

# 2024 Award Winners

## **Coeur Rochester, Inc., Rochester Mine** **Duffy Pond Restoration Project**

## **Award Category** **Wildlife Habitat Restoration**

In late October of 2021, the Rochester Mine experienced a significant precipitation event, with 2.66 inches of rain falling within a 24-hour period near the mine. Another significant precipitation event occurred again in 2022 during restoration planning. These events along with recent wildfires in the area led to uncontrolled discharge of sediment and stormwater resulting in substantial damage to a nearby spring-fed pond, known as Duffy Pond. This pond serves as valuable habitat for wildlife and a reliable water source for livestock. Coeur Rochester, Inc. (CRI) swiftly recognized the urgent need to restore the pond to its original state and make some added improvements.

Restoration work at the pond in 2023 after receiving authorization from the Bureau of Land management. Work involved removal of sediment to restore the pond to its prior extent and depth. Additionally, improvements were made to the secondary drainage at the northwest portion of the pond to reduce the possibility of dam failure during future flood events. Stream improvements upstream along Limerick Wash included installation of a Zuni bowl and five one-rock dams.

The pond quickly began to refill and eroded channel features were improved to more resilient condition. Within weeks of completing the sediment removal, the pond refilled to a surface area and depth comparable to its conditions before the to 2021 flood events. Reseeding efforts were successful with significant vegetation growth a year after project completion.



Photo of restored Limerick Wash leading to Duffy Pond after successful wildlife habitat restoration efforts.

## **KG Mining, Inc., Bald Mountain Mine** **Process 1 Heap Leach Facility Reclamation Project**

## **Award Category** **Leadership in Concurrent Reclamation**

The Process 1 Heap Leach Facility area comprises about 90 acres and was operated from 1983 to 1998. Closure designs were authorized through both the Bureau of Land Management and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation. The area was regraded, covered and revegetated in 2000. Conversion of a pregnant and barren pond into backfilled summer and winter evaporation cells, along with a dosing tank and piezometer ports, and removal of a building, were completed between 2005 and 2007.

BMM has proven success by implementing actions of pad cover, structure removal, pond excavation and conversion, water quality monitoring and vegetation cover. BMM continuously ensures water quality standards are met by monitoring and management practices and has seen continuous improvement over the life of reclamation.

Almost two decades later, shrubs and grasses are prominent and thriving on the reclaimed Process 1 heap leach pad. The site is no stranger to wildlife, giving proof to the productive vegetation and management of the pad. Continuing quality reclamation will allow BMM to accomplish their post mine land use goals by conservation of natural ecosystems for livestock and wildlife and providing recreational opportunities for future land use. The recontouring and revegetation makes the heap leach pad difficult to identify from the surrounding landscape.



Photo of the reclaimed Process 1 Heap Leach Pad and Facility in 2024, looking south.