spatial Climate Analysis Service. (2000). Retrieved November 24, 2004 from <http://www.ocs.orst.edu/prism/>.

Sprinkel, Douglas A. (1999). *Digital Geologic Resources Atlas of Utah*, Bulletin 129DF, Utah Geological Survey, Salt Lake City.

Stokes, William Lee. (1986). *Geology of Utah*, Utah Museum and Natural History and Utah Geological and Mineral Survey Occasional Paper No. 6, Salt Lake City. 258 pages.

USDA Forest Service, Wasatch-Cache National Forest. (2001). *Ski Area BMPs (Best Management Practices): Guidelines for Planning, Erosion Control, and Reclamation*.

Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil, Gas & Mining. (2000). *The Practical Guide to Reclamation in Utah*.

Utah Division of Environmental Response and Remediation. (n.d.) Retrieved February 1, 2005 from <http://www.environmentalresponse.utah.gov/vcp/>.

Utah Division of Oil Gas and Mining. (n.d.) Retrieved November 24, 2004 from <http://dogm.nr.state.ut.us>.

United States Geological Survey (USGS). (n.d.). Retrieved December 27, 2004 from <http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/circ/circ1157/nawqa91.e.html>.

Utah Mining Association. (n.d.). Retrieved November 24, 2004 from <http://www.utahmining.org/>.

### XI. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

#### 303(d) List

The 303(d) list delineates impaired waterbodies in the State and is compiled by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Quality every two years. This compilation is in accordance with Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and "is required to identify those waterbodies for which existing pollution controls are not stringent enough to implement state water quality standards." Once the waterbody has been identified as impaired, the State is required to assess the source(s) and to "allocate the responsibility for controlling the pollution." This process is called a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) analysis.

#### 305(b) Report

"Section 305(b) of the Clean Water Act requires each State to prepare a biennial report on the quality of its waters. A 305(b) report describes the extent to which streams, lakes, and estuaries support their designated uses. The report also identifies the pollutants or stressors causing impairment of designated uses and the sources of these stressors (e.g., wastewater treatment plants or mines). Groundwater programs and impacts are also described. Rather than presenting raw monitoring data, a 305(b) report presents the results of careful assessment of those data in terms meaningful to the public and governing bodies (e.g., Tribal Councils, legislators). EPA transmits the individual 305(b) reports to Congress along with a summary report on the Nation's water quality prepared using the 305(b) information." [<http://www.epa.gov/volunteer/305btribal.pdf>]

#### 319 Grant

In 1987, the US Congress amended the Clean Water Act (CWA) to establish the section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program. Under this program, State, Territories, and Indian Tribes may receive grant money to conduct NPS assessment and cleanup activities. In addition, "technical assistance, financial assistance, education, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects, and monitoring to assess the success of specific nonpoint source implementation projects" are all supported by section 319 funds. [<http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/cwact.html>]

#### Abandoned Mine

An abandoned mine is defined as a mine that has permanently ceased operation and is no longer producing. Government agencies generally interpret "abandoned" as referring to mines that ceased operations before there were state or federal laws requiring reclamation, so there is no identifiable private party responsible for reclamation and no private resources available to pay for reclamation.

#### Acid Mine Drainage (AMD)

Acidic water flowing from a mine. See "Acid Rock Drainage."

#### Acid Rock Drainage (ARD)

Acidic water formed when surface water or shallow groundwater reacts with rock containing sulfide minerals such as pyrite and air to form sulfuric acid. Acid rock drainage can be a problem because the acid leaches heavy metals from mineralized rock and keeps the metals in solution. Acid rock drainage is a more general term than acid mine drainage, since acidic waters have sources other than mines, but both terms are often used interchangeably. Both terms are frequently referred to by their acronyms, ARD and AMD.

#### Active Mine

A mine that is operating and producing ore, or temporarily idle with the intent to resume production. Active mines are regulated under state and federal law and are required to be reclaimed at the close of operations.

## XI GLOSSARY OF TERMS—Continued

### Adit

A horizontal entry or passage to an underground mine; a mine portal or drift. (In common usage, adits are often called shafts or tunnels, but strictly speaking, shafts are vertical and tunnels go completely through a hill and have two openings.)

### Alkalinity

Alkalinity refers to the acid-neutralizing capacity of a solution. Alkalinity indicates how much change in pH will occur with the addition of moderate amounts of acid.

[[water.usgs.gov/pubs/ofr/ofr00-213/manual\\_eng/glossary.html](http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/ofr/ofr00-213/manual_eng/glossary.html)]

### AMD

See "Acid Mine Drainage"

### Anoxic

Devoid or deficient in oxygen; anaerobic. Anoxic conditions are required for some acid rock drainage treatment technologies to function properly.

### Aquatic

Any species of plant or animal life, which at any stage in its life history, must inhabit water.

### ARD

See "Acid Rock Drainage"

### Beneficial Uses

In Utah, the State Water Quality Board designates beneficial uses. Examples of beneficial use designations include: "raw water source for domestic water systems; in-stream recreational use; swimming, boating, and water skiing; use by aquatic wildlife; use by cold and warm water fish; use by waterfowl and other water-oriented wildlife; and agricultural uses". Therefore, each stream (or stream segment) in the State is classified or designated under one or more of these beneficial uses. It is unlawful for any person to discharge or place any wastes or other substances into a stream or lake that may interfere with a beneficial use for which a stream is designated (Utah Water Quality Board, 1988).

### Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Techniques that have been proven to effectively reduce environmental degradation. BMP's have evolved over time and have been refined with use into standardized methods that produce reliable outcomes.

### BMP

See "Best Management Practices".

### Bog

A wetland receiving water and nutrients only from atmospheric inputs, dominated by sphagnum mosses and ericaceous shrubs, and characterized by low nutrient and oxygen availability, high acidity, and peat accumulation. ([www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/publications/cw/Glossary.asp](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/publications/cw/Glossary.asp))

### CERCLA

The Comprehensive Emergency Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, P.L./U.S.C. 42(103).

This federal law is often called the Superfund Law because it established the "Superfund" to clean up sites contaminated with toxic wastes.

### XI GLOSSARY OF TERMS—Continued

#### Clean Water Act (CWA)

The Clean Water Act (CWA), formerly known as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, intended to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters" (Section 101). To accomplish that objective, the act aimed to attain a level of water quality that "provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and provides for recreation in and on the water." The CWA has five main elements: (1) a system of minimum national effluent standards for each industry, (2) water quality standards, (3) a discharge permit program that translates these standards into enforceable limits, (4) provisions for special problems such as toxic chemicals and oil spills, and (5) a revolving construction loan program (formerly a grant program) for publicly-owned treatment works (POTWs).

#### Colloids

Colloids are ultra-fine solid particles that are suspended in water. In contrast to larger sediment particles that are suspended in the water column by the motion of water and will eventually settle out when the water velocity drops, colloids are suspended by Brownian motion and will not settle out by gravity.

#### Comprehensive Emergency Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)

See "CERCLA".

#### Culinary

Used for human consumption. These waters are often referred to as "potable".

#### CWA

See "Clean Water Act".

#### Drinking Water Source Protection Plan

A plan formulated by community drinking water providers and administered by the Utah Division of Drinking Water to identify potential contamination sources and protect the drinking water from those sources.

#### Erosion

Erosion is the displacement of soils by wind, water, ice, or movement in response to gravity.

#### Fen

A fen is a peat-accumulating wetland that receives some drainage from surrounding mineral soils and usually supports marsh-like vegetation. These areas are richer in nutrients and less acidic than bogs. The soils under fens are peat (Histosols) if the fen has been present for a while. ([www.soils.org/sssagloss/cgi-bin/gloss\\_search.cgi](http://www.soils.org/sssagloss/cgi-bin/gloss_search.cgi)).

#### Geographic Information System (GIS)

A computer-aided system for the analysis and display of spatial data; at its simplest, a map linked to a database. GIS is a useful tool for nonpoint source pollution control because nonpoint problems can cover large geographic areas and because treatment requires the analysis of complex data from many disciplines. GIS facilitates the interpretation of the data and enhances understanding of causes and solutions.

#### Geomorphology

The branch of geology that studies the evolution and formation of landforms. Geomorphological principles can be applied to the design of constructed stream channels to improve long term stability.

## XI GLOSSARY OF TERMS—Continued

### Geotextile/Geomembrane

Sheets of synthetic fabric or plastic designed to have specific engineering properties (e.g. puncture strength, permeability). They are used as alternatives to or in conjunction with natural construction materials such as clay, gravel, or stone. Among other things, they are used as liners in repositories to isolate contaminated materials, as bedding under rock riprap to prevent scour and undercutting, and in silt fences as filters to capture sediments from runoff.

### GIS

See "Geographic Information System".

### "Good Samaritan" Legislation

Proposed Federal legislation intended to facilitate the good faith clean-up of contaminated sites by landowners or third parties by reducing the risk of legal and financial liability they might incur for doing so as potentially responsible parties under CERCLA.

### Grant Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS)

Recipients of funds awarded under Section 319 are required by law to provide data and grant status information to the EPA. The Grant Reporting and Tracking System is a system by which grant recipient may report on: performance/milestone accomplishment, slippage, data collected, cooperation with State agencies, and suggestions for future work.

### GRTS

See "Grant Reporting and Tracking System".

### Headwater Streams

Small creeks at the uppermost end of a stream system, often found in the mountains, that contribute to larger creeks and rivers ([www.epa.gov/adopt/patch/html/glossary.html](http://www.epa.gov/adopt/patch/html/glossary.html)).

### Heavy Metals

A group of metals with relatively high density or atomic weight, including lead, mercury, cadmium, zinc, and nickel, noted for their toxicity.

### Hydrologic

Having to do with the properties, distribution, and/or circulation of water.

### Inactive Mine

A mine that has temporarily ceased operation and is not producing; a mine that is neither active nor abandoned. Government agencies often interpret "inactive" to mean mines for which there is an identifiable legally responsible party with either an intent to resume mining at a later date or the capability and intent to commence reclamation (e.g. reclamation bond and plan). See "Abandoned Mine".

### Mill

A machine or facility where ore or rock is crushed or ground for processing and extraction of metals.

### Mine Dump

Waste rock, uneconomic ore, spoil, or refuse produced by a mine and usually discarded in a pile on the surface immediately outside the mine. (In common usage, mine dumps are often called tailings piles, but tailings are, strictly speaking, mill wastes.)

## XI GLOSSARY OF TERMS—Continued

### Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution

A source of pollution that cannot be traced to a discrete "point" location such as discharge from a pipe. An example of a nonpoint source of water pollution is runoff from agricultural fields, which can carry pesticides, fertilizer, and eroded soil into streams.

### NPS

See "Nonpoint Source".

### Ore

A natural mineral aggregate, especially one that is mined to extract minerals for a profit. ([www.science.org.au/nova/027/027glo.htm](http://www.science.org.au/nova/027/027glo.htm))

### Oxidize

A chemical reaction in which the reference element or compound losses electrons to another "reduced" element or compound- usually to oxygen (a powerful electron attractor). Oxidation typically results in the breaking up of complex compounds. ([www.nps.gov/plants/restore/library/glossary.htm](http://www.nps.gov/plants/restore/library/glossary.htm))

### pH

A scale to measure the acidity of a solution, ranging from 0 (acidic) to 14 (basic), with 7 indicating a neutral solution. Most natural waters supporting life have a pH in the 6.5 to 9.0 range. Waters with a pH below 6.5 or above 9.0 are generally considered polluted. (The technical definition of pH is the negative logarithm of the hydrogen ion concentration).

### Potentially Responsible Party (PRP)

An individual or entity identified as participating in or contributing to the creation of a contaminated site on the Superfund list. PRP's can be held legally liable for recovering the costs of remediating the site under CERCLA. See "CERCLA".

### Precipitate

A substance separated from a solution or suspension by chemical or physical change ([www.epa.gov/OCEPAterms/pterm.html](http://www.epa.gov/OCEPAterms/pterm.html)).

### PRP

See "Potentially Responsible Party"

### QAPP

See "Quality Assurance Project Plan"

### Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC)

Refers to procedures used to ensure consistent standards of quality in data or products. QA occurs during planning; QC checks results during execution.

### Quality Assurance Plan (QAP)

A set of protocols designed to assure that uniform procedures are followed in the collection, handling, storage, and processing of field samples.

### Radioactive

A property of certain elements, or isotopes of an element, whose atomic nuclei are unstable and subject to spontaneous disintegration. These materials give off ionizing radiation. ([nuclear.bfn.org/glossary.htm](http://nuclear.bfn.org/glossary.htm))

## XI GLOSSARY OF TERMS—Continued

### Reclamation

The act of rehabilitating disturbed lands, such as mine sites, back to productive purposes; the restoration of disturbed lands to their pre-disturbance condition.

### Remediation

A term used in this document in its general sense of a treatment or process to eliminate a problem (such as burying contaminated mine wastes), but also having specific meanings under CERCLA. Remediation can be synonymous with reclamation, but it usually has a connotation of cleaning up toxic or hazardous materials.

### Re-vegetation

The establishment of plants on disturbed lands where the previous plant cover has been destroyed.

### Runoff

That part of precipitation, snowmelt, or irrigation water that runs off the land into streams or other surface water. ([library.marist.edu/diglib/EnvSci/archives/hudsmgmt/ny-njharboestuaryprogram/glossary.html](http://library.marist.edu/diglib/EnvSci/archives/hudsmgmt/ny-njharborestuaryprogram/glossary.html))

### Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP)

A plan specifying the logistics, personnel responsibilities, and procedures for a field sampling and data collection effort.

### SAP

See "Sampling and Analysis Plan".

### Sediment

Solid material, primarily soil particles, that is displaced and moved by water and deposited at another location. Sediment can be a form of water pollution while suspended in the water column.

### Shaft

A vertical or steeply inclined entry to an underground mine; a vertical excavation. See "Adit".

### Shale

Shale is a fine-grained sedimentary rock whose original constituents were clays or muds. It is characterized by thin laminae breaking with an irregular curving fracture, often splintery, and parallel to the often indistinguishable bedding planes. Non-fissile rocks of similar composition but made of particles smaller than 1/16 mm are mudstones. Rocks with similar particle sizes but with less clay and therefore grittier are siltstones. ([www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shales](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shales))

### Silt

Silt is very fine soil sediment—usually < 1/16 mm.

### Subsoiling

Breaking up compacted or hardpan soils with a ripper or similar implement to improve aeration and drainage.

## XI GLOSSARY OF TERMS—Continued

### Superfund

A federal program created by CERCLA to clean up contaminated sites. See "CERCLA".

### Synoptic Tracer-Injection Studies

The methodology uses the injection of saline or bromide solution into the creek headwaters, followed by intensive sampling of downstream water columns (equal width integrated sampling technique). The principal advantage to this method is that it provides an accurate estimation of pollutant load sources and entrance location to the target creek segment.

### Tailings/Tails

Waste rock remaining after ore has been processed in a mill. Because the source material is ore that has been crushed (milled) for beneficiation, mill tailings tend to have finer textures and higher metal concentrations than the waste rock in mine dumps. See "Mine Dump".

### Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

A total maximum daily load (TMDL) is the total amount of pollutant that can be allowed into the water and still meet water quality standards.

### Thiobacillus ferrooxidans

A type of bacterium that oxidizes sulfur produce energy. This sulfur-based bacterial respiration is thought to accelerate the chemical reactions that create acid rock drainage. Some acid rock drainage control techniques work by inhibiting the bacteria and thus slowing the creation of acid.

### TMDL

See "Total Maximum Daily Load".

### Turbidity

The measure of the scattering effect that suspended solids have on light; the higher the intensity of scattered light, the higher the turbidity. ([water.usgs.gov/pubs/ofr/ofr00-213/manual\\_eng/glossary.html](http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/ofr/ofr00-213/manual_eng/glossary.html))

### UAC

See "Utah Administrative Code".

### UCA

See "Utah Code Annotated".

### Unified Watershed Assessment

Implementation of the Utah Watershed Approach began in 1994 with the start of five year rotations of basin intensive monitoring surveys. This document includes a statewide schedule for and a description of the watershed planning and implementation process. The purpose is to provide agencies and local watershed stakeholders with the information they will need to become involved in the Watershed Approach process. DWQ will be using this plan/document for internal guidance to conduct their programs. Guidance to citizens and DWQ for water quality activities will be consistent. DWQ, as the state water quality agency, expects participation from all federal partners, which will lead to enhanced federal consistency.

### Use Attainability Analysis

Analysis that describes factors limiting designated use of waterbodies ([www.epa.gov/waterscience/biocriteria/glossary.html](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/biocriteria/glossary.html)).

**XI GLOSSARY OF TERMS—Continued**

Utah Administrative Code (UAC)

The published compilation of regulations promulgated by state agencies to carry out Utah law.

Utah Code Annotated (UCA)

The published compilation of laws passed by the Utah legislature.

Watershed

The land above a given point on a waterway that contributes runoff water to the flow at that point; a drainage basin or a major subdivision of a drainage basin ([www.water.utah.gov/waterplan/uwrpff/Glossary.htm](http://www.water.utah.gov/waterplan/uwrpff/Glossary.htm)).

X-Ray Fluorescence Studies

In X-ray fluorescence (XRF) a material is exposed to X-rays with a relatively high energy. These photons are capable of exciting (ejecting) the electrons in the core levels of the material under investigation. The induced excited state relaxes under emission of an X-ray photon with a smaller energy. This emitted light is analyzed in a spectrometer. Because the core levels have very different energies for different elements the XRF spectrum contains information on the elemental composition of the material ([www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X-ray\\_fluorescence](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X-ray_fluorescence)).

Yellow Boy

Vernacular term for deposits of iron hydroxide on stream banks and beds as a result of acid rock drainage. The deposits coat rocks and other surfaces and range in color from yellow to orange to rusty. They are an easily identified sign of acid rock drainage.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix A — Mine Inventory

### Appendix A Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining Abandoned Mine Inventory

County	Number of Map Symbols Plotted by USGS NOTE 1	AMRP Inventory: NONCOAL NOTE 2	AMRP Inventory: COAL NOTE 2
Beaver	1247	551	0
Box Elder	423	97	0
Cache	26	0	0
Carbon	106	0	609
Daggett	17	0	0
Davis	8	14	0
Duchesne	45	46	2
Emery	225	405	217
Garfield	210	112	19
Grand	310	200	39
Iron	222	92	95
Juab	1755	230	0
Kane	21	0	72
Millard	316	33	0
Morgan	32	0	4
Piute	361	213	0
Rich	37	43	0
Salt Lake	56	464	0
San Juan	688	684	0
Sanpete	4	0	21
Sevier	201	37	27
Summit	8	24	221
Tooele	1149	1890	0
Uintah	168	13	131
Utah	828	175	0
Wasatch	9	66	0
Washington	147	652	0
Wayne	15	6	0
Weber	18	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8652</b>	<b>6047</b>	<b>1457</b>

**APPENDIX A—Continued**  
**Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining Abandoned Mine Inventory**

Data from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program (AMRP) in the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. (January 2005)

**Note 1:**

Number of mine symbols (shafts, adits, prospects, pits) plotted on the USGS 7.5' 1:24,000 scale topographic map series. This symbol count excludes certain AMRP project areas where reclamation has been completed. Because the symbols do not indicate mine status, some active mines may be included in the count. This count includes symbols for both coal and noncoal mines.

**Note 2:**

Number of abandoned mine features inventoried to date by the AMRP. Mine features primarily mean shafts, adits, prospects, trenches, and pits, but may include structures, coal refuse piles, waste rock dumps, and other non-excavated features. This count includes features listed in the AMRP database plus recently inventoried features not yet entered into the database. The numbers only reflect completed field inventory efforts—a comprehensive statewide inventory has not been completed. *This is not an estimate of the total number of mines that may exist in a county.*

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix B—Selected Water Quality Standards

### Appendix B Selected Water Quality Standards Utah Administration Code R317-2; Effective March 1, 2011

	3A	3B	3C	3D	5
<b>Parameters for Aquatic Life Standards</b>					
PHYSICAL					
Total Dissolved Gases	(1)	(1)			
Minimum Dissolved Oxygen (MG/L) (2) (2a)					
30 Day Average	6.5	5.5	5.0	5.0	
7 Day Average	9.5/5.0	6.0/4.0			
Minimum	8.0/4.0	5.0/3.0	3.0	3.0	
Max. Temperature (C) (3)	20	27	27		
Max. Temperature Change (C) (3)	2	4	4		
pH (Range) (2a)	6.5-9.0	6.5-9.0	6.5-9.0	6.5-9.0	
Turbidity Increase (NTU)	10	10	15	15	
METALS (4) (DISSOLVED, UG/L) (5)					
Aluminum					
4 Day Average (6)	87	87	87	87	
1 Hour Average	750	750	750	750	
Arsenic (Trivalent)					
4 Day Average	150	150	150	150	
1 Hour Average	340	340	340	340	
Cadmium (7)					
4 Day Average	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	
1 Hour Average	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	
Chromium (Hexavalent)					
4 Day Average	11	11	11	11	
1 Hour Average	16	16	16	16	
Chromium (Trivalent) (7)					
4 Day Average	74	74	74	74	
1 Hour Average	570	570	570	570	

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix B—Selected Water Quality Standards

	3A	3B	3C	3D	5
Copper (7)					
4 Day Average	9	9	9	9	
1 Hour Average	13	13	13	13	
Cyanide (Free)					
4 Day Average	5.2	5.2	5.2		
1 Hour Average	22	22	22	22	
Iron (Maximum)	1000	1000	1000	1000	
Lead (7)					
4 Day Average	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	
1 Hour Average	65	65	65	65	
Mercury					
4 Day Average	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	
1 Hour Average	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	
Nickel (7)					
4 Day Average	52	52	52	52	
1 Hour Average	468	468	468	468	
Selenium					
4 Day Average	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	
1 Hour Average	18.4	18.4	18.4	18.4	
Selenium (14) Gilbert Bay (Class 5A) Great Salt Lake Geometric Mean over Nesting Season (mg/kg dry wt)					
					12.5
Silver					
1 Hour Average (7)	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	
Zinc (7)					
4 Day Average	120	120	120	120	
1 Hour Average	120	120	120	120	
INORGANICS (MG/L) (4)					
Total Ammonia as N (9)					
30 Day Average	(9a)	(9a)	(9a)	(9a)	
1 Hour Average	(9b)	(9b)	(9b)	(9b)	
Chlorine (Total Residual)					
4 Day Average	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	
1 Hour Average	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix B—Selected Water Quality Standards

	3A	3B	3C	3D	5
Hydrogen Sulfide (13) (Undissociated, Max. UG/L)	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Phenol (Maximum)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
RADIOLOGICAL (MAXIMUM pCi/L)					
Gross Alpha (10)	15	15	15	15	
ORGANICS (UG/L) (4)					
Aldrin					
1 Hour Average	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	
Chlordane					
4 Day Average	0.0043	0.0043	0.0043	0.0043	
1 Hour Average	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	
4,4' -DDT					
4 Day Average	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	
1 Hour Average	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	
Diazinon					
4 Day Average	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	
1 Hour Average	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	
Dieldrin					
4 Day Average	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	
1 Hour Average	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	
Alpha-Endosulfan					
4 Day Average	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	
1 Hour Average	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	
beta-Endosulfan					
4 Day Average	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	
1 Day Average	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	
Endrin					
4 Day Average	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	
1 Hour Average	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	
Heptachlor					
4 Day Average	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	
1 Hour Average	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	
Heptachlor epoxide					
4 Day Average	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	
1 Hour Average	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix B—Selected Water Quality Standards

	3A	3B	3C	3D	5
Hexachlorocyclohexane (Lindane)					
4 Day Average	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	
1 Hour Average	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	
Methoxychlor (Maximum)					
	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	
Mirex (Maximum)	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	
Nonylphenol					
4 Day Average	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	
1 Hour Average	28.0	28.0	28.0	28.0	
Parathion					
4 Day Average	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	
1 Hour Average	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	
PCB's					
4 Day Average	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	
Pentachlorophenol (11)					
4 Day Average	15	15	15	15	
1 Hour Average	19	19	19	19	
Toxaphene					
4 Day Average	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	
1 Hour Average	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	
POLLUTION INDICATORS (11)					
Gross Beta (pCi/L)	50	50	50	50	
BOD (MG/L)	5	5	5	5	
Nitrate as N (MG/L)	4	4	4		
Total Phosphorus as P (MG/L) (12)	0.05	0.05			

**FOOTNOTES:**

(1) Not to exceed 110% of saturation.

(2) These limits are not applicable to lower water levels in deep impoundments. First number in column is for when early life stages are present, second number is for when all other life stages present.

(2a) These criteria are not applicable to Great Salt Lake impounded wetlands. Surface water in these wetlands shall be protected from changes in pH and dissolved oxygen that create significant adverse impacts to the existing beneficial uses. To ensure protection of uses, the Executive Secretary shall develop reasonable protocols and guidelines that quantify the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of these waters. These protocols and guidelines will include input from

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix B—Selected Water Quality Standards

local governments, the regulated community, and the general public. The Executive Secretary will inform the Water Quality Board of any protocols or guidelines that are developed.

(3) The temperature standard shall be at background where it can be shown that natural or un-alterable conditions prevent its attainment. In such cases rulemaking will be undertaken to modify the standard accordingly.

Site Specific Standards for Temperature

Ken's Lake: From June 1<sup>st</sup> - September 20<sup>th</sup>, 27 degrees C.

(4) Where criteria are listed as 4-day average and 1-hour average concentrations, these concentrations should not be exceeded more often than once every three years on the average.

(5) The dissolved metals method involves filtration of the sample in the field, acidification of the sample in the field, no digestion process in the laboratory, and analysis by EPA approved laboratory methods for the required detection levels.

(6) The criterion for aluminum will be implemented as follows:

Where the pH is equal to or greater than 7.0 and the hardness is equal to or greater than 50 ppm as CaCO<sub>3</sub> in the receiving water after mixing, the 87 ug/l chronic criterion (expressed as total recoverable) will not apply, and aluminum will be regulated based on compliance with the 750 ug/l acute aluminum criterion (expressed as total recoverable).

(7) Hardness dependent criteria. 100 mg/l used. Conversion factors for ratio of total recoverable metals to dissolved metals must also be applied. In waters with a hardness greater than 400 mg/l as CaCO<sub>3</sub>, calculations will assume a hardness of 400 mg/l as CaCO<sub>3</sub>. See Table 2.14.3 for complete equations for hardness and conversion factors.

(8) Reserved

(9) The following equations are used to calculate Ammonia criteria concentrations:

(9a) The thirty-day average concentration of total ammonia nitrogen (in mg/l as N) does not exceed, more than once every three years on the average, the chronic criterion calculated using the following equations

Fish Early Life Stages are Present:  
mg/l as N (Chronic) =  $((0.0577/(1+10^{7.688-\text{pH}})) + (2.487/(1+10^{\text{pH}-7.688}))) * \text{MIN}(2.85, 1.45*10^{0.028*(25-\text{T})})$

Fish Early Life Stages are Absent:  
mg/l as N (Chronic) =  $((0.0577/(1+10^{7.688-\text{pH}})) + (2.487/(1+10^{\text{pH}-7.688}))) * 1.45*10^{0.028*(25-\text{MAX}(\text{T}, 7))}$

9b) The one-hour average concentration of total ammonia nitrogen (in mg/l as N) does not exceed, more than once every three years on the average the acute criterion calculated using the following equations.

Class 3A:

mg/l as N (Acute) =  $(0.275/(1+10^{7.204-\text{pH}})) + (39.0/(1+10^{\text{pH}-7.204}))$

Class 3B, 3C, 3D:

mg/l as N (Acute) =  $0.411/(1+10^{7.204-\text{pH}}) + (58.4/(1+10^{\text{pH}-7.204}))$

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix B—Selected Water Quality Standards

In addition, the highest four-day average within the 30-day period should not exceed 2.5 times the chronic criterion. The "Fish Early Life Stages are Present" 30-day average total ammonia criterion will be applied by default unless it is determined by the Division, on a site-specific basis, that it is appropriate to apply the "Fish Early Life Stages are Absent" 30-day average criterion for all or some portion of the year. At a minimum, the "Fish Early Life Stages are Present" criterion will apply from the beginning of spawning through the end of the early life stages. Early life stages include the pre-hatch embryonic stage, the post-hatch free embryo or yolk-sac fry stage, and the larval stage for the species of fish expected to occur at the site. The division will consult with the Division of Wildlife Resources in making such determinations. The Division will maintain information regarding the waterbodies and time periods where application of the "Early Life Stages are Absent" criterion is determined to be appropriate.

(10) Investigation should be conducted to develop more information where these levels are exceeded.

(11) pH dependent criteria. pH 7.8 used in table. See Table 2.14.4 for equation.

(12) Total Phosphorus as P (mg/l) as a pollution indicator for lakes and reservoirs shall be 0.025.

(13) Formula to convert dissolved sulfide to un-disassociated hydrogen sulfide is:  $H_2S = \text{Dissolved Sulfide} * e^{((-1.92 + pH) + 12.05)}$

(14) The selenium water quality standard of 12.5 (mg/kg dry weight) for Gilbert Bay is a tissue based standard using the complete egg/embryo of aquatic dependent birds using Gilbert Bay based upon a minimum of five samples over the nesting season. Assessment procedures are incorporated as a part of this standard as follows:

### Egg Concentration Triggers: DWQ Responses

Below 5.0 mg/kg: Routine monitoring with sufficient intensity to determine if selenium concentrations within the Great Salt Lake ecosystem are increasing.

5.0 mg/kg: Increased monitoring to address data gaps, loadings, and areas of uncertainty identified from initial Great Salt Lake selenium studies.

6.4 mg/kg: Initiation of a Level II Antidegradation review by the State for all discharge permit renewals or new discharge permits to Great Salt Lake. The Level II Antidegradation review may include an analysis of loading reductions.

9.8 mg/kg: Initiation of preliminary TMDL studies to evaluate selenium loading sources.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix B—Selected Water Quality Standards

12.5 mg/kg and above: Declare impairment. Formalize and implement TMDL.

Antidegradation

Level II Review procedures associated with this standard are referenced at R317-2-3.5.C.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix B—Selected Water Quality Standards

### Agricultural and Recreational Standards for Metals

Parameter	Domestic Source	Recreation and Aesthetics		Agriculture
	1C	2A	2B	4
BACTERIOLOGICAL (30-DAY GEOMETRIC MEAN) (NO.)/100 ML				
E. coli	(7) 206	126	206	
MAXIMUM (NO.)/100 ML (7)				
E. coli	668	409	668	
PHYSICAL				
pH (RANGE)	6.5-9.0	6.5-9.0	6.5-9.0	6.5-9.0
Turbidity Increase (NTU)		10	10	
METALS (DISSOLVED, MAXIMUM MG/L) (2)				
Arsenic	0.01			0.1
Barium	1.0			
Beryllium	<0.004			
Cadmium	0.01			0.01
Chromium	0.05			0.10
Copper				0.2
Lead	0.015			0.1
Mercury	0.002			
Selenium	0.05			0.05
Silver	0.05			
INORGANICS (MAXIMUM MG/L)				
Bromate	0.01			
Boron				0.75
Chlorite	<1.0			
Fluoride (3)	1.4-2.4			
Nitrates as N	10			
Total Dissolved Solids (4)				1200

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix B—Selected Water Quality Standards

	1C	2A	2B	4
<b>RADIOLOGICAL</b>				
<b>(MAXIMUM pCi/L)</b>				
Gross Alpha	15			15
Gross Beta	4 mrem/yr		Radium 226, 228	
(Combined)	5			
Strontium 90	8			
Tritium	20000			
Uranium	30			
<b>ORGANICS</b>				
<b>(MAXIMUM UG/L)</b>				
<b>Chlorophenoxy</b>				
<b>Herbicides</b>				
2,4-D	70			
2,4,5-TP	10			
Methoxychlor	40			
<b>POLLUTION</b>				
<b>INDICATORS (5)</b>				
BOD (MG/L)		5	5	5
Nitrate as N (MG/L)		4	4	
Total Phosphorus as P				
(MG/L) (6)		0.05		
<b>TEMP (C)</b>	<b>MG/L</b>			
12.0	2.4			
12.1-14.6	2.2			
14.7-17.6	2.0			
17.7-21.4	1.8			
21.5-26.2	1.6			
26.3-32.5	1.4			

**Appendix C**

Nonpoint Source Mining Plan  
 Technical Advisory Committee

<u>Federal Agencies</u>	<u>State Agencies</u>	<u>Local Agencies</u>	<u>Non-governmental entities</u>
U.S. EPA Region 8 1595 Wyncoop Street Denver, CO 80202-1129 Phone: 303-312-6312 303-312-6246	Division of Oil, Gas and Mining P.O. Box 145801 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801 Phone: 801-538-5340	Salt Lake County Public Works Department 2001 South State Street N-3100 Salt Lake City, UT 84190 Phone: 801-468-3630	Utah Mining Association 136 South Main Street Salt Lake City, UT 84101-1672 Phone: 801-364-1874
BLM Utah State Office P.O. Box 45155 Salt Lake City, UT 84145 Phone: 801-539-4026	Utah Geological Survey P.O. Box 146100 Salt Lake City, UT 84114 Phone: 801-537-3347	Salt Lake City Public Utilities 1530 South West Temple Salt Lake City, UT 84115 Phone: 801-483-6768	Trout Unlimited PO Box 681311 Park City, UT Phone: 630-235-6558
Mine Cleanup Program USDA-Forest Service-R4 324 25 <sup>th</sup> Street Ogden, UT 84401 Phone: 801-698-7928	Division of Wildlife Resources P.O. Box 146301 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6301 Phone: 801-538-4866	Salt Lake County Service Area #3 P.O. Box 920067 Snowbird, UT 84092-0067 Phone: 801-278-9660	United Park City Mines P.O. Box 1450 Park City, UT 84060 Phone: 435-649-8011

**Nonpoint Source Mining Plan**  
 Technical Advisory Committee Continued

Federal Agencies	State Agencies	Local Agencies	Non-governmental entities
U.S. Geological Survey 2329 W. Orton Circle West Valley, UT 84119-2047 Phone: 801-908-5047	Division of Water Quality P.O. Box 144870 Salt Lake City, UT 84114 Phone: 801-536-4330 801-536-4336		Kennecott Utah Copper P.O. Box 6001 Magna, UT 84044 Phone: 801-569-7128
Wasatch-Cache National Forest 8436 Federal Building 125 South State Street Salt Lake City, UT 84138 Phone: 801-236-3439			Mountain Planning and Development Snowbird Ski Corporation P.O. Box 929000 Snowbird, UT 84092-9000 Phone: 801-521-6040 ext. 4132
			Alta Ski Lifts Corporation P.O. Box 8007 Alta, UT 84092 Phone: 801-799-2290

### Appendix D

#### Factors Contributing to Sampling Analysis Plans (SAP) and Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP)

It is essential that each abandoned mine restoration report include a Sampling Analysis (SAP) and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). The EPA has outlined elements of these plans in their QA/R-5 guidance report (<http://www.epa.gov/quality/qs-docs/r5-final.pdf>). Required elements outlined in the QA/R-5 guidance report include:

1. Title and approval sheet
2. Table of contents
3. Problem definition and background
4. Project/task description
5. Distribution list
6. Project/task organization
7. Special training/certification
8. Documents and records
9. Quality objectives and criteria
10. Sampling process design
11. Sampling methods
12. Sample handling and custody
13. Instrument/equipment calibration and frequency
14. Analytical methods
15. Data review, verification and validation
16. Verification and validation methods
17. Non-direct measurements
18. Data management
19. Quality control
20. Assessment and response actions
21. Instrument/equipment testing, inspection and maintenance
22. Reconciliation with user requirements
23. Assessment and response actions
24. Reports to management

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix D—SAP and QAPP

In addition to QA/R-5 requirements, factors to be included in specific types of SAP and QAPP reports are listed below.

PLAN	FACTORS
Surface Water Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Locations and descriptions of all stream and discharge sampling stations</li> <li>· Specification and acquisition of all supplies</li> <li>· Specification and acquisition of all testing and flow measuring equipment</li> <li>· Training and coordination of workers</li> <li>· Determination of timing for sampling events</li> </ul>
Surface Water Quality Assurance Plan (QAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Target analytes</li> <li>· Sample collection protocols</li> <li>· QA/QC Plan</li> <li>· Sample filtration techniques</li> <li>· Sample preservation and storage</li> <li>· Acidified bottle/cooler storage</li> <li>· Transport and retention time</li> </ul>
Mine Waste Dump Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Locations and descriptions of all sampled mine waste dumps and tailings</li> <li>· Accurate material volume estimates</li> <li>· Acquisition of supplies and equipment</li> <li>· Core sampling depth/location</li> <li>· Flow routing of surface runoff in/around dumps</li> <li>· Location of adits, tunnels, discharges</li> </ul>
Mine Waste Quality Assurance Plan (QAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Target analytes</li> <li>· Sample collection protocols such as mine waste grab samples or integrated statistical composite sampling</li> <li>· Sample preparation and storage</li> <li>· Testing techniques and methods that include leachate and saturated extract methods, and acidity/alkalinity determination</li> <li>· QA/QC plan</li> <li>· Scintillometer readings of mine wastes and offsite background materials</li> <li>· X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) readings of heavy metals in soils</li> </ul>
Mine/Groundwater Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Target analytes</li> <li>· Monitoring well installation locations</li> <li>· Background groundwater quality such as mine-pool water quality and flow paths and contaminated plume locations</li> <li>· Well design specifications</li> <li>· Well sampling procedures</li> <li>· Tracer study locations and design of program</li> <li>· Fluorescent dye tracing</li> <li>· Ionic tracer methods</li> <li>· Injection and recovery sampling locations</li> <li>· Fate and transport modeling</li> <li>· Isotopic study design and procedures</li> <li>· Identification of appropriate isotopes</li> <li>· Geochemical “fingerprinting” water sources</li> </ul>

Notably, Mine/Groundwater Quality Assurance Plans (QAP) have the same requirements as stream and mine drainage characterization.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix E—User Guide for 319 Project Proposals

### APPENDIX E

#### Users Guide for Utah CWA 319 Water Quality Project Proposals

Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Quality, annually receives proposals to fund projects to use Clean Water Act (CWA) and State Nonpoint Source funding to improve, protect, restore, or study water quality in the waters of the State of Utah through reducing or preventing nonpoint source pollutant loading to those waters.

Project proposals must be developed using official EPA format and guidance. Proposals should be requested early from and submitted via email to [jdbowcutt@utah.gov](mailto:jdbowcutt@utah.gov) by August 1 each year, or by the last Friday in July if August 1 is on a weekend.

If 319 project materials are requested, participants will be emailed documents to be used in developing project proposals that will likely include:

Evaluation Criteria for NPS 319 Project Proposals

Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 Nonpoint Source Program Project Sponsors Project Proposal Guidance for FY 2000 and Beyond

Comments, Guidance, Adjustments to EPA Region 8 document

State of Utah Guidance For Sampling and Analysis Plans/Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs)

The US Office of Management and Budget looks very closely to achieve measurable improvement to water quality from 319 projects. Plans and procedures to appropriately measure and/or model any changes in water quality resulting from the project should be detailed in the QAPP.

In addition to the materials listed above, those with interest in proposing a project for funding should review <http://www.waterquality.utah.gov/watersheds/state.htm> to determine status and nature of existing TMDLs, Watershed Plans, and other relevant watershed information. Projects addressing existing or proposed TMDLs will be favored for funding.

EPA requires that CWA 319 projects address water quality problems that are included in the state water quality plan. That plan for several years focused on agricultural factors. But new, additional components to the Utah State Water Quality Management Plan are being adopted. It is anticipated the first of these will be the plan for Management of Abandoned Mines and Mine Wastes. Review the Utah Water Quality website [http://waterquality.utah.gov/documents/DOC\\_RULE.HTM](http://waterquality.utah.gov/documents/DOC_RULE.HTM) to determine if this plan has been adopted and to insure your project proposal compatibly integrates with and supports the statewide plan. With expansion in the types of water quality projects that are eligible for consideration, competition for the limited funding is intense. In developing project proposals, consult early with watershed councils, watershed coordinators, and other appropriate management offices and impacted parties to facilitate inclusion of appropriate objectives, projects, and management practices in the project proposal.

### APPENDIX E—Continued

Main areas of consideration when evaluating mining-related proposals

The three main areas of consideration for evaluating mining-related proposals are:

1. **Basic threshold requirements** - This is a broad evaluation to determine if the proposal fits the overall objective of the nonpoint source program. Surface water and groundwater projects will be considered and the project should target water bodies on the State's 303(d) list; with an approved TMDL; or surface or ground waters that are significantly threatened with impairment. The project should directly reduce or prevent non-point source pollution.
2. **Magnitude, feasibility, monitoring, and cost effectiveness of the proposal** – The project is evaluated in regard to the severity and extent of the problem; the technical and financial feasibility; monitoring and evaluation of the project; and demonstration value for other areas of the State. An important factor that will be considered is whether Drinking Water Source Protection Plans, administered by the Utah Division of Drinking Water have identified the NPS pollution as a potential source of contamination. Higher consideration is given to projects that have a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach to non-point source management including cooperation and coordination with other programs; demonstrates quality technical information relating to the link between problem and solution including capability of best management practices and other management measures to attain a defined water quality end-point; have appropriate quantitative monitoring; and will show innovative and cost effective solutions to the problem.
3. **Overall priority and importance of the project** – This evaluates the project in regards to how comprehensive the project is. For example, higher consideration will be given to projects that address nonpoint source pollution problems at the watershed scale than at a single project site within the watershed.

**APPENDIX F**  
List of Acronyms

NAME	ACRONYM
Abandoned Mine Land	AML
Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program	AMRP
Acid Mine Drainage	AMD
Acid Rock Drainage	ARD
Administrative Orders on Consent	AOC
All Terrain Vehicle	ATV
American Society for Mining and Reclamation	ASMR
Best Management Practices	BMP
Clean Water Act	CWA
Coal Regulatory Program	CRP
Code of Federal Regulation	CFR
Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act	CERCLA
Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act	FIFRA
Geographic Information System	GIS
Hazardous Material	HAZMAT
International Conference on Acid Rock Drainage	ICARD
Maximum Contaminant Level	MCL
Memorandum of Understanding	MOU
Mine Regulatory Program	MRP
National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs	NAAMLPS
National Environmental Policy Act	NEPA
National Forest Service	NFS
National Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Contingency Plan	NCP
National Priority List	NPL
Nonpoint Source	NPS
Potentially Responsible Party	PRP

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix F—Acronyms

### APPENDIX F—Continued List of Acronyms

NAME	ACRONYM
Quality Assurance Project Plan	QAPP
Resource Conservation Recovery Act	RCRA
Safe Drinking Water Act	SDWA
Sampling Analysis Plan	SAP
Technical Advisory Committee	TAC
Total Dissolved Solids	TDS
Total Maximum Daily Load	TMDL
Toxic Substance Control Act	TSCA
Underground Injection Control	UIC
United States Department of Agriculture	USDA
United States Environmental Protection Agency	EPA
United States Office of Surface Mining	OSM
Use Attainability Analysis	UAA
Utah Administrative Code	UAC
Utah Department of Environmental Quality	DEQ
Utah Division of Environmental Response and Remediation	UDERR
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining	DOGGM
Utah Pollution Discharge Elimination System	UPDES
Voluntary Environmental Cleanup Program	VECP
Water Quality Act	WQA

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix G—Sites of Most Pressing Concern in Utah

### APPENDIX G

#### Sites of Most Pressing Concern in Utah

The following is a list of known sites exhibiting severe impacts from abandoned mine related concerns. Although, it is generally accepted that Silver Creek, Little Cottonwood, and Mineral Basin in American Fork Canyon are the top priorities for clean-up, the remaining sites are listed in no particular order.

<u>SITE</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
Silver Creek	Summit
Little Cottonwood	Salt Lake
American Fork Canyon (Mineral Basin)	Utah
Atlas Tailings	Grand
La Sal Creek	San Juan
Fry Canyon	San Juan
Cottonwood Wash	San Juan
Red Canyon	San Juan
White Canyon	San Juan
Lisbon Valley	San Juan
Tintic Mountains	Juab/Utah
Sheeprock Mountains	Tooele
Drum Mountains	Juab/Millard
Mineral Mountains	Beaver
Antelope Range	Iron
Silver Reef	Washington

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix H—Active Watershed Groups in the State of Utah

### APPENDIX H

#### Active Watershed Groups in the State of Utah

##### Watershed Organizations

###### Statewide

Utah Partners of Conservation and Development  
Utah Watershed Coordinating Council  
Nonpoint Source Taskforce  
Utah Association of Conservation Districts  
Utah Rivers Council  
Utah Statewide Mercury Workgroup  
Utah Statewide E coli Workgroup  
Utah Monitoring Council

###### Bear River

Bear River Water Quality Commission  
Tri-State Bear River Water Quality Task Force  
Lower Bear River Watershed  
Middle Bear/ Cutler Reservoir Watershed  
Upper Bear River Watershed

###### Great Salt Lake

Great Salt Lake Advisory Council  
Friends of Great Salt Lake  
Great Salt Lake Alliance

###### Jordan River

Little Cottonwood Canyon Watershed  
Jordan River Watershed Council  
Emigration Creek Improvement District  
Blueprint Jordan River Steering Committee  
Jordan River Commission  
Salt Lake City Open Space  
Salt Lake County Stormwater Coalition  
Jordan River/Farmington Bay Water Quality Council  
Jordan Valley Water Conservation District

###### Lower Colorado River

North Fork Virgin River Watershed  
Virgin River Watershed  
ACOE Tri-State Virgin River Workgroup

###### Sevier River

Upper Sevier Watershed  
San Pitch Watershed

###### Southeast Colorado River

Lake Powell Stakeholder Group  
Moab Area Watershed Council

###### Uinta Basin

Uintah Basin Watershed Council  
Friends of Strawberry Valley  
Pariette Draw Watershed  
Nine Mile Coalition  
Stewart Lake Council

###### Utah Lake

Utah Lake Commission  
Provo River Watershed Council

###### Weber River

East Canyon Watershed Committee  
Upper Weber Watershed Technical Advisory  
Committee  
Silver Creek Watershed Stakeholder Group  
Weber River Technical Advisory Committee

###### Western Colorado River

Price River Watershed  
Fremont River Watershed  
Escalante River Watershed Partnership  
Scofield Watershed

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix I—Public Comments

### APPENDIX I

#### Division of Water Quality (DWQ) Responsiveness Summary

Comments Summary	Proposed Response and Action
<b>John L. Anderson – comment received 6-30-05</b>	
Concern that Plan will destroy inactive mines sites	The intent of the Plan is to address those sites found to degrade water quality. Generally sites of non-contaminating overburden would not be altered. Clarify Plan to so indicate.
Minerals contained in mine water are the same minerals that exist in the mountains where mines are located, implying that there is no contamination.	Contaminants can be concentrated by mine development, operation and resulting drainage patterns.
Not adequate public notice and notice to mine owners...asking for more time for people to comment on the plan.	After completing the revision of the draft Plan, the DWQ will notify the public and potentially interested parties via mailings, website posting, email and newspaper.
Raw sewage leaking into ground water in Albion Basin from septic systems and latrines.	Comment is not relevant to this Plan.
Albion Basin promised sewer lines	Comment is not relevant to this Plan.
Need clarification of definition of abandoned mines. Three classifications are needed not two as currently in the Plan. Active Abandoned Inactive	The DWQ will revise the Plan by clarifying definitions and revising the introduction. BMPs could be applied to inactive mine sites only on a voluntary basis with willing landowners.
The multiple values of old mine dumps.	The DWQ agrees that old mines and mining districts in Utah have great historical significance. The division agrees with most of your points as outlined in your letter dated June 21, 2005. We emphasize this is a voluntary program and that site-specific clean-up or remediation will only be conducted with landowner consent. Plan will be clarified to so indicate.
How is state addressing <i>Giardia</i> sp.?	Local and state monitoring and assessment activities are ongoing. SLC maintains an aggressive water quality assessment and watershed protection program. According to SLC Public Utilities, the drinking water treatment plants routinely monitor monthly for <i>Giardia</i> sp. and <i>Cryptosporidium</i> sp.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix I—Public Comments

<b>Linda D. Smith P.C., Attorney at Law- comments 6-30-05</b>	
Opposed to Plan for following reasons: Conflict of interest for some members of the Advisory committee	The DWQ selected the Technical Advisory Committee representing various affected interests and stakeholders at the local, state and federal levels.
Antimony problem at Alta	This issue is being address through state Drinking Water programs.
Study of hydro-geological flow patterns in Big & Little Cottonwood Canyons	Thank you for this comment. The DWQ in conjunction with the Technical Advisory Committee will consider such recommendations as part of the assessment and prioritization process identified in the Plan. An example of such an investigation is the USGS study of remediation alternatives for mine drainage in Little Cottonwood Creek.
Property right holders – contact and consent	Yes. This will be part of planning process prior to remediation or reclamation actions. No site-specific clean-up or remediation actions will be taken without consent of property and mineral right owners. Plan will be clarified to so indicate.
<b>Kelli Buxton – comment received 6-30-05</b>	
Privately owned mines which are patented with both surface and mineral rights are not abandoned and closure or clean-up/remediation actions must have owner consent.	No closure or remediation w/o owner consent (clarify in plan)
Hydro-geologic connection between miners	This issue will be addressed on a site specific project basis thru additional studies as deemed appropriate.
Antimony issue Alta	See same response
<b>Wayne Crawford - comments received 6-30-05</b>	
Written consent from property owners including fractionship owners including water right holders as appropriate	The state will diligently pursue such consent prior to specific project cleanup or remediation. Clarify in Plan as needed.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix I—Public Comments

Kevin Tolton, M.D. – comments received 6-30-05	
Comments regarding Salt Lake City and Salt Lake City Public Utilities lead pipe.	Comment is not relevant to the Plan's purpose and content. The DWQ will forward your concerns to Salt Lake City Public Utilities and the State Division of Drinking Water. We recommend that you contact the state DDW, which has the authority in regulating lead pipe and drinking water issues.
Regarding mine properties allegedly owned by Salt Lake City which are polluting canyon streams.	Such projects could be assessed and remediation plans developed in future depending on priority. DWQ will send a request to Dr. Tolton for specific information pursuant to his comments to determine appropriate follow-up actions.
Comments regarding Salt Lake City's control of canyons and issuing permits for water and sewer	These comments are irrelevant to the scope and intent of the Plan. The Plan is for state-wide implementation.
Comments regarding Salt Lake City's desire to purchase land in the canyon and not deal with other alleged problems such as antimony, lead pipes and leaking septic tanks in Albion Basin	These comments are also irrelevant to the proposed plan. The Plan is for state-wide implementation.
Emily C. Tolton – Comments received 6-30-05	
Conflict of interest issues with member of the State abandoned mine plan technical advisory committee.	The DWQ selected members who represent local, state and federal agencies and private mining interests in Utah. They are entities with the major responsibility to implement the plan.
Comments/allegations regarding Alta Ski Lift Company and Salt Lake City polluting the watershed with zinc & un-permitted snowmaking activities.	The comments are only secondarily relevant to the scope and intent of the draft plan. DWQ refers the commenter, Ms. Emily Tolton, to contact the Salt Lake Ranger District of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest for a copy of the Record of Decision for the Forest Service permits for the snowmaking activities in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. The DWQ is working with Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County to implement the TMDL for Little Cottonwood Creek. As such the DWQ will continue to work with SLC regarding ownership and cost-share responsibilities on a site-specific project basis as the Plan is implemented.
Comments regarding Mr. Steve Jensen	The DWQ chose Mr. Jensen to head this effort because of his lead role in water quality planning at local level and his years of experience and expertise in managing water quality in Salt Lake County.
Comments regarding the antimony issue with the Town of Alta water supply.	The alleged issue appears to be a drinking water issue and is outside of the scope and intent of the Plan. The town of Alta is working with the state to address the antimony treatment issues.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix I—Public Comments

Judith D. Maack - Comments received 6-30-05	
<p>Comments regarding Salt Lake City alleged desire to make money in the land and water business through the proposed plan.</p>	<p>This comment is not pertinent to the intent and development of this Plan by the state. This is a state-wide Plan that when approved by EPA will allow the state to utilize CWA Section 319 to address water quality problem caused by abandoned or inactive mines on a priority basis.</p>
D. Jason Roberts – Comments received 6-30-05	
<p>Comments describe numerous other source of contaminates and states that Salt Lake City should be directing efforts at them rather than mines.</p>	<p>The scope of the proposed plan is statewide not just Salt Lake City or County. The Division thanks Mr. Roberts for his comments which are not directly pertinent to the plans content. The intent of the Plan is to implement BMPs to improve water quality at targeted locations. The DWQ will forward your comments to Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County for consideration in their development of the County Watershed Stewardship Plan.</p>
Ivan Weber - Comments received 6-30-05	
<p>Very positive comments were expressed regarding the draft Plan, i.e., “well-conceived NPS Plan for abandoned Mines in Utah” and “please accept my gratitude and congratulations for a very good planning framework”.</p> <p>Mr. Weber also stated that he intended to provide additional information on mine waste discharge reclamation/remediation and some ideas for future demonstration sites.</p>	<p>The DWQ appreciated the input and willingness to provide additional information on management measures and ideas for future demonstration projects. The DWQ welcomes Mr. Weber’s feedback and expertise in this arena and invites him to participate on the TAC.</p>

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix I—Public Comments

<b>Gary Kleeman-EPA Region 8 -Comments received 06-29-11</b>	
Page 1, second paragraph, third sentence: The wording here is a little broad "...utilize CWA Section 319 funds for cleanup of abandoned mines." You might want to change the text in red to something like: "remediate nonpoint source pollution from abandoned mine lands."	Change made
Page 3, first paragraph: This should probably be updated with the current status of the project. The waste pile is being relocated but it is a very large project that will take many years to complete.	Sentence will be re-worded to reflect current status. "Additionally 319 monies <u>have been</u> used for abandoned mine related nonpoint source reduction activities in American Fork Canyon and Silver Creek outside of Park City Utah."
Page 35, second paragraph: It is stated here that a model will be created using GIS information. If this is really true, that's fine, but it strikes me as something that might not really happen.	Sentence will be re-worded to more accurately reflect how projects will be evaluated. "By combining statewide GIS information (such as precipitation, elevation, location of impaired stream data, etc.), abandoned mine proposals will be ranked to help prioritize nonpoint source pollution projects in the state of Utah."
Page 45 second paragraph, first sentence: The reference to "regional Geographic Initiative Grants (CWA Section 104 (b)(3))" should be deleted, as that grant program is no longer funded.	Reference to regional Geographic Initiative Grants has been deleted.
Page 89 lists our old address; please update it with our current address.	Address will be updated.
I also am wondering if the State Mining Technical Advisory Committee is still active and if so, who is on the committee.	The State Mining Technical Advisory Committee meets on an as-needed basis if and when abandoned mine proposals are received for funding. Representatives from relevant agencies will be solicited to evaluate proposals through the Utah Water Quality Taskforce.
<b>Scott Stoddard- Army Corps. of Engineers –Comments received 06-28-11</b>	
Steve Jensen & Natalie Reese are no longer with SL County (Marian Hubbard is still there as identified on the participant list).	List of names include both past and present contributors to the plan and the positions they held at the time.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix I—Public Comments

Chris Rhorer- Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining -Comments received 7-12-11	
There are numerous editorial comments (punctuation, typos, etc.) that I have indicated in handwritten notations on a printed copy of the plan. See the accompanying pdf scan of that copy (file name: NPSMP-May11_Rohrer_edits_071211.pdf).	Editorial comments appreciated, changes will be made to final version.
<u>Page i (Acknowledgements)</u> Mary Ann Wright, Mark Mesch, and Ken Wyatt have retired from UDOGM, but the list reflects their status at the time of their contribution to the committee, so it is OK. Juliette Lucy married and changed her name to Lucy Jordan, but again, the list reflects her status at the time of her contribution to the committee, so it is OK. By the way, thanks for the kind words.	Comment noted.
<u>Pages iv-v (Figures)</u> Many of the photo captions throughout the document are incorrect, so this list will have to be updated accordingly. Corrected captions are provided on the following page.	Corrections will be made to captions.
Several images are repeated in the document. It's not a big deal, but seems like unnecessary padding.	Comment noted.
<u>Pages 20-24 (Part III, Approach)</u> It would be nice if the flowchart in Fig. 23 tracked the text, i.e. if the text in the blue boxes matched the corresponding section headings.	The flowchart does not follow section headings since it is provided as a quick reference that includes external programs and activities while the text provides specific information on the basic elements of the abandoned mineland nonpoint source program.
<u>Pages 32-34 (BMP references)</u> Several of the URLs for the documents referenced have been truncated to the source agency home page URL. The full URL addresses of the documents should be restored. Why send someone to the Forest Service home page instead of directly to the document?	Complete URLs as provided in handwritten notes will be included in the final version.
<u>Pages 57-58 (DOGM)</u> Correct DOGM phone number: 801-538-5340 Associate Director for Mining is now Dana Dean (not Mary Ann Wright). MRP Administrator is now Paul Baker (not Daron Haddock).	Corrections will be made.

# Nonpoint Source Management Plan for Abandoned Mines in Utah

## Appendix I—Public Comments

<b>Chris Rhorer- Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining -Comments received 7-12-11 (Continued)</b>	
<p>Page 97 (Appendix G) Atlas tailings clean-up is already in progress. Should be removed from list?</p>	<p>Appendix G is a list of abandoned mineland sites, while the Atlas tailing site is being addressed it is still a site of concern.</p>
<p>Pages 99-101 (Appendix I) Many of the comments and responses are truncated.</p>	<p>Comment noted, formatting of tables will be corrected to show all text.</p>
<p>Figures 24, 29, 49, and 52 are not Gold Hill, but I do not know where they are. They are probably the AMRP Stateline Project, but could be just about any mining district in the West Desert. A generic caption could be used rather than one identifying a specific location.</p>	<p>Captions for noted figures will be generically reworded as suggested.</p>
<p>The most recent previous draft I have of the plan is dated December 2004. Steve Jensen (presumably, or possibly Natalie Rees) overhauled the document substantially, replacing numerous out-of-state photos with Utah photos, revising the text, and redesigning the layout. The font was changed from Times Roman to Arial, the font color for section headings was changed from black to olive/tan, and certain text changed from boldface to underscore, and similar changes. It is a matter of taste, but I find the earlier layout easier to read. I appreciate the use of color in the newer draft, but I find that the olive/tan section headings tend to recede rather than stand out, making it harder to follow the organization of the document. Compare the black bold headings in Part 1 on pages 2-3 with those in color elsewhere.</p>	<p>Heading colors will be changed from olive/tan to black bold face as suggested.</p>
<p>Final editing should check for missing spaces between paragraphs (there are many) and "widows/orphans" (section headings at the bottom of one page or column with text on the next; e.g. the "Nonpoint Source Pollution" entry in the glossary on pages 73-74).</p>	<p>Missing spaces between paragraphs and section headings at bottom of pages will be corrected as suggested.</p>