

Browns Hole Abandon Mine Closures
AMR/037/910
San Juan County

Background:

The Browns Hole Project is located in the foothills southwest of the La Sal Mountains and approximately 20 miles south of Moab, in San Juan County. The area was mined for uranium in the 1940's. The mines in this area were mainly family or individual small mines.

AMRP staff conducted an inventory of the Browns Hole Mining District in 2005 and 2007. The inventory recorded 72 mining features in the project area of which 23 open features on SITLA and private lands were closed in the spring of 2017. The remaining 49 openings are slated for closure fall 2018 in the current project.

Completed Surveys:

- Winter and summer bat surveys were conducted in mines considered "safe" to enter in 2006, 2007, and 2010.
- Cultural Resource surveys were completed in 2007 and updated in 2018.
- A Paleontological Survey was completed in 2008.
- An Aquatic Resource evaluation was completed in 2018 in a small area on BLM lands adjacent to private lands in section 22.
- A Screening Level Risk Assessment of mine waste dumps was completed by the BLM in 2017.

Mine Openings and Proposed Closures:

Mine closures recommendations were updated to reflect current completed survey information. The following is a summary mine openings and closure methods.

Openings:

44 Horizontal Openings
4 Incline Openings
1 vertical Opening

Closure Methods:

22 Backfill Machine
3 Backfill Hand
13 Block Walls
1 Stone Wall
10 Grates

Funding:

Studies were in part funded by a BLM grant to the Utah Abandon Mine Reclamation Program (AMRP). Reclamation construction is funded by a grant to the AMRP from the Dept. of Interior, Office of Surface Mining. Under this grant only mine closure work can be conducted for public safety. No funds can be used for environmental remediation.

Estimated Construction Schedule:

Bid Specifications to Purchasing: September 1, 2018
Begin: October 1, 2018
End: November 15, 2018

AMR/037/910
Brown's Hole Project
June 2018

- Mine Features
- SCDD/CA/AN/PORATION/Leads/Shaft/Inert/Other
- SCDD/CA/AN/PORATION/Leads/US Highway
- Dir. Road
- Mine Access**
- 4WHEEL
- ATV
- FOOT
- Stream and river banks
- Intermittent streams
- Shoreline
- Mine Evulsion Areas
- SCDD/CA/AN/PORATION/Leads/US Highway
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Forest
- Private
- State Trust Lands
- Other State

