



LOOKING AHEAD

DEVELOPING STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

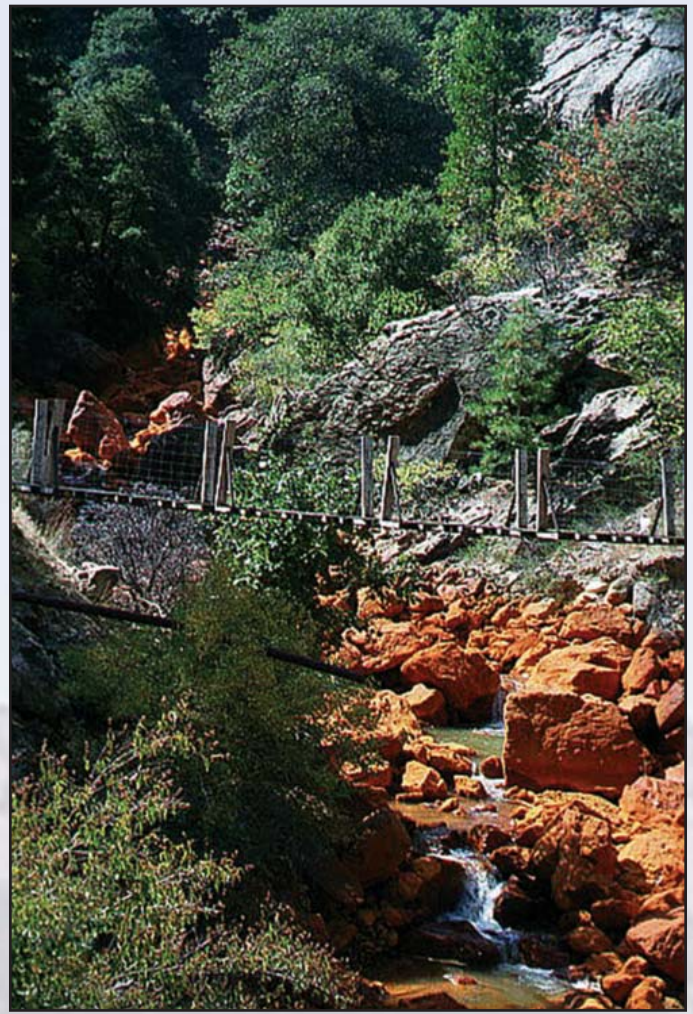
Applying a collaborative approach, the MSL Initiative federal partners will continue to support the Demonstration Projects in building partnerships, identifying funding resources, and providing expertise in cleanup approaches and redevelopment strategies. Local leaders will build upon the foundational work of the MSL Initiative, the local resources they have developed (e.g., skills, knowledge, partnerships, funding), and the support of identified federal and state programs to further revitalization efforts.

The MSL Initiative's partners will use the Demonstration Projects as platforms for other reuse projects by developing models that can be applied to a range of challenges. For example, the Kelly's Creek Demonstration Project will illustrate strategies associated with developing infrastructure and working with private land owners, while the Pennsylvania Mine Demonstration Project will demonstrate how to convene a range of stakeholders to resolve complex liability issues.

RESOURCES FOR MINE-SCARRED LANDS COMMUNITIES

To capture the lessons learned through the Demonstration Projects, the MSL Initiative partners will produce a toolkit that can be used by communities with associated mine-scarred lands challenges. The toolkit will include:

- **Demonstration Project Case Studies:** Document the challenges faced, strategies used, and lessons learned.
- **Partnership Building Strategies:** Illustrate how to build partnerships, engage stakeholders, and develop reuse visions.
- **MSL Technical Information:** Review relevant federal and state laws, outline how laws impact local redevelopment efforts, highlight innovative technologies, identify possible economic development strategies, and list support options from the Brownfields Land Revitalization and Technology Technical Support Center.
- **MSL Financial Resources:** Provide key information about federal funding opportunities and share ideas about how local stakeholders can creatively leverage support for projects.



Rocks stained by acid mine drainage

LESSONS OF COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION

The initial successes of the Demonstration Projects illustrate that collaborative and innovative approaches to complex technical and economic challenges can effectively address mine-scarred lands cleanup and revitalization issues. The MSL federal partners and Demonstration Project community members will build on current partnerships to develop practical solutions and replicable models for other mining communities. An integral part of our history and community, mining continues to fuel our nation's economic expansion. By learning from and building upon the approaches taken by the MSL Demonstration Projects, former and future mining lands and communities will be equipped with the tools and insights that benefit communities, the environment, and our economies.



Newly planted trees as part of a reclamation project

BACKGROUND ON MSL CLEANUP AND REVITALIZATION

Stakeholders face a number of considerations related to mine-scarred lands cleanup and revitalization.

The key environmental, economic development and statutory considerations of relevance to mine-scarred lands cleanup and revitalization stakeholders are outlined below.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- **Acid Mine Drainage (AMD):** Acidic water discharge with elevated metal content seeps into streams, degrading ecosystems and threatening public water supplies.
- **Stockpiled Waste Rock and Tailings:** Wastes from mining operations are left behind in large gob piles or waste dumps, often contributing to metal loading in streams and rivers.
- **Other Contamination:** Chemicals from leaking containers left behind and contaminants involved in mining operations such as cyanide and arsenic, as well as PCBs from electrical transformers can seep into the groundwater and soil.
- **Degraded Physical Structures:** Open shafts, rotting support structures, equipment, electrical transformers, and open pits pose a safety threat.



Open mine pits and deteriorating structures create safety hazards

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- **Insufficient Infrastructure:** Rural mining communities often have complex runoff management issues and inadequate wastewater treatment and drinking water facilities.
- **Complex Land Ownership:** Large tracts of federally or privately-owned land constrain development possibilities.
- **Resource Management Infrastructure:** Coordination and integration are needed to identify and manage funding and other resources for redevelopment. Reuse planning and funding management require a blend of expertise and a multidisciplinary approach that is often not available in smaller communities.

SOME APPLICABLE FEDERAL STATUTES

- **Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act (Brownfields Law)** – Authorizes funding to assess and clean up mine-scarred lands and provides certain liability clarifications.
- **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)** – Provides funding for cleanups, either through payment for or implementation of cleanups by responsible parties.
- **Clean Water Act (CWA)** – Regulates discharge of pollutants into navigable waters, including those associated with mine-scarred lands.
- **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)** – Governs the management of solid and hazardous waste, including those associated with mine-scarred lands.
- **Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA)** – Created the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Fund to pay for remediation associated with pre-1977 mining activities, and regulates current coal mining activity and reclamation.
- **General Mining Law of 1872**– Granted free access to prospect for minerals on public lands and allows for the purchase of these lands.

MSL INITIATIVE FEDERAL PARTNERS

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)

Creates opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and provides technical support for the Appalachian region.

Eric Stockton
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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Provides engineering services to foster environmental protection and flood control and shares knowledge about watershed approaches.

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U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Forest Service

Provides support by coordinating cleanup of mine-scarred lands on National Forests that are adjacent to mine-scarred land communities. Also provides technical expertise in mine site cleanup and assistance through the State and Cooperative Forestry Program.

Rural Development

Provides extensive grant and loan programs for community development in small and rural communities including business, community infrastructure, utilities, and housing.

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Provides support to local Resource Conservation and Development corporations (RC&Ds) to accelerate the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and enhance the environment and standard of living in designated RC&D areas. These 501(c)(3) organizations cover most of the United States and are supported by USDA employees.

Departmental Administration

Coordinates USDA support for brownfield communities.

Blake Velde
(202) 205-0906
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U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Provides grants to support community planning and development and creates affordable housing.

Steve Rhodside
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U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Manages 261 million acres of land, primarily in the west, and sustains the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

George Stone
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Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

Ensures coal mines are operated in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining and assures that the land is restored to beneficial use following mining, and to mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines.

Allan Comp
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Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC)

Provides for a coordinated and unified approach and response to environmental issues that affect multiple DOI bureaus and acts as an advocate for programs that enable the bureaus to accomplish their missions in an efficient and effective manner.

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Office of Brownfields Cleanup and Redevelopment (OBCR)

Provides funding for the assessment and cleanup of brownfields throughout the nation.

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Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center (CPRC)

Provides alternative dispute resolution and collaboration support and technical assistance in coordinating stakeholders.

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Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)

Provides technical expertise on Superfund-related liability and technology needs.

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Prepared by:
SRA International
(Contract No. 68-W-01-048)
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United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of Solid Waste and
Emergency Response

EPA-560-R-05-003
September/October 2005
www.epa.gov/brownfields/