

# News Release

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement  
A Bureau of the U. S. Department of the Interior



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Indiana Program Wins Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Award for Third Year in a Row

*OSMRE to Honor Top Abandoned Mine Land  
Reclamation Projects at Awards Presentation*

WASHINGTON – The [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement \(OSMRE\)](#) will honor the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Reclamation, Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program during a national gathering of mine land reclamation professionals. The Indiana DNR won a regional [Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Award](#) for reclamation work at the Narrow Lake Abandoned Mine Land Site 1805 in Sullivan County, Indiana.

Last year Indiana DNR won for reclamation work on the Snow Hill Abandoned Mine Land Site 882 in Vigo County, Indiana.

A dangerous and large highwall loomed above a road and a lake in the Greene-Sullivan State Forest, posing a danger to anyone driving, hiking, or fishing near Narrow Lake. Indiana's AML program worked with two sister agencies in the Indiana DNR to address the AML hazard. The collaborative effort removed almost 4,000 linear feet of highwall, and the agencies created additional cabin areas, built a new boat ramp, constructed more than a mile of trails, and added new fish habitat, all of which improved recreational opportunities at the site.

In FY 2019, Indiana received \$8.07 million in AML funding from OSMRE.

Indiana is among five recipients of the 2019 Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards recognizing reclamation excellence. Awards are presented for the best reclamation project nationally, as well as the best projects from around the country, and for the project that costs less than \$1 million and is in a state that receives less than \$6 million in annual AML funds. A panel of judges composed of directors of state and tribal reclamation programs and OSMRE managers voted to determine this year's awardees.

The other award winners are:

### Small Project Award

#### **Marvel Gob Fire**

Alabama Department of Labor

Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program



## OSMRE News Release continued

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### Regional Awards

#### **Roger Cornett Slide**

Kentucky Department for Natural Resources  
Division of Abandoned Mine Lands  
*Interior Region 1*

#### **Wise Hill Underground Fire Mitigation**

Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety  
Inactive Mine Reclamation Program  
*Interior Region 7*

### National Award

#### **Dessecker Mine Project**

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Abandoned Mine Land Program, Division of Natural Resources

OSMRE will present the 2019 Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards during the annual conference of the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on Sept. 9, 2019.

The Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards, established in 1992, recognize exemplary state and tribal reclamation projects that reclaim coal mine sites that were abandoned prior to the signing of the [Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 \(SMCRA\)](#). Eligible projects are funded wholly or in part by OSMRE's AML Reclamation Fund. OSMRE's AML Reclamation Program addresses the hazards and environmental degradation posed by two centuries of U.S. coal mining that occurred before SMCRA.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) carries out the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 in cooperation with states and tribes. OSMRE's objectives are to ensure that coal mining activities are conducted in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining, to ensure that the land is restored to beneficial use after mining, and to mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines.

