Nevada Reclamation Awards

The Nevada Excellence in Mine Reclamation Awards Committee

is seeking nominations for

outstanding mining or exploration projects

in Nevada which exhibit excellent mitigation of the environmental impacts of mineral industry activity.

Evaluation committee touring the Nevada Gold Mines Long Canyon Mine and overlapping Johnson Springs Wetland Complex.

View looking north along the KG Mining Inc. Bald Mountain Mine regraded Gator Haul Road toward the South Gator RDA before reseeding efforts.

The basis of the award is outstanding reclamation success; however, areas of innovation for the protection of air and water quality, cooperative partnerships, cultural preservation, off-site mitigation and wildlife habitat enhancement will be considered.

For more information, please visit the Division of Minerals Mining Program page at

minerals.nv.gov

Deadline for the 2026 award year is

May 29th, 2026

Evaluation committee surveying the AngloGold Ashanti Sterling Mine revegetation test plots contrasted by native vegetation.

2025 Award Winners

AngloGold Ashanti, Sterling Mine

Revegetation Test Plot Program

Award Category

Innovation in Revegetation Research

The Sterling Mine is a past-producing mine located approximately 115 miles north of Las Vegas in the Mojave Desert. The property was acquired from Coeur Mining, Inc. in 2022. Prior to acquisition, Coeur invested in an innovative reclamation study testing new growth media and seed mixtures within this remarkably arid region dominated by weedy plant species, saline soils, and intense grazing pressure from burros. Past reclamation activities in the area showed limited revegetation success. Following the recommendations of the study, Coeur established two one-acre test plots using overburden material from the nearby Wood Canyon formation, which exhibited suitable agronomic properties. The test plots showed significantly better revegetation results than the surrounding area. AngloGold plans to use the results of this study as the basis for future reclamation strategies. This research sets a new standard for reclamation within the Mojave Desert and provides a baseline for new and existing mining operations.

Two one-acre revegetation test plots surrounded by native soil & vegetation; fenced (left) and unfenced (right).

KG Mining Inc., Bald Mountain Mine

Gator Haul Road and Rock Disposal Areas Earthwork

Award Category

Excellence in Earthwork

The Bald Mountain Mine is located approximately 70-miles southeast of Elko, Nevada. The Gator Haul Road and two rock disposal areas (RDAs) located in the mine plan's South Operations Area were most recently operated from 2020 to 2022. The Gator North RDA was regraded and covered in 2022, with the Gator South RDA and Gator Haul Road following in 2023 and 2024. Kinross re-contoured the Gator Haul Road and RDAs to geomorphically match the surrounding natural topography, which blended remarkably well into the local landscape. Kinross applied alluvium and growth media, conducted routine water quality monitoring and analysis, and established early-stage vegetation cover. The evaluation committee believes that once revegetation is complete, the reclaimed areas will be indistinguishable from the local natural terrain. Monitoring water quality, flow rates, and revegetation success will remain ongoing activities at the site. In total, 340,176 tons of stockpiled topsoil reserves were used to complete the Gator earthwork project, effectively covering all reclamation areas.

Northern portion of the regraded and seeded Gator Haul Road and South Gator RDA after a year of growth.

Nevada Gold Mines (NGM), Long Canyon Mine

Long Canyon Mine Reclamation

Award Category

Leadership in Conservation Planning

The Long Canyon Mine is located approximately 30-miles east of Wells, Nevada. The project is a rare example where permitting, mining, and reclamation occurred within a short 15-year span. The region holds significant biological resources. NGM collaborated with regulators throughout the planning, mining, and reclamation phases to minimize impacts to sensitive resources. Concurrent reclamation commenced the same year operations began. NGM mitigated disturbance to a nearby active mule deer migration corridor by regrading a waste rock storage facility, adding rock features for aesthetic and shelter, and ensuring revegetation success. The environmental team monitored and maintained part of the Johnson Springs Wetland Complex, which exists within the mine plan of operation (PoO), ensuring sensitive species were minimally impacted by operations. Finally, a trust fund was established by NGM to mitigate unavoidable impacts to mule deer and sage grouse within the PoO by performing off-site habitat rehabilitation; today, more than 5,500 acres of off-site habitat have been rehabilitated.

A stream, part of the Johnson Springs Wetland Complex, running through the mine's plan of operation.