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This month, Coal Age profiles Southern Coal Corp., which has invested more than \$125 million in its mining operations in the last nine months. Southern Coal is an Appalachian success story amid the fallout from the UBB tragedy and the continuing battle between the EPA and mountaintop mining. (Cover: An excavator loads overburden at Southern Coal's A&G No. 21 mine in Virginia.)

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to Mike Quillen with red hats, Frankie Moore and Ronnie Hall, at Roaring Fork Mine operated by Alpha's Dickenson-Russell subsidiary in Virginia.



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MARS: THE NEXT DECADE — THE SEARCH FOR LIFE

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Barry E. DiGregorio

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SINKHOLES: FLORIDA GRAPPLES WITH THE WONDERS OF THE NOT-SO-DEEP

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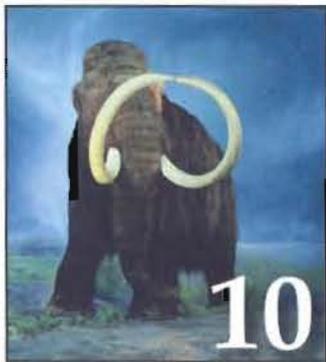
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Scaling Up

58 Managing a booming base construction program for the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and others is a tough mission for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

Cover photo by U.S. Navy; photo right, courtesy of NAVFAC



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Recession Grips Costs

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Serpentine Cliff-Hanger

72 In San Francisco, a wild laboratory design at a steep site in a high seismic zone presented a formidable challenge. Interactive project delivery proved critical to the project's ultimate success.

Cover photo by Brian Haux, Skyhawk Photography; photo right courtesy of DPR Construction



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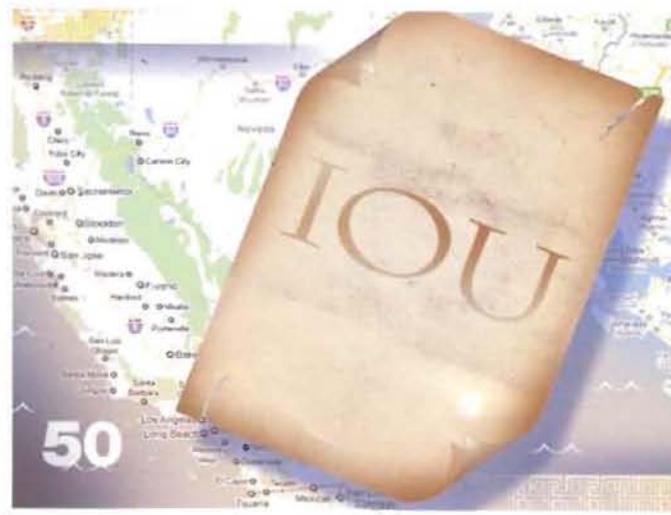
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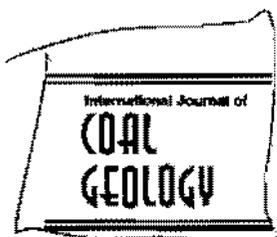
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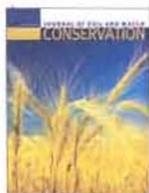
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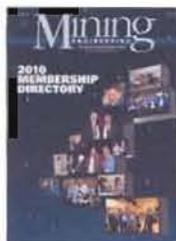
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Just because one state has resources buried in the ground doesn't mean that those resources have great value. There's a lot more that goes into determining value. This is easy to see in foreign nations, such as those in central Africa, for example, but a recent study shows it's also true for American states.

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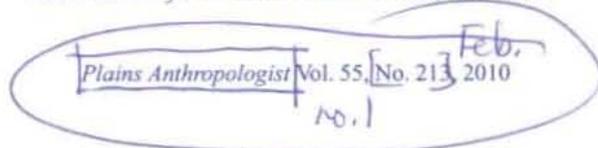
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Front Cover Photograph: Mountain big sagebrush-bunchgrass plant community on Lone Mountain in southeastern Oregon, USA, with Steens Mountain in the background. Photo by Kirk W. Davies.

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