**Table 1: Mineral Policy Center Estimates of Abandoned Mine Cleanup Costs**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Number of sites** | **Percentage** **of total sites** | **Site characteristics** | **Average cleanup** **cost per site (thousand$)** |
| Benign | 194,500 | 34.88% | no safety hazards or waterquality threats | $0 |
| Landscape Disturbance | 231,900 | 41.59% | waste piles, poor vegetation, severe erosion | $4.4 |
| Safety Hazard | 116,300 | 20.86% | shafts, adits, collapsed or unstable ground | $19.5 |
| Surface Water Contamination  | 14,400 | 2.58% | acid discharge, heavy metal contamination of surface water | $1,000-3,000  |
| Groundwater Contamination  | 500 | 0.09% | acid discharge, heavy metal contamination of groundwater | $7,500-12,500 |
| Superfund | 52 | 0.01% | extreme nastiness | $250,000-$350,000 |
| Total | 557,652 |  |  |  |

Note: the estimates are for 32 western states.