

Selected AMLU Abandoned Mine Remediation Projects (2008)

(Click on pictures below or scroll down for more information)



Partner(s): U.S. Forest Service
Closure type: Polyurethane Foam and Culvert Gates
Location: Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado County
Completed: August 2008



Partner(s): U.S. Forest Service
Closure type: Culvert Gates and Fencing
Location: Inyo National Forest, Inyo County
Completed: May 2008



Partner(s): U.S. Forest Service
Closure type: Culvert Gates, Polyurethane Foam, and Backfills
Location: Inyo National Forest, Inyo County
Completed: May 2008



Partner(s): National Park Service & California Conservation Corps
Closure type: Fencing
Location: Mohave National Park, San Bernardino County
Completed: May 2008



Partner(s): U.S. Bureau of Reclamation & California State Parks
Closure type: Polyurethane Foam
Location: Auburn State Recreation Area, Placer County
Completed: March 2008



Partner(s): California State Parks
Closure type: Bat Gates
Location: Near Tracy, Alameda County
Completed: January 2008

Shafts Plugged with Polyurethane Foam and Culverts Gate Installed, Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado County, August 2008

In August 2008, the AMLU partnered with the Eldorado National Forest to plug four shafts and install one culvert gate near the town of Volcanoville, CA. Polyurethane foam was used to seal the shafts located adjacent to a local horse trail after wildlife exclusions had been performed. It was also used to secure the culvert gate in place before being covered by several feet of dirt.

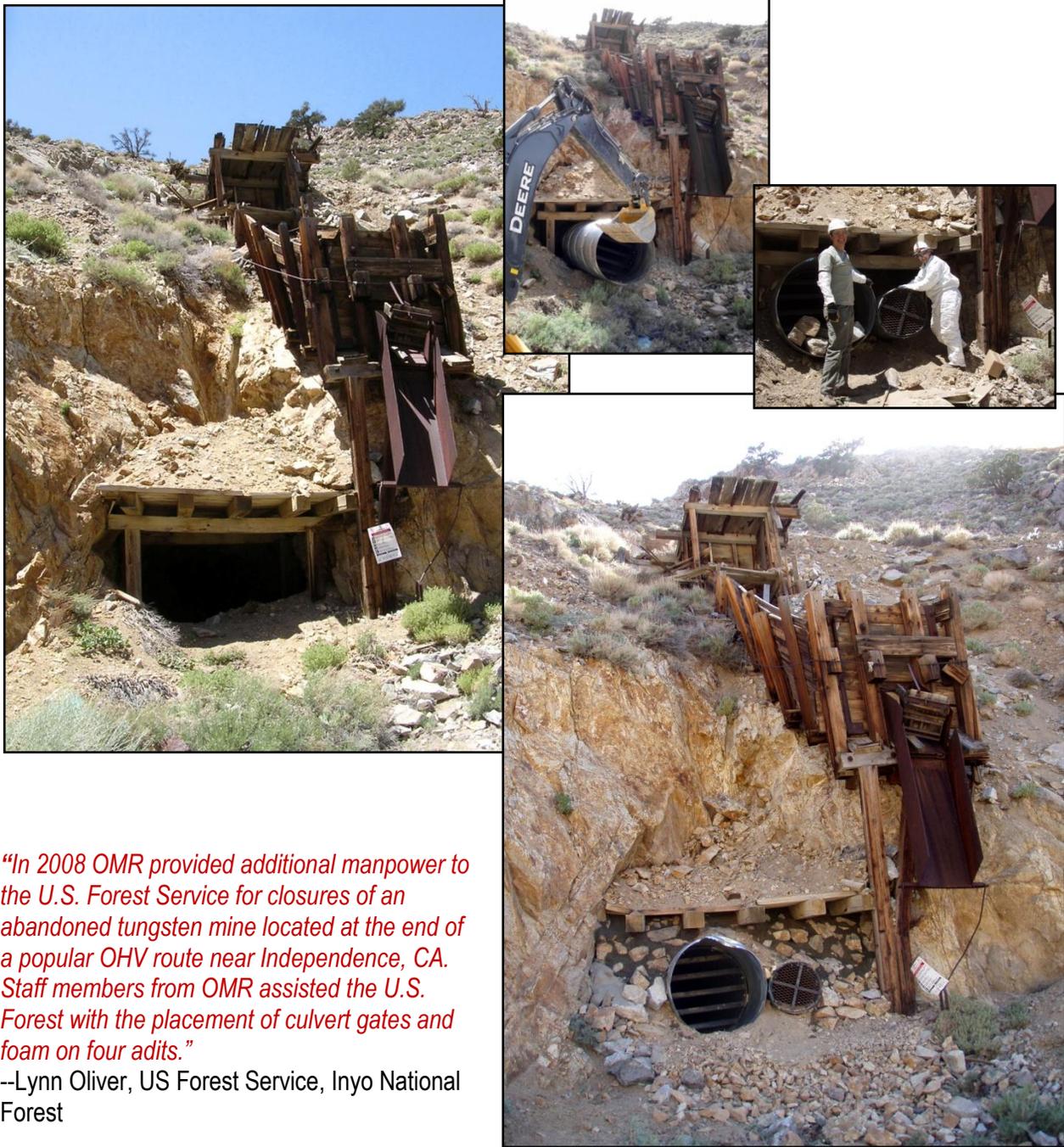


“Partnering with the State DOC AML crew, we are able to complete about twice as many hazardous abandoned mine closures each year. The State DOC has consistently helped us with all phases of emergency and permanent closures, from inventory to implementation. The crew has a high level of expertise with many abandoned mine closure methods, make themselves available for consultation about appropriate closure methods, and are then available to come to the project and do the closure work. I depend on them to make the Forest Service’s AML program successful”.

--Tera Curren, US Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest

Culvert Gates and Fence Installed, Inyo National Forest, Inyo County, May 2008

In May 2008, the AMLU assisted the Inyo National Forest in the closure of four dangerous adits and fenced a shaft near Independence, CA. Working together, they were able to stabilize and help secure the future of some of the unique historical mining structures at the site. At same time, physical hazards associated with these openings were abated and wildlife habitat improved.



"In 2008 OMR provided additional manpower to the U.S. Forest Service for closures of an abandoned tungsten mine located at the end of a popular OHV route near Independence, CA. Staff members from OMR assisted the U.S. Forest with the placement of culvert gates and foam on four adits."

--Lynn Oliver, US Forest Service, Inyo National Forest

Culvert Gates, Polyurethane Foam Plug, and Backfills, Inyo National Forest, Inyo County, May 2008

In May 2008, the AMLU assisted in the closure of four adits and one vertical opening near Bishop, CA. Inyo National Forest's Road Crew came out with a backhoe to help with the heavy lifting and backfill work, while the AMLU staff aided in the securing of the two culvert gates and the placement of a polyurethane foam plug. These were the last of several dangerous features to be dealt with at this abandoned mine. In 2005 and 2006 the AMLU partnered with the Inyo National Forest to close eight other features at the mine site.



"From 2005 to 2008 the OMR provided monetary assistance, technical expertise, and manpower to the U.S. Forest Service for the closure of an abandoned tungsten mine near Bishop, CA. This mine consisted of a number of open adits, shafts, and glory holes and was extremely hazardous. OMR support for the project ensured that the project was completed on a timely basis and was much appreciated by the U.S. Forest Service."

--Lynn Oliver, US Forest Service, Inyo National Forest

Fences Installed, Mojave National Park, San Bernardino County, May 2008

In May 2008, National Park Service staff assisted by a California Conservation Corps crew and with funding from the AMLU installed fences around 17 hazardous abandoned mine features within the Mojave National Park. The sites were located along frequently used trails, and tire tracks could be observed on the waste dumps and trails leading to several shafts.



Thanks for funding our projects. To this point, we have completed the chain link fence around the trench and eight associated features including shafts/declines/stopes/ adits. We also installed the footing for a bat cupola on the main shaft. At [another site], we installed six barbed wire fences and rebuilt an additional one. We also installed a fence around one shaft that is being used by barn owls and fenced a decline. More work to follow as this saved other project funds. Again, many thanks for the help.

– Ted Weasma, National Park Service,
Mohave National Park



Shaft Closed with Polyurethane Foam, Auburn State Recreation Area, Placer County, March 2008

In March 2008, the AMLU, California State Parks, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation teamed up to seal an abandoned mine exposed as a hazard after a dog fell in. On January 21, Dewie, a golden retriever, was with his owners on a trail along the Shirland Canal near the foothill community of Auburn. He was chasing a rock down an embankment in a wooded area when he suddenly vanished down a 35-foot-deep shaft, likely part of Gold Rush-era workings. Hours later, Auburn firefighters pulled Dewie to safety. Rangers quickly put up fencing around the shaft, and the AMLU contacted State Parks with the offer to help install a more permanent fix. Six weeks later, Dewie returned to stand atop the shaft after it was plugged with expandable polyurethane foam more than strong enough to support the weight of Dewie and his owners.



Dewie came through the ordeal just fine. An adult or child falling in the mineshaft might not have been so lucky. – Mike Lynch, Supervisor, Environmental Resources Group, California State Parks, Auburn Sector, Gold Fields District

This is a great outcome. We're happy no one will get hurt in this hole. – Erica Roper, Dewie's owner

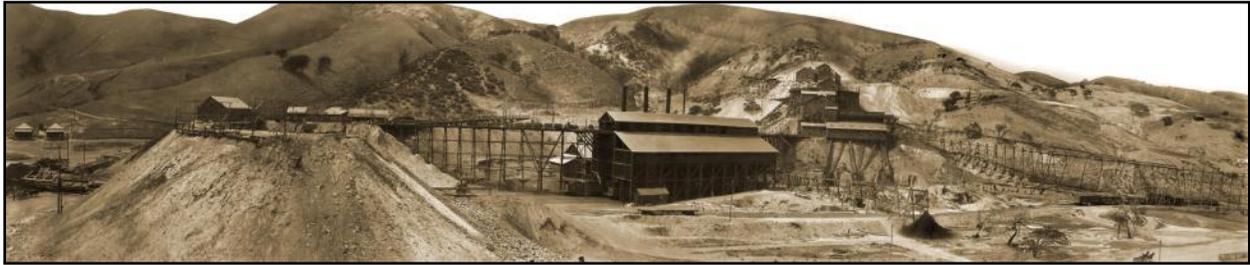
INSERTING "FALSE BOTTOM" AND POURING FOAM INTO SHAFT



SHAFT SITE (AFTER CLOSURE)

Bat Gates Installed at Historically Significant Coal, Sand, and Clay Mining Site, Alameda County, January 2008

In January 2008, the AMLU and California Department of Parks and Recreation (State



Parks) teamed up to protect public safety by installing several bat gates on hazardous

HISTORICAL PHOTO OF SITE

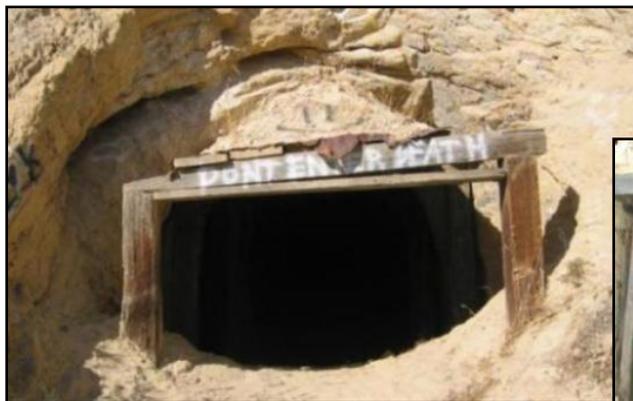
abandoned mine openings at a historically significant site that was once California's largest coal mining center. The agencies invited the media to view the closure and to highlight the site's historical value and the AMLU's "**Stay Out – Stay Alive**" message.

While the site is currently off-limits to the public, there is ample evidence in the form of graffiti and litter that it is visited frequently. Vandals had recently entered the site illegally and burned some of the 100-year-old wooden beams inside the entrance to one of the adits, potentially weakening the mine's supports. One mine had been used as a methamphetamine lab for a few days, until Park rangers discovered and stopped the operation. The bat gate also protects bats, including pallid and Townsend's big-eared bats, which have been found inside the abandoned mine and can hibernate or set up maternity colonies now that the human disturbance has been removed.

Thank you for all your hard work and efforts that went into making this event a success! I'm delighted we had the opportunity to partner on this very important project, and look forward to other opportunities in the future.

- Daphne Greene, Deputy Director, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division, California State Parks

ADIT (BEFORE)



ADIT (AFTER BAT GATE INSTALLED)

