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*Cover:* Triple cropping on the northern Great Plains. Canola is used as a heart-healthy vegetable oil and as a biodiesel, while the wind is harvested for energy production. This wind farm, Langdon Wind Energy Center, is located in Cavalier County, North Dakota. Constructed in 2007, there are 106 wind turbines, and more will be built by the end of 2008. Each turbine is capable of producing 1.5 megawatts of electricity. Altogether, these turbines could power up to 39,750 homes. In 2007, North Dakota lead the country with 91% of the total canola acreage in the United States; Cavalier County alone accounted for 20%. Photo credit: Bryan Hanson. See Hanson et al. (1339–1346).

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## FEATURE

### THE THIRSTY DRAGON AND THE WEALTHY BEAR:

HOW CHINA, RUSSIA AND HIGH OIL PRICES INFLUENCE GLOBAL DYNAMICS

Russia and China are changing the terms of energy geopolitics, and in the process, changing everyone's place in the world. The first article in a two-part series examines the ways China asserts its influence in the global energy market and the implications for U.S. foreign policy and energy security.

Lindsey Bartlett and Michael E. Webber



## FEATURE

### THE CAUSE OF CHINA'S DEVASTATION:

AFTER THE QUAKE

In the month following the May earthquake in China, two research teams traveled to the region to observe the devastation, with the hopes of lending their expertise to help rebuild. The teams provide firsthand accounts and sobering pictures of their experiences.

Sarah Bahan and Walter Mooney; Jian Guo Liu and Timothy Kusky



## FEATURE

### AT FIRST JOLT

Researchers cannot predict when and where the next earthquake will strike, but they can provide a few seconds to prepare before severe shaking starts. Such early warning systems can provide enough time to stop trains, close bridges and shut down utility plants.

Richard Allen



## TRENDS AND INNOVATIONS

### JURASSIC MED SCHOOL

You might be surprised to learn that many doctors teaching anatomy at medical schools are actually paleontologists, not physicians. But the growing trend of paleontologists and anthropologists staffing the faculties of med schools shouldn't be surprising: After all, one vertebrate isn't that different from another.

Mary Caperton Morton



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OIL: I AM NOT ADDICTED AND I AM NOT GOING TO TAKE IT ANYMORE  
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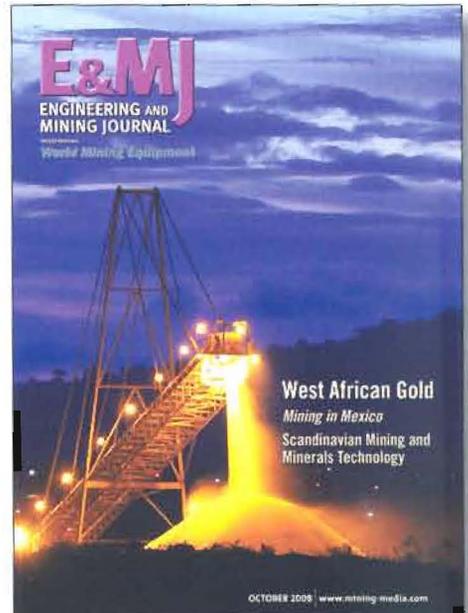
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On the cover, a night time shot of the Damang operation in Ghana (photo courtesy of Gold Fields), which produces about 200,000 oz/y of gold. Gold Fields purchased Damang in 2002 and the operation should have been closed in 2006, but today it still has a four to six year life of mine ahead of it (See West African Mining, p. 34).

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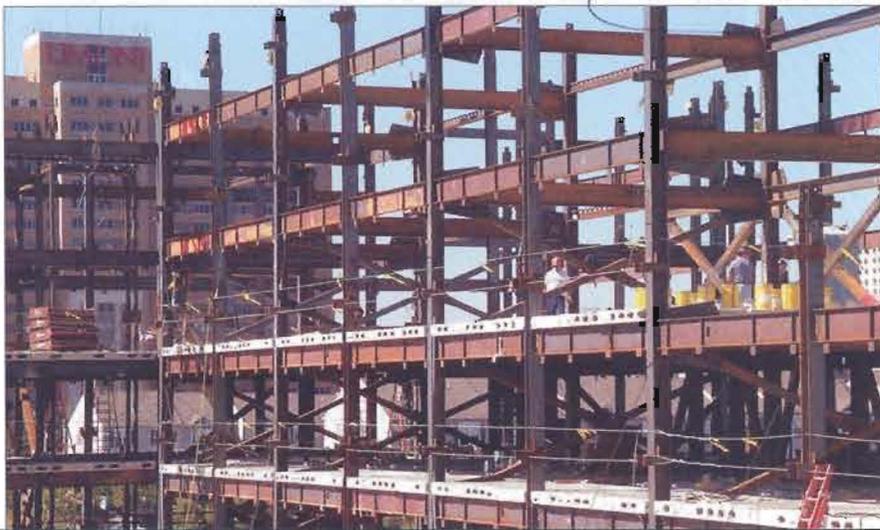
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Cover photo by AP/Wideworld; photo right courtesy of Girder-Slab Technologies



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### COVER STORY

#### ► The Top 600 Specialty Contractors

**38** The Wall Street meltdown and the collapse of the credit markets have worried specialty contractors scrambling to build backlog.

Cover image by Guy Lawrence for ENR; photo right courtesy of RK Mechanical



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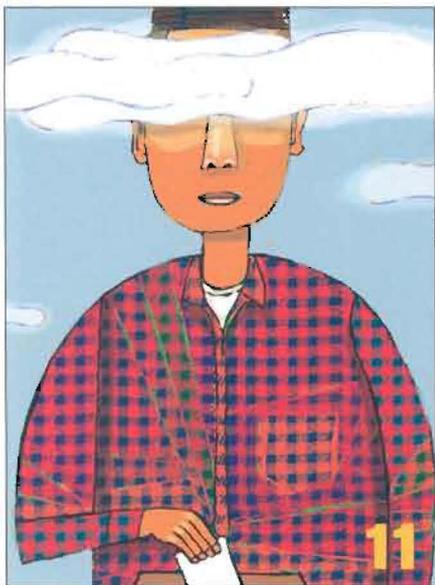
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The September article "The Reformer" incorrectly stated the Air Force awarded its aerial refueling tanker contract to Boeing Co. The award went to Northrop Grumman Corp. The reference to easing the transition before Election Day should have said Inauguration Day.

In the August article "On Mullen's Mind" the reference to the first wartime presidential election in 40 years should have said presidential transition.



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edited by

**Romeo M. Flores**

*U.S. Geological Survey, P.O. Box 25046, Denver, CO 80225, USA*

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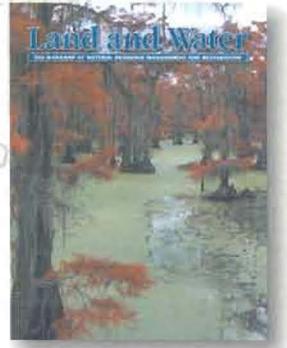
# Land and Water

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Volume 52, Number 5

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## Cover Story

Caddo Lake Wildlife Management Area straddles the Texas-Louisiana border. Bald Cypress trees are some of the last to lose their leaves in the fall, making the beautiful fall show and cooler temperatures at Caddo Lake a great place to visit in October and November. For the full story, see page 19.

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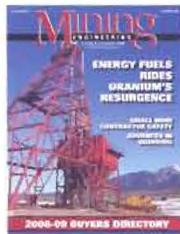
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## Merging Trails on New Mexico's Rangelands

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# Reclamation Matters

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An Interdisciplinary Approach to Soils Research

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- W08501** *N. Suci, C. Vamoy, H. Vereecken, K. Sahfeld, and P. Knäuper*  
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- W08701** *A. Recking, P. Frey, A. Paquier, P. Belleudy, and J. Y. Champagne*  
Correction to "Feedback between bed load and flow resistance in gravel and cobble bed rivers"  
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