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THIS ISSUE

This month, Coal Age profiles Signal Peak Energy's Bull Mountain mine. The first major underground coal mine to be commissioned in Montana, it plans to become one of the safest, most productive longwall operations. On the cover, a view of the Bull Mountain longwall face; the canopies on the shields have been extended to protect the miners from face sloughage.

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www.earthmagazine.org

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2012: The End of the World or Just Another Year of Living in Harm's Way?

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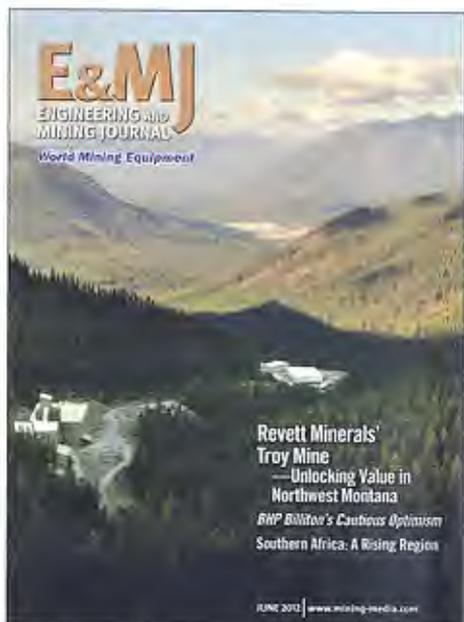
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This month E&M offers an in-depth report on Revett Minerals. The company restarted the Troy mine in northwest Montana and has set its sights on becoming a mid-tier precious and base metals producer. The cover photo, taken from the north portal on Mt. Vernon, shows the Troy mill and the maintenance and administration facilities in the foreground. (Photo courtesy of Revett Minerals)

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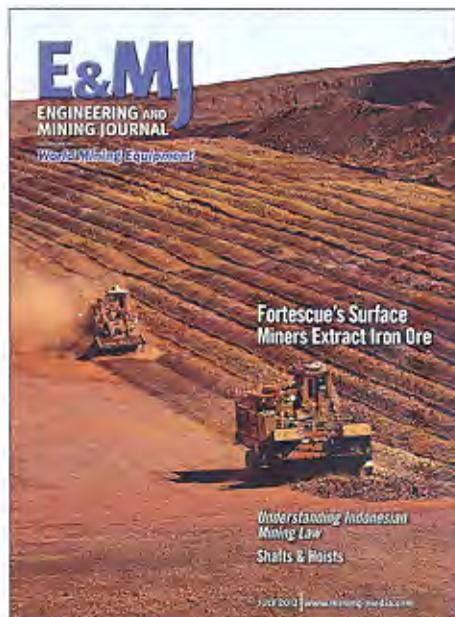
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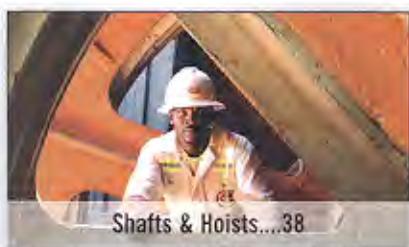
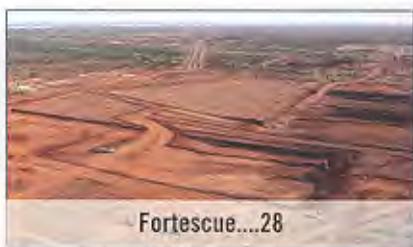
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Australia's major iron ore producers are leaning heavily on advanced equipment and technology to reduce the costs and workforce needed to operate large mines in remote locations. Shown on this month's cover are two of the surface excavating machines in the fleet used by Fortescue Metals Group at its Christmas Creek mine in Western Australia's Pilbara region. In the foreground is the T1655, the latest and largest SEM developed by Vermeer Corp. (Photo by R. Carter, E&M)

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THE TOP 100 GREEN DESIGN FIRMS

29 Sustainable design has retained its luster even in a tarnished market. However, what has drawn many owners to green design is the promise of energy efficiency and a return on investment in green technology through decreased life-cycle costs.

FLYING HIGH Gensler designed San Francisco International Airport's Terminal 2, which the firm says is the first U.S. airport terminal to achieve LEED Gold certification.



NUMBER 2

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Oil Ignites Microboom

12 Towns in northwestern North Dakota see a surge in demand for housing and infrastructure to keep up with the oil fracking boom

Cover photo by Bloomberg via Getty Images

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- 18** **Coal Gasification:** Mississippi lignite power project hit by soaring costs
- 24** **Water Quality:** Expected court OK will launch \$880-million Everglades plan

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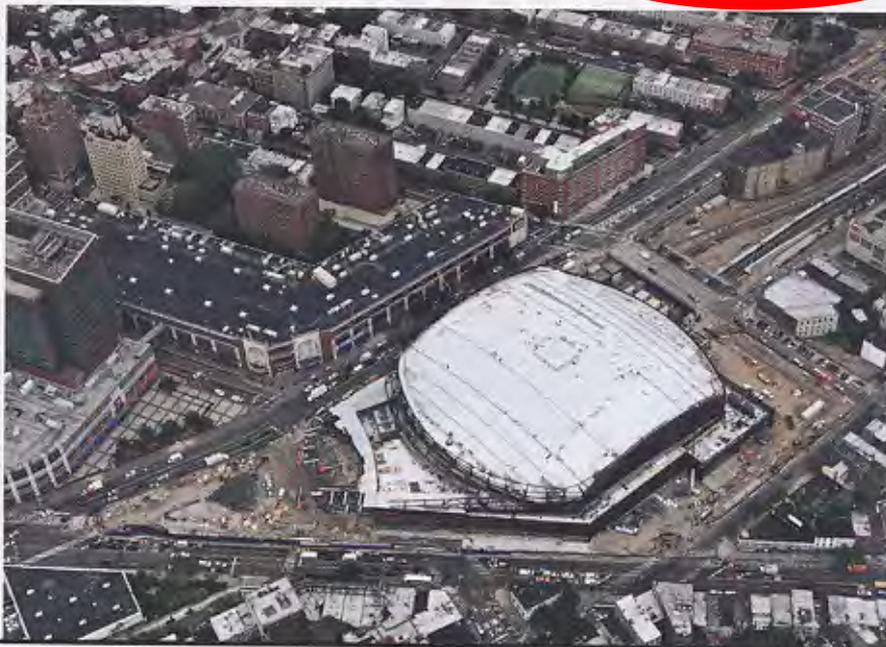
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Contested, Delayed, Trimmed

- 19** Atlantic Yards, Brooklyn's controversial sports village, has survived myriad lawsuits and the recession.
- 20** Building team jumps through hoops to reshape Barclays Center arena.
- 24** Developer plans world's tallest modular building.

Cover photo by SHoP Construction;
photo right courtesy of Forest City Ratner Cos.



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- 8** New law provides \$104.4 billion for roads, transit and safety through FY2014, revamps project reviews and boosts TIFIA loans

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- 11** **Health Care:** Health-care law may be prescription for an ailing building sector
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- 28** **Obituary:** California materials firm CEO Bruce Woolpert, 61, dies in accident

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COVER STORY

Cutting-Edge Canal

- 18** Massive locks take shape in a global effort to meet the 2014 deadline for the Panama Canal expansion
- 23** A seismic fault runs close to the Panama Canal's new locks
- 24** To meet tough tolerances, canal concrete crews use machinery to contend with climate

Cover photo by C.J. Schexnayder;
photo right courtesy of MWH



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- 8** Green Buildings: Special-interest groups ramp up campaign to "fix" LEED rating system

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- 10** Companies: CEO switch at merged utilities is linked to troubled nuclear-plant fix
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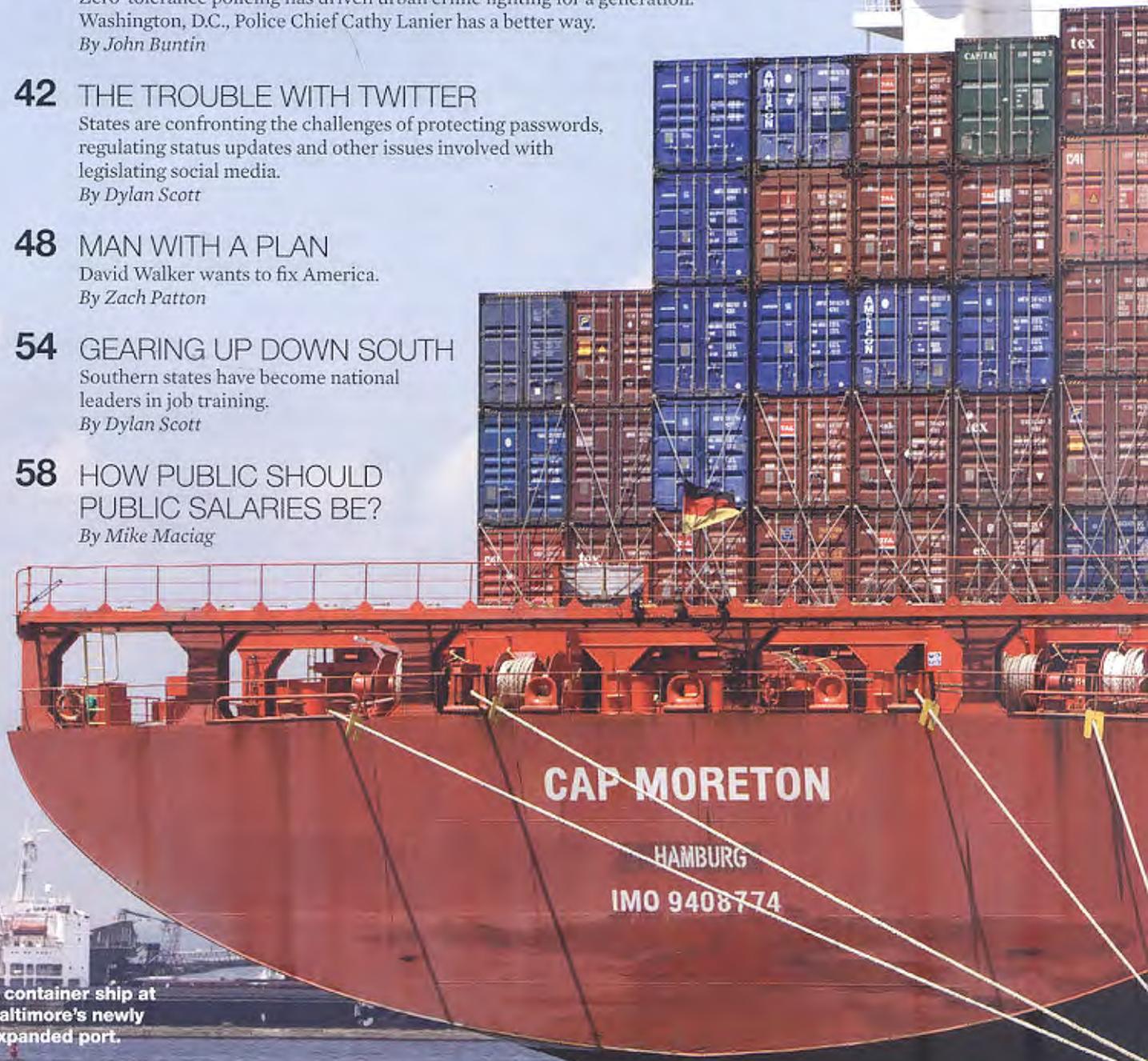


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The Journal of Explosives Engineering
Published by International Society
of Explosives Engineers
30325 Bainbridge Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44139
www.isee.org

Publisher
International Society of Explosives Engineers

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On the Cover: A chimney blasting operation in Austria - Vienna's district of Floridsdorf on May 4th. Best of Show, 19th Annual Photo and Art Contest. Photo by Elisabeth Zechmeister. See story, page 16.

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Are you working on cutting edge research in soil and water conservation? Does your work involve new tools, technologies, or materials that others should be aware of? Have you observed or been a part of conservation practices that are worth sharing with the journal audience?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, you are invited to submit your article ideas for the A Section of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*.

Your work could be published in one of the A Section topic areas: Conservation in Practice, Viewpoint, Ideas & Innovations, Conservation in Action, In the News, Feature, etc.

To submit your article ideas or for more information, contact the editor Oksana Gieseman at oksana.gieseman@swcs.org.



On the Cover
Field in a sunny day.
Photo by Igor Normann.



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Cover art is from Turpin, this issue

Plains Anthropologist Vol. 56, No. 220, 2011

Volume 34 No. 3
June 2012

Published bimonthly:
February, April, June, August, October, December
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RANGELANDS (ISSN 0190-0528) is an official publication of the Society for Range Management (SRM, 10030 W 27th Ave, Wheat Ridge, CO 80215-6601) and is published bimonthly in February, April, June, August, October, and December. Publishing services are provided by Allen Press Publishing Services, 810 East 10th Street, Lawrence, Kansas 66044. Calendar-year subscription prices are \$100-125 for individuals and \$160-235 for institutions. Additional surface charges may apply to subscribers located outside of the USA. The online version of *Rangelands* can be found online at www.srmjournals.org. Subscriptions, changes of address, and requests for missing issues should be sent to Allen Press Association Management, P.O. Box 7065, Lawrence, Kansas 66044. Claims for copies lost in the mail must be received within two months (four months foreign) of the issue date to insure replacement at no charge.

Editorial correspondence should be addressed to Lori Hiding, Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes, Arizona State University, PO Box 875603, Tempe, AZ 85287-5603. Page proofs should be returned to the Managing Editor, Joel T. Luber, jluber@allenpress.com.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE paid at Denver, Colorado, and additional offices.

POSTMASTER: Address service requested to *Rangelands*, PO Box 7065, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

PRINTED IN USA

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An Interdisciplinary Approach to Soils Research

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Cover: Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum*) with new skin. Photo by María de Lourdes Romero-Almaraz and Cornelio Sánchez-Hernández.