

Debra W. Struhsacker

Environmental Permitting & Government Relations Consultant

E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

Expertise

- Expert industry advocate who can communicate effectively about mining and the environment
- Public policy issues dealing with public lands, mining and environmental issues
- Environmental permitting and regulatory requirements for mineral exploration and mining
- Government relations strategies to develop political support for proposed projects
- Community and stakeholder involvement programs to build public support for proposed projects
- Technical and policy issues associated with abandoned mine reclamation
- Project Management

Experience and Career History

Ms. Struhsacker has over 25 years of experience working on hardrock mining and environmental issues. She specializes in public policy issues related to mining and the environment, and has been actively involved with a number of key mining legislative and regulatory dialogues including the National Environmental Policy Act, Mining Law Reform; the Department of Interior's rulemaking to change the surface management regulations for hard rock mining (43 CFR 3809); the technical, institutional, and regulatory issues affecting reclamation of abandoned mines; and anti-mining legislative and regulatory proposals in several states. Ms. Struhsacker has helped industry clients respond to public concerns regarding the potential environmental impacts associated with proposed mining developments. She has managed efforts to secure federal, state, and local environmental permits for mineral exploration and development projects in several western states; has directed multi-disciplinary environmental baseline studies; and has helped prepare environmental documents and state and local permit applications for mining projects in Nevada, Washington, other western states, and Wisconsin.

- **Environmental Permitting and Government Relations Consultant**, Reno, Nevada (April 1991 - June 2003, June 2006 - September 2013, and February 2018 - Present): Provides complete management and coordination of environmental, regulatory, governmental and community relations issues. Integrates technical, regulatory, environmental, and public policy factors into an effective issues management and project permitting strategy. Helps clients identify the local, state, and federal regulatory requirements and key issues pertaining to mineral development projects. Serves as a liaison between industry, regulators, and other stakeholders. Facilitates dialogue between different viewpoints during permit negotiations and discussions of proposed legislative and regulatory developments affecting mining. Prepares permit applications and environmental documents. Provides expert industry advocacy and serves as a pro-mining spokesperson during discussions with elected officials and the interested public about mining and the environment.
- **Senior Vice President**, Pershing Gold Corporation, Reno, Nevada (September 2013 – January 2018): Responsible for Company's environmental permitting, government relations, and land and legal functions. Successfully developed permitting strategies to reinvigorate dormant permits for Relief Canyon Mine and secure new permits to reopen the mine and processing facilities; helped negotiate significant land transactions to consolidate landholdings; assisted the Pershing County Commissioners develop broad-based stakeholder support for the Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act; obtained new water rights to support mine development; and represented Company as a Small Entity Representative on the Small Business Administration Panel in the CERCLA §108(b) rulemaking.

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- **Vice President, U.S. Governmental and Regulatory Affairs**, Kinross Gold USA, Inc., Reno, Nevada (July 2003 - May 2006): Built a governmental and regulatory affairs department to advance Kinross' business interests as a major North American gold producer. Cultivated solid working relationships with key state and federal legislative, executive, and regulatory offices. Helped solve regulatory problems, responded effectively to legislative or regulatory challenges, and lobbied for favorable changes in laws and regulations. Worked closely with members of Congress on Mining Law and National Environmental Policy issues. Promoted Kinross' image as a leader in the fields of environmentally responsible mining and reclamation excellence.
- **Senior Geologist, Associate, and Reno Office Managing Principal**, Dames & Moore, Reno, Nevada (1990 to 1991)
- **Western Region Division Head, Permitting and Environmental; Reno Office Manager**, Steffen Robertson and Kirsten, Reno, Nevada (1986 to 1990)
- **Geologist**, Chevron Resources Company, Denver, Colorado (1981 to 1985), mineral exploration
- **Associate Geologist and Project Manager**, Earth Sciences Lab/University of Utah Research Institute, Salt Lake City, Utah (1978 to 1981), DOE-sponsored geothermal investigations

Academic Background

BA Geology and French (1974), Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts
MS Geology (1978), University of Montana, Missoula, Montana

Academic and Professional Honors

Phi Beta Kappa, Wellesley College
Wellesley College Scholar
2001 Northwest Mining Association Distinguished Service Award
1995 SME Mining & Exploration Division Distinguished Service Award

Professional Affiliations

American Institute of Professional Geologists (1995 President, Northern Nevada Section)
Northwest Mining Assoc./American Exploration & Mining Assoc. (Trustee, 1990-1994, 2007 - 2010)
Women's Mining Coalition (Co-founder, Director)
Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Advisory Board
Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME)
Mining and Metallurgical Society of America
Geological Society of Nevada

Professional Registrations

Professional Geologist - Wyoming; American Institute of Professional Geologists Certified Professional Geologist

Publication Topics

Suggestions for modernizing and improving the National Environmental Policy Act; the relationship between the 43 CFR §3809 rulemaking and efforts to amend the U.S. Mining Law; abandoned mine reclamation policy and technical issues (Congressional testimony); redevelopment of closed mines into renewable energy projects; the evolution of federal and NV state reclamation bonding requirements; and state and federal financial assurance requirements for hardrock mining and the CERCLA 108(b) rulemaking.

Awards

- National Mining Hall of Fame 2016 Prazen Living Legends of Mining Award (awarded to the Women's Mining Coalition)
- Northwest Mining Association 2001 Distinguished Service Award and 2013 President's Award
- Nevada Women's Fund 2019 Nevada Woman of Achievement