

Crow Tribe

Tribe with Largest inventory of unreclaimed Problems

The Crow Indian Reservation is located in the southeastern part of Montana, stretching from near Billings, in the center of the state, to the Wyoming border in the south.

Historically, coal was mined for local domestic use by residents of the reservation. In recent years, one large surface mine has been operating on the reservation.

The Office of Surface Mining's Casper, Wyoming, Field Office is responsible for regulating mining and reclamation on the Crow Indian Reservation land. Federal legislation enacted July 11, 1987, authorized the Indian tribes to implement approved Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Programs. In early 1988, the Crow elected to develop an Abandoned Mine Land Program under the Title IV provision of the Surface Mining Law. The tribe's plan received final approval on January 4, 1989.

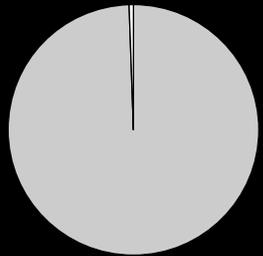
The Office of Surface Mining has responsibility for abating Abandoned Mine Land emergencies on the reservation. Since 1977, there have been no emergencies.

Prior to approval of the Tribe's program, the Office of Surface Mining spent approximately \$1.1 million reclaiming high-priority Abandoned Mine Land projects on the reservation. Since implementation of their approved Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation program, the Tribe has completed approximately \$1.4 million high-priority coal projects, \$3 million priority 3 projects, and \$1 million high-priority non-coal projects. All reclamation by the Tribe is accomplished through the use of manual labor which has resulted in making the program one of the largest employers on the reservation (approximately 70 employees).

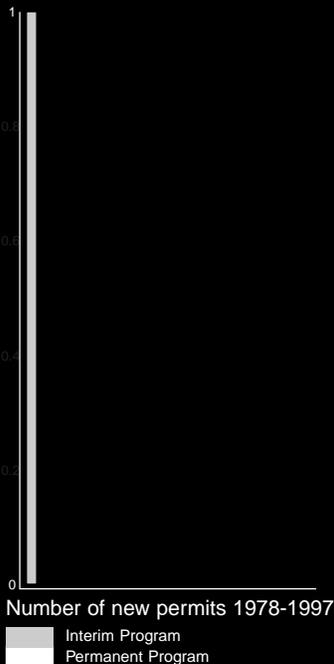
Identified Abandoned Mine Land hazards remaining to be reclaimed include approximately \$1.3 million of high-priority coal-related projects, \$638,000 of priority 3 projects, and numerous non-coal projects with undetermined estimated costs. Since the annual allocation of Tribal Share funds equals approximately \$500,000 annually, the Tribe's program qualify for a minimum program annual grant for the last time in Fiscal Year 1998. If no additional high-priority coal sites are identified, the program will be reduced to the amount of the Tribal Share funds in Fiscal Year 1999.

coal production¹⁰

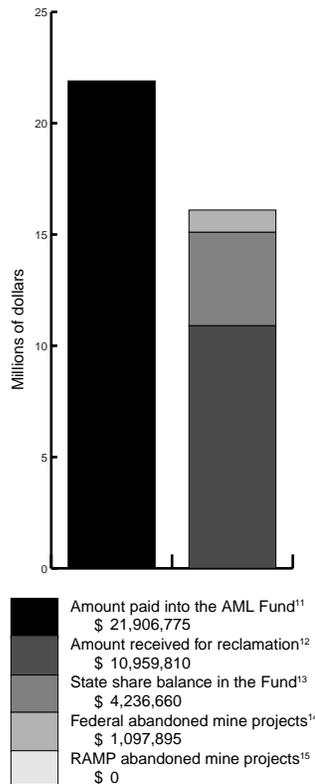
	1978		1997		1978-1997 Rank
	Amount	Percent U.S. Total	Amount	Percent U.S. Total	
Tons Produced					
Surface	3,363,609	1.3%	5,591,600	0.9%	16
Underground	0	0%	0	0%	0
Lignite	0	0%	0	0%	0
Total	3,363,609	0.8%	5,591,600	0.5%	21
Number of Producing Mines					
Surface (bituminous coal)	4	0.1%	1	0.04%	26
Underground	0	0%	0	0%	0
Lignite (surface)	0	0%	0	0%	0
Total	4	0.06%	1	0.02%	28
Mine Production					
Average	840,902	1,183.3%	5,591,600	2,124.8%	
>1,000,000 tons	1	2.0%	1	0.4%	
300,000-1,000,000 tons	0	0%	0	0%	
<300,000 tons	0	0%	0	0%	



Production tonnage 1978-1997
 U.S. Total
 Crow Reservation Coal Production



Number of new permits 1978-1997
 Interim Program
 Permanent Program



Active mining and reclamation¹⁶

	1978	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	Total
Number of New Permits																					
Surface Mining	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Underground Mining	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acreage Permitted																					
Surface Mining	3,257	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,397	640	146	53	5,493	
Underground Mining	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acreage of Bond Release																					
Interim Prog. (final)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phase 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	370	0	0	0	71	276	0	0	242	0	262	0	1,221
Phase 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	242	0	262	0	504
Phase 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inspections																					
Complete	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6	NA	NA	9	5	4	5	5	4	4	4	3	5	54
Partial	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	12	NA	NA	1	6	8	6	7	9	13	9	7	7	97
Oversight	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Citations Issued																					
NOV's	NA	NA	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0	NA	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
CO's	NA	NA	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	NA	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Abandoned coal mine reclamation 1977-1997¹⁷

	Reclaimed Problems			Remaining Problems	
	OSM Emergency	State Emergency	Non-Emergency	Number	Estimated Cost
Priority 1 & 2 (Protection of Public Health, Safety, and General Welfare) and Emergency Projects					
Clogged Streams (miles)	0	0	0	0.2	\$ 10,000
Clogged Stream Lands (acres)	0	0	0	0	0
Highwalls (feet)	0	0	1,220.0	200.0	31,341
Impoundments (count)	0	0	1.0	0	0
Piles & Embankments (acres)	0	0	61.8	2.4	230,100
Slides (acres)	0	0	23.0	0	0
Gases (count)	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment & Facilities (count)	0	0	32.0	5.0	185,247
Water Bodies (count)	0	0	1.0	1.0	50,000
Industrial Waste (acres)	0	0	0	0	0
Portals (count)	0	0	15.0	6.0	605,000
Polluted Water: Agriculture & Industrial (count)	0	0	2.0	1.0	200,000
Polluted Water: Human Consumption (count)	0	0	0	0	0
Subsidence (acres)	0	0	16.0	7.0	80,000
Surface Burning (acres)	0	0	0	0	0
Underground Mine Fires (acres)	0	0	0	0	0
Vertical Openings (count)	0	0	5.0	1.0	80,058
Total					\$ 1,471,746
Priority 3 (Environmental Restoration)					
Bench (acres)	0	0	9.0	0	\$ 0
Industrial Waste (acres)	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment & Facilities (count)	0	0	0	0	0
Gob (acres)	0	0	31.6	11.0	224,808
Highwall (feet)	0	0	2,730.0	34.0	35,687
Haul Road (acres)	0	0	13.0	8.0	81,057
Mine Opening (count)	0	0	3.0	1.0	7,750
Pit (acres)	0	0	19.0	6.0	43,938
Spoil Area (acres)	0	0	25.8	16.0	105,249
Slurry (acres)	0	0	0.1	0	0
Slump (acres)	0	0	5.7	2.0	139,665
Water (gallons/minute)	0	0	0	0	0
Total					\$ 638,154