USGS
science for a changing world

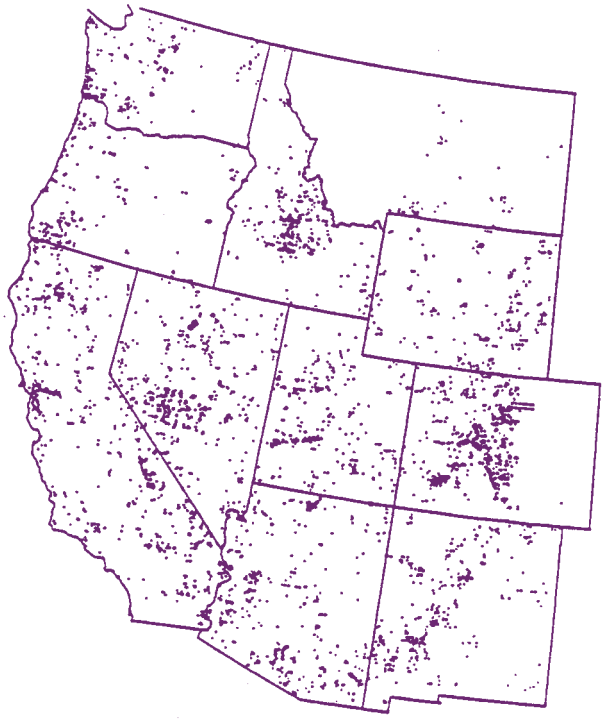
FS–184–95 AUGUST 1995

Western United States Mine-Dump Data Retrievals

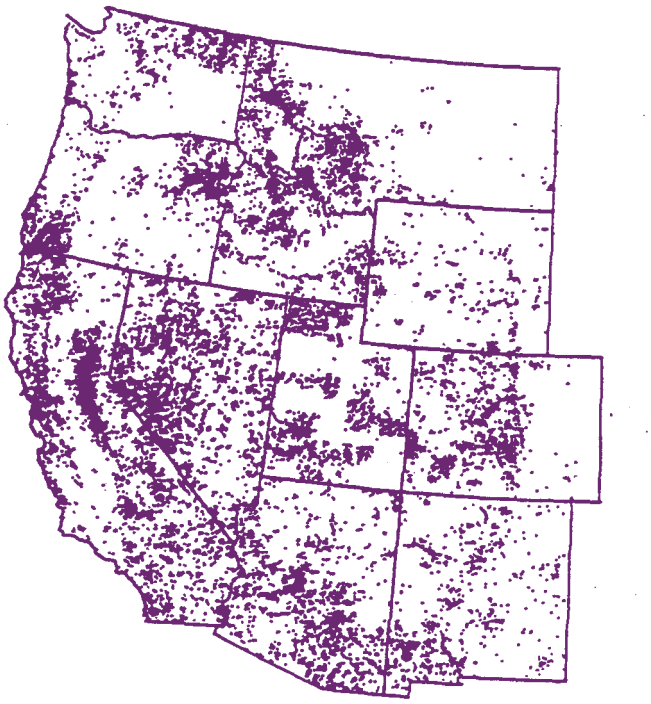
The Western United States Mine-Dump Data Retrieval Project is compiling mine-dump data from four geologic and geochemical computer databases, and releasing these data, by individual States, on computer diskette. This information is being used by Federal and State agencies involved with inventory and remediation efforts pertaining to inactive and abandoned mine sites.

Two of the databases are maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The Rock Analysis Storage System (RASS) and PLUTO contain analytical and geochemical data collected from reconnaissance studies conducted over the last 30 to 60 years. Analytical data have been retrieved from seven sample sources: mines, dumps or prospects, open pit mines or quarries, prospect pits, underground mines, mine dumps, and mill products. Approximately 50 elements, many of which are environmentally sensitive, are available for each sample source.

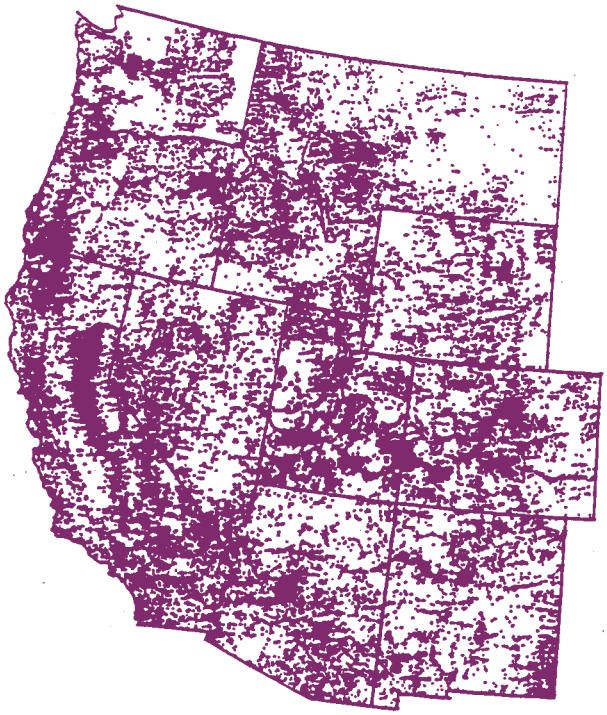
The Mineral Resource Data Systems (MRDS) database is a compilation of data related to mining activities that originate from studies conducted by the USGS and other Federal and State agencies. The data comprise 54 fields and include mine name, location, deposit type, commodities, products, tectonics information and mineral age.



Distribution for 27,000 combined RASS and PLUTO data points



Distribution for 51,000 MRDS data points



Distribution for 117,000 MILS data points

The Minerals Industry Location Systems (MILS) dataset was a subset of the Minerals Availability System database formerly maintained by the U.S. Bureau of Mines. MILS contains information on locations of mines, their operational status, and their associated minerals. From 64 fields of the MILS dataset, a subset consisting of sequence number, name of deposit, deposit type, current status, location, and point of reference is included in these database releases.

Data currently available on diskette:

Ryder, J.L., 1994, Active-, inactive-, and abandoned-mine information and selected geochemical data for the State of Colorado: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report OF94-579.

Ryder, J.L., 1995, Active-, inactive-, and abandoned-mine information and selected geochemical data for the State Idaho: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report OF95–644.

Ryder, J.L., 1995, Active-, inactive-, and abandoned-mine information and selected geochemical data for the State of Montana: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report OF95–229.

Ryder, J.L., 1995, Active-, inactive-, and abandoned-mine information and selected geochemical data for the State of New Mexico: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report OF95–528.

Ryder, J.L., 1995, Active-, inactive-, and abandoned-mine information and selected geochemical data for the State of Arizona: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report OF95–578.

Ryder, J.L., 1996, Active-, inactive-, and abandoned-mine information and selected geochemical data for the State of California: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report OF96–004.

Ryder, J.L., 1996, Active-, inactive-, and abandoned-mine information and selected geochemical data for the State of Nevada: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report OF96–061.

Ryder, J.L., 1996, Active-, inactive-, and abandoned-mine information and selected geochemical data for the State of Utah: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report OF96–653.

Ryder, J.L., 1996, Active-, inactive-, and abandoned-mine information and selected geochemical data for the State of Washington: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report OF96–710.

For more information, please contact:

Jean Ryder
Box 25046, MS 973, Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225-0046
(303) 236-1191
jryder@helios.cr.usgs.gov
or
any USGS library