

Presentation on Mine Reclamation Activity 2014

Mining Oversight and Accountability Commission September 24, 2015

## **NDEP** Reclamation Program

- Mission: Ensure that mining operations and exploration projects are properly reclaimed to be safe and stable and provide a productive post-mining land use.
  - NRS and NAC 519A
  - Reclamation permits
  - Inspections
  - Compliance and enforcement
  - Financial assurance

# NRS and NAC 519A

- Exploration and mining projects
- Both public and private lands
- MOU with BLM and USFS to ensure consistent:
  - -reclamation requirements
  - -bonding
  - -bond release

### Reclamation Branch, Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation

- Staff:
  - 1 Supervisor, 4 Scientists, 1 Engineer,
    - **1** Administrative Assistant
- Permit coverage:
  - Both public and private lands
  - Mining operations: annual disturbance of 5 acres or more and removal of 36,500 tons
  - Exploration projects: annual disturbance of 5 acres or more

### Calvada – Reclaimed Heap Leach

#### NRS 514A.070(3)

The Division of Environmental Protection shall submit to the Commission at its third regular meeting in each calendar year:

a report concerning the Division's activities concerning the reclamation of mined lands, areas of exploration and former areas of mining or exploration during the immediately preceding calendar year, including, without limitation:

- an accounting of the amounts of lees collected for permits issued by the Division and
- any fines imposed by the Division.

### **Reclamation Branch Activities 2014**

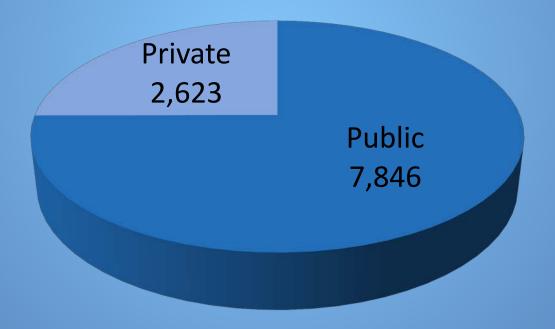
- 268 total permits (mining and exploration)
- 12 new permits
   5 mining, 7 exploration
- 3 permits terminated

   all required reclamation completed
- 118 projects inspected

## Florida Canyon – WRD Reclamation

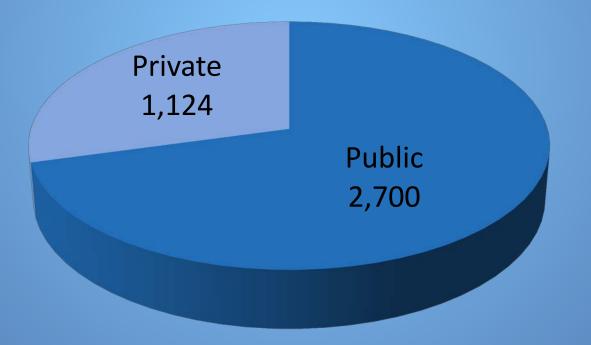
### Permitted Disturbance for Exploration Projects as of 12/31/2014

Total: 10,469 acres



#### Reported Disturbance for Exploration Projects as of 12/31/14

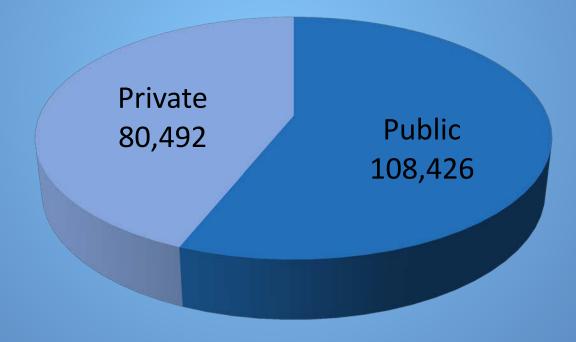
Total 3,824 acres



### Doby George – Reclaimed Exploration

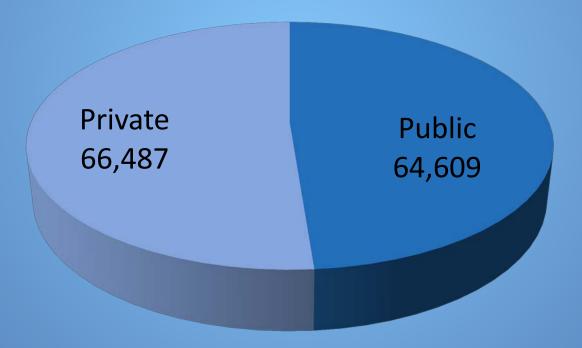
#### Permitted Disturbance for Mining Operations as of 12/31/14

Total: 188,918 acres



### Reported Disturbance for Mining Projects as of 12/31/14

Total 131,096 acres



### Preble Mine – Reclaimed Leach Pad

### Twin Creeks – Pinon TSF Reclamation



#### Standard Mine – Cordex Pit Reclamation

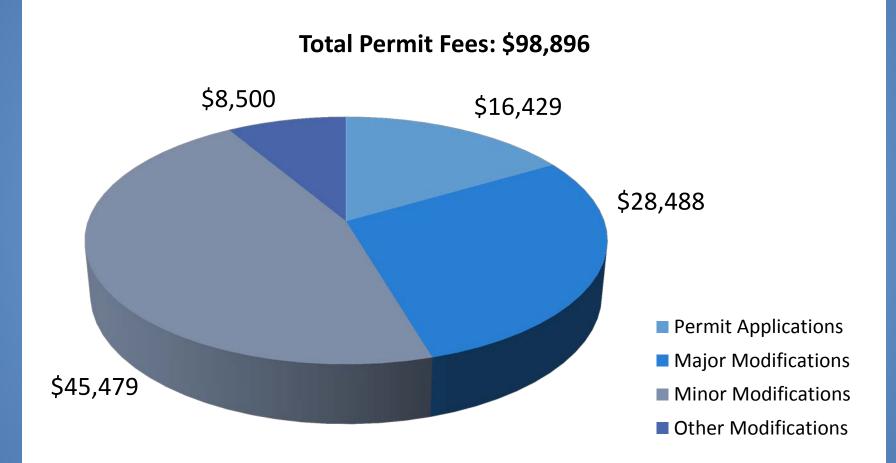
## **Reclamation Fees**

- The Reclamation Program is 100% fee funded
- Permit fees cover all expenses for Reclamation Branch activities
- No general fund or federal grant money

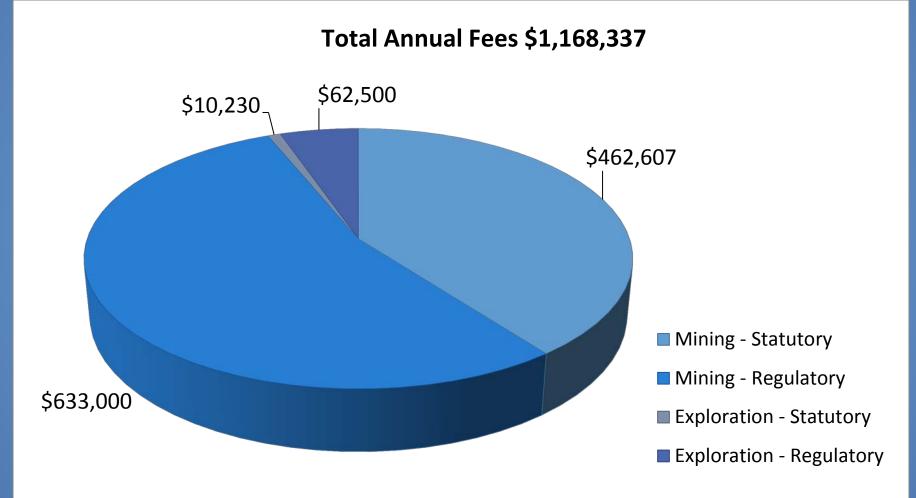
## **Reclamation Fees**

- Permit Fees
  - Applications for new permits
  - Modifications to existing permits
- Annual Fees
  - Statutory (to help support the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology)
  - Regulatory (to fund Reclamation Program activities)

#### **Reclamation Permit Fees 2014**



### **Reclamation Annual Fees 2014**



## **Fines and Enforcement**

- 12 Notices of Noncompliance issued in 2014
  - failure to submit annual disturbance report and fees

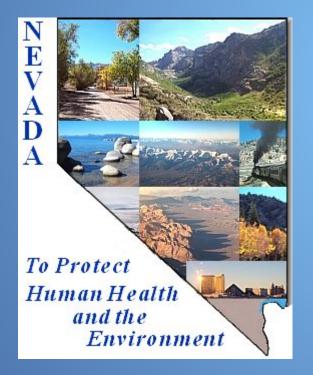
All enforcement actions resolved w/in weeks

• No fines imposed

### FINANCIAL ASSURANCE 12/31/14

TOTAL	\$2,495 M
Bond Pool	<u>1 M</u>
USFS	22 M
Corp. Guarantee	182 M
CD/Cash	39 M
Letters of Credit	406 M
Bonds	\$1,845 M





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#### **Questions?**

**Greg Lovato, Deputy Administrator Nevada Division of Environmental Protection**