



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

CITATION

**PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION AWARD**

**BAYHORSE MINING DISTRICT COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP**

In recognition of the Bayhorse Mining District Cooperative Conservation Partnership in making the Bayhorse Mining District in Idaho a much safer place for visitors to recreate by conducting extensive remediation of mining-related hazards and environmentally-damaged areas.

The Bayhorse Mining District Cooperative Conservation Partnership works to remediate mining-related hazards in the Bayhorse Mining District and to provide a positive recreation experience for the general public. In 2006, Idaho purchased the Bayhorse town site and other patented mining claims in the area, hoping to capitalize on the area's recreational and educational opportunities centered at the ghost town of Bayhorse. This brought together the Bureau of Land Management and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation with a common purpose. The area's dilapidated historic mining structures and sandy toxic tailings piles beckoned mining buffs and off-highway-vehicle enthusiasts; however, the area offered no visitor protection. Hazards included mining-related subsidence features and open, overgrown shafts. The Partnership began coordinating through multiple meetings and field trips with other Federal, State and county agencies and the public. A series of cost-effective actions were identified. Since 2001, the Bureau of Land Management has investigated 30 abandoned mine sites on public lands in the area, found 48 dangerous open mine workings, and closed 30. Thoughtful attention to preserving the historical integrity of each site was provided. The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation has removed tailings in Beardsley Gulch containing elevated levels of lead, transporting them to the Bayhorse tailings pile. This pile was covered with an engineered cap that isolates the tailings from human contact and directs storm water runoff to naturally filtering rip-rap before it drains into Bayhorse Creek. In addition, the partners have cooperated in gathering site history and hosting an Archeology Day focused on mining history for area school children. To protect visitors from contaminated soils and exposed tailings at the site, fencing was erected along access routes on both Bureau and Idaho lands. For their cooperation in achieving remediation at the Bayhorse Mining District and providing an educational and recreational opportunity for the public, the Bayhorse Mining District Cooperative Conservation Partnership is granted the Department of the Interior's Partners in Conservation Award.