



# U.S. Geological Survey

## Midwest Area Mining Initiative

The USGS Midwest Area Mining Initiative (“MWA Mining Initiative”) was developed as a component of the USGS Midwest Area Science Strategy Framework and overall Midwest Area Business Model. The USGS Midwest Area is comprised of 17 science centers with a wide range of available skill sets and areas of expertise; among these areas are geology, hydrology and hydraulics, biology, geography, and computer science. Given this diverse base of scientific resources, the MWA Mining Initiative was designed as a collaborative forum from which to focus the efforts of many USGS scientists on emerging areas of science and/or areas where improved science is in the National interest. These focused research areas, were, and will be, identified based on numerous discussions and input from the many USGS partners including tribal governments; federal, state, and local governments; environmental groups, and industry.



Native copper. The USGS studies processes that form copper and other mineral deposits and reports global production and consumption.



USGS scientist collecting a sample of mining-contaminated sediments along the Belle Fourche River, S. Dakota approximately 80 miles downstream from the gold mining district in Lead, S. Dakota. Arsenic concentrations in samples collected along the river ranged from hundreds to thousands of micrograms per gram of sediment.



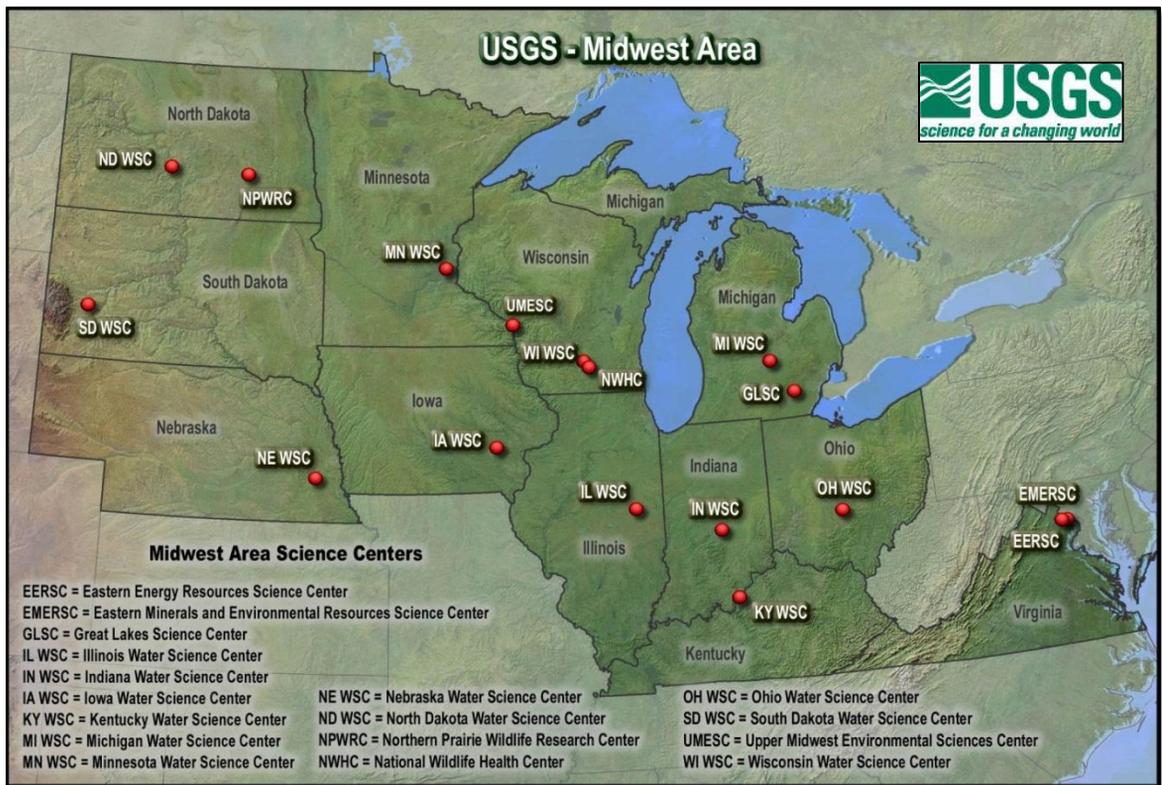
USGS scientist collecting environmental samples in an abandoned mine where bats hibernate

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The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is the science arm of the U.S. Department of the Interior; as such, the USGS conducts research to understand the interactions among earth-surface processes, ecological and biological systems, and human activities. To facilitate unbiased, yet relevant, science, the USGS partners with other federal and state agencies, tribal governments, and non-governmental organizations to provide the science needed to help resource managers address critical and complex natural-resource issues. The USGS Midwest Area (USGS MWA) is comprised of 17 science centers spread out among 12 states including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Ohio, Virginia (science centers located at USGS National Center), and Wisconsin



## Additional contacts and information

Visit us on the web at:  
<http://cida.usgs.gov/mwa/mining/>

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