

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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Contact: news@osmre.gov (202) 208-2565

Ohio Program to Receive National Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Award

*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 Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program, Division of Natural Resources during a national gathering of mine land reclamation professionals. Ohio's AML Program won the [Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation National Award](#) for reclamation work at the Dessecker Mine Project in Tuscarawas County, Ohio.

The land owned by the Camp Tuscazoar Foundation and the Boy Scouts, was subjected to a number of health, safety, property and general welfare threats from historic mining, including acid mine drainage, open mine portals, and hazardous equipment left in the open. To address the hazards, Ohio's AML Program sealed the portals, eliminated a dangerous highwall, removed hundreds of tons of debris, and preserved historically significant mining assets for the next generation. The state formed a partnership with the community to solve many of the AML problems. The result now allows Scouts, visitors and people living nearby to enjoy the former mine site safely.

In FY 2019, Ohio received \$10.2 million in AML funding from OSMRE.

Ohio 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

Regional Awards

Roger Cornett Slide

Kentucky Department for Natural Resources

Division of Abandoned Mine Lands

Interior Region 1

Narrow Lake AML Site 1805

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Abandoned Mine Land Program, Division of Reclamation

Interior Region 3

Wise Hill Underground Fire Mitigation

Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety

Inactive Mine Reclamation Program

Interior Region 7

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.

