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Henderson Wildlife at Work certification



The boreal toad measures 2.5 to 4 inches and has dark brown to black warty skin with a white or cream-colored vertical stripe down its back

January 13, 2011- Reclaimed tailing ponds may not seem like a cozy place to call home, but don't tell that to the boreal toads in Colorado who have been using just such an area near the Henderson mine to breed and lay eggs since 1994.

It didn't happen by accident. Employees at the Henderson Mine worked closely with the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the University of Colorado at Boulder to conserve the habitat for toads in the area.

These efforts recently were recognized by the Wildlife Habitat Council. It awarded Henderson operations the Wildlife at Work Certification for successful implementation of its boreal toad and other wildlife management programs.

"It's an important certification for us because it means we're on track with our biodiversity and conservation performance targets," said Bill Cobb, Vice President-Environmental Services and Sustainable Development. "Meeting these targets is critical to demonstrating our commitment to sustainable development and ICMM principles. The EPA also recognizes the positive environmental performance of sites receiving WHC certifications."

Key elements of the program include protection of the area from human physical disturbance, maintaining water levels in the shallow pools and increasing awareness of boreal toads among employees and the public.

Miguel Hamarat, Chief Environmental Engineer, oversees the program and other biodiversity initiatives at Henderson. He's also a member of the Company's Biodiversity Task Force, comprised of 12 corporate and site employees.

"Each site is preparing biodiversity inventories so that we know about all opportunities to preserve and protect wildlife on our properties," Hamarat said. "As a task force, our role is to ensure that sites are implementing the Company's biodiversity and land-use targets and to provide support where needed."

Bagdad, Fort Madison and an Amax Research and Development facility in Golden, Colo., also have received Wildlife at Work Certification.

A boreal toad breeding pond at a reclamation area near Henderson