Where Safety Meets Sustainability

Climax Molybdenum, a subsidiary of Freeport-McMoRan, is the largest producer and supplier of molybdenum and operates here in Colorado. Named after the Climax Railroad Station at the top of the Continental Divide, we operate the underground Henderson Mine near Empire, the Henderson Mill in Grand County, and the Climax Mine near Leadville. Our company directly employs almost 800 and indirectly employs 3,400 Coloradans in rural communities. In 2017, we generated an estimated $367.5 million in combined direct and indirect economic impact for the state.

We Begin and End with Safety

We were founded with an inherent commitment to people that make our company work. Every work day starts with a Safety Share to ensure that worker health and safety is top of mind.

Good Neighbors for Sustainable Communities

Climax Molybdenum has been operating in Colorado for more than 100 years. While we currently provide critical jobs and investment, at Climax Molybdenum we are consistently looking down the road at the long-term sustainability of the communities we serve.
What Is Molybdenum and How Do You Pronounce It?

Molybdenum (mo-lib-den-um), commonly referred to as moly, is a naturally occurring essential element similar to iron. Molybdenum makes stainless steel that is recyclable, longer lasting, corrosion resistant, and stronger. Unlike iron, moly has a much higher melting point which makes it a critical component to enhancing the safety of all different types of transportation, construction, agricultural and medicinal needs. If you have flown in a plane, driven across a bridge, or headed to work in a downtown skyscraper moly has been a day-to-day part of your existence.

BUT molybdenum also has uses you may not expect. For example, it’s also:
- A nutritional supplement and important ingredient in prenatal vitamins
- Used to remove sulfur out of fuel to improve air quality
- An important component of solar panels and wind turbines
- Found in our own bodies and in many foods, such as legumes, grains and organ meats
- A critical component in equipment and protective gear necessary for our national defense

States, like Washington and Oregon, have de-listed molybdenum as a chemical of concern, and new innovation is happening daily around the boundless uses for this unique element.

Ensuring Responsibly Researched Water Quality Standards

Moly Standards in Water: At Climax Molybdenum we support water standards in line with recommendations from scientists at the Environmental Protection Agency. We conduct consistent, voluntary water testing with certified laboratories and work closely with communities to make sure data is transparent and available. In the chart below you can see the current water standards, and the amount of molybdenum in water that independently peer-reviewed, accredited research supports.