

**Specifications for Formatting Mineral Assessment Reports
for the Agricultural Land Easement component of the
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
(ACEP-ALE)**

1. Background Information

- a. This document is prepared to provide guidance to eligible entities who provide an ACEP ALE application that may need a mineral assessment report. NRCS Idaho encourages entities who provide a mineral report to review and utilized this document for mineral assessment reports. This guidance was created to ensure that all mineral assessment reports are prepared and presented following a standard format. As this guidance is implemented, we expect to learn improved ways to do this work. As we learn, this document will be updated.
- b. The following items outline the content of the mineral assessment report.

2. Format

i. Introduction

1. One or two paragraphs that state:
 - a. Purpose
 - b. Why report was requested
2. Discuss field work (give dates) and the personnel involved.

ii. Property Description

1. Provide a comprehensive description of the property, including its boundaries, size, and any unique features or characteristics that may impact its mineral potential or development. Specify the geographic location of the easement site by providing the following:
 - a. Coordinates
 - b. Address
 - c. County and state
 - d. Township Section Range
 - e. Distance and direction from nearest town
 - f. Acreages of parcel(s)
 - g. Accompanying map
 - h. 7 ½' Quadrangle

iii. Physiographic Data

1. Describe the landforms and topography within the area. Significant and unusual origins of topographic features should be discussed.

iv. Geologic Setting

1. Summarize the regional geology and establish the geological setting of the area. Include historical geology summary if applicable to mineral deposit setting. Cite applicable references to the geology, stratigraphy, and tectonics of the area. If regional geophysical or geochemical data are available, include a summary here. A geologic map at a scale not less than 1:250,000, if available, should be attached or at least referenced in the report. Larger scales (1:100,000 or 1:125,000) should be used if available.

v. Site Geology

1. Focus on the site-specific geology of the area. Include local structure, alteration zones, subsurface data, favorable reservoir rocks, ore controls, overburden, stratigraphic and structural traps, etc. If local geophysical or geochemical data is available, summarize the findings. Cite all geologic references used in the Report. A geologic map (scale 1:250,000) should be attached to the report. Scales at more detail (1:24,000 or 1:50,000) should be used if available.

- vi. Method**
 - 1. Describe how the mineral assessment was done (GIS, State Geological Survey interactive map). Consider examining historic aerial photography (google earth and USGS earthexplorer) to determine past mining disturbances. If aerial photography shows past disturbance consider including in Appendix.
- vii. Production History and Mineral Deposits**
 - 1. Summarize the production history of the mining district leasing area, or basin. If the district or basin is dormant or nonproducing, give the reasons why. Discuss the form and type of mineral deposit(s) present. The minerals and their relationship to the local geology should be discussed. A statement as to the presence or absence of critical and strategic minerals. Consider examining mindat.org using search localities near me.
 - 2. Conduct a detailed assessment of the mineral resources present on the property, including the type, quality, and quantity of minerals that can be potentially extracted. This assessment should be based on geological surveys, sampling data, and any previous exploration or mining activities in the area.
- viii. Salable Mineral Potential**
 - 1. Description of the potential of the minerals found on site that can be sold under a mineral material contract (industrial mineral resources such as sand and gravel, clay, petrified wood, volcanic cinder, building stone). Consider including a map showing the property near known salable mineral sites.
- ix. Leasable Mineral Potential**
 - 1. Description of the potential of the minerals found on site that can be leased for mining under a mineral material contract (coal, petroleum, other energy resources such as geothermal, oil shale, uranium, and coalbed methane gas). Consider including a map showing the property near known leasable mineral sites.
- x. Locatable Mineral Resources**
 - 1. Description of the potential of minerals for which exploration, production, and development is regulated by the General Mining Law of 1872 and include most of the metallic minerals such as gold, silver, copper, molybdenum, rare-earth elements, and also certain industrial minerals such as high calcium limestone and gypsum, vermiculite, pegmatite hosted non-metallics, and gemstones. Consider including a map showing the property near known locatable mineral sites.
- xi. Other mineral resources**
 - 1. Such as phosphate or potash deposits
- xii. Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations**
 - 1. Clearly summarize the conclusions and recommendations of the Mineral Report including the detailed review of literature and data bases, and the results of the field examination, if undertaken. The summary should contain as little technical jargon as possible.
- xiii. References**