



BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
COMMISSION ON MINERAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINERALS
400 W. King Street, Suite 106
Carson City, Nevada 89703
(775) 684-7040 • Fax (775) 684-7052
<http://minerals.nv.gov/>

Las Vegas Branch:
2030 E. Flamingo Rd.
Suite #220
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119
(702) 486-4343
Fax (702) 486-4345

RICHARD PERRY
Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (9/6/2014):

CONTACT: RICH PERRY or MIKE VISHER at (775) 684-7040

NEVADA EXCELLENCE IN MINE RECLAMATION AWARD WINNERS NAMED

(CARSON CITY, NEVADA) The Nevada Excellence in Mine Reclamation Awards for 2014 were presented on September 6 at the annual Nevada Mining Association Convention in South Lake Tahoe, Nevada, for accomplishments in restoring and preserving Nevada's environment.

- **Rawhide Mining, LLC** was given an award in the category of Innovate Wildlife Protection for their design and installation of a floating process water pond cover at the Denton-Rawhide Mine in Mineral County. This project was nominated by the Nevada Department of Wildlife. The floating pond cover is an innovative and cost-competitive design that minimizes the possibility of wildlife mortalities. The design is an alternative to the use of bird balls and problematic wildlife netting.
- **Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc.** was given an award in the category of Environmental Enhancement for their work at the Squaw Valley Ranch for riparian improvements along Willow Creek in Elko County. The Ranch is owned by Barrick and is managed as a working cattle ranch. This project was nominated by the Division of Minerals. The riparian area along Willow Creek, which is a tributary to the Humboldt River was targeted for improvement in 2001 when it was rated as "functioning at risk" by the BLM. Staff at Squaw Valley Ranch initiated grazing practices that focused on proper duration, timing and intensity with resulted in a dramatic and quantifiable improvement to the ecology of Willow Creek. After 10 years of proper grazing management, the bed and bank conditions improved dramatically, resulting in a "proper functioning" designation by the BLM. Increased vegetation along the banks decreased water temperatures and improved conditions for invertebrate species and populations of Lahontan Cutthroat trout. The improved conditions also increased habitat for mule deer, sage grouse and pygmy rabbits while providing for a "green strip" for fire prevention.

"These operators are to be commended for their efforts to improve the technology for mine reclamation, wildlife protection and habitat enhancement," said Rich Perry, Administrator of the Nevada Division of Minerals. "By sharing their designs and successes with other mine operators, the Nevada Mining Industry continues to advance successful reclamation and environmental protection practices."

The Nevada Excellence in Mine Reclamation Awards are a cooperative effort by the Nevada Division of Minerals, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Nevada Department of Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management, and the United States Forest Service. Seventy-four projects and three individuals have been recognized since the awards program began in 1990. For more information about mining in Nevada, call the Division of Minerals at (775) 684-7040 (Carson City) or (702) 486-4343 (Las Vegas), or visit their web site at <http://minerals.nv.gov>.