



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

## Rip Van Winkle Restoration, Elko

Category: Abandoned Mines

**BLM**  
Nevada

### Mine Remediation Improves Habitat for Fish, Wildlife



Before

Northwest of Elko, Nevada, on Lone Mountain, are the remnants of the Rip Van Winkle Mine, a lead and zinc operation which was active from the late nineteenth century until 1944. The BLM has partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Nevada Division of Minerals, and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to remediate the site to prevent metal and acid contamination produced by the tailings from flowing into Maggie Creek, which is habitat for the federally-listed threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout.



After

This project is removing tailings from the site on Coon Creek, a tributary of Maggie Creek and the Humboldt River in northeastern Nevada. Once tailings are removed from the watercourse, it will be channeled and armored to remove further contact with the tailings. The tailings will then be covered with topsoil, revegetated and fenced. The mill site itself is being reclaimed by hand to avoid damage to cultural relics. All sampling and planning have been completed. Project work is almost complete and should be finished in August 2010.

The \$322,296 project is being funded through an inter-agency agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which has issued contracts to local construction companies. The majority of funding is being funneled into the local economy.



Lahontan cutthroat trout

US FWS photo

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

