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Submitted Title: Modeling Reclamation Priorities of Abandoned Mines in New Mexico

Submitted Abstract:

Abandoned mines can present both physical and contamination hazards. The New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division and the New Mexico Abandoned Mine Lands Program are collaborating with state, federal and tribal agencies to inventory and prioritize the reclamation of abandoned coal and uranium mines. A GIS Prioritization Model, using ArcGIS Spatial Analyst and ModelBuilder, was developed to rank these areas based on variables (e.g. presence of open mine features, proximity of habitation and drainages, and land use) that may place people at risk. This decision-making tool was used in pre-planning site risk assessments and reclamation. The analysis includes the Gallup Coal Mining District and the state-wide distribution of abandoned and inactive uranium mines with a focus on the Ambrosia Lake Uranium Sub-district.