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## **Nevada Excellence in Mine Reclamation Award Winners Named**

**CARSON CITY, Nev.** – The Nevada Excellence in Mine Reclamation Award for 2023 was announced during a presentation ceremony held September 8th at the Nevada Mining Association’s Safety Awards Dinner in South Lake Tahoe. The award presented this year:

- **Meridian Jerritt Canyon Corp.** received an award for *Long-Term Mine Closure Reclamation* for their work at the Inspiration Mine in Lander County. Reclamation included removing all equipment and infrastructure, re-contouring and covering areas with growth media, and the installation of nine sediment basins and four check dams for drainage control. The area was successfully revegetated with native plants. Nearly three decades years of continuous coordination and much effort on behalf of the Forest Service, NDEP, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Resource Concepts Inc., and the operator resulted in this being one of the few mines in the western U.S. that have reached the Forest Service’s reclamation goals.
- **Newcrest Resources** received an award for *Leadership in Exploration Reclamation* at their Jarbidge Exploration Project in Elko County. Newcrest conducted exploration drilling in an area surrounding the town of Jarbidge, NV from 2018 to 2021. This project was an astounding example of thorough reclamation pre-planning, which minimized environmental and wildlife impacts while fostering a strong community partnership. Newcrest and Legarza Exploration constructed highly functional, environmentally protective roads and drill pads despite extended construction times and increased costs. These areas were impressively recontoured and tediously hand seeded. Newcrest also conducted a comprehensive seep and spring monitoring program of five super-turbidity monitoring stations at strategic locations. Water quality data from 2020 to 2022 show the erosion control measures have successfully prevented any significant project-related sediment inputs to nearby streams and rivers hosting the threatened Bull Trout.
- **Pathfinder Tonopah** received an award for *Addressing Legacy Remediation* at their Liberty Mine in Nye County. The Liberty Mine was an open pit molybdenum-copper mine operated on-and-off between the early 1980s and 2001. After acquiring the project in 2020, Pathfinder sought to voluntarily correct several legacy reclamation failures, including areas that would be corrected through future mining. This action was not a requirement of their permit.

Nigel Bain; *Large-Scale Mining*  
Robert Felder; *Exploration and Development*  
Randy Griffin; *Small-Scale Mining and Prospecting*

**Commission on Mineral Resources**

Josh Nordquist, Chairman; *Geothermal Resources*

Stephanie Hallinan; *Large-Scale Mining*  
Arthur Henderson; *Oil and Gas*  
Mary Korpi, *Public at Large*

Remediation efforts included the implementation of site-wide erosion controls, installation of five heap leach pad evaporation basins, placing additional cover material over previously reclaimed areas with exposed potentially acid-generating rock, and the retention of a dedicated site staff to ensure consistent site monitoring and maintenance. Pathfinder's voluntary efforts to protect wildlife and the environment is an "above-and beyond" reclamation approach, setting an example that reclamation managers would like to see on all projects.

The goal of the annual State Reclamation Awards is to encourage operators and explorers to submit reclamation projects which raise industry standards, increase public awareness of the positive aspects of mining, and encourage innovation in reclamation techniques.

This is the 32<sup>nd</sup> year of the Nevada Excellence in Mine Reclamation Awards. The Awards Committee consists of representatives from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Forest Service, and the Nevada Division of Minerals. To receive an award, the Committee must unanimously vote that a submission: exhibits excellent mitigation of the environmental impacts of mineral industry activity, demonstrates work efforts which go above and beyond what is mandated, and represents an exemplary narrative to be shared with others in the industry, as well as with the public.

For more information about submitting or nominating an entity for the award, visit the Nevada Division of Minerals website at <http://minerals.nv.gov>.

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