

Both Maldonado and State Sen. Robert Reese, D-Sweetwater, expressed dismay that the state Department of Environmental Quality's AML program has shifted its emphasis to bentonite and uranium land reclamation.

Reese said he was told during a tour of northeastern Wyoming bentonite reclamation sites in July that about half of the state's federal mine reclamation funds received so far have been or will be spent on bentonite reclamation.

Just across the border, Montana has similar unreclaimed bentonite mines, but isn't using its AML funds to restore them, he said. For some Wyoming landowners, the reclamation work represents a "windfall," Reese also claimed.

"Instead of going out into the prairies and spending the money, something ought to be done first in Rock Springs," he said.

Maldonado is a prepared

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