



August 30, 2022

Via [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)

Steve Feldgus, Ph.D.
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Land and Minerals Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St, NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Re: Interagency Working Group on Mining Regulations, Laws, and Permitting

Dear Dr. Feldgus,

The National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) and the Public Lands Foundation (PLF) are pleased to provide joint comments in response to the Request for Information to Inform Interagency Working Group on Mining Regulations, Laws, and Permitting as requested through the Federal Register at 87 FR 18811, March 31, 2022, and specifically on hardrock abandoned mine land issues.

Together, our organizations represent hundreds of retired subject matter experts who dedicated their careers in public land management to mitigate physical safety and environmental problems stemming from past hardrock mining. Our vast experience ranges from program managers to field operations, expertise in hazardous materials mitigation, applied technology, and in forging partnerships with Federal, State and Tribal agencies.

We applaud the Interagency Working Group's efforts to review mining regulations, laws and permitting and to seek the requisite resources needed to address the long-standing problems posed by unreclaimed hardrock mines. Our specific comments are enclosed.

We stand ready to offer any assistance that we can provide.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Rugwell, President
Public Lands Foundation

Steve Ellis, Chair
National Association of
Forest Service Retirees

Enclosure