# Inactive Mine Reclamation Program

The Inactive Mine Reclamation Program was established in 1980 to address the hazards and environmental problems that arise from abandoned mines. Over 23,000 hazardous mines and 1,300 miles of streams are impacted by past mining. There is no other program to address hazards and minimal funding is available for environmental demonstration projects. The program is funded entirely through the Department of the Interior by reclamation fees paid by current coal mine operations. Since 1980, the program has safeguarded 4870 hazardous openings and reclaimed 1539 acres of abandoned mined land statewide. Project activities include: field investigations, project development, project design, realty work, construction contract bidding and management, site construction and reclamation, construction inspection, site monitoring and maintenance of prior project work.

Here is information on reclamation activities by county:

## COLORADO INACTIVE MINE RECLAMATION PROGRAM

## Safeguarded Mines 1980 - June 30, 2004

| | Total Estimate Inactive Mines | | Total Mines Safeguarded | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| County | Coal | Non-Coal | Coal Acres | Feat. | Non-Coal |
| Alamosa | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Archuleta | 14 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Boulder | 183 | 3,600 | 0 | 88 | 706 |
| Chaffee | 0 | 150 | 0 | 0 | 162 |
| Clear Creek | 0 | 3,000 | 0 | 0 | 943 |
| Conejos | 0 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 34 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Custer | 0 | 1,800 | 0 | 0 | 339 |
| Delta | 36 | 3 | 0 | 31 | 0 |
| Dolores | 0 | 210 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Douglas | 5 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Eagle | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 41 |
| El Paso | 153 | 15 | 0.5 | 51 | 1 |
| Fremont | 279 | 50 | 639.5 | 94 | 10 |
| Garfield | 13 | 15 | 5 | 51 | 7 |
| Gilpin | 0 | 5,000 | 0 | 0 | 1154 |
| Grand | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Gunnison | 15 | 200 | 0 | 16 | 169 |
| Hinsdale | 0 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 122 |
| Huerfano | 178 | 0 | 0.1 | 180 | 0 |
| Jackson | 8 | 35 | 102 | 9 | 6 |
| Jefferson | 48 | 100 | 0 | 6 | 16 |
| Lake | 0 | 550 | 0 | 0 | 134 |
| La Plata | 60 | 50 | 13 | 47 | 4 |
| Larimer | 15 | 250 | 0 | 4 | 5 |
| Las Animas | 202 | 2 | 47.9 | 133 | 0 |
| Mesa | 33 | 150 | 0 | 54 | 90 |
| Mineral | 0 | 200 | 0 | 0 | 100 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Moffat | 31 | 15 | 1.5 | 14 | 6 |
| Montezuma | 26 | 10 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| Montrose | 2 | 1,280 | 67 | 15 | 244 |
| Ouray | 0 | 350 | 0 | 1 | 97 |
| Park | 49 | 250 | 0 | 7 | 318 |
| Pitkin | 3 | 750 | 20.5 | 7 | 47 |
| Rio Blanco | 22 | 10 | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| Rio Grande | 0 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Routt | 77 | 44 | 225.5 | 39 | 15 |
| Saguache | 0 | 800 | 0 | 0 | 74 |
| San Juan | 0 | 500 | 0 | 0 | 257 |
| San Miguel | 7 | 700 | 0 | 23 | 63 |
| Summit | 0 | 600 | 0 | 0 | 73 |
| Teller | 0 | 1,100 | 0 | 0 | 493 |
| Weld | 36 | 0 | 12 | 40 | 0 |
| **TOTAL *** | **1,495** | **21,939** | **1,113.5** | **942** | **5,739** |

*Totals for number of mines safeguard may not equal the sum of county figures due to counting of maintenance of vandalized closures as "safeguarded mines."