

Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Federal Program

FY2025 Request: \$4,330,000

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: Theresa Cross

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2024 - 06/30/2029

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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This program contractually employs up to 75 Alaskans in private sector construction jobs each year. The request for federal receipt authority has increased due to the federal infrastructure bill.

Funding:	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>Total</u>
1002 Fed Rcpts	\$4,330,000	\$4,330,000	\$4,330,000	\$4,330,000	\$4,330,000		\$21,650,000
Total:	\$4,330,000	\$4,330,000	\$4,330,000	\$4,330,000	\$4,330,000	\$0	\$21,650,000

<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:

- Sec11 Ch1 SLA2023 P90 L24 HB281 \$4,533,000
- Sec14 Ch1 SLA2023 P91 L6 HB39 \$4,330,000
- Sec8 Ch1 SLA2022 P74 L27 HB69 \$3,200,000
- Sec8 Ch1 SLA2021 P74 L27 HB69 \$3,200,000
- Sec5 Ch8 SLA2020 P66 L19 HB205 \$3,200,000
- 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 10 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 commonly used to mine coal seams from the surface. Highwalls are vertical cliff-like faces which were left after the coal was extracted and pose a threat to public safety due to the risk of

falling from a highwall cliff or from being hit from falling rock.

The AML project completed Phase I of the Cripple Creek Pit. All major construction activities were completed as of June 11, 2022. The AML program has been reclaiming a series of abandoned strip mines near Healy, Alaska. These pits, located on State land, have been given a high priority to be reclaimed. The AML program has been working to reclaim the State's abandoned mine inventory since the early 1980's. The AML program must work on reclamation projects each summer to keep federal grants active and has three years to spend grant money.

Construction and repairs to the vital Cripple Creek Road were undertaken during the 2023 field season providing access to all future AML projects in the Healy Valley.

The AML program currently has four employees on staff including two full-time Engineering Assistants 2, one full-time Engineering Associate, and a part-time Administrative Assistant. Construction costs for reclamation work are ultimately decided by the size and scope of a project. Program staff work on reclamation designs and are responsible for estimating project costs based on engineering and earth science practices. Large scale projects are then put out to bid and follow all state required contracting procedures.

What was accomplished?

(2023) Maintenance and repair of a portion of the Cripple Creek Road occurred during the 2023 field season. The construction work was done by Drennon Construction out of Fairbanks, Alaska. The contract with Drennon also includes construction of a modular bridge which will provide access across Coal Creek. Bridge construction will occur in 2024. The total contract for the road work and bridge construction is \$1,940,330.

(2022) Construction of Cripple Creek Phase I project was completed in mid-June of 2022. The program is also working on reclamation designs for Phase II of Cripple Creek. That project will be put out to bid in February of 2024 with an expected start date of May 2024. The expected cost for Phase II is \$7.5 million. In August of 2022, a historical mining road was reestablished to allow access to future projects. Costs were \$226,000 and the road work was completed in September of 2022. Once access has been established a geotechnical and hydrologic study will be conducted at Coal Creek to determine suitability for a bridge or other type of stream crossing that will allow access to the Coal Creek abandoned coal mine.

(2021) Construction on Phase I of the Cripple Creek project resumed in mid-May 2021 and continued through the duration of the field season. AML staff are also working on designs for Phase II of the Cripple Creek pit and are in the planning stage to develop access to future reclamation projects. This includes reestablishing previously constructed but now abandoned mining roads. Construction of a crossing across Coal Creek will also be required and is currently in the planning phase.

(2020) In mid-April construction of the Cripple Creek bridge began. The project was completed at the end of June 2020, at a total cost of \$955,441.52. In late August reclamation activities began on Phase I of the Cripple Creek Pit project. Phase I of the project is estimated to cost nearly \$5 million.

(2019) In the fall of 2019 the AML Program completed the Vitro Pit Reclamation Project. This project addressed 2100 linear feet of dangerous highwall while also eliminating severe erosion issues in the Healy Creek area. The total cost of the project was \$5,079,208.64.

The remaining months of 2019 were spent developing designs for a small modular bridge to be installed over Cripple Creek to provide access to the Cripple Creek pit. Program staff also spent significant time designing reclamation plans for Phase I of the Cripple Creek pit.

(2018) On-going reclamation activities on the Vitro Pit Project.

(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. In June of 2017 the Vitro Pit reclamation project was started and is currently on-going.

(2016) Three mine openings associated with the Inspiration Mine were closed in September of 2016. The AML Program funded an archaeological survey of the Hudson Mill.

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

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

(2013 and 2012) 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 fines near Sutton, AK by capping the area with a two-foot layer of clay followed by a one-foot layer of gravel. The project also improved two miles of an existing mining road which will provide better access to State land for recreational users.

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

(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.

Line-Item Breakdown:

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Line Item	Amount
1000 – Personal Services	\$500,000
2000 – Travel	\$35,000
3000 – Services	\$3,784,000
4000 – Commodities	\$11,000
5000 – Capital Outlay	
7000 – Grants	
Total Request	\$4,330,000