

Final Project: Op-Ed

Why is mining important?

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The Nevada Mining Association assists the mining industry in striving to be a good steward to the environment and helps give a voice to those who are good cooperative citizens in the workforce. The association works towards being socially responsible in engaging the community through education about the importance of the mining industry so there are fewer misunderstandings about mining.

In Nevada, there are 24 metal mine locations, 24 industrial mineral mine locations, six oil fields, and 12 geothermal power plants. These areas are providing the minerals and resources that are needed in people's every day lives.

Mining is important to Nevada because it contributes more than \$100 million each year to Nevada and local economies. It provides a variety of high-paying jobs for those in rural communities. These jobs can range from geologists to engineers to mechanics. In 2014, there were about 29,000 jobs generated just from the Nevada mining industry.

Before any ground is broken through for mining, companies ensure that there are sufficient funds to complete reclamation and remediation to explore and mine the sites. The plans made must follow detailed state and federal regulatory guidelines in order to move towards a project being approved by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the Division of Minerals, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service

The Nevada Mining Association ensures that there is a regulation of water and air management to ensure mining is performed in an environmentally responsible manner. These are achieved through training programs, consultation, technical advice, and more.

Without mining, everyday products that we take for granted would not exist. Everything manufactured or transported requires minerals that come from everyday mining. Mining helps maintain our standard day of living.

Silver is used for many things such as photography, currency, jewelry, batteries, mirrors, and much more. Copper is used for piping, circuitry, and high-tech equipment. Lithium is used in pharmaceuticals and efficient batteries (i.e. cell phones, laptops). Diatomaceous Earth is used for such products as food and beverage filters, kitty litter, and paint. There are many more minerals that are used that make a contribution to how we live.

The Nevada Mining Association plays a key role in ensuring the mining industry holds communication, collaboration, responsibility, and sustained growth for those around. The association is the champion of the 21st century mining industry.