

Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Federal Program

FY2021 Request: \$3,200,000
Reference No: 6855

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Life / Health / Safety

Category: Natural Resources

Location: Statewide

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact: Raquel Solomon-Gross

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2020 - 06/30/2025

Contact Phone: (907)465-2422

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Legislature enacted the Alaska Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) in 1983 (AS.27.21). The main purpose of the act is to promote the reclamation of areas mined before enactment of the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. Conditions on some of these mined areas could endanger public health and safety, have environmental implications, and prevent the beneficial use of or cause damage to land and water resources. This federal grant program funds the inventory and remediation of abandoned coal mining sites and facilities under SMCRA guidelines.

Funding:	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	Total
1002 Fed Rcpts	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000		\$16,000,000
Total:	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$0	\$16,000,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

- Sec1 Ch3 SLA2019 P5 L13 SB19 \$3,200,000
- Sec1 Ch19 SLA2018 P7 L22 SB142 \$3,200,000
- Sec1 Ch1 SLA2017 P5 L26 SB23 \$3,200,000
- Sec1 Ch2 SLA2016 P5 L17 SB138 \$3,200,000
- Sec1 Ch38 SLA2015 P5 L17 SB26 \$3,200,000
- Sec1 Ch18 SLA2014 P57 L8 SB119 \$3,200,000
- Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P71 L12 SB18 \$3,000,000

Project Description/Justification:

The Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation (AML) program performs reclamation on qualifying sites within Alaska. For the next eight to ten years, the program will focus on the reclamation of several highwalls located in the Healy Valley. Highwalls are created as result of strip mining; strip mining is the method most commonly used to mine coal seams from the surface. Highwalls are vertical cliff-like faces that were left after the coal was extracted and pose a threat to public health and

safety and general welfare from the risk of a person falling from a highwall cliff or by being hit from falling rock.

All funding for this program comes from federal grants; no general funds are required. This program employs up to 75 Alaskans in private sector construction jobs each year.

The AML program is currently designing reclamation plans for Cripple Creek pit. The project will be completed in two phases. The first phase will begin in the spring of 2020 and take approximately three years to complete. Phase II will begin once phase I is complete and will also take approximately three years to complete.

What was accomplished with prior funding?

(2019-2020) The primary focus with these grant monies will be to design and reclaim the Cripple Creek Pit which is in the Healy Valley. The Cripple Creek pit will be reclaimed in separate phases and will take approximately 5 years to complete.

(2019) A small modular bridge will be installed over Cripple Creek to provide access to the Cripple Creek pit. This project will begin in the fall of 2019 and be completed in the early spring of 2020. The cost for this project will be \$829.

(2019) The Vitro Pit Reclamation Project was completed in 2019. This project addressed 2100 feet of dangerous highwalls and erosion issues in the Healy Creek area.

(2017) Hydraulic Pit Reclamation Project was completed in 2017. This project addressed 1600 feet of dangerous highwalls and erosion issues in the Healy Creek area.

(2016) Three mine openings associated with the Inspiration Mine were closed in September of 2016.

(2016) The AML Program funded an archaeological survey of the Hudson Mill. Demolition is planned for 2019.

(2014) The AML program demolished the old Healy Creek Washplant.

(2014) The AML Program completed backfilling 3 shafts on Ester Dome known as the Equinox Trail Shafts.

(2012 and 2013) The AML Program constructed two bridges in the Healy Valley area which provide access to previously mined and abandoned areas. These bridges will support at least a decade's worth of reclamation work with future funding that the program expects to receive.

(2011) The AML Program completed reclamation of 20 acres of smoldering coal fires near Sutton, AK by capping the area with a 2-foot layer of clay followed by a 1-foot layer of gravel. The project also improved 2 miles of an existing mining road which will provide better access to state land for recreational users.

(2010) The AML Program completed cleanup of 5 acres of land known as the historic Vitro Camp in the Healy Valley. This work consisted of removing derelict equipment and disposing of asbestos.

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(2010) The AML Program placed gravel along on the north and west side of Slipper Lake to improve access to camping areas.

(2009) The AML Program closed two shafts in the Sutton area and placed jersey barriers at the edge of an old highwall to block access to an old strip pit.

(2009) The AML Program completed road improvements to a ¼ mile of the Jonesville road near Sutton, established a fire truck turnaround near the fire hydrant at Slipper Lake, and placed gravel on 10 acres near Slipper Lake to improve camping areas and the boat launch.

Position Detail

Full-time Engineering Associate (10-8249), located in Anchorage

Full-time Administrative Officer I (10-8201), located in Anchorage

Full-time Engineering Assistant II (10-2097), located in Anchorage

Long-term non-permanent Engineering Assistant II (10N18003), located in Anchorage

Line Item Detail

Line Item	Amount
1000 Personal Services	\$480,000
2000 Travel	\$40,000
3000 Services	\$105,000
4000 Commodities	\$15,000
5000 Capital Outlay	\$2,560,000
7000 Grants	\$0
Total Request	\$3,200,000