



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

## War Eagle Mine Closures

Category: Abandoned Mines

**BLM**  
Colorado

### Mine Closures Protect Bats, Enhance Safety at 21 Locations



Before



After

A long history of mining has left a legacy of unsafe mine openings across Colorado and the West. The most significant types of abandoned mine hazards on public lands are open shafts and adits (entries). These openings need to be safeguarded to prevent injury or death to those visiting public lands. At the same time, many of these mine shafts provide important habitat for bats. So while there is a need to protect the public from safety hazards, there is also a need to protect bat habitat in abandoned mines.

The War Eagle mine closure project work is located in Hindsdale, Gunnison, and Saguache counties. This area of Colorado experiences a high volume of summer recreational use, bringing the public into

contact with unsafe mine openings. An increase in the number of residences and ranchettes also brings the public closer to this hazard.

This three-county, \$33,000 project closed unsafe mine openings at 21 locations. Backfilling and closures with bat gates were used to secure these openings. Bat gates exclude the public and protect bat habitat by allowing bats to enter and exit the mine openings.

The War Eagle Mine Safety Closure Project is one of twelve closure projects that received ARRA funding in the State of Colorado.

**BLM Contact:** Steven Hall, Colorado State Office, 303-239-3672

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

